

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Government overreach?

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Some say it's an overreach of power.

Others say it's within legal limits.

Jay County Commissioners heard criticism Monday about their Feb. 13 decision to rescind Jay County Development Corporation's five-year economic development plan.

Commissioners, Jay County Council and city and town councils throughout the county approved a five-year plan for economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars put together by JCDC in 2020. It set priorities of using such funds for spec buildings, developing industrial land, acquiring land for industrial, residential and commercial use, investing in downtown, revolving loans for local businesses, blight eradication and as a match for grants like the Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings program.

JCDC, council members accuse officials of going too far while commissioners say they are within their legal limits

JCDC executive director Travis Richards requested Monday commissioners reconsider their decision to rescind the plan, as well as their decision to table a \$210,000 claim for JCDC's annual budget.

Commissioner Chad Aker noted the county is now requiring applications for funding requests from non-governmental organizations, including requests for which funds have already been allocated. (Commissioners recently asked JCDC to fill out the funding application for its budget, an amount that was set and approved by Jay

County Council last year.) He referenced the current discussion between local officials and JCDC, which is considering making changes to its bylaws that would assign permanent seats on the executive committee to several local government officials and also establish a code of conduct.

Commissioner Brian McGalliard also said state statute (Indiana Code 6-3.6-10-2) requires a contract between JCDC and the county. (According to the code, it says "a county, city, or town may use revenue allocated for economic development purposes"

... for "contract payments to a nonprofit corporation whose primary corporate purpose is to assist government in planning and implementing economic development projects.")

Richards pointed out the statute also says the dollars may be used in various other ways, including for "any lawful purpose."

JCDC board member Barb Street asked why commissioners rescinded the five-year plan. McGalliard noted the state no longer requires communities to use such a plan, which seeks input from an advisory commit-

tee — it is made up of members from every Jay community — and requires council approval.

Council member Matt Minnich voiced his concern about the plan being rescinded. He referenced a previously budgeted \$2,000 EDIT funding request from Jay County Historical Society, which was tabled by commissioners earlier in the meeting.

"In my opinion, all the money for EDIT is in the hands of three people, and EDIT advisory and council has been removed from that process," he said.

See **Overreach?** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

English answer

Emma LeMaster, Raine Keen and Ella Stockton of the host Jay County High School academic team work together Monday to answer a question during the English portion of the Eastern Indiana Academic League conference meet. The event, held in the JCHS auxiliary gym, brought in 16 other schools to compete in fine arts, math, science, social studies and English.

Sidewalk, detention projects moving forward

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Two projects that have been long in the works are getting closer to becoming a reality.

Mayor Jack Robbins on Monday updated Dunkirk City Council on the timeline for both a sidewalk project connecting West Jay Elementary School to Dunkirk City Park and a planned detention basin on the city's southeast side in an effort to mitigate flooding.

Robbins told council the low bid for the sidewalk project came from Yardberry Landscaping Excavating at \$204,364. The bulk of the project is being paid via federal funds passed through Indiana Department of Transportation, with the city responsible for a 20% match of \$40,460.80.

The project calls for installing a sidewalk along Highland Avenue beginning at West Jay Elementary and eventually connecting with Speedcat Alley, which runs through the park. Federal funding for the sidewalk was originally awarded in 2016.

"This is the second time we've bid this project," said Robbins. "It needs to start and finish this year."

Council members Jesse Bivens, Bryan Jessup, Christy Curts, Kevin Hamilton and Tom Johnson awarded the project to Yardberry.

Robbins also explained that the city has acquired the land needed for the flood mitigation project and that a pre-bid meeting is set for 9 a.m. March 10. Bids will be opened March 23.

Dunkirk was awarded a \$600,000 grant from Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for the estimated \$1 million project. City council committed \$400,000 from the city's federal coronavirus relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act to cover the remaining cost.

The project calls for creating detention basins east of Broad Street near Moore Avenue and west of 3rd Street near the southern city limits.

See **Projects** page 2

Court hearing loan arguments

By MICHAEL MACAGNONE
CQ-Roll Call

Tribune News Service
WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court hears oral arguments Tuesday in two cases to determine whether President Joe Biden can lean on a 2003 law to fulfill a campaign promise and forgive up to \$20,000 in student loans for millions of borrowers nationwide.

The justices are set to decide not only if the Biden administration has the power for a program that could cost the government more than \$400 billion, but whether the courts should even allow the lawsuits to challenge the program filed by a group of Republican-led states and a group of frustrated borrowers who don't qualify.

Biden's program faces a conservative Supreme Court that has been skeptical when agencies appear to overstep the powers Congress gave



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Paul Morigi

Student loan borrowers stage a rally in front of the White House to celebrate President Joe Biden canceling student debt and to begin the fight to cancel any remaining debt on Aug. 25 in Washington, D.C.

them, legal experts say. In this case, the Biden administration says Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona can alter student loan terms in emergency situations.

Daniel Urman, a law and

public policy professor at Northeastern University, said several conservative members of the court have expressed a general desire to roll back the government's administrative power.

To move forward with the program, Urman said the Biden administration would have to convince at least two of the six justices on the conservative wing of the court, along with all three of the justices on the liberal wing.

"I could see these cases going in a lot of ways, but I think it is uphill for the Biden administration," Urman said. "Now uphill doesn't mean impossible, but I think it is uphill."

Support for the program largely cuts along party lines, and Congress did not explicitly act on Biden's call for student loan debt relief. Republican lawmakers in briefs urged the Supreme Court to stop the Biden program, and Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and other Democratic lawmakers plan to join a rally outside the court to support it.

The justices are expected to issue opinions by

the conclusion of the term at the end of June. In the meantime, the Biden administration has continued to pause federal student loan payments for all borrowers, as they have since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Biden administration seeks to overturn two lower court rulings that paused the program based on challenges that Cardona overstepped his authority when he launched the program last year.

The administration argued in briefs that Congress gave Cardona broad powers when it passed the law in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, including to address national emergencies like the coronavirus pandemic. Several provisions in the law "underscore Congress' intent to respond quickly and fully to national emergencies."

Deaths

Beth Hunley, 61, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 64 degrees Monday. The low was 46.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 38 with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Windy conditions will continue Wednesday under mostly sunny skies with a high of 63.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from the FRHS boys basketball team in the district semi-final.

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



Obituaries

Beth Hunley

Oct. 10, 1961-Feb. 24, 2023
Beth Ann Hunley, age 61, of Portland, passed away on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023, at IU Health Jay.
She was born in Portland on Oct. 10, 1961, the daughter of Richard and Betty (Boe) Davidson. She was married Feb. 26, 1980, to Dan Hunley. They were married for 43 years.
Beth was a 1980 Jay County High School graduate and had worked in patient registration

at Jay County Hospital for 17 years. Beth was an artist, making jewelry, ink art, alcohol ink art and various crafts. She enjoyed going to craft shows and especially enjoyed her family. Beth was a bilateral lung transplant recipient in 2019.
Surviving are her husband Dan; five sons, Daniel Hunley (wife: Mandy) of Berne, Jeremy



Hunley

Hunley (wife: Lindsay) of Portland, Tyler Hunley of Columbus, Indiana, Nathan Hunley of Portland and Rhiley Hunley of Columbus, Indiana; one brother, Larry Davidson (wife: Leeanne) of Redkey; two sisters, Linda Davidson (Penny) of Columbus, Indiana, and Connie Fear (husband: Jeff) of Nottingham, Indiana; five grandchildren, Addisyn, Noah, Ashlyne, Aubree and Haven; mother-in-law Darlene Hunley of Portland; brother-in-law John Hunley (wife: Yvonne) of Portland; and

sister-in-law Janna Snyder (husband: Steve) of Portland.
She was preceded in death by a brother Ronnie Davidson.
Funeral services will be Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Darrell Borders presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery in Bryant. Visitation will be Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.
Memorials can be made to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

or to the Hunley family to help with expenses.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.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

Wednesday 3/1	Thursday 3/2	Friday 3/3	Saturday 3/4	Sunday 3/5
63/36	49/34	49/28	39/26	45/30
Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday with a chance of rain at night.	Thursday's weather looks to be partly sunny with a high in the upper 40s. Rain likely late.	Expect rain Friday, when temperatures may reach the upper 40s again. At night, the low may be 28.	Mostly cloudy skies Saturday with highs in the upper 30s and lows in the mid to upper 20s.	Mostly sunny, with a high temperature around 45. The low may dip to 30.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 16-28-49-51-55 Powerball: 23 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$143 million	29-32-34-45-46-47-49-50-54-58-59-60-61-65-66-72-79 Cash 5: 5-21-22-23-38 Estimated jackpot: \$202,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$145 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 1-3-9 Pick 4: 8-2-7-8 Pick 5: 2-0-6-7-8 Evening Pick 3: 4-0-2 Pick 4: 5-5-6-8 Pick 5: 6-0-7-6-2 Rolling Cash 5: 1-12-17-28-35 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000 Classic Lotto: 13-14-37-45-46-47 Kicker: 1-6-7-0-9-4 Jackpot: \$5.9 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 9-5-1 Daily Four: 5-2-8-7 Quick Draw: 3-17-20-23-30-32-35-40-46-47-52-55-60-66-69-70-71-72-73-80 Evening Daily Three: 9-6-2 Daily Four: 7-4-1-9 Quick Draw: 1-10-23-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.52 March corn.....6.52 Wheat.....6.83	Wheat.....6.53 March wheat.....6.53
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.52 March corn.....6.52 April corn.....6.58	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.39 March corn.....6.39 Beans.....14.83 March beans.....14.85 Wheat.....6.96
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.41 March corn.....6.41 Beans.....14.79 March beans.....14.79	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.14 April corn.....6.16 Beans.....14.61 April beans.....14.66 Wheat.....6.49

Today in history

In 1827, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad became the first in the U.S. that was chartered for commercial transportation of freight and passengers. Baltimore was the second-largest city in the country at that time.
In 1973, Peoples Bank kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration with a dinner featuring professional football referee and business/public relations executive Art Holst at Portland Moose Lodge.
In 1983, an estimated 106 million watched the final episode of M*A*S*H. The show that was set in South Korea during the Korean War aired for 11 seasons.
In 1986, Swedish prime minister Olof Palme was assassinated in Stockholm. He served as leader of Sweden from 1969 to 1976 and again from 1982 to 1986

and was known for his pacifist beliefs, including opposition to the Vietnam War.
In 1991, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein accepted a cease-fire agreement, bringing an end to the Persian Gulf War. The war had started earlier that year, beginning with Iraq's invasion of neighboring Kuwait.
In 2018, at midnight Jay County Hospital went live with its integration into Indiana University Health, officially becoming IU Health Jay. The change had been approved by IU Health and various local officials the previous November.
In 2022, Dunkirk City Council approved 2% increases to both its water and sewer rates. The increases were part of the city's five-year utility plan and were set to go into effect June 1.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

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

Overreach? ...

Continued from page 1
McGalliard continuously referred to state law Monday. He referenced the county's budget, about \$21 million, saying dollars can be moved between line items in each fund within reason. By state statute, he said, the process is not illegal and that it happens regularly.
County auditor Emily Franks agreed but said it was typically for smaller-scale costs like office supplies or records.
Council member Cindy Bracy argued if JCDC's funding needs to be adjusted, it should require approval from council. She added

that commissioners should revise the plan instead of rescinding it completely.
"Why not go through the process to change it so that you have multiple voices?" she said. "(The plan) was taken through input from our taxpayers who said this is what we want to do. If you want to change it, follow the plan that was set out for it."
McGalliard said surrounding counties operate without a five-year economic development plan. Bracy responded that commissioners could have waited until the plan expired to change the process.
Commissioner Rex Journey

admitted he regrets rescinding the plan.
"Seventeen sets of eyes, 10 sets of eyes, are far better in looking at something than three sets of eyes," he said.
McGalliard challenged JCDC, which has been in operation since 1985. He referenced state statistics, such as Jay County's income per capita, income per household and number of residents with a college degree, all of which are ranked among the lowest across the state.
"I have not seen any plans brought forth that's going to attack any of these issues," he said.
See **Overreach?** page 5

Projects ...

Continued from page 1
They will remain dry most of the time and will be used to detain water during heavy rain events. That water will then be released at a controlled rate in order to take pressure off of the city's storm sewers. Also included are some upgrades to current storm sewer infrastructure.
The work is intended to reduce flooding and lower labor and maintenance costs.
Also Monday, Dunkirk resident Amy Snyder proposed that council amend the city's ordinance to allow chickens.
Snyder presented information regarding other communities, some of which don't allow chickens and others that do with a wide variety of regulations. (Chickens are allowed in Portland. They are not allowed in Redkey.) She suggested requiring a

license, a limit on the number of chickens and coop regulations. She added that allowing chickens could be helpful for families as food prices continue to rise.
Robbins and council members raised several questions, including regarding enforcement, waste and the effect on neighbors.
Council ultimately tabled the request in order to gather information on the issue and consult with other municipalities regarding how they handle enforcement for those in violation of the ordinance.
In other business, council:
•Approved the following: Donations of \$200 to Crown City Lanes for the Junior Bowling League and PGA Professional Bowlers event it is hosting March 20 and \$100 to Dunkirk Farmers Market; a \$1,366.99 water bill adjustment because of an under-

ground leak; Dunkirk Beautification Committee's dates of May 6, June 17, July 8 and Aug. 19 for concerts at Webster Depot Park; and payment of claims totaling \$323,248.44.
•Heard a report from Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards regarding the activities of the organization. He noted work in the areas of economic and community development, including assisting Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation, as well as initiatives such as the Launch Jay business pitch competition, Yodel community calendar and Make My Move initiative.
•Gave Robbins the OK to get quotes for new awnings at the city building. The awnings that are currently in place have sustained damage. Johnson said they are about 30 years old.

Capsule Reports

Tied for fourth

Jay County High School's winter guard placed fourth overall Saturday in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association contest at Carroll.
JCHS scored 67.35 points to tie Twin Lakes for third in its round and fourth overall in Regional A Class. It trailed champion NorthWood (76.01), Warren Central's junior varsity (69.58) and Westfield's junior varsity (69.32). DeKalb was a half-point back in fifth place.

while intoxicated and taken to Jay County Jail.
His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Disoriented driving

A Portland man crashed his truck into a parked vehicle along Middle Street in Portland about 10:38 a.m. Monday.
See page 5

SERVICES

Thursday
Hunley, Beth: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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

Jay County Sheriff's Department

is now taking applications for
Reserve deputies and Part-time Transportation officers

Applications may be picked up at the
Jay County Sheriff's Department
224 W. Water St., Portland. E.O.E.

Effective March 13, 2023
JRDS aluminum can recycling will be permanently closed.

JRDS wants to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the support of this program throughout the years.

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Spring is right around the corner

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

I was surprised the other day. I have a lot of houseplants and they are everywhere. They get watered every once in a while but not on any kind of schedule. I happened to look at one of them that my neighbor lady had given me last fall. We both assumed it was dead.

Lo and behold it was blooming. Not only that but it had two more buds that were ready to open. That clematis made my whole day.

It isn't the only thing in bloom, but it is the most unexpected.

As I See It



A day or so later I found out that pizza does not taste good when covered in milk. The milk I had poured for supper was leaking out of a hidden hole that kept getting bigger and bigger as the milk escaped from the glass and flooded my supper. What a mess that was.

Today is relatively warm and sunny. There is

no sign that the predicted winter storm is headed our way. I consider that a good thing.

Today my brothers and our spouses plus my brother David's son went out to eat for the February birthdays. We ate at a very nice restaurant in Richmond. Afterward, they headed over to their favorite second-hand store. Hubby and I went on home as neither of us cares for that type of store.

The last thing I want is someone else's stuff. I have more than enough stuff of my own.

I am fighting the urge to

go outside and get started on cleaning up the flower beds. It is far too early to be messing around with that. No matter how nice it is outside, I am fairly certain that winter isn't done with us yet.

I did manage to get most of the trash removed from the yard. In addition to the usual debris there was a mostly deflated balloon in the shape of a dragon. It was hiding in the overgrown hibiscus forest. There were the usual bottles, cans, paper and plastic hanging out in the yard. There is also a big red ball that has taken up residence in the yellow

loosestrife. I think it belongs across the street but it seems perfectly content to stay where it is.

The outside plants are beginning to wake up even though winter is not over yet. The lenten rose has new blossoms. The snowdrops are finally up and their nodding white blooms are ready to close at a moment's notice. One lonely snow crocus sits just outside its flower bed. Even the pussy willow has the beginnings of soft catkins. It needs a good pruning but that will wait until the weather is a bit more stable.

Sometimes I am amazed

at how little it takes to make my day and how little it takes to ruin one. An unexpected bloom on a plant that is presumed dead can change a grumpy day into a happy one.

Winter might not be over but precocious plants are letting me know that the cold, dreary weather won't last that much longer. Ever so slowly the seasons are changing. The occasional nice days will become more and more common.

So far the good things out weigh the bad. I just hope it stays that way for as long as possible.

Father, son tired of remarks about height

DEAR ABBY: My husband is 6 feet, 6 inches tall. My 19-year-old son is taller, at 6 feet, 7 inches. They loathe being asked how tall they are. There are times when they are proud of their height and others when they have felt self-conscious because it can be uncomfortable to "tower" over others.

Often, the question is asked in a tone that conveys the person perceives them as some kind of "freak of nature." They have been told they "must have been really well-fed growing up," or

Dear Abby



the commenters are "so glad they never had to pay THEIR food bills." And, of course, the assumption is that they played basketball — which they both did. But imagine if they didn't or

hated the game. They have had it with these insensitive, intrusive comments. While I, someone of average height, think a commenter may just be trying to make conversation — and height is a respected attribute — it's nonetheless offensive. My son or husband would never ask anyone in retort, "How short are you?" or "How much do you weigh?"

Why do people think that questions about how tall someone is don't fall into the same category? What's an appropriate response

when the person asking makes you out to be some kind of freak? — TALL PERSON SYMPATHIZER

DEAR SYMPATHIZER: Sometimes people, without intending to be rude, blurt out the first thing that comes into their heads, and height is hard to miss. This isn't the first time I have been told that some tall individuals are self-conscious about it.

A social group called Tall Clubs International was formed many years ago so

they could socialize without feeling self-conscious. (Today's generations are taller by several inches than they were 100 years ago, and tourists visiting European museums have been shocked at the diminutive size of the suits of armor.)

While all of us can have a bad day, I think the best way for your son and your husband to handle these questions would be to hang onto their sense of humor and answer them honestly.

ATOS Trio to perform at Arts Place

A world-renowned music group is performing next month in Portland.

ATOS Trio will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. March 31 at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place.

The group, made up of pianist Thomas Hoppe, Violinist Annette von Hehn and cellist Stefan Heinemeyer, have been performing since 2003. Their accolades include the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio award and the gold-standard prize for trios in the United States.

"The ATOS Trio pushes expression and dynamics to the limits, with its incredibly distinctive,

Taking Note

warmly expressive and extremely unified trio sound, far beyond the comfortable, familiar, and expected," according to an Arts Place press release.

Tickets for the show — it's a part of the Eric R. Rogers Performing

Arts series — are \$20 for adults and \$12 for students. Visit Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., or go to myart-splace.org to buy tickets.

Open house set

The Area 18 machine trades program hosted at South Adams High School will hold an open house from 2 to 7 p.m. March 20.

The machine trades program serves students from Jay, Adams and Wells counties. It is located on the south side of the SAHS property at 1235 W. 700 South, Berne.

Community Calendar

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at

Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

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

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

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

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program

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

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

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

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6323

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

FCC Indiana Financial Accountant

FCC Indiana is in search for a Financial Accountant. This individual would be responsible for general accounting that involves A/P, A/R and miscellaneous analysis. This person is also responsible for financial statement preparation.

Responsibilities

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- Review accounts receivable module to validate shipments for accurate recording of sales
- Match cash receipts to open accounts receivable and reconcile monthly
- Prepare Customer Deposits for entry
- Receive approval to set up or dispose, enter and maintain fixed asset sub ledger
- Reconcile & verifying credit card charges to receipts, as well as available balances
- Perform a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly check run according to appropriate payment terms
- Review the Balance Sheet to ensure charges are booked appropriately, and accruals reversed in a timely manner
- Enter monthly closing entry, and additional detail into financial statements
- Prepare Financial Statements for Management Review
- Additional duties at month end, year end, audit timing or as needed

Skills

- Knowledge of AP/AR, and fixed assets
- Ability to continue to grow and develop skills
- MS Office proficiency, especially Excel
- Advanced organizational skills with the ability to handle multiple assignments
- Strong communication skills and ability to work in team environment
- AS degree in Accounting or related field / past experience preferred but not required

Resumes can be sent to FCC Indiana – Human Resources at 555 Industrial Park Road Portland, Indiana.

Carter provides example of service

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

Jimmy Carter has secured a legacy as probably the greatest former president in modern American history.

The former chief executive — whose one term is generally viewed as an almost unmitigated disaster — has spent his many post-presidential years promoting human rights and building houses for the underprivileged while living modestly in his Plains, Georgia, home. As Carter enters hospice there at age 98, his example of selfless public service should stand as a rebuke to many of today's self-interested Democratic and Republican politicians, and an inspiration to a nation that lately has too few of them.

Guest Editorial

When Carter emerged on the national scene in 1976, he seemed an antidote to Watergate-era corruption: an unassuming Georgia governor whose genuine religiosity manifested itself in an embrace of civil rights and honest government. In those times of disillusionment with Washington's political insiders, his virtual anonymity outside his home state was, to many, a selling point.

Among Carter's first acts after

defeating incumbent President Gerald Ford in 1976 and taking office in January 1977 was to pardon all Vietnam War draft evaders, helping close the still-lingering national wounds from that misbegotten conflict. That and Carter's central role in achieving peace between Israel and Egypt with the Camp David accords stand as major accomplishments.

But they would be dwarfed by his presidency's failures: failure to effectively lead as inflation pummeled America, projecting weakness to the point that Soviet Russia felt undeterred in its invasion of Afghanistan, and most of all, failure to effectively respond to the Iran hostage crisis. Republican Ronald Reagan's landslide 1980 victory that

unseated Carter was, by that point, a surprise to no one. Modern post-presidencies are generally a time to build self-aggrandizing presidential libraries and to accumulate wealth with book-writing and speeches (and in one case, to continue relitigating the last election). For Carter, in contrast, it has been a time of continued and selfless public service.

Carter won the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for the work of his human-rights nonprofit, the Carter Center; conducting global conflict mediation, election monitoring and disease control. His role in expanding and promoting Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for the poor, has been so effective and high-profile that many Americans might mis-

takenly believe he founded the organization. For decades, Carter has provided a voice of reason and compassion on national and global issues. By the time a Christian Science Monitor headline dubbed him America's "best ex-president" in 2016, it was already a common declaration.

While the person elected to the White House that same year continues to devote his post-presidency bellowing his grievance to anyone who will listen — and as the other ex-presidents engage in less pathetic but mostly unimportant, albeit lucrative, post-presidential endeavors — Carter in the final stage of his life still embodies a rare political decency. It's an example that American politics could use right now.

Ohio accident raises alarms

By REBEKAH ENTRALGO
OtherWords.org

The toxic clouds that billowed up from a derailed freight train in Ohio this February are a chilling metaphor for the toxic greed that has infected so many of our big corporations.

After having to evacuate, residents of East Palestine, Ohio, are cautiously going back home, but they still don't know the full extent of the damage to the area's environment and public health.

The Norfolk Southern train was carrying dangerous chemicals, including vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogen that is more harmful than even ammonia and natural gas, according to federal regulations.

Following the derailment, locals have reported difficulty breathing, numbness in their limbs, and rashes, among other possible physical symptoms from the chemical exposure. Worryingly, fish and wildlife in the area have turned up dead.

Unions representing rail workers had warned of the possibility of just such a catastrophe.

In contract negotiations last year, they denounced a business model known as "precision scheduled railroading," which aims to boost profits by running bigger and faster trains with smaller crews.

And where have those profits gone? To executives and shareholders.

Over the last three years, CEOs at five of the largest railroad conglomerates raked in a staggering \$200 million in compensation.

Norfolk Southern and the six other largest U.S. freight railroad companies also spent a staggering \$191 billion on stock buybacks and shareholder dividends between 2011 and 2021, making their wealthy executives and investors even richer.

While railroad executives lined their own pockets, their lobbyists advocated against stricter safety rules. In 2017, Trump administration regulators killed provisions requiring rail cars carrying hazardous materials to have more sophisticated, faster braking systems.

This profit-driven approach is putting workers and communities at high risk. In fact, the Ohio accident wasn't even the only one in February.

Days later in Houston, Texas, another train carrying hazardous materials

Rebekah Entralgo



derailed, killing the driver. Days after that incident, another Norfolk Southern train derailed, this time in southeastern Michigan. And on Feb. 21, a 31-car Union Pacific coal train ran off the rails in Gothenburg, Nebraska, reportedly prompting an emergency hazmat response.

Railroad workers have offered a simple solution to this public threat: public ownership. Railroad Workers United has called for an end to private corporate ownership of the U.S. rail system.

In its October 2022 resolution, the union said privatized rail prioritizes "massive stock buybacks and other measures that deliver short-term gains for stockholders" over "the long-term health and vitality of the industry."

By nationalizing the railroads, we can start treating U.S. rail like the public benefit it is.

Without profit motives to line the pockets of shareholders and CEOs, we could ensure safe staffing for workers, as well as investments in maintenance and safety measures to prevent freight cars from having to use Civil War-era braking technology simply because it's cheaper.

The United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America has also called for public ownership, writing: "The railroad companies cannot even be said to be in the business of moving freight; they are merely in the business of using their monopoly control over the nation's rail infrastructure to squeeze as much profit as possible from customers and workers at the behest of their Wall Street shareholders."

The Ohio tragedy is a huge, fiery alarm bell. We should no longer tolerate the risk of having greedy corporate executives run us off the rails. Through public ownership, this vital infrastructure could truly serve the public good.

.....
Entralgo is the managing editor of Inequality.org at the Institute for Policy Studies.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



Schools, communities aren't at odds

By JERALD MCNAIR
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Schools across the country face enormous challenges nowadays. Keeping students and teachers safe from violence is the No. 1 priority. School shootings have become so common that we are no longer surprised when they happen. There were more than 300 shooting incidents on school grounds last year, easily surpassing the totals in 2021 and 2020, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database.

Our youths' mental health and social-emotional issues are another priority that schools should address consistently. From 2016 to 2019, more than 13% of youths ages 3 to 17 were diagnosed with anxiety and depression, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data shows. The pandemic has exacerbated the problem. An estimated 44% of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless in the years surrounding the pandemic, according to CDC data.

There was a time when schools' top priority was providing students with a quality education. Preparing them for the labor force meant improving their knowledge base in a broad number of subject areas, including vocational. Teacher colleges across the country echoed this philosophy.

In the 1950s and 1960s, we were united as a country to make America's educational system first-rate. After the Soviet Union released Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite, we responded collectively. The National Defense Education Act helped pour more than \$1 billion into America's educational system to improve the academic output of students, particularly in math and science.

Unfortunately, providing a competitive and quality curriculum is not enough nowadays, and a spirit of working together and finding common ground seems to have escaped us. Far too many local school dis-

Jerald McNair



tricts are facing enormous pressure from policymakers to censor what students are learning in schools. This includes threats of having teachers arrested or their licenses revoked.

Lest we forget the obvious: The growing teacher shortage presents a challenge for America's educational system and indeed our labor force. The demand for teachers is exceeding the supply for grades K-12 in public education, according to a report by the Learning Policy Institute, an education research and policy advocacy group. This situation is not limited to urban and rural areas; shortages are apparent in areas of the country that usually don't experience a drop in teacher supply. The problem has been made worse by a high number of teachers leaving the profession. Up to half of teachers leave the profession within five years, a 2014 report by the advocacy Alliance for Excellent Education shows.

The implications are far-reaching and could have a deleterious impact on our labor force. As conversations continue about what students should be allowed to read and study, it's important that parents and guardians understand that public education is historically a local matter.

The 10th Amendment, which states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people," allows parents input into local school matters. Policymakers take their cue from the local com-

munity. And parents play an integral role in that process.

The latest poll by Phi Delta Kappan, a professional organization of educators, shows that parents generally have a positive view of their local schools and give their child's school relatively high marks. That's because they see the hard work that teachers put in daily. They listen to the stories their children share about the sacrifices teachers make, the times they spend their own money to help students and the tireless efforts teachers put in to help the neediest students.

This indicates that parents and schools are not at odds with each other, despite the rhetoric of some policymakers. Through collaboration and shared decision-making, schools work hard to provide the best educational environment for students. The risk of the politicization of many aspects of education not only stymies creativity but also could drive more teachers out of the profession. It also may form a wedge between schools and the citizens of a community.

Undoubtedly, parents and other stakeholders should have a say in local educational matters. They always have. However, having them dictate, without input from teachers and school boards, what should be taught to students runs afoul of how public schools have functioned in America for centuries. It's time to return to that place in time where we worked together and sought areas to agree on rather than disagree.

It's not necessary nor advantageous to promote divisive rhetoric in schools. Dictating what schools do challenges and compromises the freedoms we relish in our democracy. Let's continue to nurture and support dialogue among students, teachers, parents, administrators and school boards. It serves our nation well.

.....
McNair, who has a doctorate in education and a graduate degree in public policy, is a school administrator at South Holland School District 151.

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Overreach? ...

Continued from page 2
“Why should I have faith that you’re going to change the fact that we are clear at the bottom of the state in every ranking?”

JCDC board member Josh Atkinson noted McGalliard as well as other council and community members are on the group’s board.

“Not in one meeting have I heard anybody in those groups come forward and say, ‘Hey guys, here’s my plan. Here’s how I would like to fix it,’” he said. “Maybe you guys have this plan that can right the wrongs and put this ship back on the right course. Share that plan with us. Let JCDC help assist that plan. We are here to assist in economic development, and we can come up with a solution that would work for everybody.”

McGalliard referenced his suggestion at previous meetings to invest in a comprehensive plan. (The last one for Jay County was conducted in 1991.)

JCDC board member Chad Towell said commissioners, specifically addressing McGalliard, have not voiced concerns about economic development spending at any JCDC board meetings.

McGalliard said attorneys, including JCDC’s lawyer, advised him not to discuss such issues in public with media in attendance.

“That’s why we requested to be on the executive committee, that

way the newspaper’s not there, and any issues the commissioners, any other elected officials had, would be behind closed doors, wouldn’t have to be made public,” he said.

Towell noted a meeting could be called at any time. (Board member Bryan Alexander added JCDC invites the media and that it is not required to do so.)

McGalliard pushed for a contract with JCDC moving forward. Richards questioned the timing of his intent to set up a contract and again asked about his request to reconsider rescinding the plan and tabling his organization’s budget.

Journay made a motion to approve JCDC’s claim for at least half of the annual amount (\$105,000), but it died for lack of a second.

Aker advocated for cooperating with JCDC moving forward.

“I want to resolve this. I don’t want to shut down JCDC. But I want us to work together,” he said. “We’re all in this for the betterment of Jay County, period. We just have a different way of looking at things.”

He asked Richards to submit the funding application.

Aker also requested a meeting for an “amicable” discussion before JCDC approves changes to its bylaws.

Also Monday, Richards presented the strategic investment plan created through the Hoosier

Enduring Legacy Process, an Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs program intended to help communities decide how to allocate its American Rescue Plan Act funds. Purdue University recently returned the plan to JCDC for final revisions, and Richards gave copies of the plan to commissioners. The plan is due Friday.

Commissioners requested an extension, with Richards asking what has changed since they first received copies of the plan in November. Aker noted he would like to tack on a new public safety facility, specifically referencing a multi-faceted building for Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner’s Office.

McGalliard questioned the portion about improving access to child care, pointing out the document lists The Portland Foundation’s plans to convert the former Judge Haynes elementary school into a daycare. Richards explained HELP required specifics for each project and that he used past examples to illustrate what the project could look like. Journay asked Richards to reword the document so it specifies The Portland Foundation project is an example.

In other business, commissioners:

• Heard from Bill Walters, executive director at East Central Indiana Regional Planning Dis-

trict. Walters highlighted grants and projects the group is working on, including looking into constructing new buildings for Jay County Solid Waste Management District, Jay County Highway Department and JEMS, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner’s Office. The group also has two interns working in Jay County to determine what federal grant dollars to apply for.

• Accepted an agreement through Liberty Mutual insurance company to receive \$55,867.54 for damage done to the county road 100 North by HIS Constructors during the runway extension project at Portland Municipal Airport. (That leaves county commissioners to cover about \$14,000 for the road work, which they said the county would likely spend in legal fees if it chose to file a lawsuit against the company.)

• Gave their support for Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition for a grant application through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction in hopes of building a sober living community.

• Agreed to move forward with creating a parking space for Jay County Sheriff’s Office along Court Street and establishing guidelines for sheriff’s deputies to bring Jay County Jail inmates through the east door at Jay County Courthouse.

• OK’d repairing a guard rail along county road 550 East between county roads 400 North and 500 North after a car accident Feb. 21. The repairs — Milestone Contractors will handle the work for \$25,295.57 — should be reimbursed by the driver’s insurance.

• Accepted a three-year contract at \$3,300 annually with Dosssett Consulting of Indianapolis to help reimburse some costs associated with Title IV Section D of the Social Security Act.

• Approved a new lease with Five Brothers LLC for use of the Jay County Community Corrections office at 120 N. Commerce St., Portland. (The previous owners sold the building that the department has rented since 2008. Rent has not changed, although the lease now renews on a month-to-month basis.)

• Appointed Logan Slusher to the three-member board for the Frank Grisell ditch.

• Approved a 63-month contract with Leap Copier Printer of Muncie for Jay Emergency Medical Service printing needs for just over \$151 a month.

• OK’d updating the courthouse security system at a cost of about \$160 through Stylus Technologies.

• Paid a \$174,442 quarterly claim to LifeStream Services as well as \$1,671,849.44 in other claims.

• OK’d purchasing a mini bus for LifeStream Services.

School board bill dies in House

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A bill that would have let Hoosier communities decide if local school board elections should be partisan died in the Indiana House after lawmakers failed to vote on the measure by Monday’s deadline.

That means school board races will stay non-partisan — at least for now. Language from the bill could still crop up in others before the end of the current legislative session.

House Bill 1428, authored by Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City, sought to add political party identifications to what are now non-partisan school board elec-

tions throughout the state. The legislation was the first to extend “local control” over the issue.

Monday was the deadline for House bills to pass out of the chamber. Prescott did not call the bill for a full chamber vote, however, likely indicating a lack of support from the House Republican caucus.

GOP House Speaker Todd Huston expressed support for optional partisan school board races earlier this month, but noted that members of his caucus are “all across the spectrum” on Prescott’s proposal — “This is one of those bills that doesn’t split along party lines.”

Felony arrests

Dealing drugs

A Portland man was arrested Friday for dealing drugs and related charges.

Jeramie C. Green, 47, 1237 N. U.S. 27, was preliminarily charged with a Level 3 felony for dealing methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

He’s being held on a \$35,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Drunk driving

An Eaton man was arrested Sunday for drunk driving.

Landon R. Light, 23, 1065 W. county road 1000 North, was preliminarily charged with two counts of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, both Level 6 felonies.

He’s being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
Terry L. Weatherhead, 77, told police he was driving his 2015 Ford F-150 south along the street near its intersection with Water Street when he became disoriented. Weatherhead’s vehicle struck a parked 2016 Cadillac SRX on the west side of the street.

Weatherhead explained he had recently taken a medicated shot prescribed by his doctor, and he was described as ill when police arrived.

The Ford F-150 was towed.

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.



3 steps anyone can take to keep their kidneys healthy

Chronic kidney disease is more common than people may realize. The organizers behind World Kidney Day indicate that roughly one in 10 people across the globe have CKD, which can develop at any age.

The prevalence of CKD underscores how significant a threat it poses to the general public. In addition to its impact on public health, CKD also exerts a financial strain on countries across the globe. For instance, a recent report from NHS Kidney Care in England indicated the costs associated with kidney disease in that country outnumber expenses for cancers of the breast, lung, colon, and skin combined. Across the pond in the United States, annual costs to treat CKD are estimated to be around \$48 billion.

Many instances of CKD are not preventable. However, these three tips can help anyone reduce their risk for CKD.

1. Recognize your risk. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases indicates that individuals are more likely to develop kidney disease if they have diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease,



and/or a family history of kidney failure. Annual physical examinations can indicate if blood pressure levels are high and help to determine if a person is prediabetic. Prediabetes does not mean a person has type 2 diabetes, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that, without intervention, prediabetes is likely to become type 2 diabetes within 10 years. Individuals also can speak with older relatives to determine their family medical history and whether or not it includes in-

dividuals with kidney disease.

2. Speak to your physician about kidney testing. The NIDDK reports that early kidney disease may not produce any symptoms. As a result, testing may be the most effective way to determine if your kidneys are healthy. Health care providers will determine the frequency of testing, which typically involves blood and/or urine tests.

3. Eat a healthy diet. The NIDDK recommends individuals ensure less than 10 percent of their daily calories

come from added sugars. In addition, reducing sodium consumption and focusing on heart-healthy foods, such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products, can help individuals maintain a healthy weight and blood pressure, thus reducing their risk for kidney disease.

Kidney disease is a significant threat to public health. Individuals concerned about CKD can employ various measures to reduce their risk.

John Cascio, DDS

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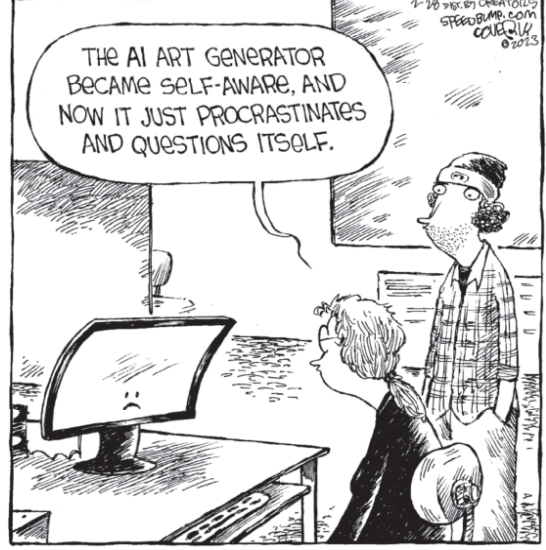
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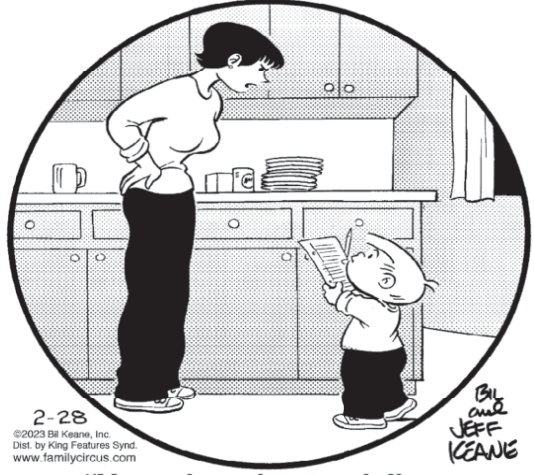
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane



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Stay awake!

South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH ♠ Q 7 5 4 ♥ 10 6 ♦ K 9 8 4 ♠ A 5 3 WEST ♠ K 2 ♥ A Q 5 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K Q 10 8 2 EAST ♠ J 10 3 ♥ 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ J 9 6 SOUTH ♠ A 9 8 6 ♥ K J ♦ A Q J 10 5 ♣ 7 4 The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Opening lead — king of clubs. Defense is considered by many to be the most challenging part of the game, and one of the reasons for this is that good defense requires a continuously high state of alertness. One can't afford to be lazy on defense, which means you can't play mechanically and expect to get good results. Take this case where West led the king of clubs against South's four-spade contract. Declarer played low from dummy as East signaled with the nine to show that he had the jack. South's purpose in ducking the king of clubs was to prevent East from later gaining the lead with a club for a heart return through the K-J. West continued with another club to dummy's ace. Declarer then led a trump to the ace, on which West dropped the king! As a result of this startling play, South had to go down one. He could lead a trump to dummy's queen and start running diamonds, but East would ruff the third diamond and return a heart to sink the contract. Now let's suppose that West had not played the king on South's ace. In that case, West would have won the next spade with the king, and declarer would eventually have made the contract by discarding a heart from dummy on his fifth diamond. South's only losers would have been a spade, a heart and a club. West's unusual king-of-spades play was well-reasoned. He knew from the bidding that South had to have the king of hearts, and he knew from the play that South could not have the A-J of spades, since he had not attempted a trump finesse. West therefore credited East with the spade jack, and because South's bidding had indicated only four spades, West knew that playing the king would not cost his side a trump trick. What could be gained, however, was the near certainty that East would sooner or later get on lead to return a heart through declarer's king, and West shaped his defense accordingly.

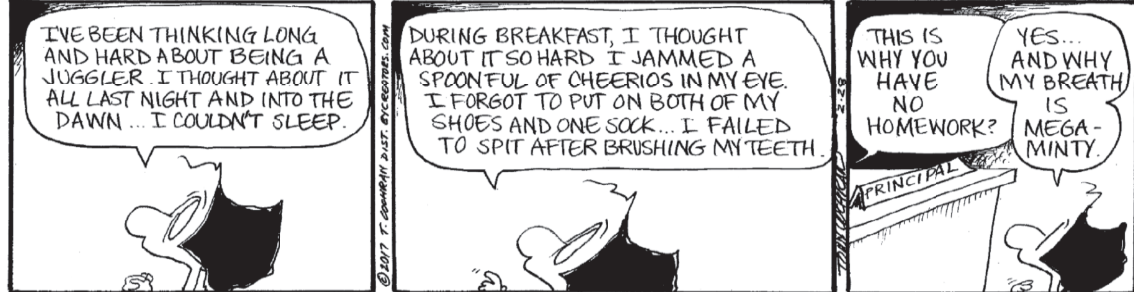
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



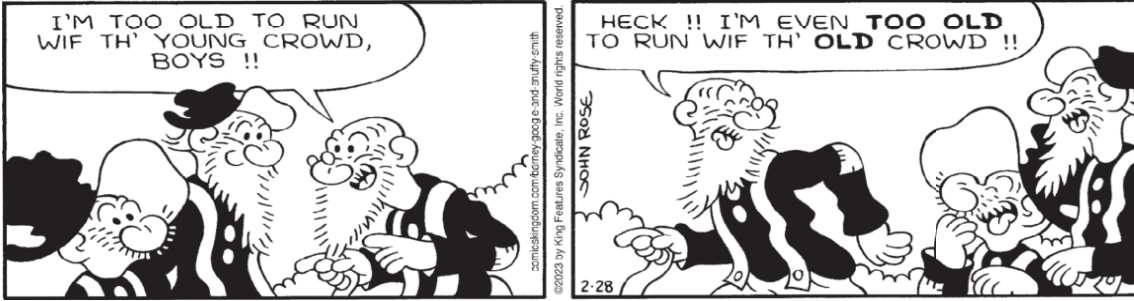
Between Friends



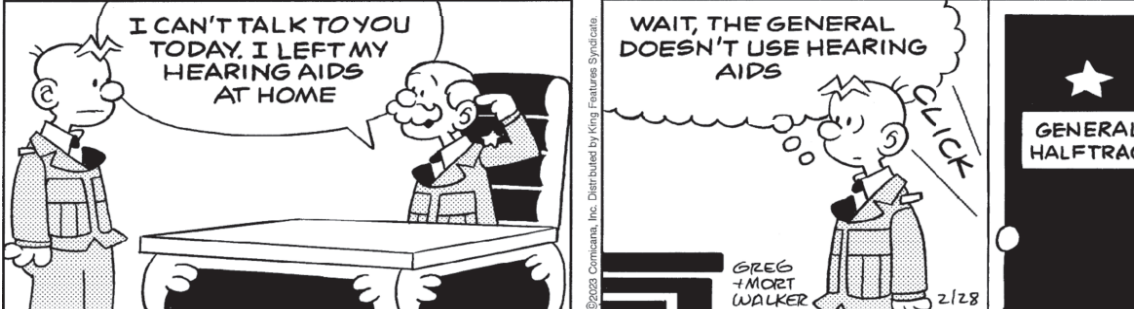
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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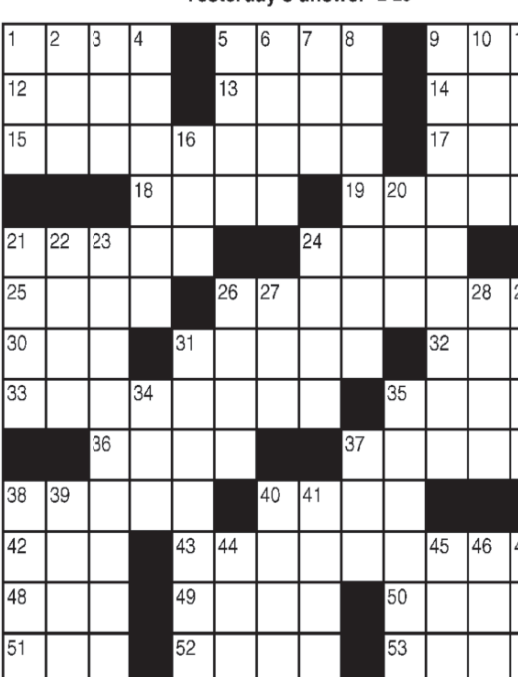
CRYPTOQUIP

USTI LPVSI OGB ATRR
AGLHRDID CKGURDZVD GX
ZTJC-JDZ, XGJIPXPZ IOHDE
GX UPKDE? HGJI TBISGPIO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO PEOPLE ARE GETTING MARRIED, SOME WOULD SAY THEY'RE ENTERING INTO A UNION CONTRACT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Totals 5 Priestly vest-ments 9 Aachen article 12 Prudish 13 Self-referential 14 Citric beverage 15 Color-ful reef swimmer 17 Free (of) 18 Goals 19 Queried 21 2023 memoir by Prince Harry 24 Met solo 25 Drei minus zwei 26 Dogpatch resident 30 Ryan of "Top Gun" 31 Resur-rected 32 Miracle- 33 Repeats 35 Gels 36 Mando- lin's kin 37 CBS founder 38 Old anes- thetic 40 Play opener 42 24 horas 43 Uriel, for one 48 Blackbird 49 Apple center 50 Empty truck's weight 51 Sea, to Henri 52 Pitcher 53 Blind part DOWN 1 "Me time" resort 16 Fib Solution time: 22 mins. ALEX ALF YORE ROMANCER EVIL COINCIDE MENS AID EMERGE CHADS FRAN HULU OLIVIER IMA IPADS RUM PROTEGE LISA BONG WAKED MELLOW BOP OLTIO TRONSIDE BARN DIOGENES SNAG EON SEEP



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Bentz earns state title

BROWNSBURG — Three Jay County wrestlers competed in the grade school state championships.

One stood atop the podium.

Khoden Bentz dominated everyone who stood in front of him Sunday, winning the 50-to-55-pound

third/fourth grade title in

the Indiana Grade School State Championships at Brownsburg High School.

Bryce VanSkyock finished third, and Blake Wood was sixth.

Bentz's championship match was a blowout as he beat Joseph Brown III of Region Wrestling Academy by an 11-0 major decision. He won each of his previous three matches at the state finals by pin.

VanSkyock advanced to the semifinal round in the third/fourth grade 68-74 bracket before losing by a 12-2 major decision to Rhyno Academy of Wrestling's Emilio Ortiz. He bounced back to close the day with two wins, pinning Greentown Wrestling Club's Knox Hannah in 52 seconds in the third-place match.

Wood went 2-1 in his contested matches beating Greentown's Easton Hall 6-2 in the consolation third round before taking an injury default.

Jay County Wrestling Club also competed at the Adams Central Folkstyle Beginners Tournament, with Jax McClain and Eli Michael winning, Owen Michael placing second and Benjamin Root taking third.

Affolder leads

INDIANAPOLIS — Mattie Affolder's third-place finish led Jay County to a fourth-place team effort this weekend in the Indiana Frosh-Soph State Wrestling Championships at Southport High School.

See **Roundup** page 7

Colts will retain Bradley

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — Gus Bradley will remain the Indianapolis Colts' defensive coordinator, and Tony Sparano Jr. is expected to be hired as the team's offensive line coach.

That news broke Monday in separate reports from ESPN's Jeremy Fowler and The Record's Art Stapleton, respectively.

Bradley, who worked for four seasons with new Colts head coach Shane Steichen on the Los Angeles Chargers' staff, has long been expected to be retained in Indianapolis.

The Colts blocked interview requests from other teams, and Bradley said in January he would like the opportunity to build on the foundation he's laid in Indianapolis.

"There's things that we've learned about this unit — what works well and our skill set and where our players are — so we've had conversations as a defensive staff about, 'Boy, really, now if we take this out and add this in in the offseason, I think it will help this group take another step,'" Bradley said ahead of the season finale against the Houston Texans.

See **Colts** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Calie Yates, a Jay County High School freshman, performs a back tuck during one of her tumbling passes on the floor exercise at the sectional meet Saturday at Concordia.

Schwieterman on top 60 list

A Patriot senior has added another accolade to her list.

Hoosier Basketball Magazine on Monday named Renna Schwieterman of Jay County High School to its top 60 senior girls list.

Players were selected by way of statistical evaluation, game observation and statewide research.

Schwieterman, who will play next season at Purdue Fort Wayne, led the Patriots to a 23-2 record this season, including 22 in a row. She averaged 21.2 points, 3.3 steals and 2.5 assists per game, all team highs. She was second on the squad to classmate Gabi Bilbrey at 6.5 rebounds per game.

She became the all-time leading scorer in school and county history this season, finishing with a total of 1,754 points. She ranks second in Allen County Athletic Conference history.

Schwieterman was also named to the All-ACAC first team and was the

conference tournament MVP.

By making Hoosier Basketball Magazine's top 60 list, she will take part in the Top 60 Senior Workout in partnership with the IHSAA and Indiana Basketball Coaches Association on March 5 at Beech Grove High School.

Other area players joining Schwieterman on the top 60 list include Caitlyn Campbell of Winchester, Sydney Keane of Bellmont and Liv Waters of Blackford.

Senior averaged 21.2 points this year

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Sectional experience

Yates, Yowell close season at Concordia

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

FORT WAYNE — For the Patriots, the sectional meet was mostly about the experience.

Freshman Calie Yates earned the top placing — 29th — and sophomore Grace Yowell recorded the highest score — 7.625 on vault — as the Jay County High School gymnastics team concluded its season Saturday at the sectional meet hosted by Concordia.

With just two athletes competing in a total of four events, the Patriots didn't have the ability to post a full team score. Instead, the meet served as an opportunity for them to compete alongside some of the best gymnasts in the state.

Third-ranked Homestead (110.625) won the sectional title with 110.625 points over No. 4 Bishop Dwenger (109.1). Carroll, which is ranked seventh in the state, was a distant third at 105.3. The Patriots finished last among the 12th-team field with 27.1 points.

"It was definitely a learning season for us coaches as well as for the girls," said first-year JCHS coach Lindsay Moser. "I just foresee a lot of growth in the next couple of years."

The top three teams and top six individuals on each event advance to the regional, which will be held Saturday at Huntington North. The state finals are scheduled for March 11 at Ball State University.

Yates fared well in her only event, the floor exercise. She received the highest score of her young career with a 7.025 for 29th place.

"That was Calie's best routine she's ever done," said Moser. "She worked hard all week. We changed things around a little bit and she went up a whole point for her floor today. So, really excited for her."



"Confidence is key when you're out there for sure. She's getting more comfortable as a freshman. You know, this is her first time really performing in an environment like this."

Yowell showed marked improvement from last season, when she competed only on the balance beam for the Patriots.

She hit her back walkover and forward tuck dismount to post a 6.25 on the beam, nearly a point better than the 2022 sectional. She finished 34th.

See **Sectional** page 7

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