

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Seeking proposals

The Portland Foundation is seeking proposals for operators for an early learning center in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School building in Portland. The foundation has looked at renovation options for the building. The most expensive of those options would create a new entrance on the south side of the building (pictured) to shift the traffic flow from High Street on the north side. (The north side of the building is also not accessible with Disabilities Act accessible.)

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

The Portland Foundation is hoping to be able to take the next step toward opening an early learning center in a former elementary school building.

The foundation this month put out a request for proposals for operators for a facility in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School Building. The deadline to apply is March.ch

Serious discussions about forming a new child care or early learning center locally have been ongoing for more than a year, with The Portland Foundation purchasing the former Judge Haynes building from Jay School Corporation in August for \$35,000. At that time, foundation executive director Doug Inman noted that early childhood education has been on the organization's radar since 2017 via the third iteration of the 20/20 Vision project.

A section of Jay County, including much of Portland, has been deemed child care "deserts." Most of the county is rated as having "low capacity" when it comes to child care options.

"This is important for the community because this is an economic development issue, it's a quality of life issue," said Inman. "Economic development-wise, you have people leaving the work-

force because there's no place to take their kids. ...

"Quality of life issue — these are the children that are going to live here as adults, hopefully. There are so many studies out that if children are taken care of in an early childhood education setting, how much more productive they are as adults, how much better adjusted they are socially as adults, just how much better they are as a citizen of the community.

"It's just something that the foundation feels very passionately about that it is a huge need."

The Portland Foundation's request for proposals calls for a provider that:

- Is licensed and registered by the state
- Accepts Child Care and Development Fund Program and On My Way to Pre-K vouchers with a willingness to serve all children regardless of socio-economic background

The Portland Foundation is hoping to take next step toward early childhood learning center

•Offers services from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday

•Implement high-quality early childhood curriculum, conduct developmental assessments and host parent/teacher conferences twice a year

After the proposal deadline, The Portland Foundation's board will review them to determine if one fits the needs and requirements to move forward.

"We'd love to find someone with experience," said Inman. "All things being equal, we'd love for someone to be local ...

"I've had conversations with a couple organizations ... that have experience with running early learning centers. ... Once we get through that process and if we are comfortable and decide to move forward with someone, we'll have them come alongside to help design the facility, the flow of which classroom goes where and what happens where."

See **Proposals** page 2

Ohio train crash angers public

By **THOMAS BLACK**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

When a Norfolk Southern Corp. train derailed earlier this month, creating a fiery crash that spilled chemicals across a small Ohio town, long-simmering tensions in the U.S. ignited along with it.

While the crash didn't cause any injuries or deaths, it has become a focal point of grievances and suspicions. Some have said corporate greed is taking precedence over rail safety and environmental protection. Others have accused the federal government of downplaying the incident because of the town's conservative political leanings.

Underneath the hot-tempered debate, investigators are seeking to understand the root cause of the crash and how such incidents can be prevented. If all goes well those findings — likely to be laid out in a public report in a few weeks — will better inform discussions about the crash. But after three years of a divisive and deadly pandemic, there's no guarantee answers will help.

"The politicization of the COVID response has unfortunately bled over into these other types of emergencies and disasters," said Jennifer Horney, a professor of epidemiology with the University of Delaware. "A disaster declaration should be free of partisanship."

So far the focus of the National Transportation Safety Board investigation has been on the moments before the Feb. 3 derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which caused 38 of the train's 150 cars to veer off path.

See **Angers** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Retrospect

Shambarger's was preparing to sell, move

Forty years ago this week, a local landmark was being prepared for sale.

The Feb. 19, 1983, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about the impending sale of Shambarger's Restaurant in Redkey.

The restaurant had once been in the national spotlight, receiving mention on page one of the Wall Street Journal and being celebrated in scores of other publications.

It had closed after an 89-year run in January 1983. Sale of the building and its contents was scheduled for March 19 of that year.

Beth Miller Shambarger, who led the family owned corporation along with her sister Sara and brother John Mark,

said the site closed for "personal" reasons but that the restaurant would open at a new location April 1.

The French eatery was opened by the Shambarger family in 1895. It changed hands several times in the 1920s before being reclaimed by Tom Shambarger in 1928. It was brought to the peak of its popularity in the 1960s and '70s by John and Harriet Shambarger. (John had begun working at the restaurant in 1930 after graduating from high school.) Beth and Sara took over in the late 1970s when their father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease.

At the height of its acclaim, Shambarger's was known for eight-course meals that would

last four or five hours, the zany antics of John Shambarger, the hodgepodge antique interior decor, the nondescript exterior and its unlikely location in Redkey.

"A less-promising front to a place to eat is hard to imagine," one writer opined in 1972. "But inside, it's another story — an 'Alice in Wonderland,' 'Wizard of Oz,' 'Laugh-In' fantasy world of wild, wonderful food and wilder entertainment."

Beth Miller Shambarger said the decision for the location change was not easy but was a positive step.

"It wasn't an overnight decision we made," she said. "It was just something I wanted to do, so I did it."



The Commercial Review

It never looked like much from the outside, but the atmosphere and food of Shambarger's in downtown Redkey drew visitors from all across the country.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 35 degrees Friday.

Today's forecast calls for sunny skies with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph, with temperatures dropping to around 34 degrees at night.

The high will be around 45 degrees.

Sunday will be mostly sunny with winds again gusting as

high as 30 mph throughout the day.

Expect highs in the low 50s and a low in low to mid 30s.

Partly sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday with a high near 48 degrees. The low may dip to the mid to upper 30s at night.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Jay School Corporation issued a reminder Friday that classes will be in session on Monday, which is Presidents' Day. It was originally scheduled as a day off, but is taking the place of one of the days missed following last month's winter storms.

Coming up

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Fort Recovery School Board meeting.

Wednesday — Results from Fort Recovery's boys basketball sectional opener.



Proposals ...

Continued from page 1
The provider would also be required to utilize Paths to QUALITY, a Family and Social Services Administration program that assesses child care facilities as follows:

Level 1 — Health and safety needs of children met

Level 2 — Environment supports children's learning

Level 3 — Planned curriculum guides child development and school readiness

Level 4 — National accreditation (the highest indicator of quality) is achieved

The foundation is requiring the facility be at least a Level 3 on that continuum.

The goal is to select a provider and seek construction bids this spring, begin renovations this summer and open the facility in fall 2024.

If a suitable provider does not emerge next month, Inman said the foundation would likely amend and reissue its request for proposals.

The request comes following an

evaluation of the Judge Haynes building — it was last utilized as an elementary school in 2018 — by architectural and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa. (The firm, which specializes in school projects and has worked with Jay School Corporation, had done an initial assessment on the building before The Portland Foundation purchased it.)

The foundation asked Barton Coe Vilamaa to return with “good,” “better” and “best” options for how to renovate the building to become an early learning center. The firm returned with estimates ranging from \$2 million for the “good” option to \$5.25 million for the “best” option.

In the “good” option, the firm recommends isolating the west wing — it has extensive roof damage that has led to water leaks —, replacing the roof on the remaining portions of the building, tuck pointing installing new ceiling tiles, replacing the chiller and pumps, replacing all lighting, installing age-appropriate play-

ground equipment and a variety of other items.

The “better” option (\$4.25 million), in addition to everything in the “good” option, would involve demolishing the west wing of the building, renovating restrooms and a variety of new equipment and features.

The “best” option would add a new entryway to the south side of the building that would allow the elimination of use of the north (High Street) entrance to help with traffic flow as well as constructing restrooms within classrooms.

The Portland Foundation's board members have independently reviewed the report and plan to discuss the best path forward for renovation at their March 1 meeting.

In the meantime, Inman said area contractors Muhlenkamp Building Corporation, Mid-States Construction and Limberlost Construction have been invited to walk through the facility and assess Barton Coe Villamaa's cost estimates.

“The hope is that they would then put in a proposal when it comes time to do so,” said Inman.

Plans call for The Portland Foundation to cover the majority of the cost of rehabilitating the Judge Haynes Building. Inman added there is \$300,000 in Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) funding set aside for early childhood education in Jay County — “We're hopeful that that would come for this project,” he said — as well as other federal grant funds. The Indiana legislature has also been discussing funding for early childhood education as part of its current session, during which it will write its budget for the next two years.

“We're feeling that this is a point in time that a lot of pieces have fallen together into the puzzle of making this a favorable project for Jay County,” said Inman.

Child care was identified as the top priority through a recent planning process via Lilly

Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VII) Community Leadership Grant and by all four pathway groups that were part of the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP), which is helping the county evaluate how best to utilize its nearly \$4 million in federal coronavirus relief funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Inman initially brought a proposal to Jay County government officials regarding the possibility of partnering on a child care and early learning facility in the Judge Haynes building in late 2021. County officials initially committed \$700,000 to the project, then a month later rescinded that decision.

The Portland Foundation's board then decided last summer to move forward with making an offer to purchase the Judge Haynes site in order to secure it for potential use as an early learning center rather than have it potentially sold for another purpose.

CR almanac

Sunday 2/19	Monday 2/20	Tuesday 2/21	Wednesday 2/22	Thursday 2/23
52/34	48/36	51/37	53/41	61/24
Mostly sunny with winds gusting up to 30 mph. The high will be in the mid to low 50s.	Monday looks to be partly sunny with a low in the upper 30s at night.	Tuesday has a slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	There's a 60% chance of rain Wednesday under mostly cloudy skies.	Thursday's forecast shows a 30% chance of showers.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-3-7 Daily Four: 8-4-6-2 Quick Draw: 3-4-7-8-12-16-23-28-29-30-31-34-38-44-51-65-66-69-75-80	Pick 4: 9-0-8-4 Pick 5: 4-4-7-6-0
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-1-5	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$73 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$84 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.81 Dec. corn.....6.81 Wheat7.53	Wheat 7.06 July wheat 7.56
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.90 March corn6.93 April corn6.99	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.76 March corn6.76 Beans15.18 March beans15.18 Wheat7.56
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.83 March corn6.83 Beans15.12 March beans15.12	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.50 March corn6.52 Beans14.94 March beans14.99 Wheat7.20

Today in history

In 1735, “Flora” was performed in Charleston, South Carolina. It was the first opera performed in the United States.

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte led the French to victory against Austrians and Wurttembergers in the Battle of Montereau.

In 1865, Charleston, South Carolina, fell to the Union under the control of General Alexander Schimmelfennig. The city had been under attack for more than a year.

In 1930, Clyde W. Tombaugh discovered Pluto. It was recognized as a dwarf planet in 2006.

In 1933, artist Yoko Ono was born in Tokyo, Japan. She later became famous for her work as well as her marriage to musician John Lennon.

In 1960, the Lation American Free Trade Association was established. It preceded the Lation American Integration Association.

In 1967, Washington's National Art Gallery moved forward with purchasing a Da Vinci piece for \$5 million.

In 2001, Dale Earnhardt Sr. died from injuries sustained during a crash at the end of the Daytona 500 race. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 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.

Wednesday
3 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioner's room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Portland City Court

Judge Donald Gillespie Trials scheduled

Paul L. Rice III, Muncie, driving with a suspended license, pretrial March 1; Tyler J. Riggs, Harrodsburg, speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, March 1; Faith A. Smith, Redkey, operating a vehicle with fictitious plates and driving without insurance, pretrial March 1; Kenneth G. Wilson, Portland, driving without insurance, March 1; Brenden Whitkamp, Portland, driving with a suspended license, March 1

Paid by waiver

Jaden L. Robbins, Dunkirk, speeding 71 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$151.50; Julio Pascual Cano Tomas, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Silvino Arreguin Cruz, Redkey, speeding 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$152.50; Juan P. Sanchez, Portland, nuisance ordinance violation (barking dog), \$160; Steven

M. Ferguson, Cincinnati, seat belt violation, \$25; Jose Gomez, Chicago, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Brandon L. Heitkamp, Celina, Ohio, speeding 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Sammy L. Huston, Celina, Ohio, speeding 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$153.50; Marius Olivier, Bryant, seat belt violation, \$25; Coert N. Pieterse, Keystone, seat belt violation, \$25; Rochelle L. Row, Albany, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Whitney P. Habegger, Decatur, speeding 37 mph in a 30 mph zone, \$142.50; Zayra De La Torre, Union City, Ohio, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Halley Clark, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Richard M. Evans, Celina, Ohio, speeding 55 mph in a 30 mph zone, \$171; Christopher Loden, Portland, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Todd M. Wenger, Noblesville, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone,

\$149.50; Jordan M. Kelley, Muncie, speeding 66 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$146.50; Stephanie L. Westfall, Dunkirk, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Karina A. Mendez, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50, and disregarding an auto signal, \$25; Mario Nava Carmona, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Ruben M. Schwartz, Geneva, speeding 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$153.50, and seat belt violation, \$25; Jacqueline S. Smith, Portland, speeding 76 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Donald Ervin, Portland, failure to yield, \$160.50; Amber D. Enyeart, La Fontaine, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Tito Farias, Union City, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; San J. Ruiz, Portland, allowing unlicensed person to operate vehicle, \$160.50; Delvin Perez, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Ruben Rickenberger, Bluffton, speeding

75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Seth D. Ainsworth, Portland, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Christopher H. Kolk, Plainfield, seat belt violation, \$25; Lee Ann Gray, Richmond, speeding 63 mph in a 45 mph zone, \$153.50; Christian J. Hummer, Salamonia, speeding 90 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Elizabeth Nieto Trevino, Portland, driving without a valid license, \$160.50, and speeding 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$13; Trace H. Edwards, Selma, driving without a valid license, \$160.50, Tiffany R. Mendez, Decatur, driving too fast for road conditions, \$160.50; Lana Wheeler, Portland, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Daniel J. Moore, Winchester, speeding 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$152.50; Daniel W. Kelly, Flora, speeding 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$145.50; Brayan M. Vaqueira, Portland, driving with expired plates, \$160.50, and driving without a valid license, \$25

Capsule Reports

Parking crash

A Portland woman backed into a car, causing an accident at the north Circle K gas station in Portland about 3:15 p.m. Monday.

Shannon L. Bilderback, 41, was backing her 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe out of a parking spot at 325 N. Meridian St. She didn't notice the 2015 Chevrolet Cruze driven by 19-year-old Ashlyn K. Dow of Port-

land behind her and crashed into the parked vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Backing accident

A Bryant man backed his truck into oncoming traffic along Lincoln Ave. in Portland about 3:31 p.m. Thursday.

Larry Ellenberger, 81, was back-

ing his 1994 Ford Ranger onto Lincoln Ave. near its intersection with Meridian St.

At the same time, Christine Bechtol, 67, Fort Recovery, Ohio, was driving her 2013 Honda Pilot east on the street. Ellenberger backed his truck into Bechtol's vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Angers ...

Continued from page 1

The NTSB has pointed to video evidence that shows a wheel bearing on one of the cars catching fire before the derailment. The wheels from that segment of the train will be taken the NTSB's laboratory in Washington for examination.

A faulty wheel bearing raises other questions, such as why sensors placed along the tracks, known as hotboxes, didn't immediately warn there was overheating. Railroads have relied more on such sensors, which aren't mandated by law, to help detect initial failures before they turn catastrophic.

NTSB investigators will also examine the cars themselves, and scour data from the event recorder and way-side sensors, to prepare their report.

Train safety was already a flashpoint before the Norfolk Southern crash. Large railroads in the U.S. shed more than 40,000 workers since 2016 under a strategy called Precision Scheduled Railroading. That boosted profits but ruffled customers, who had to adjust their schedules for freight pickup, and angered workers, who were stretched thin.

“For the industry as a whole, there's an impact from the PSR business model that they use,” said Mark Wallace, vice presi-

dent of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. “Part of that is the safety aspect, and especially when it goes toward inspections.”

Major rail companies, including Union Pacific Corp. and CSX Corp., dispute the characterizations things are more dangerous. They say they have improved safety, and there are statistics that back up the claim. U.S. train derailments dropped to 1,093 last year, from 2,435 in 2004.

That still means there are about three derailments a day. On Thursday federal and local officials sought to soothe residents of East Palestine in a town hall. Around the same time, another Norfolk Southern train derailed near Detroit.

Each of those accidents carry risk. Railroads are the main mode of transportation for hazardous materials, hauling 992 million tons of chemicals in 2021. The Norfolk Southern train had about 20 railcars containing chemicals including vinyl chloride, ethylhexyl acrylate and isobutylene, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Vinyl chloride is considered a carcinogen.

Authorities have tried to reassure East Palestine residents by testing the water and air. State officials said that, apart from thousands of dead fish, animals and

livestock were not impacted by the chemicals. Still, residents have been wary and fearful of returning to their homes. Social media has run wild with reports of scores of pets dying.

That wide access to real-time media has given a megaphone to political figures, who have broadened the discussion about the crash to tangential problems — and conspiracy theories. Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, on Fox News, accused Joe Biden and the media of ignoring the crash for political reasons. Biden administration officials said they're addressing it.

It's possible none of the most sinister theories about the derailment are true. Incursions from motorists and pedestrians on the railroad tracks are a major source of accidents, according to Henry Posner III, chairman of the Railroad Development Corp.,

which owns and operates railroads including the Iowa Interstate Railroad.

SERVICES

Monday

Hartman, Marvin: 1 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Saturday

Meiring, Robert: 11 a.m., Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene, 401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery.

May 13

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

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ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq



Photo provided

Beyond the Books

Fort Recovery philanthropic group Psi Iota Xi recently received \$1,000 from its national organization. It awarded the funds to Fort Recovery Local Schools for its summer program, Beyond the Books. Pictured, from left, are Stacy Faller of Psi Iota Xi, Jill Ranly of Beyond the Books and Deanna Knapke, treasurer of Fort Recovery Local Schools.

Woman weighs options

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced when I was an infant. My father had weekend visitations with me sporadically, if at all. Growing up, I was super angry at him for leaving and blamed him for not being around while I was abused by my stepfather. I haven't seen my father in person since I was 18.

As a 40-year-old woman with kids, I'm thinking about reaching out. My kids are curious about their grandfather. I'm curious about his life. Can I really be mature enough to get to know him? How do I keep my anger in check and not demand an answer for every bad deed on his part? Is it worth it? I don't want to be manipulated. The rest of his family doesn't speak to him, either. — REVISITING HISTORY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR REVISITING: Have you ever tried discussing the reason for the failure of your parents' marriage with the other relatives? If you haven't, you should. If she stood silently by while you were abused by her second husband, she bears part of the responsibility for the abuse.

Because you feel the need to know about your father's life, reach out and ask him. There is usually more than one side to stories like this. However, your chances of getting the answers you're looking for will improve if you refrain from doing it with a chip on your shoulder.

DEAR ABBY: My son's bar mitzvah was two months ago. We had 125 guests.

My son received a gift from everyone except my boss, "Hal." I have known Hal most of my life. He used to work with my grandfather, and he's like a family member.

Hal is extremely generous and would certainly have given my son a gift, so I know this is simply an oversight on his part. There's also a slight chance we lost his gift amidst the chaos of the event. Should I gently mention this to him or just let it go? — PROUD PAPA IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR PAPA: If it were me — and my child had received gifts from 124 guests at his bar mitzvah — I would be inclined to let it go. However, if you feel you must pursue this, approach it by telling Hal you are embarrassed but some of your son's gift cards got mixed up "in the chaos." Add that he needs to write thank-you notes, so what should Hal be thanked for?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Jay County FFA planning week's activities

FFA week festivities start Monday.

Jay County's FFA chapter begins its week — the annual event is featured to build agriculture education awareness — with spirit day kickoff Monday. FFA members will greet students at elementary schools with coloring contest pages.

Students may drive a truck to school Tuesday, with awards given out for various categories.

Taking Note

A brownie breakfast for teachers will be offered by FFA members starting at 7:15 a.m. Thursday. Results for "Kiss the Cow," a

fundraiser event throughout the week, will be announced Friday. Horse races and trivia begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the gymnasium during the Jay County basketball game.

Throughout the week, students and staff will have the opportunity during lunch to donate to the "Kiss the Cow," as well as participate in cornhole, guessing games, trivia and a cow-milking activity.

Students and staff may also

dress up for the following themes each day: "Merica Monday," Super hero Tuesday, Future career Wednesday, Twin day or dress like your favorite agriculture teacher Thursday and blue and gold or FFA colors Friday.

Environmental awards

Indiana Department of Environmental Management is accepting nominations for the

2023 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

The award, now in its 30th year, recognizes individuals, agencies, businesses, organizations and schools for "outstanding achievements that positively impact Indiana's environment," according to its website.

To submit a nomination, visit idem.IN.gov/partnerships/governors-awards-for-environmental-excellence/.

The deadline is March 6.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

Sunday

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 Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will

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

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Jay County Public Library community room. For more information, call Deb Tipton at (260) 729-2806 or Elasha Lennartz at (765) 729-4567.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools February 20-24

Monday: Main Entrees: Walking beef taco **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Vegetarian refried beans

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned Peas

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Toasted cheese sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Oven baked curly fries

Thursday: Main Entrees: Sloppy joe sliders **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Herb roasted potatoes

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned carrots

Jay Community Center

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Jay Com Center 2/20-24 (Register for Boomer Spring Soccer & Flag Football by 03/13 online at www.jaycc.org)

Pledges could go far to stem tide

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

American companies this month pledged to invest nearly \$1 billion to expand manufacturing operations and other investments in Central America as a way of boosting economies, creating an estimated 1 million jobs and reducing the incentive for people to migrate northward. The pledges, on top of previous ones worked out by the Biden administration, now exceed \$4 billion and are exactly the kind of action needed to address the immigration problem at its source.

Such investments are unlikely to stem the erroneous heckling by Republicans that President Joe Biden's inattention to the border is why the nation

Guest Editorial

faces an opioid epidemic and a surge in illegal crossings, but addressing the causes of mass migration within the home countries is the wisest long-term strategy. Republicans demand that Biden seal up the U.S. border; use force if necessary and circumvent existing asylum laws (passed by Congress) in order to stop migrants from coming.

Those get-tough tactics might serve as a temporary deterrent, but history has proven that

such efforts collapse over the long term. Even then-President Donald Trump's harsh tactics, including mass detentions and forcible separation of migrant children from their parents, did nothing to stop migrant caravans. And the GOP strategy would have minimal effects on the smuggling of fentanyl and other opioids that are coming into the country hidden in cargo trucks and shipping containers.

Nor would such tactics do anything to reduce the dire conditions in the migrants' home countries that are causing them to flee in desperation. Their willingness to trek through some of the world's most inhospitable jungle terrain and walk thousands of miles — often with children on

their backs — to reach the U.S. border means something is horribly askew in their own countries to motivate such desperate measures. That something consists of rampant gang violence, kidnappings, police corruption, a lack of jobs and employers who pay sub-survival wages.

There was a time long ago when Asian countries like Vietnam were basket cases of desperation and mass migration. Today, communist-rule Vietnam is an important U.S. strategic ally against Chinese expansionism. An employment boom there is the result of heavy investment by U.S. manufacturers.

So corporate investment can and does make a difference in turning countries around and

stemming the migratory tide. But it's not the sole solution. Corporations must make clear to host governments that they will not tolerate shakedowns from corrupt officials, nor will they tolerate harassment of employees or worksites by criminal gangs.

Corporations also don't make investments just to be nice. Their bottom-line decisions will always be based on a cold analysis of profitability and stability. The bottom line for Central American governments should be creating the conditions for those investors to thrive, ensuring the kinds of long-term economic development that convinces would-be migrants that they can stay at home to attain the better life they seek.

Leave decisions to the teachers

By JEFFERY LEVING

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

This is a quote from George Orwell's "1984," a book published in 1949 that is sadly relevant today. While "1984" is a work of fiction, it's a cautionary tale that seems to be playing out today with censorship of books and government-enforced bans on the teaching of certain things in several states.

Hiding from history does not make it go away or any less true. Sometimes, history is not something to be proud of, and yes, sometimes it rightly makes us uncomfortable. Yet that is often how learning is achieved.

In Chicago, all eighth graders and high school sophomores will learn about the decadeslong torture and abuse tied to disgraced former Chicago police Cmdr. Jon Burge as part of a mandated Chicago Public Schools curriculum. I don't think anyone could make a serious argument that learning about this makes a student hate the police. Rather, it explains what happened and how it went on for so long in hopes that it will never happen again.

In Germany, teaching about the Holocaust and the Nazi era is mandatory in schools, and in addition to the classroom curriculum, almost all students have either visited a concentration camp or a Holocaust memorial or museum, according to a PBS "Frontline" report.

Germany wants to prevent denial of the Holocaust and ensure that this genocide never happens again. I'm a Jewish man whose family was affected by the Holocaust, and this topic is close to my heart. I know that "Never Again" is not just a slogan. It's a mantra and a key to ensuring the slaughter of 6 million Jewish people will never happen again — or to anyone, anywhere.

Can you imagine the outrage if German politicians tried to outlaw these teachings because some claimed that such lessons give German children feelings of guilt or are divisive? Yet, some politicians in the U.S. are using

Jeffery Leving



those reasons as they pursue laws to stop schools from teaching about aspects of Black history and LGBTQ history.

Florida seems to be at the forefront of this trend, and Gov. Ron DeSantis is getting a lot of backlash. But notably, more than two dozen states have adopted some sort of measure against the teaching of critical race theory, according to a tracking project by the University of California at Los Angeles Law School.

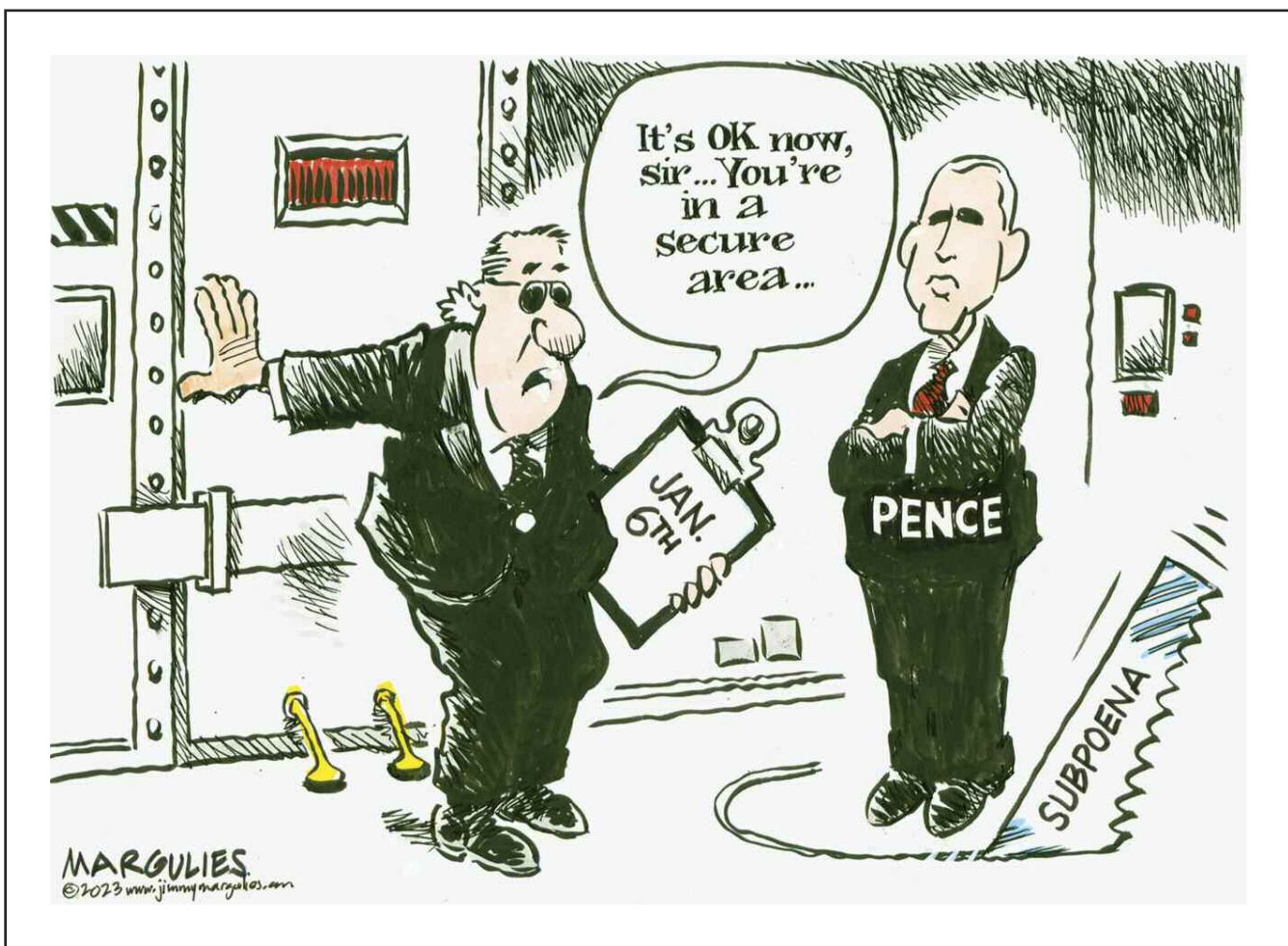
Also, notably, "Black history" and "LGBTQ history" are American history. These communities have played vital roles in our country, as have many cultures, nationalities and religions. Learning about LGBTQ issues will not turn a child gay. Rather, it may provide students with a sense of empathy, and that never is a bad thing. The same goes for learning about Black history.

It's ironic that one of the arguments DeSantis is making in favor of limiting what can be taught in schools is that these actions are in the interest of academic freedom — when the exact opposite appears to be true. It reminds me of another Orwell quote, from his novel "Animal Farm": "If liberty means anything at all it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

The government should not control what is taught. That should remain the territory of academics who have their students' best interests in mind, not outsiders who may want to downplay or deny things under the guise of keeping students comfortable.

No one should control or own the narrative of history, especially politicians. Many points of view should be presented, and students should be trusted to glean from them what they may.

.....
Leving is founder and president of the Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving and is an advocate for the rights of fathers.



Competition is a necessity

By LAURA MERRIFIELD WILSON

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In American politics, few truths seem evident as the presence of competition in an open primary and the importance of incumbency.

Open seats naturally attract the ambitious: strategically calculating the timing as an opportunity with a higher likelihood of victory relative to the uphill battle faced by a challenger angling to unseat an incumbent. Incumbency advantage has been a long studied phenomenon in political science (another truth again ubiquitous in our political sphere) and, though the probability of one's relative advantage varies based on many factors, an astute political hopeful may defer declaring based on the slim possibility of success against the current office-holder.

Open seats tend to attract more candidates and also more attention, particularly in a primary race which is increasingly where competition has shifted. Likewise, an incumbent who chooses to run again, who is viewed as generally favorable, who has an impressive war chest and the ability to fundraise to restock, rarely sees a quality challenger daring to unseat them.

If these are political "truths," how can we understand two races that have little in common but their mutual defiance of these likely qualities? Indiana has an open U.S. Senate seat with only one confirmed candidate while Indianapolis has a well-known and well-funded mayor who faces competition from several challengers.

The U.S. Senate and a city mayor have such little in common (different levels of government, different branches of government, different responsibilities, requirements, terms, etc.), it might seem that the

Laura Merrifield Wilson



research is wrong. But the reality is inherently more complicated.

When Mike Braun announced his candidacy for Indiana governor (another open seat for 2024), his forthcoming vacancy in the U.S. Senate left a void that presumably many political hopefuls would find intriguing. Several names of prospects, both those with long legacies in public service and others with perhaps less experience but more drive and energy, began popping up in conversation.

Braun himself faced two quality challengers in the primary when he originally ran for the Senate in 2018 with then-U.S. Representatives Todd Rokita and Luke Messer and then ultimately defeated incumbent Senator Joe Donnelly. It would not be surprising then that, upon Congressman Jim Banks' announcement, he would be the first of many.

Yet in the last two weeks, with former governor and Purdue President Mitch Daniels formally declining, Representative Victoria Spartz declining to run either for reelection to her own house seat or for the senate, it seems the field has narrowed quickly and considerably. It would be unusual for Banks to not face even one challenger, but at press time, he is solo in this pursuit.

Why does Hogsett see so many candidates challenging him while Banks remains alone thus far in the race? Timing of course is one thing; the deadline for the 2023 mayoral race has passed while the 2024 election is

still further away than the 2022 midterms that concluded mere months ago.

But that can't be the only explanation. In the back-and-forth battle of federalism and the attention that each level of government gets from its constituents, it seems that voters may have more interest in state and local politics than researchers previously thought.

Recent analysis suggests that as state and local governments' responsibilities have increased, so too have citizens' expectations and interests in them. "Decentralization," a long-standing benefit of federalism, provides local solutions to local challenges, responding to unique issues with innovation and experimentation in a way that is not as feasible on a national level. It competes in some ways with the greater nationalization but policies like Dobbs v. Jackson reaffirm its presence.

To be sure, the subtle shift of power is not resulting in a full tilt from federal to state and local power (as various policies affirm the federal government's policies in issues from healthcare to education to elections). Nor is every voter sophisticated enough to recognize or care, quite frankly. But minimally, it demonstrates the importance and recognition of local government.

More candidates means more interest; obviously from the candidates who declared their intentions to run but also they have the ability to generate more interest from voters who might otherwise be disengaged with a one-sided race with a foregone conclusion.

A race with one entry hardly feels like a race at all; indeed, competition is necessary for a true democracy. Whomever is elected in a crowded field, however, can enjoy their victory with confidence that many sought to hold the seat they earned.

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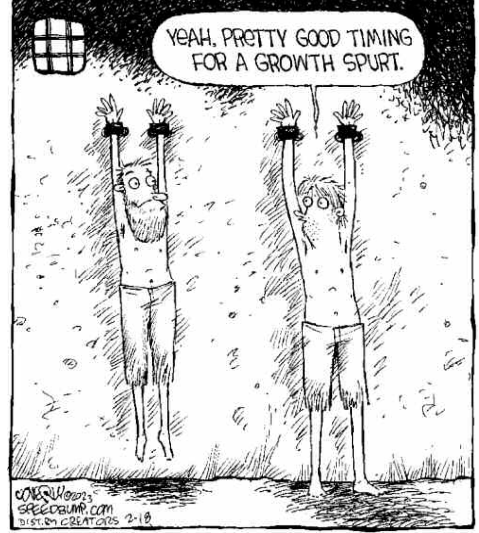
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



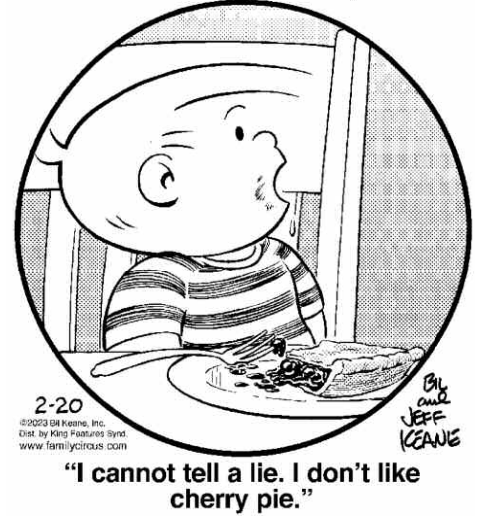
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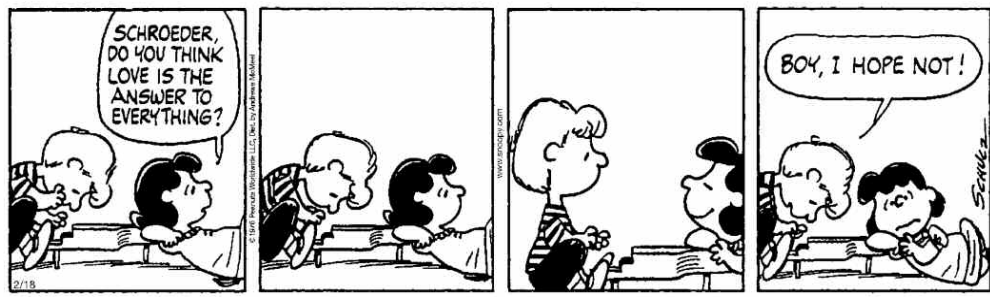
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Peanuts



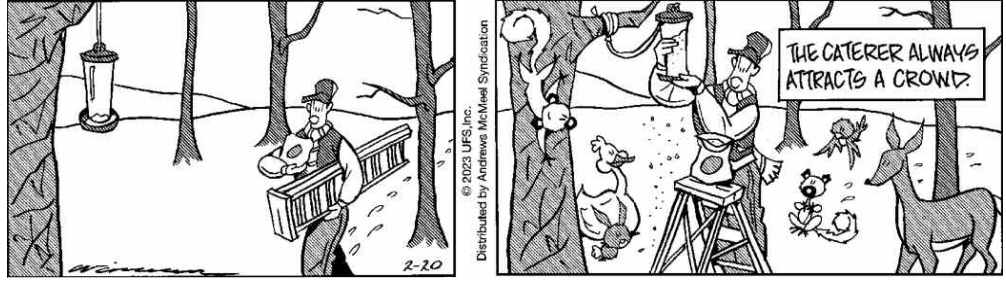
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



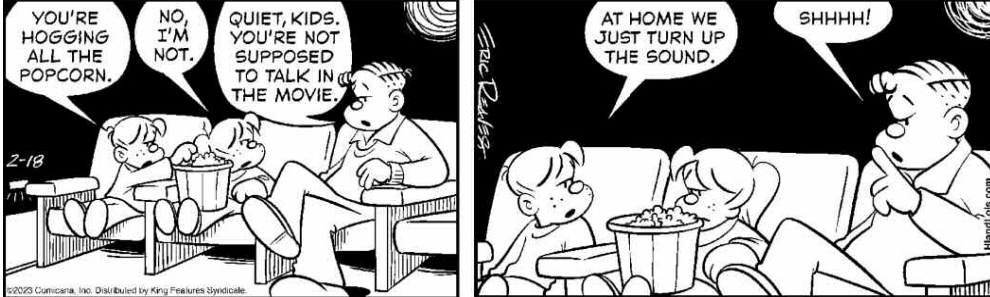
Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



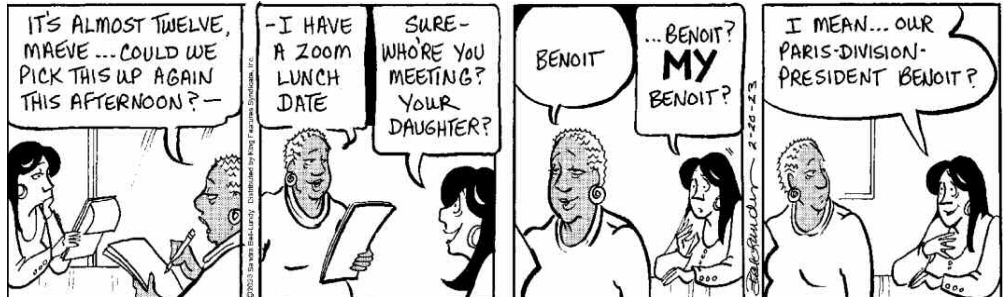
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



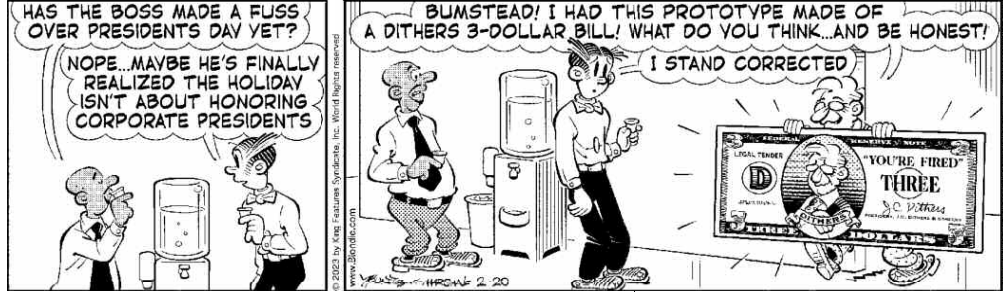
Between Friends



Blondie



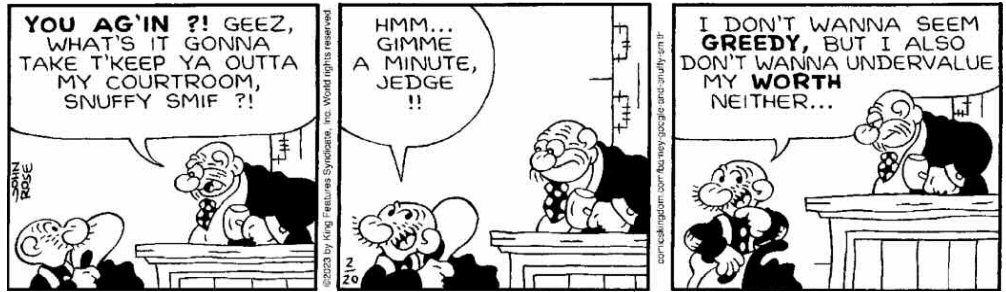
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



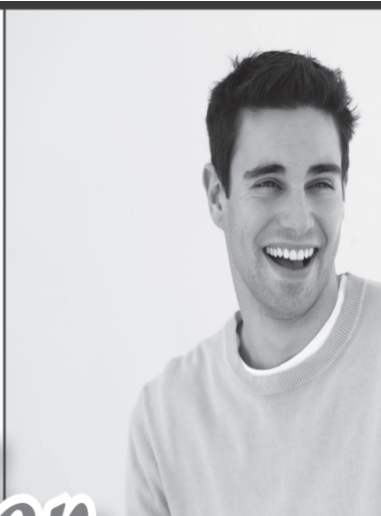
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Saturday Morning
FEBRUARY 25, 2023
9:30 A.M.
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MCM breakfront; (4) dining room chairs; curved glass curio cabinet; Regulator wall clock; vintage wicker rocking chair; hand painted pictures; Sun Burst stained glass; mink coat; 2 pc. cement fountain; Deisdeon candelabra; plated silverware set with case; Sellers cabinet flour bin; wood boxes; 45 records; Fisher Price wooden toys; brass candelabra; granite ware; old watches; Life magazines; old baskets; slate from Portland High School; Craftsman work bench; steel barrel pumps; kerosene heater; wood carpenter tote
tool box; and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Building will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview.
ANNE HUSMANN ESTATE
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Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2023 TERM
No. 38C01-2302-EU-000009
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:
GAIL M. BRINKERHOFF,
Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Eric Brinkerhoff was on the 15th day of February, 2023, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Gail M. Brinkerhoff deceased, who died on January 31, 2023.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 15th day of February 2023.
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
CR 2-18,25-2023- HSPAXLP

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Jay Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2207-MF-000011 wherein Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC was Plaintiff, and Annie Costello, solely in the capacity as Personal Representative of the Estate of Nicholas Costello was a Defendant, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9th day of March, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Jay County Courthouse/3rd Floor- Main, Portland, IN 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana.
Lot 52 in South Portland addition to the town, now city of Portland, Jay County, Indiana.
More commonly known as 316 S Meridian St, Portland, IN 47371-2502
Parcel No. 38-07-20-401-074.000-034
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.
Larry R. Newton, Jr.
Jay County Sheriff
BRYAN K. REDMOND, Plaintiff Attorney
Attorney# 22108-29
FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.
8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46250
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TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
SHERIFF'S SALE NOTICE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Jay Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2210-MF-000020 wherein Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. was Plaintiff, and Jason D. Madara and City of Dunkirk were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on March 9, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Jay County Courthouse at 120 N Court Street, Portland, IN 47371 the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana.
The East Half of Lot Number Two (2) in Block Number Seven (7) in the town, now City of Dunkirk, Indiana. Commonly known address: 352 Lincoln Avenue, Dunkirk, IN 47336
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.
Larry R. Newton, Sheriff of Jay County Township: Richland
Parcel No./Tax Id#: 38-09-08-102-039.000-014
Nicholas M. Smith
Manley Deas Kochalski LLC
P.O. Box 165028
Columbus OH 43216-5028
Telephone: 614-220-5611
Attorney for Plaintiff
CR 2-4,11,18-2023- HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Jackson Township, Jay County, Indiana
Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2022

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2022		Receipts Disbursements		End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2022
Governmental Activities						
01 Township General		\$18,428.58	\$19,727.97	\$23,880.62		\$14,275.93
11 Firefighting Fund		\$7,554.84	\$16,882.46	\$16,400.00		\$8,037.30
61 Rainy Day Fund		\$3,078.23	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$3,078.23
81 Township Assistance Fund		\$39,905.94	\$1,019.29	\$963.63		\$39,961.60
91 Levy Excess Fund		\$8.73	\$588.91	\$0.00		\$597.64
95 Payroll Withholdings Fund		\$0.00	\$1,087.71	\$1,087.71		\$0.00
Total All Funds		\$68,976.32	\$39,306.34	\$42,331.96		\$65,950.70

State of Indiana
SS: Jay County

I, Rex A. Pinkerton, Trustee of Jackson Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.
Rex A. Pinkerton, Jackson Township Trustee
Telephone: 260-731-4311
Date this report was to be published 2-18-2023
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Jackson Township at its annual meeting this 13th day of February, 2023
Terry L. Rigby, Jackson Township Board Chairman
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 19th day of February, 2022.
Jackson Township Board:
Matt A. Caster
Kathy Mosser
CR-2-18-2023- HSPAXLP

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located in the Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds,
806 E Votaw Street, Portland Indiana on Saturday Morning

FEBRUARY 25, 2023

9:30 A.M.

UNIQUE DÉCOR - HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS

MCM breakfront; (4) dining room chairs; curved glass curio cabinet; Regulator wall clock; vintage wicker rocking chair; King size bed; Oak parlor stand; trunk; King size bed; dresser with mirror; armoire; ornate lamps; marble stand; coffee table; marble top coffee table; (2) twin beds; sofa; (2) upholstered chairs; wing back chair; drum table; marble lamp table; flowered sofa; Blow Mold type candles; mirror on stand; figurine plant stand; curio cabinet; metal upholstered chair; metal ash tray; (2) occasional chairs; hand painted pictures; Sun Burst stained glass; mink coat; mirrors; (3) chairs on rollers; office chair; champagne fountain; soapstone; (6) wrought iron chairs and (2) wrought iron tables; cement stands; urns; Samsung TV; Upholstered rocker; kneehole desk; Singer sewing machine; 2 pc. cement fountain; recliner; cement plaques; books; anniversary clock; JT Hall cake carrier; Amber Coin Spot candy dish and open compote; Deisdeon candelabra; plated silverware set with case; lighted picture; patio table with 4 chairs; patio stools; plastic chairs and side tables; jewelry; Syracuse china set; Revere Ware cookware; Vision Ware; Pyrex measurer; hand mixer; Frigidaire microwave; blender; small kitchen appliances; Presto electric griddle; GF grill; Gevalia coffee maker; Electric Espresso maker; SS pressure cooker; Sellers cabinet flour bin; wood boxes; 45 records; Fisher Price wooden toys; brass candelabra; granite ware; old watches; Life magazines; old baskets; slate from Portland High School; old ironing board; table fountain; porcelain kitchen items; glassware; pottery; large cedar box; Sunbeam hot water dispenser; Atlas noodle maker; vases; stemware; lamps; luggage; Christmas decorations; nail keg; shells; wood trim; Toro 22" push mower; Worx battery operated weed eater; Black & Decker electric hedge trimmer; tandem bicycle; galvanized kerosene can; bicycle; gas cans; extension cords; Craftsman work bench; steel barrel pumps; kerosene heater; wood carpenter tote tool box; and many other items not listed.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Ann and her husband Henry were longtime residents of the community and were involved in various businesses throughout their lifetime including interior design. Many items in this auction are very unique. Please make plans to attend. Building will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview.

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By Ceceila Johnston, PR

And M BROWN ESTATE

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AUCTIONEERS

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Travis Theurer AU 11200131

CR 2-18-2025

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Medal control

Wood stays undefeated in securing first career state medal

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — In control. All season long, Tony Wood has been in control.

That did not change on the state's biggest stage.

Wood, a Jay County High School junior, scored early Friday night during the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse and kept control against Cathedral's Max McGinley for two-plus periods before recording a pin that guarantees his first career state medal.

Wood gave a big clap as he stood following the pin and got a pat on the head from dad and JCHS assistant coach Bruce Wood as they walked off the floor. After going 0-2 in his state finals appearances as a freshman and sophomore, Wood went into the evening wanting to prove himself.

"So much. Especially losing Friday night last year," he said. "It was so awful. I just remember thinking, 'I have to wait a whole year to get back here.' So, feels great right now."

While Wood advances and will wrestle out to see where he places in the top eight in the 138-pound bracket beginning at 9 a.m. today — his quarterfinal match will be against No. 9 Reese Courtney of Center Grove — the season came to an end with first-round state finals losses for Cody Rowles, Cameron Clark and Christian Wittkamp.

See **Medal** page 9



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Tony Wood claps after pinning Max McGinley of Cathedral in the opening round of the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals on Friday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Wood, who is ranked fourth in the state at 138 pounds, guaranteed himself a state medal with the victory.

Jay rally short on senior night

Patriot boys nearly upset third-ranked Knights, fall 36-35

The Patriots just needed one more possession.

Blake Bogenschutz hit a fadeaway 3-pointer just before the buzzer as the Jay County High School boys basketball team saw its rally come up short in a 36-35 senior night loss to the Norwell Knights on Friday.

It marked back-to-back losses for the Patriots, who fell to 9-9 on the season and were winners of six out of their last eight games entering the night. The Knights, ranked third in Class 3A, won their 12th straight contest and are now 18-2.

Jay County, which turned the ball over on its first five possessions, still managed to stay close with Norwell in the early going, trailing by one point after each of the first two quarters.

The Knights, who last suffered defeat on Dec. 27 with a 55-42 setback to Columbus North in the Noblesville tournament, added to their 16-15 half-time lead by scoring the first four points of the third quarter. The 20-25 advantage was the biggest lead of the night.

Jay County, which travels to Winchester on Tuesday before closing the regular season Friday at home against Belmont, pulled within three, 27-24, with one quarter to play.

See **Short** page 9

Streak ends in finale

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians had won four in a row.

They will have to start a new streak in the tournament.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team fell behind early Friday and couldn't keep up with the visiting New Bremen Cardinals as it closed the season with a 57-44 defeat.

The Indians (13-9, 4-5 Midwest Athletic Conference) fell behind by six at the end of the first quarter and trailed 24-13 at halftime. They picked up their scoring in the second half, but so did New Bremen (15-7, 7-2 MAC) as the final margin expanded to 13 points.

Junior Aaron Thieman scored nine of his team-high 21 points for the Cardinals in the fourth quarter. Evan Eyink followed with eight points.

Cale Rammel had a game-high 23 points for Fort Recovery, scoring at least four points in every quarter. Landon Post added nine points and Rex Leverette had seven.

The Tribe will open tournament play Tuesday when it plays New Knoxville in the opening round of the sectional tournament at approximately 7:30 p.m. at St. Marys. FRHS, the No. 5 seed in the dis-

Fort Recovery sees winning streak halted in loss to Cardinals; to start postseason play on Tuesday

trict, won the regular-season meeting, 56-29. A victory would send the squad to the sectional championship at 7:30 p.m. Friday against third-seeded Upper Scioto Valley.

Fort Recovery got outscored 34-18 in the middle quarters of the junior varsity contest, falling 63-51 to the Cardinals. Three players reached double figures for the Tribe, with Gavin Evers scoring 14 points and Alex Gaerke and Mason Diller adding 12 and 11, respectively.

The Indians struggled after the opening quarter of the freshman game in a 59-35 loss to New Bremen. Doug Bihn led the Indians with 11 points, and Reece LeFevre added nine.

Kershaw out of WBC

By JACK HARRIS

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

PHOENIX — Clayton Kershaw will not pitch in the World Baseball Classic after all.

The future Hall of Fame left-hander made the announcement Friday at Dodgers spring training, calling the development "super disappointing" after spending the last three months preparing for the event.

Although Kershaw declined to provide specific reasons for his inability to participate, people with knowledge of the situation who were unauthorized to speak publicly said the pitcher had a problem finalizing insurance coverage required for the event. His back-injury history was a significant factor, the people said.

"We tried a lot of different things, all sides, really tried to make it work," Kershaw explained while standing in front of his locker at the team's Camelback Ranch complex. "Nothing is wrong with me. It just didn't work out. I really wanted to do it."

Kershaw's announcement came a day after Team USA general manager Tony Reagins told The Los Angeles Times that the left-hander, who has never played for the U.S. before in the international competition, was facing undis-

closed "challenges" to get cleared for the event.

Earlier this week, Kershaw also alluded to "complications" that had left his status for the tournament suddenly unclear.

Although Kershaw wanted to play in the event, and had gotten a go-ahead from Dodgers brass to do so, his insurance problem proved unresolvable.

Insurance issues have kept players out of other iterations of the WBC, and can become especially complicated for players such as Kershaw, who have a history of injury problems.

Last season, Kershaw was sidelined for two months because of back problems. In 2021, he missed most of the second half of the campaign as well as the post-season because of an elbow injury.

This spring, Kershaw said he arrived at camp feeling physically strong after being able to implement a normal off-season throwing program. He downplayed the impact his planned WBC participation would have on his regular-season preparation, noting he didn't have to work out any earlier than usual.

"There were some factors making it hard for me to play," Kershaw said. "I tried to work it out on my own. Tried to work it out with MLB, the union, the team, everybody. Everybody worked hard to try and make it work. Just wasn't able to."

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Medal ...

Continued from page 8
The fourth-ranked Wood extended his perfect record to 42-0 Friday as he was able to get behind McGinley for control just 25 seconds into the match to get the early lead.

"This tournament, first takedown is huge in all these matches," said Wood. "I knew I could grind him out. He's a pretty good mat wrestler, but I knew I could ride him out."

He did just that in the second period after McGinley chose the bottom position.

Wood then got an escape early in the third for a 3-0 lead. And when McGinley tried for a snap down, Wood slipped behind and locked in a cradle that resulted in a pin moments later for a victory in 5 minutes even.

He said he felt his frame of mind was key.

"You know, it's just another wrestling match," said Wood. "It's not, like, huge. I mean, it kind of is big, but you put it in your brain that it's just another match. And I think that really helps."

His victory gave Jay County wrestling a state medalist for the seventh time in the last eight years.

"It feels great," said Myers. "He works really hard. You always felt like he deserves that state medal. ... I'm so happy that he was able to get the win."

Courtney (34-8) advanced through Friday's opening round with a 10-7 win over No. 11 Lucas

"You know, it's just another wrestling match. It's not, like, huge. I mean, it kind of is big, but you put it in your brain that it's just another match. And I think that really helps."

—Tony Wood, Jay County junior

Clement of Merrillville. His two losses during the state tournament series thus far have both come against second-ranked Cheaney Schoeff of Avon.

With a win over Courtney, Wood could face either No. 5 Jeffrey Huyvaert (48-1) of New Prairie or No. 6 Michael Major (25-0) of Carmel in the semifinals.

The top two ranked wrestlers in the class — No. 1 Cole Solomey (44-1) of Kankakee Valley and No. 2 Cheaney Schoeff (40-0) of Avon — are on the opposite side of the bracket.

"We know that he's going to have a tough match tomorrow morning," said Myers. "They're all tough from here on."

"(Courtney) is pretty offensive, so Tony will have to make sure he can stop (his) single leg and get to his offense."

The 11th-ranked Clark (36-3), a state medalist last season as he fin-

ished seventh at 138 pounds, was never able to find his offense Friday against No. 5 Wesley Smith (46-2) of Plymouth in the 145-pound bracket. He gave up a takedown during a scramble with 32 seconds left in the first period and trailed throughout. Smith needed just two seconds for a second-period escape, then added a takedown off of a Clark single-leg shot attempt late in the period.

A reversal with 38 seconds left — Clark slipped between Smith's legs and took control — closed the gap to 5-2, but the JCHS junior was unable to work his way to any additional points in the waning moments.

"He just couldn't get to his takedowns," said Myers. "We're better on our leg attacks, and if we're not getting to those, then we're in our secondary offense."

A pair of third-ranked Mater Dei wrestlers proved too much for the

other Patriots who competed Friday.

No. 8 Rowles (37-4), who was ranked eighth in the state at 126 pounds, gave up a takedown as Evan Seng (35-3) got behind him at the 1:19 mark of the opening period. He escaped, but gave up another takedown with about 30 seconds remaining to trail 4-1 at the first break. The only other point in the match was a Seng escape in the third period for a 5-1 final margin.

"We gave up a couple takedowns early and ... he tied up our hands and just let time run off that clock," Myers said. "Cody just kept coming at him. He kept trying to give himself a shot, but wasn't quite able to get there."

Wittkamp (34-9), a sophomore making his first state finals appearance after wrestling junior varsity in Illinois last season, couldn't keep up with Hunter May (37-1) as he fell behind 4-0 in the opening period. He had a chance to get a throw in the second but couldn't finish it and then gave up a series of near falls on the way to a loss by a 15-0 technical fall in 3:43.

"We were a little overmatched," said Myers. "In Christian's matches ... we've had times when he's gotten down seven, eight, 10 even, and he's come back ... gotten a throw and a pin. We were just trying to get to a good position where he had a shot. And he did get there once. ... (May) was a pretty good wrestler in there. ... We weren't able to capitalize."

Short ...

Continued from page 8
Norwell had a chance to make it a five-point game again in the waning seconds but Luke McBride missed the second of two free throws. Bogenschutz, who had not made a shot all night, broke his slump just before the final buzzer.

Senior Dusty Pearson paced the Patriots, who will learn of their postseason path with the sectional draw on Sunday, with 11 points. Classmate Josh Dowlen was second with seven points, and Bennett Weitzel, one of five JCHS seniors, chipped in six points.

McBride led all players with 19 points, including two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. No other Norwell player had more than four points.

Junior varsity

The Patriots rallied from four points down to start the fourth quarter on their way to a 42-38 victory against the visiting Knights.

Down 34-30 with seven minutes to play, Jay County was 6-for-6 from the free-throw line, including four makes by Eli Dirksen. Wes Bihn chipped in four points in the frame as Jay County outscored Norwell 12-4.

Liam Garringer finished with 15 points to lead the Patriots, who led 11-5 at the end of the first and trailed 23-19 at halftime. Trevin Dunnington and Bihn had 10 points each.

Freshman

Jay County had two players score in double figures in holding off Norwell 39-37.

The Patriots saw their 10-8 lead after the first quarter disappear as the score was knotted at 17-all going into the intermission. Drew Schemenaur scored all five of his points in the third quarter, helping JCHS to a 26-25 lead with one frame to play.

Kade Sommers led all players with 14 points, and Carter Fugiett was close behind with 12 points, including a pair of threes.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
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

Monday
Jay County — Junior high swimming vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys basketball at Winchester — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball sectional opener vs. New Knoxville at St. Marys — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Junior high wrestling at Woodlan — 6 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Belmont — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
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)

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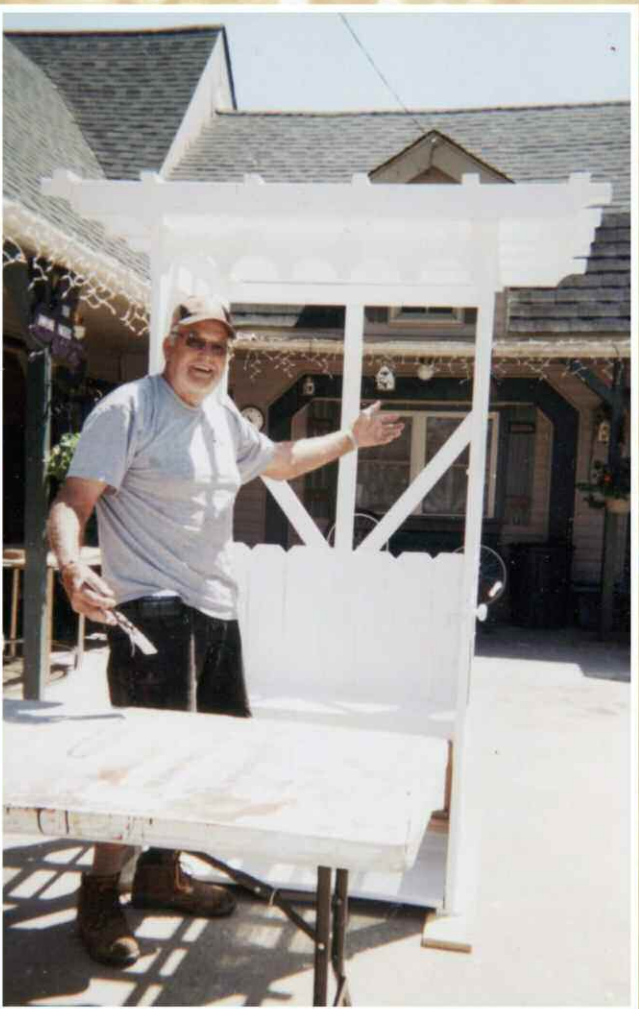
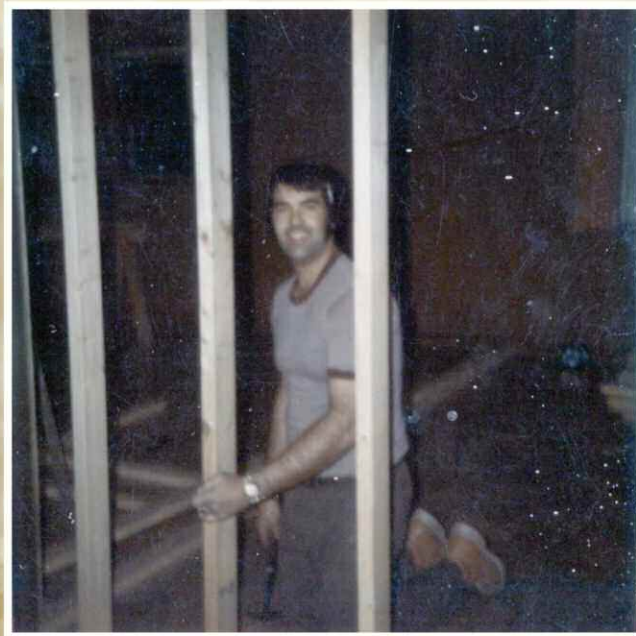
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