

# Redkey, Dunkirk awarded

## Municipalities receive Community Crossings grant funding

**By RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

Two local communities will receive state funding to help with street paving. Redkey has been awarded a \$178,961.60 Community Crossings grant through Indiana Department of Transportation while Dunkirk will get \$169,280. The grants were part of \$100 million in state matching funds announced Tuesday to assist 191 municipalities and communities with street, bridge and sidewalk projects.

“When we invest in roads and



bridges through these Community Crossings grants, we’re helping communities attract new jobs, support Main Street businesses, and enhance quality of life for Hoosier families,” said Indiana Gov. Mike Braun

in a news release. “I’m grateful for the strong partnerships with our local leaders who are putting these dollars to work building a better Indiana.” Redkey will use its grant money toward paving sections

of Spencer, Logan, Cleveland, Plum, Oak, Burr, Union, Butler, Rogers, Boyce, Main and Walnut streets. Dunkirk’s funding will be used to pave all of Rick Drive, Second Street, Walnut Street and Harold Avenue, Blackford Avenue between Meridian and Main streets, Commerce Street between Main and Broad streets, and Meridian Street from the railroad tracks to Blackford Avenue. The grants require a 20% local match — \$44,740.40 for Redkey and \$42,320 for Dunkirk.

Jay County Commissioners had announced Monday that the county did not receive a Community Crossings grant for road paving work on county road 400 South. Other communities in the region that received grant funding in the current round were Montpelier (\$1 million), Bluffton (\$1 million), Randolph County (\$681,579.29), Adams County (\$516,101.36), Albany (\$267,481.60), Union City (\$249,853.60) and Farmland (\$135,252). See **Awarded** page 2

# Judge OKs release of more files

## Order calls for making grand jury testimony public

**By MOLLY CRANE-NEWMAN**  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

**NEW YORK** — A Manhattan judge on Tuesday granted a request by the Justice Department to unseal grand jury materials in Ghislaine Maxwell’s criminal case, complying with new legislation compelling federal law enforcement to release its investigative files on deceased sex predator Jeffrey Epstein.

In a 24-page opinion, Federal Judge Paul Engelmayer granted the DOJ’s motion to release the materials in the prosecution of Epstein’s convicted right-hand associate and also granted a motion to modify a protective order.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Flute performance

Angie Navarro plays the flute Sunday during the Jay County High School Christmas Concert, which featured performances by the jazz band, show choirs, concert band and color guard. The concert band’s selections included “A Christmas Flourish,” “Snowflakes Dancing” and “Silent Night.” It also combined with the choir for a performance of “A Festive Christmas Celebration.”

# Lawmakers consider expanding ban

**By CASEY SMITH**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana lawmakers are weighing a new “bell to bell” proposal that would tighten cellphone restrictions in K-12 schools by requiring Hoosier students to securely store their devices on campus — or leave them at home — for the entire school day.

Senate Bill 78 received an hour-long hearing Tuesday in the Senate Education Committee that was largely dedicated to public testimony. Committee Chair Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Richmond, who authored the bill with Sen. Greg Goode, R-Terre Haute, said possible amendments and a vote to send the bill to the full chamber is expected in early January.

“From a very high level, the (bill requires) cellphones to be left at the entrance of the class,” Raatz said. “I think it’s pretty onerous on a teacher to pay attention and make sure they’re doing the best job they can to educate kids — and have to get after (students) on cell-phones.”

## Proposal would tighten existing restrictions on phones in schools

A similar, nearly identical measure was also filed by Republican Rep. Jake Teshka for consideration in the 2026 session. It’s not yet clear what action the opposing chamber might take on his House Bill 1034.

Indiana already enacted a statewide cellphone restriction law in 2024, which prohibits students from using phones, tablets, laptops and gaming devices during instructional time, with exemptions for education, emergencies, health-care needs or disability-related accommodations.

But that law does not dictate how schools must enforce the bans, nor does it restrict phones during lunch or passing periods.

“We ran into a few instances out in the districts where it’s being applied differently than the intention,” Raatz said. “We felt like it’d be wise to come together and tighten it up so that we can see results ... increasing success in educational outcomes is what we’re really after.”

Under Senate Bill 78, school corporations and charter schools would be required to adopt a wireless communication device ban that prohibits students from using or possessing a wireless communication device during the school day and requires that any teacher-directed use of a device “for educa-

tional purposes” occur only on school-supplied devices.

It also mandates that each district choose between two enforcement models: a “no device policy,” in which students may not bring phones to school at all; or a “secure storage policy,” in which students may bring phones but must store them so they are “inaccessible throughout the school day” and returned only after dismissal.

The bill also expands the definition of “wireless communication device” to include smartwatches connected to a phone, cell tower or the Internet.

Exceptions are carved out for students with disabilities under an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan; students managing a documented medical condition; emergencies where the superintendent or a designee authorizes access; and cases where language-translation tools are needed for multilingual learners, with preference for school-managed devices.

See **Ban** page 2

Deaths

Madelyn Wurster, 25, Berne  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a low of 20 degrees early Tuesday before the temperature climbed to 40 just before midnight.  
There is a chance of snow with light accumulation possible tonight and a low in the lower 20s. Expect a high in the lower 30s Friday with a 50% chance of snow. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Santa will make a visit to the Santa House on East Main Street in Portland on Friday evening. Santa will be available from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for children to have their pictures taken and share their Christmas wishes.

Coming up

Thursday

— Results from the Jay County High School wrestling quad.

Friday

— Details from this week’s Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday

— Coverage of Friday’s Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.

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# Obituaries

**Madelyn Wurster**  
*March 26, 2000-Dec. 8, 2025*  
Madelyn “Madi” Brianne Wurster, 25, of Berne, was welcomed into the arms of Jesus early Monday morning, Dec. 8, 2025. Madi passed away unexpectedly in a tragic car accident in Fort Wayne.

She was born on March 26, 2000, in Bluffton, the daughter of Bradley and Toni (Campbell) Wurster.

Madi graduated from South Adams School in 2018, playing both volleyball and basketball. Madi loved volleyball and continued playing in college at Purdue Fort Wayne, and graduated in 2024, with two majors and two minors. Madi was very athletic yet humble and a teammate everyone desires to have.

Madi loved Jesus, her church

and Life Group at Pathway Community Church and worshipping her Savior. She sang beautifully, especially in the form of worship. When visiting home, she enjoyed attending First Missionary Church with her family.

Madi loved her family. She was a Daddy’s girl, her Mom’s best friend and enjoyed all the time that they shared together whether it be at home, during the holidays, on small trips or on family vacations.

Madi was outgoing and fun to be around. She had wisdom beyond her years, knowing when a quiet listening ear was needed or when the room needed her goofy liveliness to brighten the



Wurster

atmosphere. She had a huge heart and was passionate about what she loved and who she loved. She was resilient and relied on the Lord through the difficulties she faced in her life, through loss, injury and some personal conflicts.

She worked as the school program coordinator at Erin’s House in Fort Wayne. It was the perfect fit — a God-designed job just for her! Madi more than excelled at it — she really let her light for Jesus shine brightly to those who needed it most. Madi’s gentle spirit, compassion and empathy made her an irreplaceable, loyal friend.

Madi had recently started coaching volleyball for the Gym Rats in Fort Wayne and was absolutely loving it! Madi also enjoyed decorating and making things feel cozy and “homey.”

She is survived by her parents,

Brad and Toni Wurster of Berne; two brothers, Zachary (Rachel) Wurster of Berne and Nicholas (Sydney) Wurster of Berne; a paternal grandma, Madelyn S. (Clauser) Wurster of Berne; a maternal grandfather, Alan W. Campbell of Berne; many aunts, uncles and cousins; a nephew, Wrigley Wurster; and a nephew due in January 2026.

Madi was preceded in death by her grandparents, Bobby L. Wurster and Ruth A. Campbell.

Visitation will be from 1 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, at First Missionary Church.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, at First Missionary Church, with visitation before the service from 10 to 11 a.m. Pastor Rick Schwartz and Pastor Jim Schwartz will be officiating and burial will follow in M.R.E. Cemetery.

The family asks that you wear vibrant color clothes for the funeral service to match Madi’s vibrant personality.

Memorials may be given to Erin’s House or A.C.C.F. Madi Wurster Fund.

Arrangements are entrusted to Haggard-Hirschy & Zelt Funeral Home.

Visit [hhzf.funeralhome.com](http://hhzf.funeralhome.com) to leave an online condolence.

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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				
Friday 12/12	Saturday 12/13	Sunday 12/14	Monday 12/15	Tuesday 12/16
<b>32/20</b>	<b>23/2</b>	<b>9/1</b>	<b>18/15</b>	<b>28/25</b>
Cloudy skies are in the forecast for Friday when the low may hit 20.	Saturday's weather shows a 60% chance of snow with temperatures as low as 2 degrees.	Sunday's weather will be cold with the high not expected to reach past single digits.	Mostly sunny skies on Monday, when temperatures will be in the teens.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the 20s.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$930 million	Daily Three: 6-4-8 Daily Four: 0-8-2-8 Quick Draw: 3-9-16-17-19-24-30-34-36-37-41-42-46-47-63-66-70-71-72-80
<b>Mega Millions</b> 19-32-41-49-66 Mega Ball: 6 Estimated jackpot: \$70 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 3-0-0 Pick 4: 4-3-5-6 Pick 5: 0-5-5-9-0 Evening Pick 3: 7-8-2 Pick 4: 1-8-1-7 Pick 5: 7-4-8-4-7 Rolling Cash: 6-16-17-20-21 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 1-3-3 Daily Four: 9-1-1-6 Quick Draw: 4-8-11-14-17-26-32-37-38-39-45-49-57-58-60-63-67-68-76-77 Evening	

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.66 Jan. corn .....4.59 Feb. corn .....4.61	Jan. beans .....10.81 Wheat ..... 4.81
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.62 Jan. corn .....4.54 Feb. corn .....4.49	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.40 Jan. corn .....4.40 Beans .....10.78 Jan. beans .....10.81 Wheat .....4.96
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.49 Jan. corn .....4.49 Beans .....10.78	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.49 Jan. corn .....4.49 Beans .....10.48 Jan. beans .....10.53 Wheat .....4.71

Today in history	
<p><b>In 1816</b>, Indiana was admitted as the 19th state in the Union. Delegates had met in Corydon earlier that summer to draft the state’s first constitution.</p> <p><b>In 1936</b>, King Edward VIII voluntarily resigned his crown. He abdicated the throne to wed Wallis Warfield Simpson, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and a divorcee.</p> <p><b>In 1941</b>, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, and the U.S. responded in kind. Congress approved the declarations just days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.</p> <p><b>In 1946</b>, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency</p>	<p>Fund was founded. UNICEF, an affiliate of the United Nations organization, works in more than 190 countries and territories with the goal of protecting child rights.</p> <p><b>In 1972</b>, Astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt of Apollo 17 became the last people to walk on the moon. A dozen astronauts walked on the lunar surface before NASA stopped taking moon landing missions, with a large reason circling back to budgetary limitations.</p> <p><b>In 1981</b>, Muhammad Ali lost to Trevor Berbick in his last professional fight. Ali retired from boxing at 39 years old.</p> <p>— The CR</p>

Citizen’s calendar	
<b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	Redevelopment Commission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 9 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Friday</b> 8 a.m. — Portland	

# Ban ...

Continued from page 1  
Raatz said during the hearing that the emergency exemptions were designed to let school officials manage communication during critical incidents.

“Someone has to be an adult in the room to set up so kids can communicate with their parents, should there be an incident,” he said.

“There are instances where kids probably don’t need their cellphone and

(should) let the adults handle the situation,” Raatz added. He said that once a situation is “locked down,” school officials can then communicate with students’ parents.

Indiana is weighing the policy amid a national shift.

Late last year, the U.S. Department of Education publicly called on every state, school and district to adopt strong cellphone-use policies, citing

academic, behavioral and mental-health concerns. Federal officials urged “away-for-the-day” models and pointed to increasing research showing reduced classroom distraction and improved peer interaction when phones are inaccessible.

While the Hoosier State’s 2024 law placed it among the early adopters, Raatz’ latest measure would make Indiana’s law one of the more stringent.

Districts selecting a “secure storage” model could choose their own methods.

Some Indiana schools already use locked pouches — like the Yondr Pouch — that students seal at the start of the day and unlock when leaving the building.

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*This story was edited for length. To read the full version, visit [indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com).*

# Capsule Reports

**Lost control**  
A Muncie man was arrested for drunk driving after losing control of his vehicle and crashing along county road 700 South about 2:26 a.m. Sunday.

Grayson S. Williams, 20, was driving his 2007 Dodge Charger east on the road just east of its intersection with county road 500 East when his vehicle drove across a patch of ice, causing it to spin out of control and continue off the south side of the road.

Williams allegedly showed signs of being unbalanced and slurring his words, as well as smelling of alcohol, according to a Jay County

Sheriff’s Office report. He was administered a preliminary breath test and arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more, a Class A misdemeanor, and being a minor consuming alcohol, a Class C misdemeanor.

His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

**Turning accident**  
A Portland woman drove in front of oncoming traffic at the intersection of Mount Pleasant Road and county road 400 South, causing an accident about 4 p.m. Sunday.

Rebecca Matchett, 77, was driving her 2018 Ford Escape west on county road 400 South. She told police she stopped at its intersection with Mount Pleasant Road and didn’t see any oncoming traffic, so she continued west. At the same time, Douglas Bird, 61, Redkey, was driving his 2004 Dodge Ram southwest on Mount Pleasant Road and approaching its intersection with county road 400 South. (Traffic on Mount Pleasant Road doesn’t have a stop at the intersection.)

Matchett drove into Bird’s path, and his vehicle crashed into her car. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

# Awarded ...

Continued from page 1  
Dunkirk used Community Crossings funds to help with the paving of Pleasant Street on the west side of the city, Fourth Street, D Street and Lincoln Avenue between Main and Angle streets this year. Redkey paved sections of George, Elm, Sherman, Butler, Cleveland, Wayne and Ash streets.

With its grant awarded in December 2024, Portland

paved sections of Wayside Place, Jaqua and Western avenues, Shank, Ship, Franklin, Seventh, North, First, Garfield, Munson, Hayes, Charles, Williams, Maple and Mangold streets, Silvers Lane and Tyson Road.

Community Crossings grant funding awarded in April went toward the rehabilitation of the Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River in Portland.

# Felony arrests

**Methamphetamine**  
A Salamonie man was arrested Friday for possession of methamphetamine.

Phillip O. LeMaster, 69, 5849 E. 400 South, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine.


He was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.


SERVICES

Friday

Wurster, Madelyn: 11 a.m.,  
First Missionary Church, 950  
U.S. 27, Berne.

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# Arts Place to show free holiday movies

Arts Place is hosting free Christmas movie showings this holiday season.

Showings are set for:  
•Wednesday, Dec. 17 — The Santa Claus at 1 p.m. and Home Alone at 6:30 p.m.

•Monday, Dec. 22 — The Muppet Christmas Carol at 1 p.m. and The Nightmare Before Christmas at 6:30 p.m.

•Tuesday, Dec. 23 — Noelle at 1 p.m. and The Polar Express at 6:30 p.m.

•Tuesday, Dec. 30 — Jack Frost at 1 p.m. and A Christmas Story at 6:30 p.m.

•Friday, Jan. 2 — Miracle on 34th Street at 1 p.m.

Showings are free and open to the public. For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing [jcc@myartspplace.org](mailto:jcc@myartspplace.org).

## Santa quiet time

Jayland Partners hosts its annual Christmas party. It's also bringing a new sensory-friendly experience to the table.

Jayland Partners will provide "Quiet time with Santa" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Bryant Wesleyan Church, 1209 S. Hendricks St. Community members are invited to join for hot cocoa, photos and gifts.

The free experience precedes Jayland Partners'

## Taking Note

party for people with special needs and their families and caregivers, with the event slated for 2 to 4 p.m. at the church. Folks are invited to join for snacks, dancing and other fun.

For more information, visit [linktree.com/jaylandpartners](http://linktree.com/jaylandpartners).

## Church performance

Grace Bible Church of Berne will perform "Long Foretold: the Journey of the Magi," at 10 a.m. Dec. 21.

Written by Lindsay Finley, the story traces the roots of the Christmas story farther back than the manger in Bethlehem. The production is accompanied by a choral performance. Admission is free, and the community is invited to participate.

## Blue Christmas

Trinity Lutheran Church will host a Blue Christmas prayer service this month.

The service begins at 7 p.m. Dec. 22 at the church, 301 Wayne St., Fort Recovery. The public is invited to attend.

# Friendship dies over funeral

DEAR ABBY: I had a friend, "Mylene," for many years. We swapped dog-sitting to offset the cost for each other. I helped her when she was sick and broke her foot. I walked her dog whenever she needed me. If a funeral, wedding or family emergency came up, I was always there for her.

An aunt of mine in another state passed away. I would have had to drive there, but her daughter was making the funeral arrangements while in the hospital herself. The funeral was delayed until the next week because my aunt's body had to be shipped to another state for the funeral.

When I told Mylene, she said she'd keep my dog, but when the date changed, she said she couldn't do it. "I have to work," she said. Abby, her dog stays at home while she works, so why is there a problem? I reminded her of everything that I have done to help her out when she needed it, but she didn't want to help me. (This was two days before I was to travel for the funeral.)

I have tried many times to apologize to Mylene, but she refuses to make amends with me. All she does is send emojis, which I find disgusting. Can't she call and talk to me like a grown adult to straighten this out? I paid her several times to help her, and this is what I get? What do you think about this? — DISAPPOINTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: You have done plenty for Mylene, but the time to remind her wasn't when she said she couldn't take care of your dog. (Is this why you "have tried many times to apologize"? Mylene may have sent emojis instead of calling

## Dear Abby



because you embarrassed her. When we do favors for others, we shouldn't do them with the expectation that we will be paid back. What do I think about this? I think you should find another dog-sitter immediately.

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter and her family live an hour from us. We are both in fair health. Our daughter got a late start on marriage and children. Their girls are 10 and 8. The little one is sweet and shy, but the 10-year-old is a nightmare to be around. She's very smart but also manipulative. She lies, cheats and steals. She is rude and seems to always do exactly the opposite of what an adult tells her to do. If her parents see her being sassy or ugly, they will put her in timeout for 10 minutes, but nothing ever changes.

None of their neighbors wants this child at their home. To make matters worse, she has begun early puberty. We can't stand being around this 10-year-old because it wears us out. We love our daughter and would like to have a good relationship with the whole family. Please advise on how we could help or what we should do. — EXHAUSTED GRANDPARENTS IN OHIO

DEAR GRANDPARENTS: A 10-minute timeout is not enough discipline for a 10-year-old's consistent bad

behavior. Without further intervention, that girl is headed for big trouble. Please suggest to your daughter that she consult a child psychologist about how to get her obviously troubled daughter heading in the right direction before things become worse.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with a man for 25 years. The first few years were wonderful, but then he turned to drugs and became a different person. I can't get away from him. I work two jobs to support us. He doesn't respect me. I have asked him to leave repeatedly. He refuses. I leave it at that so as to avoid rocking the boat, because he can be a jerk. I'm ready to pack up and move, but everything here is mine. What should I do? — OUT THE DOOR IN THE EAST

DEAR OUT: Schedule an appointment with an attorney to discuss your problem. You should no longer support your drug-addicted abuser because by doing so, you have become his enabler. If you feel he presents a danger to you or your property, file a police report and ask for a restraining order. With their help, you may finally be able to pry him out of your home. If you are afraid that he will retaliate, install a security system. For further suggestions, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).

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 [DearAbby.com](http://DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@theocr.com](mailto:news@theocr.com).

## Thursday

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

## Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

## Saturday

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

## Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

## Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-

FAST 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.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank 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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

## Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find con-

nections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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.

## 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.

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

Level: Intermediate

## Wednesday's Solution

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

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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# Economies should keep thriving

**The Dallas Morning News**  
Tribune News Service

For the first time in our three-decade free trade history with North American partners, Mexico surpassed Canada as the top buyer of U.S. goods. This is significant; it means that our trade relationship with our neighbor and ally is flourishing despite political tension stemming from hostile rhetoric and the imposition of tariffs that have created economic uncertainty.

Data recently released by the federal government indicate that from January to August, the U.S. exported \$1.4 trillion in goods, with \$225.6 billion heading to Canada and \$226.4 billion to Mexico. The growth in U.S exports to Mexico was an expected trend as

## Guest Editorial

trade deals have made our economies more interdependent. Mexico has already been our most important trading partner in the last couple of years, but this latest milestone also highlights the growing power of the Mexican middle class. This was one of the promises of establishing the original free trade zone under the North American Free Trade Agreement, which was replaced in 2020 with the United

States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, or USMCA. This is also good news for Texas. The state exported \$123.5 billion in goods to Mexico in 2024, representing 27% of goods exports.

North American economies are now intertwined, and Mexico stands out as a prime beneficiary. Thanks to a massive increase in foreign investment, Mexico's economy is less vulnerable to downturns, and this has translated into greater political stability.

Challenges remain as Mexico is still susceptible to domestic political whims, drug cartel violence and corruption, but a strong economy has made our southern neighbor a crucial player.

Free trade has gotten a bad rap lately. Politicians, from the left and right, have criticized trade deals as the reason for job losses in the U.S. Usually, this explanation draws an incomplete picture: With free trade, there are winners and losers, but it creates a dynamic economy where even those losers have the advantage to go back to the job market and start over. Consumers are the ultimate winners.

Tariffs have affected Mexico's economy but not as much as expected. Analysts cite Mexico's labor costs and an increasingly skilled workforce as some of the reasons, but the USMCA also limits the type of tariffs that can be imposed.

President Donald Trump has used tariffs as a strategy to pressure U.S. trading partners, but, unlike Canada, Mexico has been able to navigate this complex political landscape with a less confrontational approach.

That said, the USMCA is up for a joint review in the middle of next year. According to Rice University's Baker Institute think tank, the U.S. may require changes to the rules of origin for cars and auto parts and place limits on Chinese investment, among other asks.

We can expect politics to influence these negotiations, but if smart voices prevail, North American economies should continue to thrive.



# Redistricting is more and less than it seems

**By MICHAEL J. HICKS**

I have been reluctant to write about the redistricting debate in Indiana. After all, there is no original sin to gerrymandering and the economic effects are generally well into the future. But this Indiana General Assembly session offers a rich environment in which to judge the people involved.

Originally, redistricting was supposed to have captured a few House seats for Republicans in Texas, but it spread to other states, including California, Virginia and Illinois. It has run into legal hurdles in Texas, but if all these states pass new maps, the 2027 Congress could see a net effect of a House seat or two.

At the national level, MAGA pressure on Indiana legislators has been intense. This has included direct calls from the president and House Speaker Mike Johnson, threats of well-funded primary candidates and efforts to intimidate or threaten state Senate members.

That pressure has been accompanied by a series of amateurish attempts to sway opinion. My favorite came from Turning Point USA appealing to "Indians" to redistrict our congressional seats. Apparently, there are no Hoosiers in Turning Point USA.

What's funny about all the kerfuffle is that the U.S. House of Representatives is going to wildly swing towards the Democrats in

*Michael J. Hicks*



the next election. With President Donald Trump's favorability ratings hovering in the high 30s, the only question is how many seats Democrats will gain.

The ineptness of the national MAGA coalition isn't limited to its ham-handed marketing. It also helped create a proposed Indiana map that is bizarre in its scope and effects.

This new map places Muncie and Elkhart in the same district, but the closest route between the two would cross three other congressional districts. Gary and Wabash are weirdly placed together, while northern Marion County, Randolph County and southern Jefferson County are in the same district. Thus, a member of Congress would need to drive from 38th Street in Indianapolis to Richmond, then south to south Jefferson County to traverse that district.

As IndyStar's Jacob Stewart noted, this map seems custom-made to devalue rural voters. This is undoubtedly true in two ways.

First, the new map decon-

structs Indianapolis, placing the largest county into four new congressional districts. This amplifies the voice of urban voters by placing the same city into multiple jurisdictions. At the same time, the vast geography of the gerrymander increases the cost of visiting smaller population centers.

The immediate effect may be modest, but over two or three election cycles, this could mark a big shift in the urban-rural dynamics of political campaigns. It seems likely no one involved in constructing these maps really cares. It is almost as if the national GOP is unconcerned about the state or local effects of their policy.

This raises questions about Hoosier policymakers' motivations.

I am certain there are GOP members who honestly support redistricting on the merits and required no pressure from the national MAGAsphere, no calls or threats from the president's men. This has mostly focused on the national policy outcomes they wish to preserve. This is politics, after all, and they have to defend their position before voters, who can judge their integrity and good faith, along with the effect of their policies.

But one aspect does puzzle me. As of this writing, only one GOP member of the Indiana House of Representatives has

argued against redistricting. In contrast, only a tad bit more than one-third of GOP senators publicly support redistricting. How could there be such wildly different perspectives among Republicans on the same issue?

One likely explanation: All representatives are up for reelection in 2026.

Many state representatives clearly have been cowed into supporting redistricting. There may also be a few senators who've been pressured or threatened into supporting the effort.

That speaks very poorly for the men and women who are too afraid to vote their principles. At best, it makes our legislature beholden to forces outside the state who care not at all for our representation in Congress. At worst, it amplifies the risk of political threats and violence against other legislators.

C.S. Lewis tells us that "courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point." Many Hoosier (or should I say, Indianan) legislators are failing that test.

There is no window into the souls of these legislators, but it seems reasonable that voters demand that they detail their positions on redistricting.

The opposition to redistricting by GOP legislators has been both principled and pragmatic. The principled argument is mostly

what I'd call "small-c" conservatism that Hoosiers tend to value. We just aren't people who like changing rules at halftime or submitting to bullying. That is easy to respect.

The pragmatic argument is also smart and easy to respect. In Virginia, New Jersey and Tennessee, post-Trump elections have swung by double digits toward Democrats, at least two of whom were poor candidates. This means any jiggering of congressional districts must result in lower expected GOP vote margins in most districts.

The midterms are going to be brutal for Republicans. The 2028 elections could be very harsh as well. Proponents of redistricting are trumpeting a 9-0 map if it passes the courts. But the cold hard arithmetic of midterms with a deeply unpopular president makes it possible that they are really crafting a 5-4 map.

Note: The views expressed here are solely those of the author, and do not represent those of funders, associations, any entity of Ball State University, or its governing body.

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*Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.*

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson


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**Asbury United Methodist**  
204 E. Arch St., Portland  
Josh Arthur  
(260) 726-8464  
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.  
asburyministries.org

**Bellefountain United Methodist**  
440 S. 600 East  
Pamela Freeman  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Bluff Point Friends**  
80 E. 650 South  
Services: 10 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Boundary St. Paul**  
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East  
Ava Gannon  
(260) 726-2373  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Bryant Wesleyan**  
209 S. Hendricks St.  
Paul VanCise  
(260) 997-6231  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.  
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

**Calvary United Methodist**  
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk  
Susan Durovey-Antrim  
(765) 499-0368  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org

**Christ Chapel**  
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery  
(419) 733-1469  
christchapelfr.com

**Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)**  
8472 S. 800 East, Union City  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Church of God of Prophecy**  
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland  
Nanette Weesner  
(260) 766-9334  
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.  
nanybell@yahoo.com

**Church of the Brethren**  
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland  
Kevin McClung  
(260) 729-7295  
Services: 10 a.m.

**Church of the Living God**  
South Broad Street, Dunkirk  
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

**Collett Nazarene**  
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27  
Billy Stanton  
(260) 251-2403  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Cornerstone Baptist**  
211 E. Main St., Portland  
Wayne Ward  
(260) 726-7714  
Services: 10 a.m.

**Cornerstone Church of Pennville**  
190 W. Main St., Pennville  
Jack Houck  
(260) 729-2164  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Dunkirk Nazarene**  
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk  
Tom Fett  
(765) 768-6199  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Evangelical Methodist**  
930 W. Main St., Portland  
Steve Arnold  
(260) 251-0970  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Fairview United Methodist/Jay County**  
2875 E. 200 South  
Pamela Freeman  
Lay leader: Beth Stephen  
(260) 726-9184  
Services: 10:15 a.m.

**Faith Community**  
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk  
Mark Acree  
(260) 251-0987  
Services: 10 a.m.

**Family Worship Center**  
200 E. Elder St., Portland  
Ronald Willis  
(260) 726-4844  
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday  
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

**Fellowship Baptist**  
289 S. 200 West  
Hugh Kelly  
(260) 726-8873  
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.  
Sunday school: 10 a.m.  
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

**First Church of Christ**  
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery  
David J. Nicholson  
(419) 375-2860  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
fccftrecovery.org

**First Community Baptist**  
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey  
Everett Bilbrey Jr.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

**First Free Will Baptist**  
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk  
Sunday school: 10 a.m.  
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

**First Presbyterian**  
402 N. Ship St., Portland  
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu  
(260) 726-8462  
Services: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.  
firstpcportland.org

**Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene**  
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery  
(419) 375-4680  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday  
frnaz@frontier.com

**Fort Recovery United Methodist**  
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery  
Rev. Carol McKay  
(304) 617-0101  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle**  
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk  
Robert Thomas  
(765) 348-4620  
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

**Geneva First United Methodist**  
100 W. Line St., Geneva  
Barry McCune  
(260) 368-7655  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Geneva Nazarene**  
225 Decatur St., Geneva  
(260) 525-8609  
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Sunday school: 9 a.m.  
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

**Gilead Church**  
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren**  
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26  
Earl Doll  
(260) 731-4477  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**High Street United Methodist**  
435 High St., Geneva  
Rev. Joseph Hampton  
(260) 368-7233  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Holy Trinity Catholic**  
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant  
Fr. Peter Logsdon  
Fr. Martin Sandhage  
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

**Hopewell of Life Ministries**  
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1  
Rev. Ruth Funk  
(260) 251-8581  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Catholic**  
506 E. Walnut St., Portland  
Fr. Peter Logsdon  
Fr. Martin Sandhage  
(260) 726-7055  
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

**Kingsley Full Gospel**  
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk  
Stuart Phillips  
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

**Mary Help of Christians**  
403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
(419) 375-4153  
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

**Mount Tabor Community Church**  
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk  
Scott McClain  
(765) 768-7273  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Mount Zion United Methodist**  
County roads 600 East and 200 North  
Rev. Darrell Borders  
(260) 726-4786  
Services: 9 a.m.

**New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine**  
4017 W. 200 South  
Randy Smith  
(260) 251-2406  
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.  
nbholiness.com

**New Covenant Fellowship**  
1238 W. 450 South  
Chuck Myers  
(260) 251-0063  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**New Life Ministries**  
415 S. Helen St., Portland  
Dr. Kay Fairchild  
(260) 223-2961  
Services: 4 p.m.  
drkayfairchild.com

**New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist**  
5905 S. Como Road  
Neil Butcher  
(765) 499-7838  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Noble Congregational Christian**  
1964 N. 800 East  
Aaron Huey  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Oak Grove United Methodist**  
829 S. Indiana 1  
Neil Butcher  
(765) 760-9085  
Services: 10:45 a.m.

**Pleasant Hill**  
9945 N. 800 East, Union City  
Bruce Bryan  
(765) 964-3664  
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.  
mypleasanthillchurch.org

**Portland Church of Christ**  
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland  
Bob Graham  
(260) 726-7777  
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.  
Services: 10:20 a.m.  
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday  
portlandcoc.com

**Portland First Church of Nazarene**  
920 S. Shank St., Portland  
Steve Cecil  
(260) 726-8040  
Services: 10:45 a.m.

**Portland Friends**  
226 E. Main St., Portland  
Herb Hummel  
(260) 202-9732  
Services: 10 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

**Praise Chapel Church of God**  
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)  
Rev. Josh Canfield  
(765) 584-7045  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Redeemer Lutheran**  
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant  
(260) 997-6787  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey Faith Ministries**  
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey  
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman  
(765) 369-2920  
Services: 10 a.m.  
RedkeyFaith.org

**Redkey First Christian**  
Union and Malin streets  
Jeff Hammers  
(765) 468-6172  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey United Methodist**  
122 W. Main St.  
Lori McIntosh  
(765) 369-2085  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Redkey Church of the Nazarene**  
801 W. High St.  
Fred Stevens  
(765) 369-2676  
redkeynaz.org  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

**River of Life**  
722 W. Main St., Portland  
Susan Hathaway  
(260) 729-1095  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**The ROCK**  
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland  
Matt Ransom  
(260) 726-7474  
Services: 10 a.m.  
matt@therockjc.org

**Salamonia Church of Christ**  
3900 S. 600 East  
Bruce Phillips  
(260) 335-2017  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Second Chance at Life Ministries**  
228 S. Meridian St., Portland  
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792  
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**St. Joseph Catholic**  
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

**St. Mary's Catholic**  
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk  
Rev. Kevin Hurley  
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

**St. Paul Catholic**  
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

**St. Peter Catholic**  
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

**Sugar Grove Nazarene**  
3984 N. 550 West, Portland  
Pastor Mike Heckman  
(615) 517-1017  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

**Sugar Grove Church**  
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk  
Scott McClain  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Temple Baptist**  
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk  
John Elam  
(765) 768-7708  
Sunday school: 10 a.m.  
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday  
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com  
templebaptistin.com

**The Church at Westchester**  
4487 E. 400 North  
(260) 726-6311  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:35 a.m.  
churchatwestchester.org

**Trinity Lutheran**  
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery  
Ron McCallum  
(419) 375-4498  
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)

**Trinity ArchBridge Church**  
323 S. Meridian St., Portland  
Dan Vore  
(260) 726-8391  
Sunday school: 9 a.m.  
Services: 10:15 a.m.  
portlandtrinity.com

**Union Chapel**  
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant  
Interim Pastor Chris Kruchkow  
(260) 849-0687  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene**  
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)  
Fred Stevens  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Walnut Corner**  
County roads 200 North and 500 West  
Steve Rogers  
(260) 251-1113  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**West Walnut Church of Christ**  
204 W. Walnut St., Portland  
Gil Alicea  
(260) 726-4691  
Services: 10 a.m.  
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Ron McCallum  
218 E. High St., Portland  
(260) 726-8832  
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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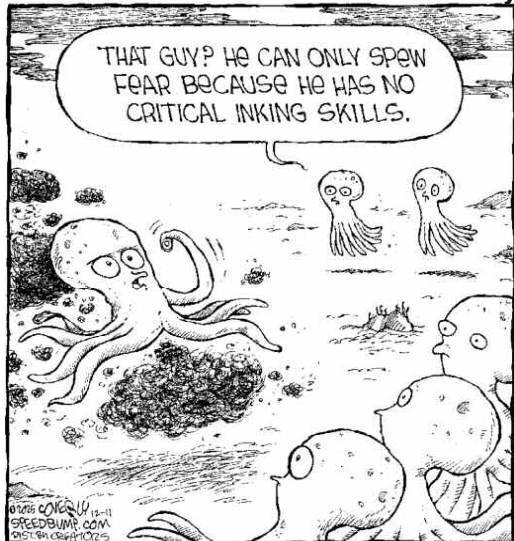
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3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
4 ♠

\*transfer to spades.

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

There are plays that are relatively

simple and yet are frequently over-

looked because they are somewhat

out of the ordinary. Usually, the

reason for missing the play is that it

is so far removed from normal pro-

cedure that it does not enter the

player's mind. Yet when the play is

later called to his attention, he

wonders how he could have missed

it.

For a typical case, consider this

deal furnished by Bruce Bell, New Zealand expert. He was West and led a diamond against four spades. Declarer won with the ten, cashed the A-K-Q of trump and A-K-Q of diamonds, then led a heart from dummy.

East followed low, and South played the jack, hoping East held the queen — which would have assured the contract. But West took the jack with the queen and continued with the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy but then had to lose three club tricks and so went down one.

All of South's plays were correct except the last one. Had he resisted the temptation to trump West's ace of hearts at trick nine and discarded a club from dummy instead, he would have made the contract. West, still on lead, would have had no choice but to play a club or a heart next, and either return would have handed declarer his 10th trick.

It is true that South, by refusing to ruff the ace of hearts at trick nine, loses a trick he does not have to lose and to that extent it is an unnatural play to make.

But it is equally true that losing two hearts to West, instead of only one, ensures the contract — and making the contract is always the first consideration.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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12-11

CRYPTOQUIP

Y F V G K S U F G T D O N V C C

R D K P I D X T Y F D R P Y D Z E S R

X P R S U H S H U A O I C S N Z P N Z P V G S D H

V Z P V R ? V A V Z E - S G P N G .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN BOVINE BEASTS HAVE TO DO MATHEMATICAL OPERATIONS, DO YOU SUSPECT THEY'D USE COW-CULATORS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Shake-

speare

title

starter

5 Bit of

ink

8 Inventor's

inspira-

tion

12 Motown

genre

13 Caviar

base

14 Volley-

ball

barriers

15 Jai —

16 Stately

tree

17 Taxpayer

IDs

18 Steep,

rapid

fall

20 Eye

quickly

22 Tool set

23 Plopped

down

24 Cautious

27 "Again!"

32 Green

prefix

33 Kung —

chicken

34 Bit of

butter

35 Sinks as

low as

38 Fed.

work-

place

monitor

39 Monk's

title

40 Carrier to

Amster-

dam

42 Canada's

capital

45 Dance

move

49 "Cat on

— Tin

Roof"

50 Cow's

comment

52 Big bash

53 Carton

sealer

54 Mom's

mate

55 Barks

56 Greet the

villain

57 "Mayday!"

19 PX

patron

21 Jargon

suffix

24 Director

Craven

25 Perform-

ance

26 Santa's

landing

areas

28 Re-

bellion

leader

Turner

29 Stove

surfaces

30 Fan's cry

31 JFK info

36 Delivers a

keynote

37 Dog's

"dog"

38 Alphas'

opposites

41 — and

behold

42 Vow

43 Bangkok

language

44 Band

boosters

46 Rain-

delay

cover

47 —

Romeo

48 Go by

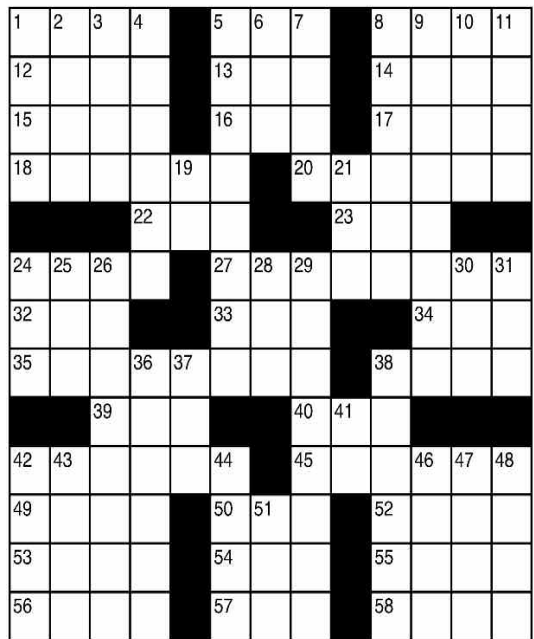
51 Tic-tac-

toe win

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-11



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# FR boys beat Fort Loramie

FORT RECOVERY, Ohio — The Indians had to work to maintain their unbeaten start to the season, but squeaked by with a victory in their closest game of the year.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team gutted out a 50-45 home win over the Fort Loramie Redskins on Tuesday night.

Brody Barga was the Indians' (3-0) leading scorer, piling up 12 points without the benefit of any made 3-pointers or free throws.

Barga was supported by solid outings from Breaker Jutte, Grant Fortkamp and Hudson Overman, who

## Local Roundup

each tallied eight points. Colson Post and Douglas Bihn were right on their heels with seven points apiece.

Establishing an early lead was key for Fort Recovery, as it outscored the Redskins 16-10 in the first quarter and took that six-point lead to halftime. As a result, the Indians were able to hang on for the win despite being

outscored in both the third and fourth quarters.

Ean Grillot was the leader for the Redskins (1-3), piling up a game-high 16 points.

**JC reaches .500**

After enduring a three-game losing streak earlier in the year, the Patriots are back even after a win on Tuesday.

The Jay County girls basketball team set a season high in scoring as it dominated the Muncie Central Bearcats 79-45.

Standout freshman Karsyn Schwieterman erupted for 27 points, including 18 in the opening half, to lead Jay County.

The youngster's driving ability was on full display as 12 of her 13 field goals came from 2-point range and she amassed the game-high scoring total without any free throw attempts.

Hallie Schwieterman wasn't far behind her younger sister, posting 23 points, including team bests of three 3-pointers and 8-for-10 on free throws.

Claudia Dirksen (five points) and Raylah Newton (four) were the next highest scorers for Jay County.

The home squad piled up the baskets in each quarter, torching the Bearcats (2-6) with 19 or more points in each of the game's four periods.

The Patriots (3-3) have now won all three of their home games this season and lost all three on the road.

**Fort girls fall**

CONVOY, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls basketball team couldn't replicate the boys' results, suffering a 45-33 road loss to the Crestview Knights on Tuesday.

Bridget Homan paced the Indians in scoring and was the only Fort Recovery player in double figures thanks to a 12-point performance.

Madie Schoenlein (nine points) and Cameron Muhlenkamp (seven points)

were next in the scoring column for the Indians. Schoenlein hit the team's only 3-pointer.

Also converting at least one basket for the visitors were Paisley Hart and Emma Schmitz (two points each).

The Indians (0-5) got off to a strong offensive start, carrying a 15-10 edge out of the first quarter. The offense sputtered thereafter, with the Knights (3-1) holding Fort Recovery to just 20 points throughout the final three quarters and seven or fewer points in each period.

Kaci Gregory's 15 points and nine made free throws led Crestview.

# Doubling ...

Continued from page 8

Sylas Wenk (120 pounds), Freddy Lingo (215) and Alan Ortiz (285) each earned two victories in the same weight class.

Jason Landers took a different path to his undefeated day, winning at 138 pounds against Yorktown before bumping up to 144 and taking down Delta's Jackson Teal in an 8-3 decision.

The bevy of solid outings gave the Patriots plenty of confidence as they prepare for an intense stretch that kicks off with the Allen County Athletic Conference duals on Saturday.

"We're going to go right back to practice like nothing's ever changed, going to keep working hard," Leonhard said. "Our guys, we always say, we may not be the most technical guys, but we're

*'We're going to go right back to practice like nothing's ever changed, going to keep working hard.'*

—Tyler Leonhard, Jay County coach

going to be the most conditioned and the most aggressive guys out on the mat. And I feel like, especially in high school wrestling, that carries a lot of weight."



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Alexander Rivers of the Jay County High School boys wrestling team applies pressure to the Yorktown Tigers' Brayden Williams during their match on Tuesday. Rivers defeated Williams with a third-period fall as the Patriots cruised to a 53-22 win over the IHSAA Class 2A No. 9 Tigers.

# Rivers ...

Continued from page 8

Rivers hasn't played since Jan. 9, 2021 when he quarterbacked the Colts in a wild card playoff game against the Bills in Buffalo. Rivers completed 27 of 46 passes for 309 yards two touchdowns and no interceptions, but the Colts lost 27-24.

The following fall he accepted a job as head coach at St. Michael Catholic High School in his native Fairhope, Ala., a position he continues to hold.

Rivers had signed a one-year deal with the Colts, who were then coached by Frank Reich, after playing with the Chargers from 2004-19.

In July of 2025, Rivers

announced he was officially retiring as a Charger, signing a ceremonial one-day contract with the team.

But this isn't the first time Rivers has thought about returning to play since the 2020 season.

In 2023, San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan revealed the 49ers considered signing Rivers during the 2022 season when they battled injuries at quarterback and advanced to the NFC title game before losing to the Eagles with Brock Purdy, Trey Lance and Jimmy Garoppolo all sidelined.

Rivers remains seventh all-time in passing yards with 63,440 and sixth in touchdowns with 421.

It was reported Tuesday that if Rivers ends up on Indy's active roster at any point then his five-year wait to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame will start over. However, if he remains on the practice squad he will still be eligible to be inducted this year. This is his first year on the ballot.

If Leonard were to start it would be the second time in three weeks the Seahawks would face a rookie making his first career start, having also done so in a 26-0 win over Minnesota and Max Brosmer on Nov. 30 at Lumen Field.

Leonard, who led Notre Dame to the CFP title game last season and a 14-

2 record overall, is also from Fairhope, Ala., but attended Fairhope High, graduating the year before Rivers began coaching at St. Michael Catholic.

Leonard said he worked out with Rivers some during his preparation for the draft and considers him something of a mentor.

But the Colts appear serious about the prospect of Rivers playing. Since he will be signed to the practice squad, the Colts would have to announce on Saturday he is being elevated to the active roster if he is to play Sunday against the Seahawks.

If Rivers does play again he will be among the oldest quarterbacks in NFL history.

According to SI.com, the oldest QB in NFL history is George Blanda with the Raiders in 1975. Next is Tom Brady, who was 45 during his final season with Tampa Bay in 2022. Three players appeared in games at age 44 — Steve DeBerg (Atlanta, 1998); Warren Moon (Kansas City, 2000); and Vinny Testaverde (Carolina, 2007).

Seahawks coach Mike Macdonald held his regular day-after-game meeting with media Monday afternoon, concluding just minutes before the news of Rivers' tryout first surface.

Asked about the Colts' uncertain QB situation and the possibility of potentially facing another

rookie, Macdonald said: It's actually more challenging going against a rookie quarterback that hasn't played that much because you're not really sure what they're good at or what they're not going to be good at. It's like playing a team for the first time in the season. You have to go back to your fundamentals and just trust that what you do is going to be good enough against those guys. I think if you start hunting or making things up on rookie quarterbacks, you're making it more than it is. It's really about how well we go execute our plan based off of their system and the types of plays that we expect them to run."

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

### Today

Jay County — Swim at Norwell — 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling at New Haven — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at New Haven — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Swim in Wayne Warrior Invite at Trotwood — 5:30 p.m.; Girls basketball at Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 5 p.m.

### Friday

Jay County — Girls basketball at Adams Central — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.

## TV schedule

### Today

1 p.m. — College volleyball: Creighton at Arizona State (ESPN2)

3:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Cal Poly at Ken-

tucky (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Philadelphia Flyers (ESPN)

7 p.m. — College volleyball: Minnesota at Pittsburgh (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Nashville Predators (FDSN Indiana); Dallas Stars at Minnesota Wild (ABC)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at Iowa State (FS1)

9:30 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Purdue at SMU (ESPN2)

### Friday

11 a.m. — Euroleague basketball: FC Bayern Munchen at Dubai (FDSN Indiana)

12 p.m. — College volleyball: Indiana at Texas (ESPN)

1:30 p.m. — Euroleague basketball: Fenerbahce at Monaco (FDSN Indiana)

2:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Wisconsin at Stanford (ESPN)

6 p.m. — College soccer: Furman at Washington (ESPN)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Missouri State at Xavier (TRU)

7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Philadelphia 76ers (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College volleyball: Texas A&M at Louisville (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Texas at UConn (FOX)

8:30 p.m. — College soccer: NC State at St. Louis (ESPN)

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# Doubling down

## Patriots beat two top-10 teams in one night

**BY ETHAN OSKROBA**  
The Commercial Review

Perhaps it was fitting that the Patriots went from beating 2A No. 9 to No. 5, because nearly everything they did was working.

The Jay County High School boys wrestling team picked up a 53-22 win over the IHSAA Class 2A No. 9 Yorktown Tigers and then downed the Class 2A No. 5 Delta Eagles 43-27 in a double dual at home on Tuesday night.

"It played out really well," said Jay County coach Tyler Leonhard. "I know both teams, they didn't have their full lineup. They were both missing some guys, but I mean, both the teams are top 10 in 2A. So that's definitely a solid win, regardless."

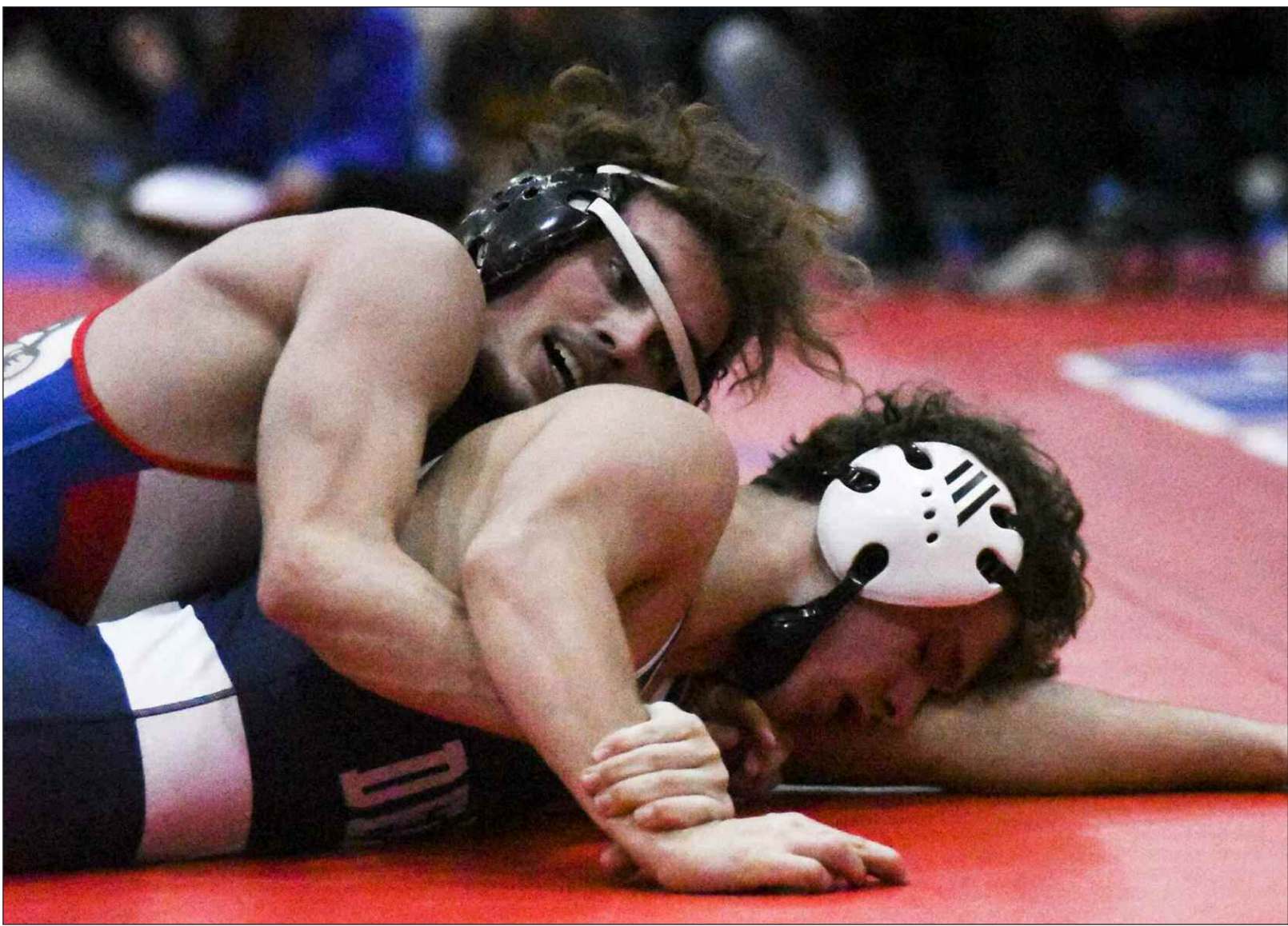
In total, the Patriots racked up 15 non-forfeit match wins in the pair of dominant victories. Throughout the night, the team gleaned energy from its home crowd and a chaotic atmosphere with two duals happening simultaneously in Jay County's auxiliary gym.

"I love it," Leonhard said. "The atmosphere, the louder, the better kind of thing. I just feel like our team especially thrives off of that when we start getting in a loud gym, I feel like our team just gets louder and gets behind each other."

Though that mentality likely held true for the majority of the Patriots, not all of Jay County's wrestlers harnessed the chaos to fuel their performances. Bryan Fields, the Patriots' 175-pounder, employed a different method.

"Most of the time, I will just put music on and try to just stay in my own thoughts," Fields said. "I'll normally stay close to my team, but also distance myself enough to where I'm not distracted going into my matches."

Fields certainly didn't show any signs of distraction during



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jason Landers of the Jay County High School boys wrestling team controls the right wrist of the Delta Eagles' Jackson Teal during Tuesday night's dual. Landers won the match in the 144-pound division by an 8-3 decision, helping the Patriots vanquish Class 2A No. 5 Delta 43-27.

his two bouts on Tuesday. He started his night by gutting out a hard-fought 11-5 decision over Yorktown's Brody Whiteman before nabbing his second win of the night, a 15-0 technical fall against Lincoln Mann of Delta.

"My neutral was pretty good," Fields said. "Was able to take people down, wasn't able to

get taken down. That's about it."

The Patriots got a similarly strong performance in the 165-pound division, where Caleb Sibray ensured that the slight decrease in weight came with no decrease in performance. The sophomore also turned in a 2-0 record, starting with a 17-1

technical fall against Yorktown's Clayton Reed and ending his night by shutting out Delta's Drayton Swanson by a 7-0 decision.

"I really did good on my sprawls today," Sibray said. "That's probably what kept me in for the most part in my last match. And I have to thank

Tyler (Leonhard) for all the conditioning we do, because that definitely kept me in the fight too."

In addition to the sparkling records of Fields and Sibray, Jay County boasted four more wrestlers with a pair of non-forfeit wins on the day.

See **Doubling** page 7

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# Rivers signs with the Colts

## 44-year-old QB may start for Indy Sunday

**BY BOB CONDOTTA**  
The Seattle Times  
Tribune News Service

Lumen Field could indeed have a Rivers running onto it Sunday when the Indianapolis Colts come to town.

A day after reports surfaced that the team might sign veteran Philip Rivers to help out their injury-depleted quarterback position, the 44-year-old signed with the Colts' practice squad, according to various reports.

Rivers, who was recently named a semifinalist for the 2026 class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and also recently became a grandfather, has not played since 2020 with the Colts.

But he has familiarity with the offense of coach Shane Steichen after the two worked together with the Chargers from 2016-19 and it's thought he can quickly get up to speed on the scheme, if needing any time at all.

He also played with a few members of the Colts who remain on the team, such as wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr., guard Quenton Nelson and running back Jonathan Taylor.

More relevant was whether the Colts believed he could still handle the physical demands of the job.

But reports indicated the Colts saw what they

needed in Rivers' workouts on Monday night to convince them to sign him on Tuesday.

Rivers got the call from the team to work out in the wake of starter Daniel Jones suffering a season-ending Achilles injury in Sunday's 36-19 loss to Jacksonville and backup Riley Leonard suffering a strained knee that has him regarded as week-to-week.

Third-year QB Anthony Richardson also remains out because of an eye injury suffered in October in which he fractured an orbital bone and had to have surgery.

Indy's only other QB on the roster is Brett Rypien, a Spokane native and former Boise State star who is on the practice squad but has not played in a game since 2023 and has only four starts to his name (Rypien was a member of Seattle's practice squad for two weeks in Nov. of 2023 but did not play in a game for the Seahawks).

Whether the Colts really believe Rivers can get acclimated quickly enough to play Sunday is the big question.

An initial NFL Network report of Rivers' signing on Tuesday stated: The Hall of Fame semifinalist, age 44, rejoins the Indy QB room to support Riley Leonard and serve as a potential option down the road. A dramatic return."

But some NFL observers think Rivers may indeed play Sunday.

Jonathan Jones, the NFL Insider for CBS Sports, said he "would not be surprised at all if Philip Rivers STARTS this upcoming Sunday" for the Colts against Seattle.

See **Rivers** page 7