

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Trash fee will go up

**Redkey plans to increase rate to \$15/month**

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review  
REDKEY — Trash fees may be going up.

Redkey Town Council agreed Thursday to move forward with raising the garbage service rate for residents to \$15 per month.

Council will need to go through the process of amending its ordinance before the new rate goes into effect.

Redkey clerk-treasurer Mary Eley pointed out the town's contract with Best Way Disposal expires soon. It generally increases about 3% annually, she said, adding that council could seek additional bids for the service.

The town currently pays \$6,521 monthly for trash removal, but it only brings in about \$6,010 from its residents for the service. Eley suggested council raise rates by at least \$1.25 monthly.

Town employee Randy Young said council should look into how much the service will cost in the new contract in order to determine a price.

Council member Gary Gardner noted citizens currently pay at least \$12 monthly for trash pickup. He suggested bumping the price to \$15 to cover additional costs.

"I think \$15 is the most reasonable. That keeps us from having to raise it next year," he said.

Council members Floyd Life, Erik Ham-

mers and Gardner, absent Chance Retter and John Pierce, agreed to move forward with raising the rate.

Also Thursday, Redkey awarded a \$158,131 contract to Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne to pave several streets in town.

In December, Redkey was approved for a \$196,100.25 Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant. It includes paving Boyce Street between Sycamore and Meridian streets, Bell Avenue between Meridian and Butler streets, Sycamore Street between Indiana 67 and Main Street, all of Morgan Drive through Redkey Morgan Park and Bell Avenue between Meridian and Washington streets.

Eley and Gardner noted the bid came in significantly lower than expected.

Council also discussed a letter from Indiana Department of Environmental Management about the town's failure to meet a Nov. 30 deadline for removing two Combined Sewer Overflows. (One CSO originates in a rural area and lets out into Redkey Run, and the other starts near Union Street.)

Young said he and former council member Dottie Quakenbush have reached out to Jay County Health Department environmentalist Heath Butz about the CSO that starts outside of town but that Butz has not checked it out yet. He recalled attorney Wes Schemenaur suggested contacting Jay County Drainage Board or Jay County Surveyor's Office about the matter.

"It starts a lot farther out in the country than we're responsible for," he said.

See Fee page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Under the lights

Jay County High School band director Chuck Roesch conducts the during Sunday's winter pops concert. The high school band and guard's final concert of the year — its spring concert and silent auction — is scheduled for April 16.

## Exception granted for pet business

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review  
A rural Portland woman can move forward with her plans for a new business.

Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals granted Klarisa Hemmelgarn a special exception to allow her to operate a small ani-

mal boarding and grooming business at 3937 E. Indiana 26.

John Hemmelgarn, director of Jay/Portland Building and Planning, explained that the special exception was needed as the property — it is owned by Klarisa's parents Doug and Karen Hemmelgarn —

is zoned residential. He added that there are no issues with setbacks or any other aspects of Klarisa Hemmelgarn's planned business.

Answering a question from the board, assistant building and planning director Pati McLaughlin confirmed that notices

had been sent to the required adjacent property owners and that the department had received no objections. (The property is surrounded by farmland, with the closest homes about a third of a mile away.)

Board members Scott Hilfiker, Steve Ford and

Marla Lutes voted in favor of the special exception. Kaleb Hemmelgarn, Klarisa's brother, abstained. Angela Paxson was absent.

Klarisa Hemmelgarn said she hopes to open the business — Paws and Claws Pet Care — sometime this year. She plans to offer boarding for dogs

and other small animals, pet grooming and pet day-care, and eventually hopes to sell pet-related products.

The board also re-elected Scott Hilfiker president, Angela Paxson vice president and Steve Ford secretary. McLaughlin was appointed as recording secretary.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Yasin Akgul

## U.N. asks for \$1 billion to help

Rescue personnel search the rubble of collapsed buildings Tuesday in Hatay after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country. Teams will make sure every last person is pulled from the rubble before debris removal starts.

By ERGIN HAVA, WEEDAH HAMZAH and RAMADAN AL-FATASH  
dpa  
Tribune News Service

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations is asking members to contribute \$1 billion to help the millions affected by the earthquake that killed more than 42,000 in Turkey and Syria.

"Today the United Nations is launching a \$1 billion humanitarian appeal for the people of Türkiye suffering from the most

devastating earthquakes to hit the country in a century," U.N. Secretary General António Guterres said.

Some 5.2 million people need the funding that would support relief efforts in the areas of food security, protection, education, water and shelter, he said.

"Türkiye is home to the largest number of refugees in the world and has shown enormous generosity to its Syrian neighbors for years," he said.

See Help page 5

### Deaths

**Robert Meiring, 72**, Fort Recovery  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 60 degrees Thursday. The low was 36.

Tonight's low will dip to 21. Expect mostly sunny skies Saturday with a high of 44. Conditions will be windy, with gusts as high as 30 miles per hour.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

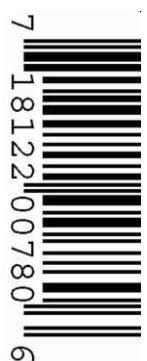
### In review

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

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from JCHS in today's wrestling state finals.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Fort Recovery Village Council meeting.



# Obituaries

## Robert Meiring

Feb. 5, 1951-Feb. 13, 2023

Robert "Bob" William Meiring, 72, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023.

He was born on Feb. 5, 1951, in Celina, Ohio, to the late Richard and Mary Helen (McConaha) Meiring.

Bob is survived by his wife of 48 years, Karen Adelle Smith, whom he married on Sept. 7, 1974; his children, Jill (Beth Simmons) Meiring of Loveland, Ohio; Kelly (Adam Sakryd) Meiring Walter of Fort Recov-

ery, and Alex (Krista) Meiring of Dublin, Ohio; his grandchildren, Liam, Leo, Olivia and Alexandra; his brother, Richard (Barbara) Meiring of Marysville, Ohio; his in-laws, Diane (Fred) Reichert of Fort Recovery, Jamie (Martha) Smith of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Eric Smith of Honolulu, Hawaii; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bob was a 1969 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. He continued his education at Indiana State University and The Ohio State University. Bob

returned to Fort Recovery, where he began his 42-year career in the insurance business at Fort Recovery Insurance.

Bob was a kind, patient and generous man who loved traveling, spending time at the cottage and going boating and relaxing and taking family vacations with his wife and children and their families. He was also an active member of Christ Chapel in Fort Recovery.

Due to ADA accessibility and capacity, a celebration of Bob's life will be held at the Fort Recovery Church of the

Nazarene on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Q officiating.

Guests may visit with Bob's family on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. until the start of the service at 11 a.m. at the Nazarene church.

A memory box will be available at the church, and the family request that everyone brings their favorite story or memory of Bob for them to cherish.

Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home is serving Bob's family. In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family request that memorial contributions be given to the

Fort Recovery Community Foundation in memory of Robert Meiring.






Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [brockmanboeckmanfh.com](http://brockmanboeckmanfh.com).

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

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

## CR almanac

Saturday 2/18	Sunday 2/19	Monday 2/20	Tuesday 2/21	Wednesday 2/22
				
<b>44/34</b>	<b>51/34</b>	<b>45/35</b>	<b>51/35</b>	<b>56/44</b>
Saturday's forecast predicts mostly sunny skies with up to 30 mph winds throughout the day.	Mostly sunny, with a low near freezing in the 30s. The high may hit the 50s.	There's a slight chance of rain at night. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high in the mid 40s.	Tuesday has a low (30%) chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies.	There's a 40% chance of showers Wednesday, with a higher chance at night.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$73 million	18-19-22-26-27-29-37-46-55-60-63-67-69-71-72-77 Cash 5: 12-14-18-37-44 Estimated jackpot: \$95,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$84 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 2-0-8 Pick 4: 0-2-6-4 Pick 5: 4-0-7-2-6 Evening Pick 3: 3-2-7 Pick 4: 1-1-8-7 Pick 5: 2-5-8-5-0 Rolling Cash: 7-10-14-17-30 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 7-2-5 Daily Four: 7-5-5-0 Quick Draw: 2-9-17-23-28-45-46-47-50-51-52-53-55-57-58-61-67-70-71-79 Evening Daily Three: 9-7-1 Daily Four: 3-1-0-9 Quick Draw: 2-6-9-10-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.81 March corn .....6.81 Wheat .....7.52	Wheat ..... 7.04 July wheat .....7.55
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....6.89 March corn .....6.92 April corn .....6.97	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....6.75 March corn .....6.75 Beans .....15.16 March beans .....15.18 Wheat .....7.57
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....6.83 March corn .....6.83 Beans .....15.16 March beans .....15.26	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.49 March corn .....6.51 Beans .....14.95 March beans .....15.00 Wheat .....7.22

## Today in history

In 1801, the House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson as president of the United States. Jefferson won a tie in the Electoral College, leading to two terms as the country's leader.

In 1876, Julius Wolff of Eastport, Maine, became the first person to can sardines. He's known for launching the sardine canning industry.

In 1936, "The Phantom," the first superhero cartoon strip, appeared in comics for the first time. Creator Lee Falk also made "Mandrake the Magician," an adventure comic strip, around the same time.

In 1963, Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York. A Chicago Bulls basketball player, the man known as the National Basketball Association's greatest all-time player won six titles with his team.

In 1975, several paintings valued in total at \$5 million were stolen from the Municipal Museum in Milan. The 28 paintings were found two months later in an unoccupied apartment.

In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia after a year-long armed conflict.

In 2017, Jay County High School freshman Mason Winner finished seventh place at the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals in Indianapolis. Winner bounced back from two losses and scored a 6-4 decision over Elkhart Central's Xander Stroud.

— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, Fort Recovery High School, 400 E. Butler St.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. <b>Wednesday</b> 3 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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## Fees ...

Continued from page 1  
"IDEM does not care. They said if it drains into our city limits, it's our problem."

Because the town missed its deadlines, he said, it will likely need to create another plan to address CSOs. Young told council it needed to sign and send a response to the letter by the end of today.

Per IDEM regulations, the town is also required to complete inventories of all water service lines in its system. The action is used to identify and address significant sources of lead in drinking water, according to a document about Lead Service Lines from IDEM. The town must comply with the order by Oct. 16, 2024.

Also, council heard it received two applications for its vacant police officer positions. Gardner noted the town does not offer benefits and cited this as the reason for the town's inability to find and keep officers. Eley pointed out there are other towns in Indiana that don't have a police department.

"I don't know what the answer is, but we do need police presence," she said.

Young noted he's been a town employee covering various departments for almost 11 years and has never received benefits.

"You've considered it once or twice over 10 years, I keep asking for it, and we just can't do it. So now we're going to do it for a police officer?" he asked.

"As many jobs as I take on, and you tell me, 'Well you better get busy.' That's not right," he said.

## City court

**Judge Donald Gillespie**  
**Fined and sentenced**  
Harley D. Arnold, Portland, speeding 77 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Zachary J. Newlin, Portland, driving with a suspended license, \$160.50; William Ruiz, Portland, driving without insurance, \$160.50; Axel Urbina Mojica, Portland, operating a vehicle with false plates, \$160.50, and driving without insurance, \$25; Rigo V. Tzunux Chivalan, Portland, disregarding traffic control device, \$160.50, driving without a valid license, \$25, and driving without insurance, \$25; Shane L. Williams, Portland, expired plates, \$160.50.

**Default**  
Shanana D. Packer, Pensacola, Florida, off the truck route in Dunkirk; Dominique R. Bradley, Indianapolis, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone; Jai Q. Carter, Lima, Ohio, speeding 55 mph in a 40 mph zone and driving with a suspended license; LeAnn L. Fritts, Union City, Ohio, speeding 71 mph in a 55 mph zone; Diaz Gonzalez, Fort Wayne, driving without a valid license; Javiona M. Smith, Muncie, speeding 70 mph in a 40 mph zone; Mackenna J. VanSkyock, Portland, window tint violation.

**Trials scheduled**  
John F. Beeson, Parker City, speeding 50 mph in a 40 mph zone, pretrial

If the town looks into offering benefits to its officers, it would also offer the same to Young, Gardner assured him.

In other business, council:  
•Agreed to amend the town's salary ordinance in order to fix a clerical error. (Eley explained she didn't clarify the town planned to employ either two part-time deputies or one full-time deputy.)

•OK'd Redkey Festival Committee to host Gas Boom Days downtown Aug 12 and 13, as well as allowing the group to use the town's insurance, electricity and water for the event. Organizer Mark Leavell noted the event is growing annually. "We could use some help from the public," he said, requesting more volunteers get involved.

•Gave permission to allow Culpepper and Merriweather Circus to set up in town for two shows May 26. The circus was originally scheduled to visit in 2020 but was delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

•Heard spring and fall cleanup days are scheduled for May 20 and Sept. 9.

•Learned a master utility planning study grant application has been submitted Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The town should hear back by March 16, according to Jodi Hayes and Travis Richards of Jay County Development Corporation. Council thanked Hayes and Richards for completing the application. "If it wasn't for the economic development group, we wouldn't have this," Eley said.

•Learned the annual fireworks show hosted by Redkey Fire

Department will kick off at approximately 10 p.m. July 1. Young noted the department is accepting donations.

•Discussed participating in the Hometown Heroes project, which displays banners featuring local veterans.

•Denied a request from engineering firm Fleis and VandenBrink for an additional \$7,604.06 for completing the sidewalk leading from Redkey Elementary School to Morgan Park. Eley noted the company has asked for the funds citing it worked additional hours on the project. Neither INDOT or Schemenauer suggested paying for the work.

•Learned the town will be using \$6,300 recovered by insurance to repair damage to the city building after a pipe burst.

•Heard American Electric Power will be removing dead trees near the wastewater plant and from the walking path that leads from Redkey Elementary School to the post office along Main, High and Union streets.

•Received a plaque from Reece Leavell — he recently became an Eagle Scout — for contributing toward his installation of a gaga ball pit at Redkey Morgan Park. Former council president Dottie Quakenbush delivered the plaque.

•Signed the town's nepotism policy, which is renewed annually.

•Made \$6,484.57 in water bill adjustments.

•OK'd Young to purchase a \$650 air compressor.

•Agreed to maintain Hammers as interim president until next month when more members are present.

•Paid \$94,313.07 in claims.

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# Try something different on stage

To the editor:  
We would like to invite you to Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "The Laramie Project."

This show is unlike most we have done in the recent past — Disney shows, comedies and productions iconic in popular culture. Those shows are certainly fun, but they are not all that theatre is about.

Theatre is an art. It is meant not only to entertain us but to make us think and to make us feel.

"The Laramie Project" does both of those things.

The documentary-style play was created by playwright Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project. It analyzes the death of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay college student who was brutally murdered in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998 because of his sexual identity.

## Letters to the Editor

Matthew's murder is one of the most well-known hate crimes in recent American history.

For "The Laramie Project," the Tectonic Theater Project traveled from New York to Laramie in 1998, just four weeks after Matthew's death. There, they interviewed dozens of townspeople, collecting a wide array of different perspectives on the crime. The dialogue and monologues that comprise "The Laramie Project" are taken from these interviews, along with news reports, courtroom transcripts and journal entries.

Performing, directing and

being involved in theatre in other ways is also meant to help us stretch our skills. Growth only comes from challenging ourselves.

"The Laramie Project" certainly does that as well. The cast of eight plays dozens of different characters — not characters thought up in someone's mind, but real people who spoke real words and shared real thoughts in the wake of a murder that rocked their community.

The audience hears from a wide variety of personalities, from a bartender, to a university professor, to church pastors, to the men convicted of the crime, to Matthew's father.

Our cast takes great pride in doing them all justice.

As stated on the Matthew Shepard Foundation website, "The Laramie Project" is not about homosexuality or even primarily about Matthew himself. As docu-

mentary theater, it lays before the audience what happened in the case of Matthew's murder and how the people of Laramie, and the world, responded. There are many differing viewpoints put forth in the play, and it is left to the individual to decide how they feel about what happened and about each of the individual characters."

The show is meant for a mature audience. There is strong language — these are words real folks spoke — though it is not gratuitous. And there are graphic descriptions of violence. Matthew, after all, was beaten to death.

Our production opens at 7 p.m. tonight at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland, with shows again at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. An additional performance is slated for 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at Blackford County Arts Center in Hartford City.

In addition to the show itself, we will have a "Cards and Letters" display that is being shared with us by the Matthew Shepard Foundation. And following Sunday's show, Dennis Shepard, Matthew's father, will join us via Zoom for a talk back — an opportunity for the audience and cast to discuss the show with the man whose son's death led to the creation of the play.

If you've joined us for "Shrek the Musical," "Newsies," "Elf the Musical," "Mamma Mia!" or any of our various Disney shows, we invite you to get a ticket this weekend and try a different variety of theatre.

We hope to see you there.  
Jay County Civic Theatre board of directors  
Ray Cooney, Lee Osteen, Reid Knuth, Greg Rittenhouse, Bev Wolford, Casi Avery, Sarah Lingo and Pete Vogler

## Stop grandstanding and enforce the law

By KAITLYN BUSS  
The Detroit News  
Tribune News Service

Politicians who quickly rose to call for action on guns following the deadly shootings this week at Michigan State University should spare us the grandstanding and shift their focus to pressuring police and prosecutors to enforce the laws already on the books, enforcement that might have prevented this tragedy.

The 43-year-old gunman who killed three students and injured five others Monday night on MSU's campus before killing himself was free to do so precisely because he wasn't prosecuted for previous violations of gun laws.

Yet Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Democrats in Lansing are ready to use the shooting to ram through red-flag laws and other gun control measures that may be warranted but will have little impact if woke prosecutors choose to not enforce measures lawmakers previously passed.

What bigger red flag could there be than was already waved by the shooter's criminal history and ongoing behavior? He stood in his door and shot at a target in his backyard in a residential Lansing neighborhood, according to a neighbor quoted in the News. Could there be a bigger precursor of trouble ahead?

He was picked up in June of 2019 for carrying a concealed weapon and instead of being convicted of a felony, which would have banned him from future legal gun ownership, he was allowed to plead down to a misdemeanor. In October 2019 a charge of having a loaded weapon in a vehicle without a permit was added. Again, no jail time.

If we're serious about tackling gun crimes, lawmakers should put in place policies to make plea deals regarding them a rarity.

Instead, Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon agreed to a deal that gave him a mere 12 months of probation, to which six more months were added. His probation period ended May 2021. And he kept his guns.

A similar soft prosecutorial approach is being taken by progressive prosecutors across the country, including in Washtenaw County by Prosecutor Eli Savit. He let University of Michigan's star football

Kaitlyn Buss



player Mazi Smith off with a wrist slap for committing having an unloaded handgun in vehicle without permit. That could have been a felony charge involving illegal gun possession.

Like Siemon, who is now retired, Savit has downgraded enforcement of gun possession crimes because of their disparate impact on African Americans such as the MSU shooter. Siemon has been sharply criticized by local law enforcement for that approach, which has coincided with a spike in gun violence in Ingham County.

This soft-on-gun-crime shift in Ingham played out in Whitmer's backyard. Surely she noticed. Yet tougher enforcement of gun laws was not part of her impassioned response to the MSU shootings.

A student publication, the Spartan Newsroom, ran a piece on Saturday in which the county's new prosecutor, John Dewane, said he noticed gun violence spreading from Lansing throughout the county, "moving down Michigan Avenue toward East Lansing," with an increased level of fear among MSU students. It was a prescient observation.

Even Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina described Siemon's progressive approach as trying "to be creative to get around the judge and the Legislature, and quite frankly, the law."

Do Whitmer and Democratic lawmakers believe any new laws they pass will be better respected than the old ones that have been ignored?

After the shooting, state Rep. Rangeev Puri, D-Canton Township, posted a letter that stated "F--- your thoughts and prayers."

His anger is justified. But we should be praying that elected officials such as Puri, who so zealously talk about gun control, will demand prosecutors enforce the laws they already passed, even when it doesn't align with a preferred agenda.

Gun control measures mean nothing if we're relying on out-of-control prosecutors to enforce them.



## It's time to prepare for change

By SAM CARPENTER  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Ensuring security and creating an environment where Hoosiers can thrive are the most basic responsibilities of government. Climate change both threatens our security and presents economic opportunity.

The Indiana Senate Environmental Affairs Committee is considering Senate Bill 335, which would create a climate solutions task force. Championed by the youth group Confront the Climate Crisis, the task force would study and make recommendations relating to the impact of climate change on Hoosiers.

Climate change is commonly associated with threats like more intense storms, flooding, droughts, and wildfires. More specifically to Indiana, the Purdue Climate Change Resource Center predicts Indiana will have wetter springs, which will create uncertainty and challenges for our farmers when seeding their crops. Extended drought conditions in the summer and warmer winters allow for new pests to move north will create additional challenges for farm yields. Indiana should plan and prepare.

According to Purdue's Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment, extreme rainfall events have increased markedly since 1990. Increased rainfall and severe storms, combined with shrinking wetland protection increase the risk of flooding. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, past flooding events and extreme storms have cost Indiana billions of dollars in property damages and lost crop yields.

Given Indiana's history with the great floods of 2008, 1937, and 1913, Indiana should plan and prepare.

And we don't know what we don't know. How will severe drought in the western parts of the United States

Sam Carpenter



and rising sea levels in low lying coastal regions affect migration among what is likely to be tens of millions of US citizens? For example, Lake Mead, which provides essential water resources affecting nearly 25 million people in Arizona, Nevada, California and New Mexico, is 182 feet below full levels. There is real concern that the reservoir as a source for both water and needed power generation will be lost.

The Urban Land Institute predicts that over \$3 billion of property damage will occur in Miami-Dade County in southern Florida by 2040, and Dr. Harold Wanless, geologist and professor of geography and sustainable development at University of Miami, predicts nearly 60% of Miami-Dade will be underwater by 2060. Miami-Dade currently has a population of 2.6 million, what impact will this have on US internal migration?

What's more, more than 3 million adults were forced to evacuate their homes in 2022 due to natural disasters, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While Indiana will face its own challenges, by comparison, our state will remain relatively stable and may become a sought-after destination by those looking for relative climate stability. Indiana should plan and prepare.

Indiana's economy is already changing as a result of climate change with over \$2.5 billion of electric vehicle investments in 2022. Major businesses are demanding renewable energy sources and Indiana must look forward to a shift to

manufacturing of electric vehicles and battery technology. There is economic opportunity for states that plan and prepare.

Hoosier youth who make up Confront the Climate Crisis have shown tremendous leadership and determination to bring the Climate Solutions Task Force bill to the point where it will receive a hearing. In a study published in The Lancet, a peer review medical journal, around 70% of people aged 16-25 are "extremely worried" or "very worried" about climate change. This concern is reflected in the heavy lift Confront the Climate Crisis has made with SB 335. Indiana youth are asking our legislators to plan and prepare.

It is now time for leadership in the state legislature on this issue. Momentum is building for this bipartisan bill. Senate Republicans Ron Altling (Lafayette), Dan Dernulc (Highland), Jon Ford (Terre Haute), Eric Bassler (Washington), and Vaneita Becker (Evansville) have signed on as authors or co-authors. Democratic Senator Shelli Yoder (Bloomington) authored and introduced the bill and Democratic Senator Fady Qaddoura (Marion) has also signed on as co-author while Democratic Senators David Niezgodski (South Bend) and Greg Taylor (Marion) who serve on the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee have voiced their support.

Hoosier Environmental Council encourages those remaining Senators on the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee to support this Climate Solutions Task Force legislation. It is time for leadership on this important issue. It is time for Indiana to plan and prepare.

Carpenter is executive director of Hoosier Environmental Council. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# The Commercial Review



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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# House GOP committed to expansion

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana House Republicans will seek to expand the state's "school choice" program despite a top GOP senator's call for more voucher school reforms.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said his caucus is "110% committed" to funding — and growing — Indiana's voucher program, known as Choice Scholarships. He suggested that lawmakers will widen eligibility for the vouchers in the House-proposed state budget, which is expected to be unveiled later Friday.

That's the opposite of what Mishawaka Sen. Ryan Mishler said state lawmakers should do in the current legislative session.

Instead, the powerful Republican senator threatened to hold

up new state spending on the voucher program — and advised parents to "beware" of non-public schools — after he claimed to have witnessed "disgusting" behavior at a private Catholic school in northern Indiana.

Mishler aired his concerns in a letter published last week.

"It's time to continue to expand school choice," Huston said Thursday. "I was disappointed in Sen. Mishler's — whatever that thing was, his letter, missive — extremely disappointed in it."

Voucher schools receive state funding but are not required to operate within the same parameters as local public schools. For instance, they don't have elected school boards and don't have to justify their spending. Critics have long maintained that such schools lack transparency and accountability to the public.

Huston maintained Thursday that Indiana's voucher system is already accountable enough, calling it one of the state's "most successful programs."

"We've had hundreds of thousands of kids go through the Choice Program over the last decade. It's been an extraordinarily successful program," Huston said. "I am sorry that (Mishler) may have had a bad experience, and that he may have extrapolated that to the entire program is a mistake."

The House speaker added that — in addition to "historic investments in K-12" — his caucus plans to "give parents and families more opportunities to choose the schools that they feel are best for their kids."

"Our caucus remains and will continue to remain committed to providing families and parents options to their kids of

school choice," Huston continued.

Meanwhile, Republican Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray said that while his chamber is "passionate about school choice, too," he hesitated to say if GOP senators are willing to expand the program in the same way.

"I haven't seen anything in writing yet. When they bring it over, we'll certainly talk about it," Bray said Thursday, referring to the House GOP's voucher plan. "There are a lot of benefits to it, and it's generally something I support, but there's also a cost to it that we have to be cognizant of, and we'll take a look at it like we look at everything else."

As those conversations heat up, lawmakers will pay special attention to the options Hoosier parents have to both enroll and remove their kids from private

schools whenever they choose, Bray continued.

"That'll be part of the conversation we have as to whether that's necessary or not," he said.

Mishler's reprimand is an uncharacteristic move for a member of the state's GOP supermajority which has been the driving force behind Indiana's "school choice" expansion for more than a decade.

"I would advise families looking at voucher schools to be aware that they are on their own at this point and time. They should strongly consider an alternative to the blemished and blatantly flawed procedures of accountability when choosing a school for their child," Mishler said in his letter. "We need to hold the schools to the same high level of accountability they expect from the students and their parents."

## U.S. is sending rep to Taiwan

Bloomberg News

Tribune News Service

The U.S. is sending its top China defense official to Taiwan in the coming days, according to the Financial Times — though it's unclear how Beijing will respond given the softer tone it has adopted in its diplomacy with the U.S. and allies recently.

The deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, Michael Chase, will make the trip "in the coming days," the newspaper reported, citing four people familiar with the situation.

China appears to have recalibrated its Taiwan strategy in the run-up to a presidential election next year. Officials from Shanghai plan to visit soon, pending approval from the government in Taipei, in what would be the first such visit since before the pandemic started.

Beijing also pledged to resume imports of Taiwanese foods after blocking shipments in December.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, vehemently opposes official visits to Taipei by governments it has diplomatic ties with, often sending warplanes around the democratically run island in a show of displeasure.

Nancy Pelosi's visit in August, the first by a sitting house speaker in 25 years, prompted an unprecedented show of force by the People's Liberation Army, which fired missiles over Taiwan. In 2020, then-Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar led a delegation that was the highest-level visit by a U.S. cabinet official since Washington cut ties with Taipei more than 40 years ago.

Yet, it offered a muted response when the most recent senior Pentagon official, ex-deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia Heino Klinck, visited Taiwan in 2019.

Despite recent efforts to improve dialogue, ties between Washington and Beijing have worsened after the U.S. shot down a balloon it said China was using for spying. China says the aircraft was a civilian device that was collecting weather data when it was blown off course.

On Thursday, China imposed fines and sanctions against Lockheed Martin Corp. and a subsidiary of Raytheon Technologies Corp. for selling weapons to Taiwan.

The move is largely symbolic and came after the U.S. sanctioned six Chinese firms because it said they were linked to a military-backed global balloon espionage program.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Charly Triballeau

## Pension protests

People take part Thursday in a demonstration on the fifth day of nationwide rallies organized since the start of the year, against a deeply unpopular pensions overhaul, in Albi, France.

## Help ...

Continued from page 1  
"Now is the time for the world to support the people of Türkiye — just as they have stood in solidarity with others seeking assistance."

"People are suffering and there's no time to lose," Guterres said, urging the international community to fund "this critical effort in response to one of the biggest natural disasters of our times."

The first earthquake struck on February 6, when a quake with a magnitude of 7.7 hit south-eastern Turkey, followed hours later by a second major quake with a magnitude of 7.6.

More than 42,000 people have died in Turkey and Syria, while thousands remain missing and the region has been largely devastated.

The U.N.'s appeal came as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) more than tripled its emergency appeals funding for Syria and Turkey, an IFRC official said.

"I would like to announce that we are increasing our emergency funds to 650 million Swiss francs (\$215 million) for the two countries, 200 million for Syria and 450 million for Turkey," IFRC's Secretary General Jagan Chapagain told reporters at Beirut International airport.

Chapagain, who was on his way to Turkey and had visited Syria, said that the plan initially foresaw 80 million francs for Syria but this figure had been raised to 200 million. For Turkey it had previously been 120 million francs.

He said the current crisis, adding to the 12-year civil war in Syria, would last beyond the coming months and that its impact on the people would also be felt over a longer period.

Earlier, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad thanked what he called "brotherly and friendly" countries who stood by the Syrian

people after the devastating earthquake.

He said Syria has not been an earthquake zone for two and a half centuries, and it was not equipped for earthquakes. "The war, which drained resources and weakened capabilities, gave the Syrian society the experience to deal with the earthquake," he added.

Meanwhile Turkish and foreign rescue teams continued their efforts despite the minimal chances of finding survivors.

A 17-year-old girl, identified as Aleyna Olmez, was rescued alive 248 hours after she was buried under the debris in Kahramanmaraş province, state news agency Anadolu reported.

Further international aid and donations for Turkey were announced on Thursday.

The NATO alliance plans to provide shelter for thousands of displaced people in Turkey in the coming weeks, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in Ankara.

Private donations have raised around €89 million (\$95 million) in the Netherlands in a day-long campaign backed by national broadcasters.

German football team Bayern Munich separately said they are donating €100,000 (\$107,000) to help victims.

Even as aid efforts continue, the region is still being jolted by separate tremors and aftershocks.

An aftershock jolted the Turkish province of Hatay and areas in Idlib in Syria, with tremors also felt in some areas of Lebanon later on Thursday.

People in Idlib rushed out onto the streets and some heard the sound of screaming, an activist in Idlib told dpa.

The Syrian National Center for Seismology said an aftershock measuring 5.4 hit north-west of Idlib. Its centre was 40 miles from the city, occurring at a depth of 11.5 miles.

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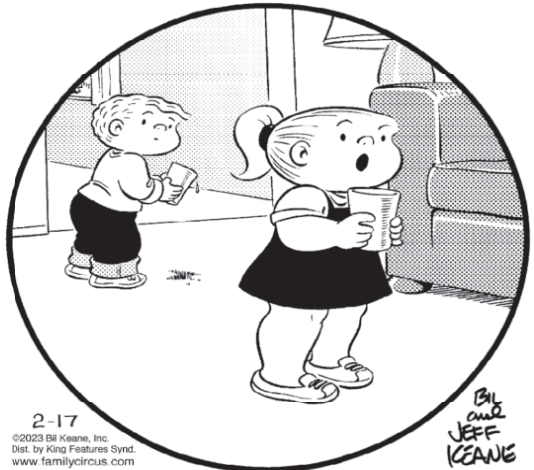
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Is grape juice very 'sensive, Mommy? Jeffy spilled his on the rug."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been: North East South West 1♠ Pass 2♦ ? 2NT Pass

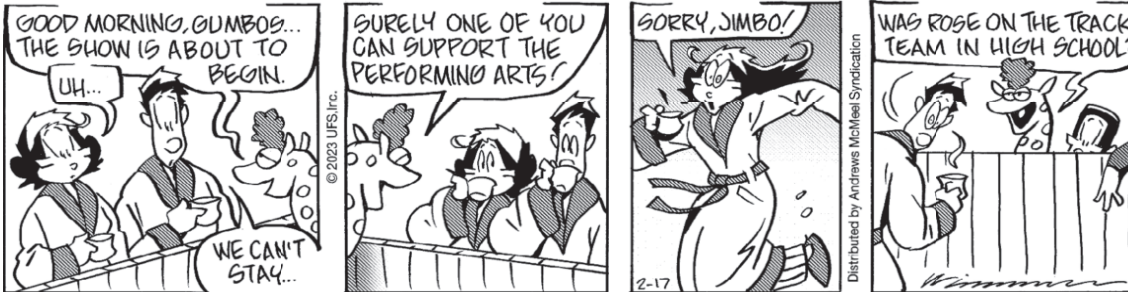
What would you now bid with each of the following four hands? 1. ♠KJ♥Q85♦AQ762♣AQ6 2. ♠7♥Q63♦AK10954♣Q92 3. ♠4♥92♦KJ108743♣KQ5 4. ♠Q83♥8♦AJ942♣AK84

provide six playing tricks in support of an opening bid. It would not be right to bid either three diamonds, denying interest in game, or four diamonds, which would be reaching for an 11-trick game.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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"GPOUG RFJP VPGEPIOV." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME WEAVERS NEVER CAN SEEM TO GET A BREAK FROM MAKING FABRIC. THEY ALWAYS HAVE WORK LOOMING. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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

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# Purdue falls to Terps

By EDWARD LEE  
The Baltimore Sun  
Tribune News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The Maryland men's basketball team did not allow No. 3 Purdue out of its rut. Graduate student point guard Jahmir Young, senior shooting guard Hakim Hart and sophomore power forward Julian Reese combined for 43 points to power the Terps to a 68-54 win over the Boilermakers on Thursday night.

The setback was the second in a row for Purdue (23-4, 12-4 Big Ten) after Sunday's 64-58 loss to Northwestern and third in its past four games.

Purdue turned a 28-25 lead at halftime into a 37-29 advantage as freshman point guard Braden Smith kick-started the 9-4 burst with five straight points, and then 7-foot-4 junior center Zach Edey scored four consecutive points.

Maryland responded eight unanswered points for a 39-37 lead. And although a 3-pointer by junior shooting guard Brandon Newman restored Purdue's lead at 40-39 with 13:23 remaining, Maryland scored six more points. And after Newman made one of two free throws at the 10:52 mark, the Terps embarked on a 13-0 run capped by five straight points from Hart for a 58-41 advantage with 7:15 left to take control for good.

Edey compiled 18 points, eight rebounds and three blocks for Purdue. Smith amassed 18 points, three rebounds and three assists.



Photo provided

## Sophie signs

Fort Recovery High School senior Sophia Pearson signed Thursday to play softball for Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Kentucky. Pictured sitting with Sophie are her parents Scott and Amy Pearson. Back row are Shockwaves travel softball coach Ryan Swangin, Fort Recovery coach Carrie Schoen and FRHS assistant coach Ryan Thien.

# Seeded ...

Continued from page 8  
Monroe also made the championship finals in the 200 individual medley, qualifying as the No. 7 seed in 2:18.68. Kunkler earned his championship berth in the 100 freestyle with his time of 53.4. He tied for

the No. 6 seed with Bluffton senior Gavin Yergler. The Patriots are seeded seventh in both freestyle relays. Peyton Yowell, Kunkler and Monroe teamed with Matthew Fisher for a time of 1:43.66 in the 200 and with Joseph Dow for a

time of 3:50.13 in the 400. Lincoln Clamme, Kolby Baldwin, Dow and Fisher were ninth with a time of 2:02.23 in the 200 medley relay. Advancing to the consolation finals were Dow (ninth - 500 freestyle); Fisher (10th - 100

backstroke), Peyton Yowell (13th - 100 freestyle, 16th - 50 freestyle) and Keen (14th - 500 freestyle). The Patriots narrowly missed consolation berths with 17th-place preliminary finishes in three events.

# Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Wrestling in IHSAA State Finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse — 2 p.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Swimming district meet at Bowling Green State University — 10 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. New Bremen — 6 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Wrestling in IHSAA State Finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse — 9 a.m.; Boys swimming hosts sectional — 9 a.m.; Gymnastics at New Castle — noon

### TV sports

**Today**  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)  
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: All-Star Celebrity game (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR

Craftsman Truck Series — NextEra Energy 250 (FS1)  
9 p.m. — NBA basketball: All-Star Rising Stars (TNT)  
9 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Michigan State at Wisconsin (BTN)  
9 p.m. — NHL hockey: Los Angeles Kings at Anaheim Ducks (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Air Force at Wyoming (FS1)

**Saturday**  
7:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Arsenal at Aston Villa (USA)  
10 a.m. — Soccer: Leeds United at Everton (USA)  
11 a.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series — Bluegreen Vacations Duel at DAYTONA (FS1)  
Noon — Men's college basketball: Notre Dame at Virginia (ESPN2); Illinois at Indiana (ESPN); Seton Hall at Connecticut (FOX); Rutgers at Wisconsin (BTN)  
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Saint Joseph's at Davidson (USA)

12:30 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Liverpool at Newcastle United (NBC)  
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Tennessee at Kentucky (CBS)  
1:30 p.m. — Auto racing: ARCA Menards Series — Daytona International Speedway (FS1)  
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa State at Kansas State (ESPN); Florida at Arkansas (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa at Nebraska (BTN)  
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Fordham at VCU (USA)  
2:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Connecticut at Villanova (FOX)  
3 p.m. — XFL football: Arlington Renegades at Vegas Vipers (ABC)  
3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — The Genesis Invitational (CBS)  
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Southern at Grambling State (TNT)  
4 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Michigan at Ohio State (BTN)

4:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Villanova at Providence (FOX)  
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech (USA)  
5 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity Series — Beef. It's What's For Dinner. 300 (FS1)  
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at Syracuse (ESPN); Texas A&M at Missouri (ESPN2)  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)  
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Creighton at St. John's (FOX1)  
8 p.m. — NBA All-Star Weekend (TNT)  
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Colorado at Arizona (ESPN2); Michigan State at Michigan (FOX)  
8 p.m. — NHL hockey: Washington Capitals at Carolina Hurricanes (ABC)  
8:30 p.m. — XFL football: Houston Roughnecks at Orlando Guardians (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Penn State at Minnesota (BTN)

10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: BYU at Saint Mary's (ESPN2)

### Sunday

9 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Leicester City at Manchester United (USA)  
11:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — West Ham United at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)  
Noon — Women's college basketball: Purdue at Indiana (BTN); Auburn at Tennessee (ESPN2)  
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Purdue (CBS); North Carolina at NC State (ESPN)  
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: George Washington at St. Bonaventure (USA); Bradley at Southern Illinois (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at Ottawa Senators (Bally Indiana)  
2:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series — Daytona 500 Gran Prix (FOX)

3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Memphis at Houston (ESPN); Georgetown at Butler (FS1)

3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — The Genesis Invitational (CBS)  
3 p.m. — XFL football: San Antonio Brahmas at St. Louis Battlehawks (ABC)  
3:30 p.m. — Soccer: SheBelieves Cup — Japan vs. United States (TNT)  
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: North Carolina State at Virginia Tech (ESPN2)  
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Maryland at Nebraska (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa at Northwestern (BTN)  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon at Washington State (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: All-Star Game (TBS, TNT)  
8 p.m. — XFL football: D.C. Defenders at Seattle Sea Dragons (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UNLV at Boise State (FS1)

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Notice of Jay County Election Board Meeting  
There will be a special Jay County Election Board meeting at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday February 21, 2023 in the auditorium of the Jay County Courthouse.  
The board will be ruling on the Candidate Challenge against Jacqueline M Miller and Alden H Glessner which was filed by Jenae Blasdel on February 8, 2023 in the Clerk's Office.  
Jon Eads - CEB Secretary  
CR 2-17-2023 - HSPAXLP

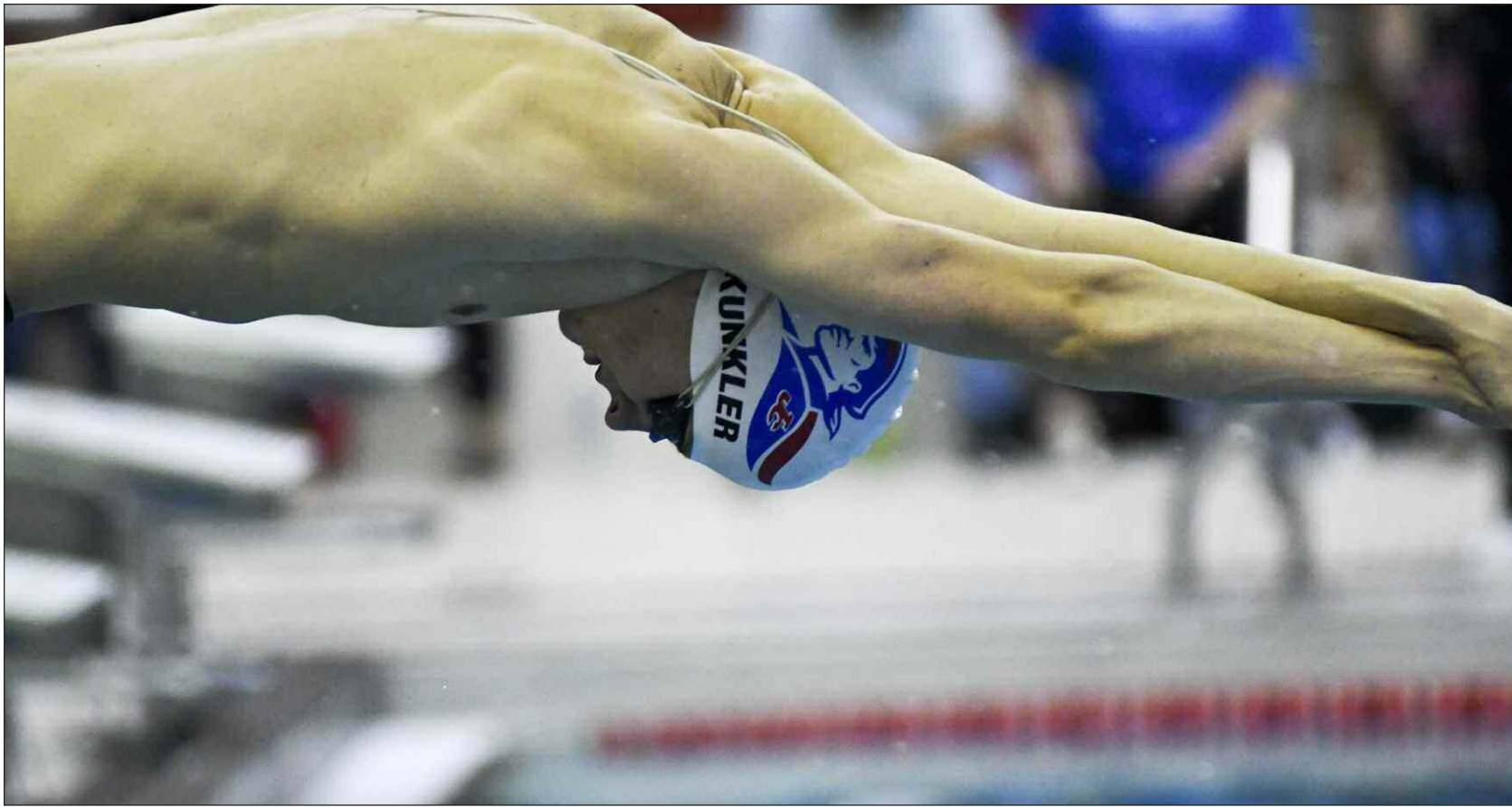
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**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Public Notice**  
NOTICE OF EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT TO LEASE BETWEEN THE JAY SCHOOL CORPORATION AND BUILDING CORPORATION OF JAY SCHOOLS  
Pursuant to action previously taken by the Board of School Trustees of the Jay School Corporation (the "School Corporation"), one Amendment to Lease (the "Lease Amendment") between the School Corporation and the Building Corporation of Jay Schools (the "Building Corporation") was executed on February 13, 2023. The Lease Amendment covers the construction, renovation, remodeling, repair and/or equipping of all or a portion of the Jay County Jr-Sr High School building and athletic grounds. A copy of the Lease Amendment is on file at the Central Office of the School Corporation, 414 Floral Avenue, Portland, Indiana, and is available for inspection during normal business hours.  
Dated: February 14, 2023  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE JAY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
Phil Ford  
Secretary  
CR 2-17-2023 - HSPAXLP

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Public Notice**  
STATE OF INDIANA  
JAY COUNTY  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
38C01-2302-EU-000008  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
CLYDE F. ROGERS,  
Deceased  
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION  
Notice is hereby given that DEBORAH L. CASH was, on the 10 day of February, 2023, appointed personal representative of the estate of CLYDE F. ROGERS, deceased, who died on January 3, 2023, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 13th day of February, 2023.  
Jon Eads  
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court  
Kristin L. Steckbeck  
Attorney No. 27029-02  
DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK  
30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
Attorney for Estate  
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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Wyatt Kunkler takes off from the starting block during the 200-yard freestyle relay Thursday evening in the sectional preliminaries. Kunkler advanced to Saturday's championship race in the 100 freestyle. The competition at JCHS continues with diving preliminaries at 9 a.m. Saturday followed by swimming and diving finals at 1 p.m.

## Monroe seeded 2nd

The Patriots earned only three berths in individual championship races.

Josh Monroe is responsible for two of them.

Monroe, a Jay County High School senior, picked up the No. 2 seed for the 100-yard breaststroke during the sectional preliminaries Thursday and also advanced in the top eight in the 200 individual medley.

Senior Wyatt Kunkler was the only Patriot to join him in earning a top-eight preliminary finish.

The top eight finishers in each event during Thursday's preliminaries at JCHS advance to Saturday's championship races, with the next eight in the consolation finals.

Competition resumes with diving preliminaries at 9 a.m. Satur-

### Senior leads Patriots in sectional preliminaries

day, followed by swimming and diving finals at 1 p.m.

Based on Thursday's results, the Patriots will have an uphill battle in order to match the sixth-place finish they had last season. Norwell is the runaway favorite to win the meet by about 100 points over Delta, with Bluffton and Burris battling for third and fourth. Those teams are followed by Muncie Central, Adams Central and Huntington North, with JCHS projected for

eighth place in the 11-team field. (Projections do not include diving.)

Monroe improved his seed time by about 0.42 seconds in his signature event, finishing the 100 breaststroke in 1 minute, 5.18 seconds. That put him 1.3 seconds behind top-seeded Kody Coyne of Burris. (South Adams' Brayden Hough is the No. 3 seed in 1:07.19.)

The winner of each event Saturday advances to the state finals.

See **Seeded** page 7

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