

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Two file for mayor



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Three candidates arrived at Jay County Clerk's Office shortly after 8:30 a.m. Wednesday to file to run in this year's municipal election. Pictured in the foreground left is Matt Goldsworthy, who filed to seek a second term on Portland City Council. Background center is Portland Mayor John Boggs and background right is Joel Smitley, both of whom filed to run for the Republican nomination for mayor.

Boggs will seek second term leading Portland; will face a primary challenge from Joel Smitley

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The incumbent mayor is in. He already has a primary challenger.

Portland Mayor John Boggs filed this morning to run for re-election and fellow Republican Joel Smitley filed to challenge him for the party's nomination for the season.

The only other candidate who put in his paperwork shortly after 8:30 a.m. today when election filing opened was incumbent Portland City Council member Matt Goldsworthy.

Boggs, a Main Street resident, had announced his intention to seek a second term in an email to local media Tuesday evening.

"It's been my honor to serve my community since January of 2020," Boggs said in the email. "We've focused on many different fronts including serving Portland through the challenges of the COVID pandemic. During the pandemic we set aside \$250,000 in grants to aid local businesses navigate unplanned closures. We've championed long-term flooding issues, expansion of our wastewater plant and a planned resurfacing of all major city streets."

He also mentioned the completion of the runway extension project at Portland Municipal Airport, the purchase of a new ladder truck for the city's fire department

and the acquisition of a new police dog.

After filing this morning, he said he's looking forward to seeing significant progress in 2023, specifically with the planned Meridian Street storm sewer project.

Smitley, 45, is currently employed at McAfee Recycling of Portland. He lives on Shank Street on the south side of the city.

"A lot of the things that goes on, I don't really care for," said Smitley of his reason for running.

One such item he referenced was the change in the traffic pattern along Main Street in the areas of Ship and Pleasant streets. (The four-way stop in

the area on the west side of the downtown area was moved from Ship Street to Pleasant Street.)

"I just kind of think it's time for a change," Smitley added. "I think somebody younger ... just to have different ideas."

Boggs was uncontested in the 2019 primary and then defeated two-term incumbent Democrat Randy Geesaman 677-493 in the general election.

Smitley is making his first run for elected office.

Goldsworthy, who is seeking a second term, represents the city's first district. He defeated Democrat Dave Cramer 129-107 in 2019 to win his first term.

Council hears on-call pay request

Members will review, raise questions about cost, legal issues

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Before making any changes to on-call pay, council members will need more information.

Portland City Council took no action on a request from city wastewater department superintendent Brad Clayton to implement on-call pay for city employees.

Clayton explained to council that in his department employees are on call on a seven-week rotating basis. He proposed implementing on-call pay of \$300 and a take-home vehicle to be used for city business only.

He said he feels the change would be beneficial to employees who have to be available 24/7 if problems arise.

Council members raised various questions about the proposal, with Janet Powers getting confirmation from Clayton that employees are informed about the on-call requirements of the job when they are hired. She also asked about how take-home vehicles would be monitored, with Clayton responding that an app can be used to track mileage and location.

Several council members also referenced other city departments, including street, water, police and fire, and expressed concern about being equitable with everyone and the overall cost of implementing on-call pay. (The cost to implement Clayton's proposal for the wastewater department alone will be an additional \$15,600 annually.)

See Request page 2

Healthcare is key

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Lawmakers and businesses alike have long denounced Indiana's high healthcare prices but haven't yet penalized any actors. Advocates hope for more in the 2023 session, set to start Monday, with an intense focus on the state's hospitals.

Hoosiers have some of the highest costs in the nation despite its overall low cost of living and below average salaries. The latest report from the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit public policy research organization, found that the Hoosier State's hospital prices are the 7th highest in the country, a slight decrease from previous years.

"(Hospitals) do everything they can to prevent competition but then they want to have the freedom to price (services) any way

Advocates push to address prices during 2023 legislative session

they want to," said Al Hubbard, the chair of Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare. "If you don't have competition then you exploit the situation and that's what the hospitals are doing."

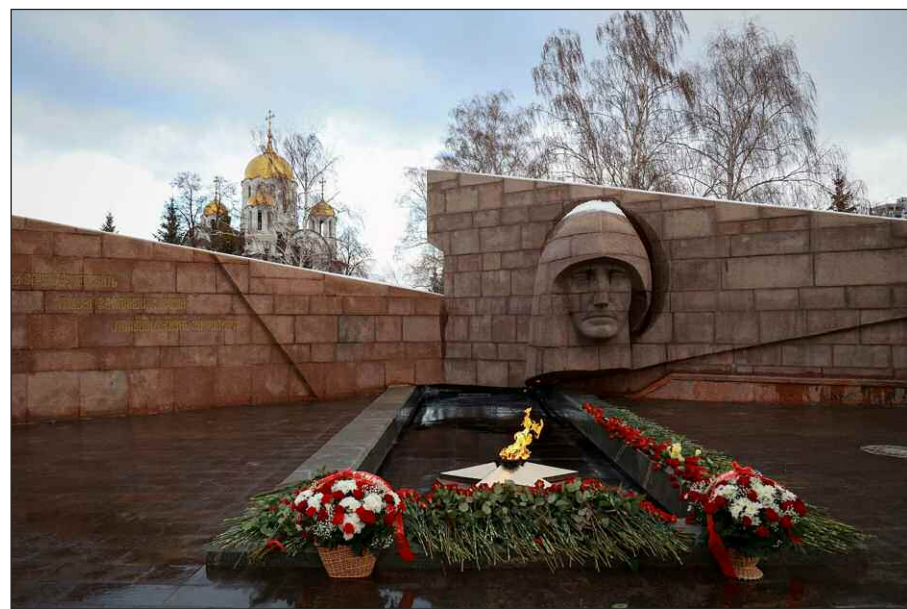
Brian Tabor, the president of the Indiana Hospital Association, said that hospitals are committed to doing their part to reduce prices, saying pricing will decrease over time due to new transparency initiatives.

"We are confident that we are headed in the right

direction, but we are also at a time where hospitals across the state are facing tremendous financial strain and the wrong policies could have devastating impacts," Tabor said.

"There's no question we still need to address affordability for Hoosiers, and hospitals are doing our part. But until all sectors across health care are at the table and there is equal transparency, we aren't going to make long term progress."

See Healthcare page 5



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Arden Arkman

In memory

A photo taken Tuesday shows the memorial eternal flame and flowers in Samara, Russia, laid in memory of more than 80 Russian soldiers that Russia says were killed in a Ukrainian strike on Russian-controlled territory.

Deaths

Cheryl Campbell, 73, Chadbourn, North Carolina
Helen Buckingham, 99, Berne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 64 degrees Tuesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's forecast calls for the low to drop to 32 with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. There is a chance of light rain and flurries Thursday with a high of 38.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

A recent article stated Jay County Humane Society has reached its fundraising goal. However, the group is not done raising funds — more donations are needed to cover inflation and similar cost increases tagged onto its renovation project.

Coming up

Thursday — Arts Place has named Carolyn Carducci as its executive director.

Saturday — Coverage of the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling regional.



Request ...

Continued from page 1
'If we do it for you, we've got to be fair,' said Powers.
Council president Kent McClung raised legal questions, asking if it would be legal to provide on-call pay for one department but not others.
Mayor John Boggs suggested bringing other department heads into the conversation, and city attorney Wes Schemenaur agreed to check into the legal questions that were raised.
Council members agreed to discuss the issue further during a future meeting.
Following a question from Powers, Schemenaur updated council members Matt

Goldsworthy, Don Gillespie, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, McClung and Powers, absent Mike Aker, about the situation involving the Bailey Building and the adjacent restaurant/bar The Greazy Pickle.
Schemenaur explained that an engineer's report completed for the city identified various issues with the buildings that needed to be addressed. The Greazy Pickle then had its own evaluation done that identified some of the same issues, he said. He added that the city, first informally and then formally, had asked the owners of the restaurant and bar for a timeline regarding repairs and

had not heard back by the early December deadline. (He noted that the city hopes to demolish the Bailey Building this year.)
He said the owners of the restaurant/bar have now been served notice that it is in violation of the unsafe building ordinances, which starts a legal process. They will have 10 days to request a hearing with the city's board of works.
'Unfortunately, this is where we're at,' said Schemenaur. 'I feel like the city has no choice. I feel like we have some exposure if we don't do something.'
Council also heard again from area resident Jenny Bricker and Jennifer Hartley about the effort they are help-

ing to lead to save the Indiana 26 bridge over the Salamonie River on the east side of the city. (Indiana Department of Transportation is scheduled to replace the bridge with a new structure this year.) They said they are continuing to try to convince INDOT to repair the bridge rather than replace it, with moving the bridge to the south as an additional option.
They pushed for council and local residents to write to state officials regarding the issue.
Council president Kent McClung agreed to draft a letter for council members to sign.
In other business, council:
• Re-elected McClung as coun-

cil president, with McClung abstaining.
• Approved an amendment to the city's payroll ordinance to set the pay rate for the manager of Portland Water Park at between \$17 and \$19 per hour. The previous pay rate was \$16.89 per hour.
• Approved a request from Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association to close a section of Morton Street from noon Aug. 18 through noon Aug. 27 for its annual show.
• Heard a question from Golden regarding the timeline for the planned Meridian Street storm sewer project. Boggs said no updates on the project were available.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Thursday 1/5, Friday 1/6, Saturday 1/7, Sunday 1/8, Monday 1/9. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (38/30, 36/27, 38/29, 41/30, 40/28).

Lotteries

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

Markets

Table listing market prices for various commodities: Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, The Andersons Richland Township, Central States Montpelier, Heartland St. Anthony.

Today in history

In 1643, Isaac Newton was born in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, England. Newton became a pioneer in the Enlightenment period, creating the laws of gravity and inventing calculus.
In 1809, Louis Braille was born near Paris, France. He developed the writing system used today by people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired.
In 1853, Soloman Northrup legally obtained his freedom after having been kidnapped and sold into slavery, where he remained for a dozen years. He later wrote about the experience in his 1853 book, 'Twelve Years a Slave.'
In 1935, professional boxer Floyd Patterson was born in Waco, North Carolina. He held the world heavyweight championship twice, becoming the first person to do so.
In 1948, Burma (Myanmar) formally gained independence from Britain.
In 1970, at least 15,000 people died in Tonghai County, China, after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake ripped through the area.
In 2013, Jay County boys basketball team rolled to a 76-23 win against visiting Mississinewa Indians, setting a new record for their margin of victory at 53 points. Leading the Patriots were Brock McFarland and Scott Schwieterman, who scored 24 and 21 points respectively.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Table listing community events: Board of Works, Mayor's office, city hall, Sheriff's Office Merit Board, sheriff's office, Plan Commission, Community Resource Center.

Obituaries

Cheryl Campbell
Dec. 27, 1949-Dec. 30, 2022
Cheryl Jean Harper Campbell age 73 of Chadbourn and formerly of Redkey, Indiana, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 30, 2022, at Cape Fear Valley Elizabethtown.
Cheryl was born on December 27, 1949, to the late Charles Vernon Harper and Gwendolyn Pascal Harper in Greenville, Ohio.
She was employed in the banking industry in Indianapolis, Indiana, for over 20 years before moving to

Chadbourn to be with her son, Brian in 2006.
A memorial service will be scheduled later.
Cheryl is survived by her loving son, Brian Campbell of the home; a brother, Charles David Harper of Golden Valley, Arizona, and a grandson, Ethan Harper Campbell of the home.
Worthington Funeral Home in Chadbourn is serving the family.



Campbell

Helen Irene Buckingham, Berne, a former Geneva resident, April 13, 1923-Jan. 2, 2023. Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
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.

Felony arrests

Drunk driving
An Ohio man was arrested Dec. 24 for drunk driving.
Jeremy W.N. Cook, 33, 2265 Ohio 571, Greenville, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.
He was released on a \$3,000 bond from Jay County Jail.
Common nuisance
Several people were arrested Tuesday for maintaining a common nuisance and related drug charges.
Tara L. Devoss, 44, 232 E. Bell Ave., Redkey, was preliminarily charged

with three Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance, possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a syringe, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.
Bret A. Trissel, 25, 931 W. Votaw St. Apt. 2, Portland, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance, unlawful possession of a syringe and possession of methamphetamine, along with a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$5,000 bond.

Randy R. Addie, 48, 232 E. Bell Ave., Redkey, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Addie is being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.
Jesse L. Ishman, 41, 622 E. Water St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
See page 5

Capsule Reports

Left of center
A Redkey man sustained injuries all over his body after his vehicle went left of the center line along Indiana 67, crashing into two other vehicles about 5:30 p.m. Dec. 26.
Wayne E. Stevens, 81, was driving his 2020 Kia Optima southwest on the highway near county road 125 South. At the same time, Andrew C. Staggs, 64, Muncie, was driving northeast on the highway in his 2018 Chevrolet Silverado. Stevens drove left of the center line, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, and struck the left rear side of Staggs' truck. Stevens' vehicle also hit a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox, driven by 28-year-old Jason P. Butler of Pennville, driving behind Staggs.
Stevens was unconscious when police arrived and had various injuries, according to the report.
The vehicles were towed. The car Butler was driving is registered to Paige N. Barker of Fort Wayne.
Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Road rage
Police arrested a Dunkirk man after he drove into the back of another vehicle several times in Redkey about 7:15 a.m. Dec. 26.
Travis J. Hitchfiel, 22, was driving a 2008 Chevrolet Malibu northeast on Indiana 67 behind a 2009 Ford Escape driven by 68-year-old Kenneth J. McFadden of Redkey. Hitchfiel was following closely behind McFadden because of a previous incident in Delaware County, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. As they drove into the town of Redkey, Hitchfiel purposely crashed the car he was driving into McFadden's vehicle, according to the report. He drove into the back of McFadden's vehicle two more times as they continued along the highway past Spencer Street, and they both pulled over near Redkey Veterinary Clinic and waited for police to arrive.
Hitchfiel was arrested and preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for criminal recklessness, a Class B misdemeanor for criminal mischief and a Class C misdemeanor for reckless driving. He was later released from Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond. The vehicle he was driving — it's registered to Stephany M. Fontanini of Portland — was towed.
Damage to both vehicles is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Impala on High Street. She told police she tried to pass a 2013 Ford Escape, driven by 48-year-old Eric Wendel, because she thought he was parking on the opposite side of the street. Wendel had been attempting to turn right onto Garfield Avenue, and Laux noticed his turn signal too late. She crashed into Wendel's vehicle, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.
McDonald's mishap
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a Portland man backed into a Portland woman's vehicle in the McDonald's parking lot about 12:42 p.m. Dec. 30.
Michele R. Brewster, 41, was sitting in her 2011 Chrysler Town and Country in the parking lot at 618 N. Meridian St. when a 2018 Chevrolet Traverse, driven by 42-year-old Mario Nava Carmona, backed into her vehicle.
Brewster told police Carmona left the scene and she followed him. Carmona stopped at his address and flagged her down to provide insurance information. He told police he left the scene to retrieve his insurance information.

SERVICES

Table listing services: Today (Brown, Frances), Thursday (Murray, Elizabeth), Friday (Louck, Joe), Saturday (Miller, Viola), (Buckingham, Helen), Jan. 14 (Theurer, Donald).

Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS, 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

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WWII veteran reflects on service

By LANCE REYNOLDS

Boston Herald
Tribune News Service

BOSTON — Mixing in laughs with deep insight, World War II veteran Russell Phipps looked back on his time as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps after touring the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, Massachusetts.

Phipps' trip to the museum Thursday, full of tanks, armored vehicles, planes and other artifacts from the country's conflicts, came a day after he turned 101 years old. He celebrated his birthday by hopping onto his tractor and driving it down his driveway, a sign that he still has the fresh energy that has led to a fulfilling life.

Decades removed from the end of World War II, Phipps said important lessons remain from the worst conflict in human history.

"If you don't have any freedom to love, to enjoy life and do the things that you want, then you're going to be under the control of somebody else," Phipps said. "Freedom isn't free. If it comes to



Nancy Lane/The Boston Herald/TNS

WWII veteran Russell Phipps, pictured above, has one key message: "Freedom isn't free."

the point where you have to stand up and fight, you've got to do it."

Stationed on the Pacific Ocean island of Tinian, Phipps worked on the Enola Gay, a plane that dropped one of the atomic bombs on Japan which led to the official end of World War II. He spent three years on the island and left shortly after U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur

accepted Japan's formal surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.

Phipps recalled how there were multiple instances when newspapers ran stories on how the war had ended, but fighting continued. Japan's surrender came after President Harry Truman allowed atomic bombs to be used. Tinian Island served as the launching point for

attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Without the use of the bombs, more than 1 million people could have died before the war ended, Phipps said. It's estimated that roughly 75 million people died during the conflict.

"There were good people in Japan, they weren't all bad people," Phipps said. "They had a tough,

crazy leader there that carried this thing on until the point where we had dust."

Hunter Chaney, director of marketing and communications for the American Heritage Museum, told Phipps that it's a rare treat to be around World War II veterans. Just 167,000 of the 16 million Americans who fought in the war are still alive today, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"There's a certain humbleness and deep understanding of what it means to be civil and hard working that your generation holds," Chaney told Phipps. "Something that younger generations really need to be reminded of is what your generation did not only for freedoms here in the United States but for freedoms of people around the world."

Phillip Hubbe, 23, of Hopkinton, grew up riding his bike up and down the street, often stopping by to talk to Phipps. Throughout the neighborhood, Phipps became known for the lumber

he'd giveaway that he'd made with his sawmill, he said.

"It's just really about getting up every day and continuing to do stuff, getting up and going outside, hopping in a truck or on a tractor," Hubbe said of what he thinks is Phipps' secret to living a long life.

Phipps' advice to the younger generation: be prepared for bumps in life and for married couples to respect each other until the end of time.

Phipps said he quit several jobs to take road trips across the country with his wife, Doris, and kids, Marcia and Rusty, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. One trip included him and his wife introducing Marcia and Rusty, who attended their father's visit to the museum Thursday, to people he met during World War II.

"They had the experience of seeing these people and seeing this country, this great country which is well worth working for, protecting and keeping," Phipps said. "Don't let someone come in and push you out."

Husband's annual excursion bothers wife

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married nine years and have four children, ages 5, 3, 2 and 9 months. For the past three years, my husband has been attending a weeklong music festival where he camps with a group of friends, many of whom are single. He met most of them attending this particular fest.

When they are at these shows, they partake in psychedelics and other party drugs. The arena is wild, with scantily clad women and people partying to the fullest. I have explained to him how this bothers me and that I don't believe it's the best environment for a married man and father of four small children. I feel it threatens our marriage. He says I can "come if I

Dear Abby



DEAR LEFT BEHIND: You are not a "burden." You are shouldering the entire responsibility of caring for the family while he goes off and indulges himself. If this trip is your husband's one-week escape from reality, is he willing to agree to the same for you? I'm sure you could benefit from a week away from mothering three small children and an infant.

While I would equate your husband's escape to the music festival with the hunting and fishing trips some husbands take each year, the difference is that there are fewer "temptations" on those other outdoor pastimes. If he's a good

husband the other 51 weeks of the year, and there is nothing you can do to dissuade him, then dwell on the positive. If he isn't, you may have some serious thinking to do about whether you want to remain in this marriage.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have assisted a local youngster who was abandoned at birth and bounced through foster care. We helped him finish college and start his first job.

Here's the problem: "Samuel" has become engaged to an attractive, professional woman my wife and I both like. However, he just told us she insists upon bringing her parents on the honeymoon. Her parents feel strongly that they should

go, even to the extent of arguing with Samuel about it. I have never heard of anything like this. His fiancée is 28 years old. I'm very wary about it. What advice would you give him? — CROWDED HONEYMOON

DEAR CROWDED: Unless Samuel and his fiancée have been living together for a long time and he's very close to her family, the advice I would give HIM would be to have plenty of PREMARITAL COUNSELING before he marches down the aisle.

There's likely more than one issue that should be ironed out before any vows are exchanged, and it would help to avert disagreements that could cause problems after the wedding.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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 Musel-

man 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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet on neon Friday, Jan. 6, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Newspaper comic strips come, go

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Jan. 3, 2007. If Jack was still with us today, he'd likely be writing a similar column about his sorrow that the comic strip "Funky Winkerbean" has been retired and is no longer available. (A "Funky" strip still hangs in his second-floor office at The Commercial Review.) It has been replaced by "Between Friends."

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Who is Agnes? And what's she doing on the comics page of The Commercial Review?

Good questions. Let me try the second one first.

As close readers of the comics know by now, Bill Amend, the creator of "Foxytrot," has decid-

Back in the Saddle



ed to stop drawing a daily strip and just go with Sundays from now on.

In some ways, that comes as no surprise.

For the past several months, maybe even more than a year, the copies of "Foxytrot" we receive by mail to publish in the paper have been a little erratic.

Usually, the folks who draw the comics work with a pretty long lead time, ranging from a

couple of weeks to several weeks. And, usually, we receive a week's worth at a time.

But we began to suspect that Amend was facing some burnout when only half a week's worth of "Foxytrot" arrived at a time. Then, later in the week, a full set would arrive by FedEx. Clearly it was expensive and no way to run a features syndicate.

The chore of writing gags, creating characters and producing a strip on a daily basis is enormous. It's tough enough being funny now and then in normal life; imagine what it must be like if that's your job.

So, with Amend cutting back, we needed to find a replacement.

And that's where Agnes comes in. She's the star — if

that's the right word (I'm sure Agnes would think so) — of the strip.

I'd enjoyed Agnes when the strip ran several years ago in The Journal Gazette, but she has since disappeared from the Fort Wayne paper's pages.

From the beginning, she was on the short list of potential replacements. And after sampling several others and trying them out on folks in the pressroom and the newsroom, Agnes was the easy choice.

She's the creation of a guy named Tony Cochran, who is from Dayton. (Ohio, Indiana and the rest of the Midwest seem to produce an abundance of cartoonists.)

Cochran studied art in Columbus and at Wright State. He also

worked in the auto body repair business for something like 15 years; it's tough to break into syndicated cartoons.

To make it happen, you have to create original characters and breathe real life into them.

I think that's what Cochran has done with Agnes, her grandmother and Agnes's buddy Trout.

Here's what Cochran says about his creation: "Agnes is kind of an indomitable spirit. She has a rough row to hoe. She is poor, but not stupid. She has big dreams. She wrestles with depression and swaggers when she triumphs. She picks her battles, sometimes winning, sometimes losing. I think a lot of people will identify with her."

I think so too.

For GOP, it's all about policy

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

The 118th Congress convenes Tuesday with each party holding a slim majority in one chamber. In the Senate, a Democratic coalition enjoys a 51-49 advantage.

In the House, Republicans have a 222-212 edge.

The latter provides a much-needed check on President Joe Biden, who has blown out the budget in his first two years to appease progressives. Republicans have also telegraphed that they will use their majority in the lower chamber to launch investigations of their political opponents, in retribution for Democratic probes into the Trump administration.

Following the November election, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the likely next speaker, tweeted, "In just 47 days, House Republicans will have the gavel, and we will be prepared to hold the Biden administration accountable from day one. Our investigations are just getting started."

But an incessant preoccupation with turning up dirt on the other side would be an error.

Post-election polling reveals that Republicans failed to capitalize on the president's numerous missteps in part because they offered independent and moderate voters no clear alternative agenda. Launching investigations as a means of payback represents the kind of business-as-usual in Washington that warms the hearts of partisans but turns off many other Americans.

"For Republicans to be successful on the policy and political front," John Tillman of the American Culture Project wrote in an op-ed for Fox News, "they must lead on the issues voters care about."

He's spot on. This is particularly important heading into a presidential election. House Republicans have the opportunity to offer voters a clear contrast to Democrats on a wide array of issues, including education, energy independence, spending and economic policy. There will be little chance that any such legislation will be signed into law. But Republicans

Guest Editorial

House Republicans have the opportunity to offer voters a clear contrast to Democrats on a wide array of issues, including education, energy independence, spending and economic policy.

can show voters they are serious about tackling issues that matter by proposing, debating and passing legislation with an eye on boosting a stagnant economy, easing prices, getting a handle on the soaring national debt and offering families increased choices when it comes to schooling.

Consider the 1994 Contract With America, which was instrumental in helping the GOP take control of the House that year for the first time in four decades. It was a comprehensive legislative agenda that appealed to Americans yearning for common-sense governance.

"The best way to ensure that 2024 is policy-focused rather than personality-driven, is to listen, sell and enact policy that improves the lives of most Americans," Mr. Tillman notes. "Investigations are necessary, but they don't change people's lives for the better. Policy does."

This is sound advice. House Republicans will be making a colossal mistake if they fail to take it.



Mother demands action on guns

By LAURA WASHINGTON
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Mary Dieudonne-Hill, a mother who lives in south suburban Homewood, knows all about the pain gun violence inflicts on a family.

In 2016, her daughter, Alisia, was attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, she recently told me in an interview. "She was the last of five kids. She was the youngest. She had a very bright future. I invested a lot in my daughter. She did a cotillion. She had a scholarship for engineering in North Carolina A&T."

On a terrible October night, Alisia, 19, was playing cards with friends at an off-campus party. A fight broke out. Someone started shooting. Alisia was fatally shot, along with another student, Ahmad Campbell, 21.

In the six years since, Dieudonne-Hill has fought depression, panic attacks, and at times was unable to work as a special education teacher. This year was the first time she was able to go Christmas shopping.

The Bible passage, Isaiah 54:17 — "No weapon formed against you shall prosper" — was an outlet for her anger.

"And that was my uplift to get started," Dieudonne-Hill said. "And from that point on, I've been speaking out."

She established a foundation in Alisia's name to support scholarships for students who have experienced trauma through gun violence. She also joined Moms Demand Action, an advocacy group fighting to end gun violence. She speaks at events and meetings. She counsels and connects with an endless stream of friends, neighbors and acquaintances who have been traumatized by guns.

I asked her how many. "Oh, a lot." She cannot begin to count.

No one wants to count. The slaughter led long before Sandy Hook.

Ten years ago, on Dec. 14, 2012, a gunman killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in New-

Laura Washington



town, Connecticut. Twenty were first graders.

Sandy Hook would surely be the end, I thought back then. Meaningful gun control would come. No.

Dieudonne-Hill is speaking out for Illinois House Bill 5855, also known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which the General Assembly may vote on early next year.

The legislation would ban assault-style weapons, raise the minimum age to obtain a firearm owner's identification card to 21 from 18, increase resources to enforce red flag laws and stop the influx of illegal weapons into Illinois.

"This is crazy. I have brothers that have been in the military," Dieudonne-Hill said. "These are weapons for military destruction. They are designed to kill, and kill fast. ... They can fire 30 bullets in 10 seconds and hit a bystander a quarter of a mile away."

The push to ban assault-style weapons and enact other gun regulation has failed for years. The movement has gained new steam after the July Fourth massacre in Highland Park, when a young man allegedly used an AR-15-style rifle to shoot and kill seven people and injure dozens of others at the city's Independence Day parade.

This month, lawmakers held a series of hearings to listen to testimony from law enforcement leaders, gun advocacy groups, anti-violence activists, community leaders and researchers. The gun lobby is pushing back, arguing the proposed legislation is unconstitutional. At a Dec. 20 hearing, one longtime gun rights advocate vowed that if the bill passed, "We will see you in court."

"Gun owners are tired of being blamed for every madman, every criminal and every other depraved act the 2.5 million gun owners didn't do," Todd Vandermyde said.

Gun control advocates' rhetoric about assault weapons is "hyperbole," according to National Rifle Association lobbyist John Weber. He said many of the guns identified in the proposed legislation are common and that about 20 million Americans own an AR-15-style gun, WTTW-Ch. 11 reported.

The bill would also ban magazines that carry more than 10 rounds. But those weapons should not be defined as high-capacity, Weber said.

"Many commonly owned handguns, for example, have standard magazines, which would be banned and do not have magazines with a lower capacity, rendering the gun obsolete," he said.

"Ultimately, passing such a law is perilous for law-abiding gun owners," Weber said. "These magazines are widely used by law enforcement for a reason: They're effective tools for self-defense. Banning standard-capacity magazines would only serve to allow criminals to have the upper hand against law-abiding citizens in self-defense situations."

Dieudonne-Hill has heard it all. "I have people that argue with me about, 'Well, our gun is our, you know, it's our right, our constitutional right to bear arms.' I have no problem with anybody bearing arms," she said. "Bear your arms. But do we need automatic semis? Do we need AR-15s?"

She never thought gun violence would find her. She lives in a safe, middle-class suburb. The issue "didn't affect me," she thought.

"People may feel that because of their economics, they are exempt. You are not. You are not exempt," she said. "I'm saying it will affect you. It's not an 'if.' It's a 'when.'"

So get this bill done.

Washington is a political commentator and longtime Chicago journalist.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Healthcare ...

Continued from page 1
Legislators passed a bill in 2020 creating a claims database, establishing a hospital price transparency tool in hopes that Hoosiers could shop around for the best prices. But the needle hasn't moved enough to generate savings.

"People don't shop around for prices after meeting their deductibles because they view it as free (through their insurance). When people are dealing with a fragile health situation they're not shopping around; they do what their doctor tells them to do," Hubbard said.

Just before the 2022 session, House Speaker Todd Huston and Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray sent letters to health insurance companies and healthcare systems warning that if the corporations didn't reduce their prices, the General Assembly would.

Indiana University Health, the state's largest healthcare entity, announced shortly after that it would be freezing their prices through 2025, which some decried as a "gimmick" since their costs far outpaced national averages. Speaking on behalf of the state's hospitals, the Indiana Hospital Association promised to lower overall healthcare costs but rejected "heavy-handed government intervention."

But hospitals have routinely noted that Hoosiers

have some of the worst health outcomes in the country, including higher smoking rates, more diabetes diagnoses and high rates of maternal/infant mortality. These contribute to the state's higher-than-average healthcare expenditures and need to be addressed, hospitals argue.

Local health programs typically address those issues but haven't been effective due to Indiana's poor public health funding, which ranks 47th in the country. The Governor's Public Health Commission, of which Tabor was a member, reported that Indiana spent just \$45 per person in public health dollars compared to the national average of \$91.

Tabor said hospitals needed stability at this time, not more interventions, to recover following the years of stress that stretched the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I hope this is a session about investing in health care, not making an already fragile system more vulnerable," Tabor said. "Hospitals, and really the whole health care system, have barely begun to rebuilding from years of stress which stretched our resources beyond belief. We must make sure hospitals and caregivers have the resources they need and reject policies that would destabilize the system in these volatile times."



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Kevin Dietsch

U.S. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, speaks to reporters Tuesday following a meeting with House Republicans at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. McCarthy fell short in multiple votes Tuesday in his bid to become Speaker of the House.

McCarthy comes up short

By **NOLAN D. MCCASKILL**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy fell short of the necessary number of votes to succeed California Democrat Nancy Pelosi as speaker in the first three rounds of balloting Tuesday.

McCarthy, also of California, became the first majority party leader in a century to fail to secure the speakership on the first ballot. He failed to win any additional votes on a second ballot and lost support on the third ballot, as Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Florida, switched his vote from McCarthy to Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio.

"The reality is Rep. Kevin McCarthy doesn't have the votes,"

Donalds tweeted after the vote concluded. "I committed my support to him publicly and for two votes on the House Floor: 218 is the number, and currently, no one is there. Our conference needs to recess and huddle and find someone or work out the next steps."

Nineteen Republicans voted for candidates other than McCarthy on the first and second ballots. Twenty Republicans voted for Jordan on the third ballot, leaving McCarthy 16 short of the 218 votes needed to secure the post he has long sought.

Although Tuesday's first-round outcome wasn't a surprise, the fact that McCarthy and his allies were not only unable to move a single vote his way in subsequent ballots but ultimately lost ground was shocking — and potentially fatal to

his diminishing path to the speakership.

The House speaker election hasn't required multiple ballots on a floor vote since 1923, when then-Rep. Frederick Gillett, R-Massachusetts, was elected on the ninth ballot.

Rep. Steve Scalise's, R-Louisiana, nomination did nothing to improve McCarthy's vote totals in the third round. Nor did Jordan's nomination in the second round.

"I think Kevin McCarthy's the right guy to lead us. I really do, or I wouldn't be standing up here giving this speech," Jordan pleaded to colleagues in his nominating remarks. "Kevin told me the toughest times in life are when you get knocked down. The question is can you come back. And I've always seen him be able to do that."

Felony arrests

Continued from page 2
He's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Melinda S. Montgomery, 37, 1237 N. U.S. 27 Lot 23, Portland, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance, unlawful possession of a syringe and possession of methamphetamine, along with a Class A mis-

demeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Kayla M. Halsey, 31, 31 Leisure Lane, Dunkirk, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe, possession of methamphetamine and maintaining a common nuisance, and a Class A misdemeanor for pos-

session of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Melissa A. Stiles, 47, 321 Coal Hollow, Christiansburg, Virginia, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe, and a Class A misdemeanor for possession

of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Methamphetamine

Two people were arrested Tuesday for possession of methamphetamine.

Faith L. Fellers, 54, 615 N. Williams St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6

felony, along with a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Jeffery A. Beam, 49, 350 Gray Ave., Greenville, Ohio, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony as well as a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,000 bond.



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The Rule of Eleven

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K 6, ♥9 5 2, ♦K 7 4, ♣A Q 9 8 4. WEST: ♠Q 10 8 5 4 2, ♥3, ♦J 10 6 3, ♣7 2. EAST: ♠19 7, ♥K Q J 8 7, ♦9 2, ♣K J 6. SOUTH: ♠A 3, ♥A 10 6 4, ♦A Q 8 5, ♣10 5 3.

declarer went down two after a second club finesse failed. Had East returned the king of hearts instead, declarer would have made the contract.

The Rule of Eleven can be applied whenever a player is thought to be leading the fourth-best card of a suit. Here, East had every reason to believe that West's opening lead was his fourth-best spade. Since West's lead was the five, East subtracted that number from 11, which in turn told him that the North, East and South hands combined had six cards in spades higher than the five West led.

The bidding: East 1♠, South 2♠, West 2NT, North 3NT. Pass 1♦, Pass 2♣, Pass 2NT, Pass 3NT. Opening lead — five of spades. The Rule of Eleven is a handy rule of thumb that occasionally enables a player to make — or break — a contract. Here is an example of how a defender — in this case East — successfully applied the rule.

West led the spade five against three notrump, declarer taking East's jack with the ace. South then led the ten of clubs, losing to East's jack, and the outcome now hinged on whether East returned a spade or switched to the king of hearts. The heart shift was indeed very tempting, but East, thoroughly versed in the Rule of Eleven, returned a spade. As a result,

East could see three spades higher than the five in his own hand and two higher than the five in dummy. He was thus able to deduce, according to the Rule, that South had only one spade higher than the five, which turned out to be the ace. South played at trick one. Consequently, East knew that a spade return to dummy's king at trick three would establish West's remaining spades.

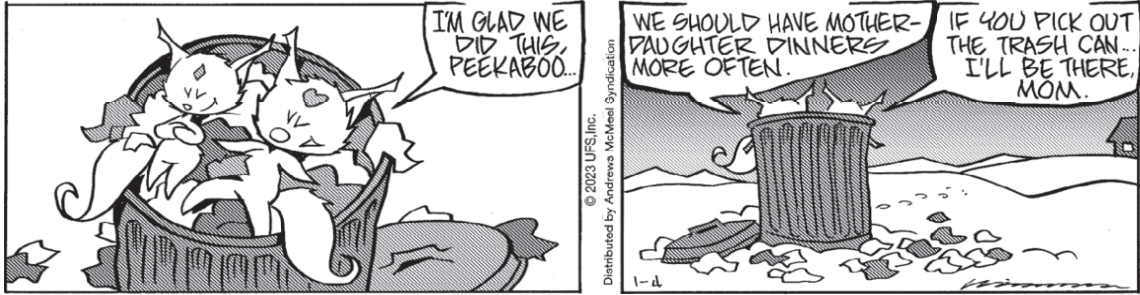
Note that declarer can also make use of the Rule of Eleven. In the actual deal, South can work out, in the same way, that East has three spades higher than the five West led, but this information does not help him in the present case. He must go down if East defends correctly, and there is nothing he can do about it.

Tomorrow: The theory of anticipation. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

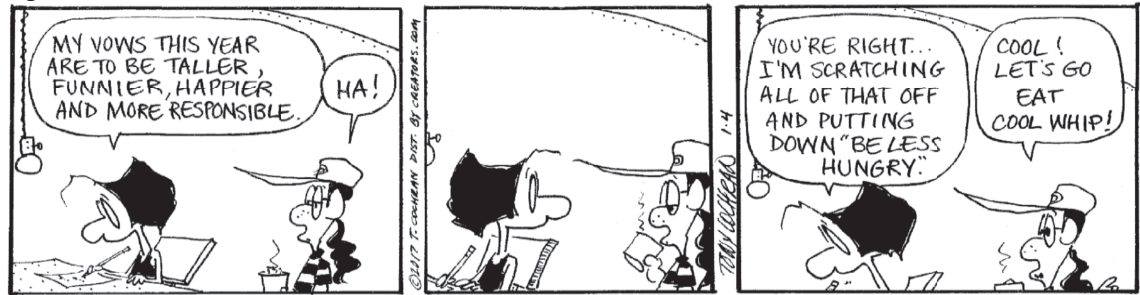
Peanuts



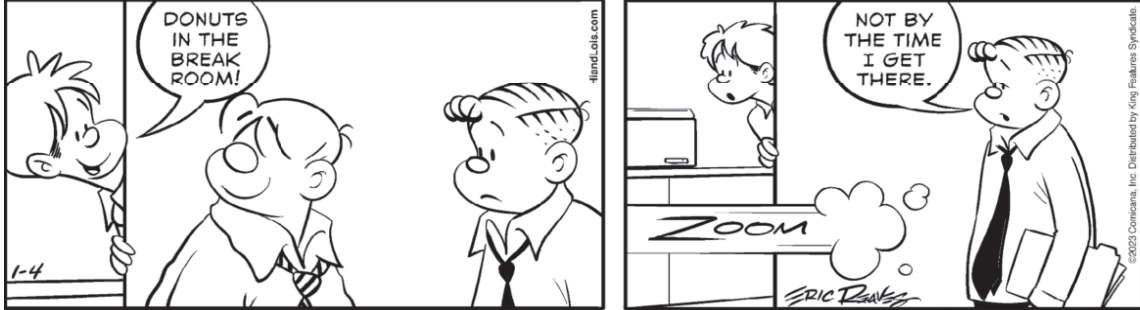
Rose is Rose



Agnes



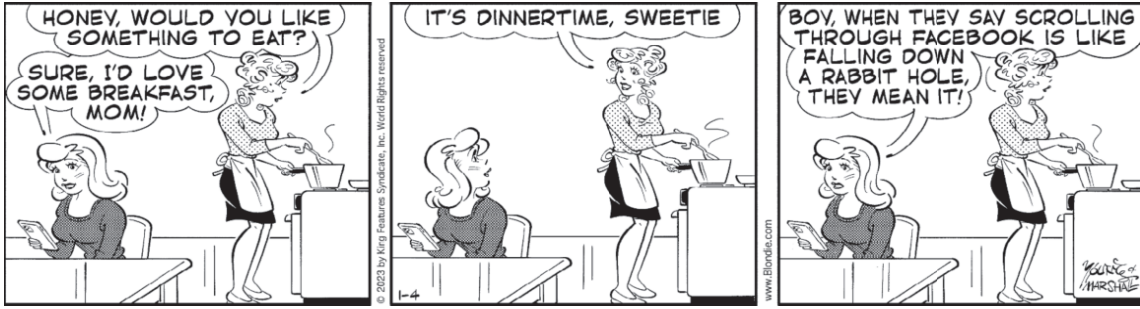
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



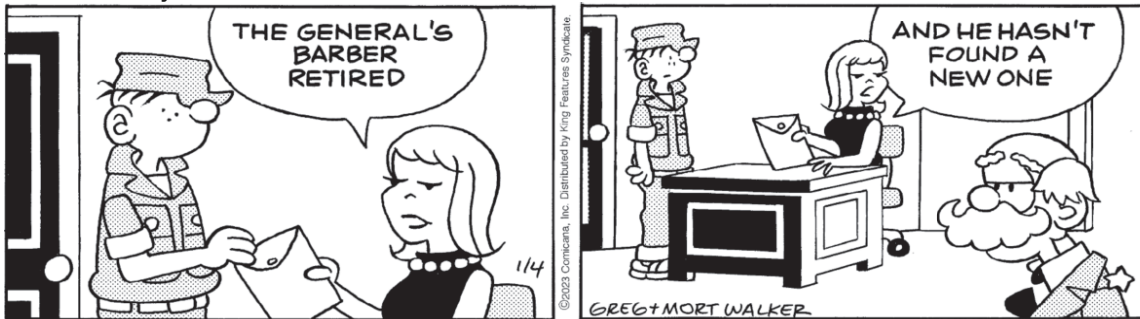
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

HF RBSOB IR NOI U DUMMDRBI OFSRBMS, U MIUVD HM UF HVDRBIUFI IKHFN IR KULO LHM-U-LHM U LHMU. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MOON HAS BEEN FEELING OUT OF SORTS LATELY, BUT I PRESUME IT'S ONLY GOING THROUGH A PHASE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals V

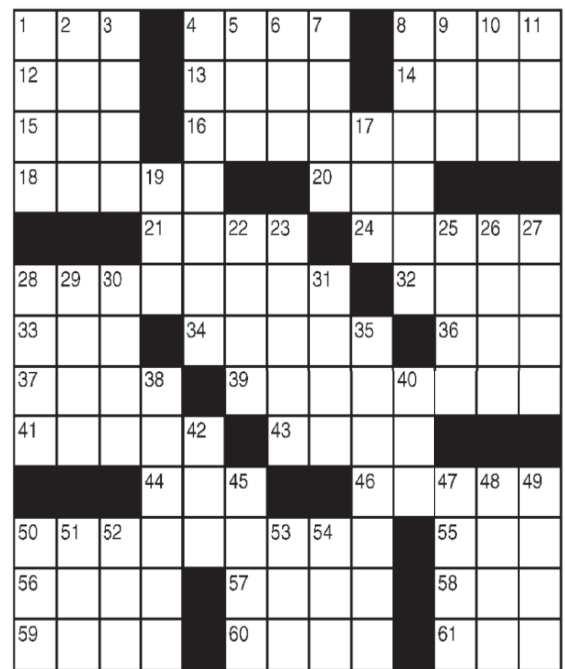
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Cardinal cap letters, 4 The "A" of UAE, 8 Not that, 12 Debtor's letters, 13 Bonkers, 14 Apiece, 15 Secret-protecting doc., 16 Com-muter zone, perhaps, 18 Dutch cheese, 20 Swiss peak, 21 Okla-homa city, 24 Indulges, with "on", 28 Vague situation, 32 Band-leader Puente, 33 Brink, 34 Toyota model, 36 Takeoff stat, 37 Detail, 39 Restricted zone, 41 Craze, 43 Subject, usually. DOWN: 3 Hawaiian feast, 4 Fact book, 5 Shad product, 6 Do some-thing, 7 Tora —, Afghani-stan, 8 Oolong brewer, 9 Guffaw syllable, 10 "Rocks" — Na Na site, 17 Vintage, 19 Susan of "L.A. Law", 22 Persia, today, 23 Fiend, 25 Wedding cake layer, 26 Diminu-tive suffix, 27 Pop, 28 Bleak, 29 Actress Moreno, 30 "So be it", 31 Golden Fleece ship, 35 Lurch's line on "The Addams Family", 38 Powerful, 40 Yucatan year, 42 Actor Vigoda, 45 Pre-college exams, 47 Allows, 48 Actor Estrada, 49 Picture of health?, 50 "— had it!", 51 Appre-hend, 52 Airport screening org., 53 LBJ's succes-sor, 54 Perfume label word.

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Double ...

Continued from page 8
Maddy Snow added a victory in diving as she scored 169.95 points.
DeHoff, Bader and Fisher joined Kenzie Huey to take the 200 medley relay and Zion Beiswanger to win the 200 freestyle relay.

Bellmont swept the freestyle sprints but struggled to find wins elsewhere against the Patriot squads.

Slavik said he's looking forward to the invitational Friday and Saturday as it provides an opportunity to measure where his team stands ahead of the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships in a couple of weeks and the sectional next month.

"We have 17 teams coming in," he added. "We'll have Oak Hill here. We'll have Bluffton here. We'll have a couple of our local rivals, plus we're bringing in a good group from Ohio this year. ... So it's a good staging point. I'm going to end up putting them in what I think their sectional events are right now to see where they stack up."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County's Peyton Yowell swims a leg of the 400-yard freestyle relay. He teamed with Josh Monroe, Joe Dow and Wyatt Kunkler to win the event in 4 minutes, 1.01 seconds.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Nick Sharritts and Regan Christ led Arcanum with 20 and 15 points, respectively.

Fort Recovery will seek to extend its streak Friday when it hosts St. John's.

Bubp leads Indians

BERNE — Audra Bubp won a pair of events Tuesday to lead the Fort Recovery girls swim team to a

double win over South Adams and Minster.

The Indian girls scored 117 points to fight off the host Starfires (108). Minster was third with 59.

The FRHS boys scored 66 points to finish behind South Adams (72) and ahead of Minster (19).

Bubp fought off Minster's Elise Oldiges by just over a second in the 100 freestyle in 1 minute, 0.69 seconds. She was first by more than

seven seconds with a time of 2:30.25 in the 200 individual medley.

Other individual wins for the Tribe girls came from Allison Knapke in the 100 butterfly, Joelle Kaup in the 100 backstroke and Teigen Fortkamp in the 100 breaststroke.

Sage Wendel's victories in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke paced the Fort Recovery boys. Caleb Smith won the 200 freestyle.

JCHS ...

Continued from page 8
The Knights had their best scoring quarter in the fourth, but Jay County hit 10 of 12 free throws in the final eight minutes to put the game away.

Senior Josh Dowlen had 18 points to lead four players in double figures for the Patriots, who recorded their highest scoring output of the season. They had averaged just 31.3 points per game during their run of consecutive losses to Fort Recovery, New Castle, Delta and Muncie Central.

Dusty Pearson, also a senior, followed with 13 points, a dozen of which came in the first half. Blake Bogenschutz and Swoveland each added 11.

The Class 3A No. 5 Patriot girls (14-1) trailed by two points after the opening period but used a 26-point second period to take control. They pushed their lead to 15 points at halftime on the way to their 11th straight double-digit victory.

JCHS had a 30-point scorer for the second consecutive game, as Renna Schwieterman poured in 30 to follow up her classmate Gabi Bilbrey's effort from Thursday's win over Pendleton Heights. Schwieterman's scoring outburst pushed her to 1,544 points and past 1971 Bryant High School grad-

uate Tom Weigel for third place on the county's all-time scoring list. The only players who remain ahead of Schwieterman from the pre-consolidation days are 1959 Bryant graduate Richard Masters at 1,574 and 1972 Redkey graduate Greg Bales at 1,723.

Bilbrey had another big game for the Patriots as she totaled 19 points — her career high prior to her 30-point effort last week was 16 — and sharing the game-high of seven rebounds with Schwieterman.

The Jay County junior varsity boys team had three players reach double figures while not allowing a field goal in a 48-4 destruction of the Knights. Levi Muhlenkamp and Parker Nichols each hit two 3-pointers and finished with 13 and 11 points, respectively, and Eli Dirksen hit three triples as he totaled 10 points.

The Patriot JV girls squad recorded a 62-48 victory over Concordia. Meredith Dirksen's dozen points lead JCHS, with Raylah Newton, Bella Denton and Natalie Carreno each adding six.

The JCHS girls will visit Bluffton Friday while the boys play next at home Saturday against Adams Central.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swimming vs. Celina and Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Anderson — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Selma — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Fort Recovery — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at St. John's — 7 p.m.; Junior high boys

basketball at St. John's — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Jay County — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. St. John's — 6 p.m.

Indiana)
7 p.m. — NHL hockey: New Jersey Devils at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Toronto Raptors (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Tampa Bay Lightning at Minnesota Wild (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Miami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

Thursday
7 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at New Jersey Devils (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Boston Celtics at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Clippers at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

Friday
5 p.m. — High School basketball: Simeon at Cathedral (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Brooklyn Nets at New Orleans Pelicans (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Miami Heat at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

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Minimum charge....
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1 insertion.....62¢/word
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3 insertions.....96¢/word

00 CLASSIFIEDS

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6 insertions.... \$1.14/
word
12 insertions. \$1.52/
word
26 insertions. \$1.77/
word
Includes
Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/
per column inch
No borders or logos
allowed on Classified
Page
Card of Thanks Up to
100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100
words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is
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to publication. The dead-
line for Mondays paper
is 12:00 p.m. Friday.
Pre-Payment required
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business opportunities,
jobs wanted, boats and
sporting equipment,
wanted to rent, motor-
ized vehicles, real estate
and mobile homes.

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

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TV sports

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3 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Tottenham Hotspur at Crystal Palace (USA)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Philadelphia 76ers (Bally

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90 SALE CALENDAR

46TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Saturday February 11, 2023
The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio.
For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096
Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800
Machinery consigned by January 18, 2023 can be advertised

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: : 3953 S. 600 E. SALAMONIA, IN. SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 10:00 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
Two story Commercial building containing 3904 square feet, 14'x24' pole building nicely situated on .3 acres (Former VFW building). For Private showing phone auctioneers.
Tractor -Equipment - Tools
Ford Golden Jubilee tractor; ; Century wire feed welder; Miller stick welder; Shop mate; Antique horse drawn dump cart.
Antiques-Furniture- Household
Wrought iron furniture; wicker love seat; Jesse French upright piano; galv. drum; 20 gal. cast iron kettle; smelting pot; granite coffee pots; fire hydrant; patio and outdoor furniture; basket collection; rugs; bicycles and tricycle.
OWNERS: ROGER

90 SALE CALENDAR

LOCKER, DECEASED Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Pete D. Shawver AU19700040
260-726-5587
Zane Shawver AU10500168
260-729-2229
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds East Votaw St. Portland, IN. SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023 10:00 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
Tract 1- Located at 204 W. Votaw St. Portland, IN. Going business to include Real Estate and inventory.
Tract 2- Located at 220 W. Votaw St. Portland, IN.
Tract 3- Located at 203 W. McNeil Street, Portland, IN.
NOTE: Real Estate is being offered at 10:00 a.m. at the Bubp Building. Will be offered in parcels and combinations. For a private showing phone auctioneers.
Camper-Skid Loader-Vehicles-Trailers
1998 Chevy Georgie Boy Swinger motor home, 34,500 miles, 2004 Ford Explorer XLT 147,000 miles; West Coast Chopper mini bike (new).
Antiques-Furniture-Household
(2) Duncan Phyfe drum tables; wooden trunk; large lot of Tiffany style lamps; lot of Star Trek

110 HELP WANTED

Memorabilia; crocks; galv. Washtubs; old bicycles; Coca Cola items; Colts grill; Smoker; and many items not mentioned.

OWNERS: ROGER LOCKER, DECEASED Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Pete D. Shawver AU19700040
260-726-5587
Zane Shawver AU10500168
260-729-2229
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

110 HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED Cook & Server position, No experience needed, Fair wages, Nights & Weekends Southside in Coldwater Ohio 419-678-3715

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
RESOLUTION 2023-1
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana that the Common Council of the City of Portland, appearing in the City of Portland Council Chambers, 1616 Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, on January 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. will consider the following additional appropriation in excess of budget for the current year.
1101-007-111 Police - Salary \$51,000
1101-003-114 Police - PERF \$9,500
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government and Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of action taken.
Lori Phillips
Clerk Treasurer, City of Portland
CR 1-4-2023-HSPXLP

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

46th Annual Coldwater Young Farmers Consignment Auction

The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio.

Saturday February 11, 2023

For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call:
Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800
Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096
Machinery consigned by
January 18, 2023 can be advertised
CR 1-4,11-2023

Jay grapplers crush visiting Coldwater, see story below

FR boys will host Blue Jays on Friday, see Sports on tap

Sports

Double victory

Patriots defeat Belmont to start 2023 schedule

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Putting in nearly 20 miles of swimming over winter break isn't really anyone's idea of fun.

Returning sore to the first meet of the new year can be difficult.

When the result is a double win, the distance and the pain don't seem so bad.

Jay County High School swims teams started 2023 strong Tuesday as the girls team improved to 6-2 with a 175-131 victory over the visiting Belmont Braves while the boys took a step toward the .500 mark with a 133-117 win.

"I thought we had a great meet tonight," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik, whose team has a busy week as it takes on Celina and Coldwater at home Thursday before hosting the Jay County Invitational with diving Friday and swimming Saturday. "It's great to be back after we got just under 20 miles in last week ... A couple of them are swimming pretty sore right now, but they're dropping time."

A couple of seniors led the boys team to its victory, with Wyatt Kunkler handling the distance races. He was first in front of

teammate Joe Dow in the 200-yard freestyle in 2 minutes, 8.9 seconds, and won the 500 freestyle by nearly 25 seconds with a time of 6:12.04.

Josh Monroe earned the only other individual win for the Patriot boys as he finished in 2:23.55 in the 200 individual medley. He was also the runner-up in the 100 freestyle with teammate Lincoln Clamme in third.

Kunkler, Monroe and Dow also teamed with Peyton Yowell to win both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

Yowell, Kolby Baldwin and David Keen took second, third and fourth places in the 50 freestyle.

Morgan DeHoff, Lauren Fisher and Mara Bader all won a pair of events for Jay County's girls, with DeHoff taking the 100 butterfly by nearly five seconds over teammate Hannah Laux in 1:13.09 and the 100 breaststroke by more than nine seconds in 1:21.13. Bader, a senior, won the 200 freestyle (2:13.02) and the 100 backstroke (1:07.91) while Fisher, a freshman, led the way in the 200 individual medley (2:38.67) and the 500 freestyle (6:25.28).

See **Double** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School freshman Lauren Fisher stretches out as she pushes off the wall to start the backstroke leg of the 200-yard individual medley Tuesday during the Patriots' win over visiting Belmont. Fisher won the race in 2 minutes, 38.67 seconds.

JCHS teams win in Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE — The Patriot boys have to hope their trip to the second-largest city in the state will mark a turning point in their season.

For the girls, the visit was simply continued dominance.

Jay County High School's boys and girls basketball teams both picked up victories as they opened the 2023 portion of their schedules Tuesday. The former ended a four-game losing streak with a 63-50 win over the Bishop Luers Knights while the latter extended its winning streak to 13 in a row with an 62-48 triumph over the Concordia Cadets.

The Patriot boys (2-5), who had not won since rallying past Woodlan on Dec. 2, found themselves trailing by two after the opening period. They pulled ahead with an 18-point second quarter and then hit four 3-pointers, including two by freshman Gradin Swoveland, in the third to push their advantage to double figures.

See **JCHS** page 7

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These specials apply to the regular CR only. Special sections are not included. Ads must run in January, 2023.

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141 today!

The Commercial Review (260) 726-8141 • ads@thecr.com



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jacob Robinson of Jay County High School squeezes a headlock as he tries to finish off Coldwater's Jordan Houser during the Class 2A No. 1 Patriots' 58-15 victory Tuesday. Robinson wasn't able to notch the pin but still rolled to a 16-6 major decision win over Houser.

Jay Co. blasts Cavs

With another big tournament set for Saturday, the Patriots got a nice tune-up on their home floor.

With the Class 2A No. 1 Jay County High School wrestling team competing alongside its junior high and elementary counterparts Tuesday, it rolled to a 58-15 victory over the Coldwater Cavaliers.

The Patriots, who are ranked 13th overall, will be back on their home floor Saturday when they host the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Class 2A State Duals.

Six of the JCHS victories on the night came by pin, with 152-pounder Christian Wittkamp finishing off Mason Klosterman in just 16 seconds to swipe the quick pin of the evening. Cody Rowles had looked to have that title locked up when he defeated Brady Hamilton in 20 seconds in the 126-pound match.

Other pins on the evening came from Griffin Byrum at 113, Juquin Flores at 182, Ethan Reiley at 132 and Tony Wood at 138. Jacob Robinson picked up a 16-6 major decision at 145 pounds and decision wins came from Bryce Wenk at 195 and Conner Specht at heavyweight.

Picking up junior varsity victories

Local roundup

were AJ Heskett, Daidrick Retz and Trey Nichols.

FR wins 6th in a row

ARCANUM, Ohio — It took overtime, but the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team extended its winning streak to six games Tuesday as it knocked off the Arcanum Trojans 55-52.

The Indians (8-1) led by four heading into the final period before Arcanum rallied to force the extra session. Cale Rammel scored all of the Tribe's five points in overtime.

Rammel poured in 25 points to lead FRHS. It marked his sixth straight game with 25 or more. He is averaging 26.7 per game during that stretch.

Landon Post was the only other Indian in double figures as he scored 11 points.

See **Roundup** page 7