

The Commercial Review

Senate rejects bill to redistrict

Measure failed by 31-19 vote Thursday

By TOM DAVIES and CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Republican-dominated Indiana Senate spurned months of demands from President Donald Trump as it voted 31-19 on Thursday to reject a redrawing of the state's congressional maps.

The final outcome remained uncertain until 21 Republicans joined all 10 Democratic senators in blocking the redistricting plan. The proposal didn't even win support from a majority of the 40 Republican senators.

With that tally, Indiana became the first Republican-led state Legislature to vote down Trump's wish to squeeze out more GOP-friendly congressional seats in hopes of improving the party's chances of keeping its slim U.S. House majority after the 2026 midterm elections.

Thursday's Senate outcome came even with Trump, Gov. Mike Braun and other redistricting supporters continuing to cajole — and politically threaten — senators who opposed the move.

"I am very disappointed that a small group of misguided State Senators have partnered with Democrats to reject this opportunity to protect Hoosiers with fair maps and to reject the leadership of President Trump," Braun said in a statement following the vote. "Ultimately, decisions like this carry political consequences. I will be working with the President to challenge these people who do not represent the best interests of Hoosiers."

The Indiana House last week approved the new maps crafted by the National Republican Redistricting Trust to produce a 9-0 Republican delegation.

See **Rejects** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Luella's list

Luella Bales, 6, shares her Christmas wish list Friday with Santa at the Santa House on Main Street in Portland. Santa stopped by his spot in Portland for pictures with children, with families forming a line along the street.

Plan commission reviews drafts

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Drafts have been presented. Now it's up to plan commission to make revisions and decide whether to move them forward.

Jay County Plan Commission reviewed drafts Thursday for ordinances regulating carbon sequestration storage facilities, battery storage systems and data centers.

The carbon sequestration ordinance specifically relates to geological carbon sequestration facilities, which involve storing carbon dioxide deep underground.

County officials have been discussing carbon sequestration regulation for more than six months as POET Bioprocessing is planning a project in Jay County.

POET Bioprocessing's plans involve a nearly 4,000-foot well and injecting carbon dioxide — it's a byproduct from creating

Ordinances would regulate carbon sequestration, battery storage, data centers

ethanol — into the well for 12 years.

Jay County and Portland officials decided not to establish a moratorium on carbon sequestration facilities earlier this year. Hopes were for the county to create an ordinance regulating facilities by the end of this year.

According to the draft ordinance, wellheads and pipelines must be located at least 1,500 feet from property lines. Residential structures are not allowed within the "plume" area of the project.

(The aforementioned requirements may be waived in writing by adjoining property owners.)

Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmeln has voiced concern about POET Bioprocessing's project multiple times this year. He shared his worries again Thursday, saying despite the fact that a test well has already been drilled, he hopes the project can still fall under the new ordinance's regulations.

"This one bothers me where it's

located," he said. "I've thought about it a lot, with the stone quarry (US Aggregates) right there, and carbon sinks to the lowest point."

He suggested the project could move farther south.

"This could be put farther away from the community, a lot of other people, because they say the chances are slim, and they probably are, they're probably really safe, but if something does go wrong, that's in a populated area, and plus the stone quarry (US Aggregates) is right there, and if there's a leak, prevailing wind ... puts it right in that pit."

Jay County Commissioners president and plan commission member Chad Aker questioned if the county should regulate depth for such projects. County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted the state and federal governments handle such regulations.

See **Drafts** page 2

Retrospect

Indians beat New Knoxville to stay perfect

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Indians were celebrating another victory.

The Dec. 16, 2000, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of the Fort Recovery boys basketball team's 79-58 victory over the visiting New Knoxville Rangers.

After a two-week break, the Indians dominated the second quarter in their return to the court and then held off a fourth-quarter comeback try by New Knoxville (2-2) to improve to 3-0 and win their Midwest Athletic Conference opener.

"You just don't know with a young team how (the layoff) is going to affect us," said FRHS coach Joe Bruns. "But the effort was there. I was very pleased ... we played our hearts out."

Fort Recovery was in good position already after holding the Rangers to seven points in the opening period. It blew the game open in the second quarter to carry an 18-point lead into halftime.

Senior guard Jon Kaup paced the effort

for the Indians with a career-high 22 points. He did all of his scoring from the field, including hitting a pair of 3-pointers.

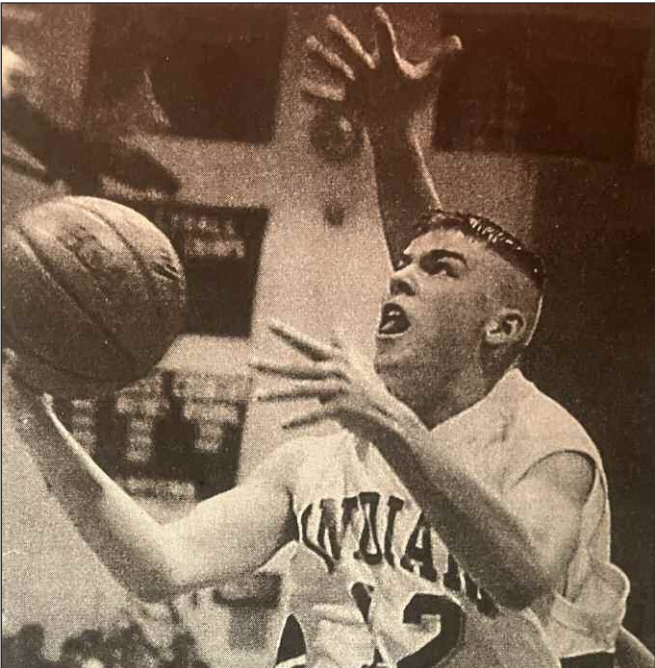
Kaup's play typified the Indians' aggressive offense as he attacked the basket all night.

"The first two games he didn't score a lot, but Jon's going to take what the defense gives him," said Bruns. "He's a leader. He's one of our senior leaders and we needed him tonight and he came up big for us."

Sophomore Greg Snyder followed with 13 points, and senior Tony Stammen added 11. Tyler Niekamp and Nick Dilworth added nine and eight points respectively for Fort Recovery, which lost its top returning player Ross Wendel to a knee injury before the season.

"I knew (going 3-0) was possible ... playing at home in front of our fans helps, but we've got a long way to go," said Bruns. "I'm very pleased with the 3-0 start, and we just need to continue to improve."

Fort Recovery High School sophomore Greg Snyder drives for two points during the Indians' 79-58 win over the New Knoxville Rangers on Dec. 15, 2000. Snyder scored 13 points in support of senior Jon Kaup's career-high 22.



The Commercial Review/Mike Snyder

Weather

The high temperature was 32 degrees Friday in Jay County. The low was 19.

Snow is expected today, with 2 to 4 inches of accumulation possible. The high will be in the mid 20s. Wind chills could drop to as low as negative 14 overnight.

Skies will be partly cloudy Sunday with a high around 18. The low will dip to around zero. Expect partly cloudy skies again Monday with a high around 20. Temperatures will climb into the 40s by mid-week.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Mistletoe Market at Winterfest is scheduled for 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Jay County Fairgrounds. The event, in partnership with Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds, will feature childrens' activities, carriage rides, vendors and food. Santa will make a visit to the Women's Building.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of Friday's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.

Tuesday — Jay County resident celebrates her 100th birthday.

Wednesday — Details from next week's Portland City Council meeting.



Drafts ...

Continued from page 1

He added that if the county were to get into technical aspects beyond state and federal requirements, it would likely need to hire geologists or other experts for each project.

According to the draft ordinance, an alarm system must be in place “to warn the area of any leak or malfunction to the system that will require evacuation of the area.”

Additionally, the developer may not bring carbon dioxide

from outside the area to inject into the site.

The draft ordinance requires developers to coordinate a pre-project development consultation with Jay/Portland Building and Planning. It also requires developers to receive approval for a special exception use from Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals following a public hearing.

Also Thursday, the plan commission reviewed a draft ordinance for battery storage systems.

Pati McLaughlin of Jay/Portland Building explained the ordinance is tailored to commercial battery storage systems that would be used to store energy from solar and wind farms.

The ordinance requires 1,500-foot setbacks from property lines, as well as a 100-foot setback from rights-of-way. It also requires a 7-foot fence around the project with the fence set at least 50 feet from property lines.

Similar to the carbon sequestration ordinance, it requires a






pre-project development consultation with Jay/Portland Building and Planning and project approval for a special exception use on agricultural-residential zoned districts from Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals following a public hearing. Special exception use approvals will be contingent on applicants obtaining their permit within a year.

Also, the plan commission reviewed updates to a draft ordinance regulating data centers in Jay County.

Mirroring language in the other draft ordinances proposed Thursday, changes include requiring a special exception use approval from Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals following a public hearing.

Other changes were to add application requirements, which include a summary statement, site description and site plan. The permit fee is also currently listed at 6 cents per cubic foot for each structure used for data storage.

CR almanac

Sunday 12/14	Monday 12/15	Tuesday 12/16	Wednesday 12/17	Thursday 12/18
				
11/0	21/15	33/30	43/36	50/24
Mostly cloudy skies are expected Sunday when the low may hit zero degrees.	Cloudy on Monday with temperatures in the upper teens and low 20s.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the 30s.	Mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday when the low will reach around 36 degrees.	There's a 70% chance of rain on Thursday when the low may hit 24.

Lotteries	
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 0-0-6 Daily Four: 2-1-0-7 Quick Draw: 4-7-9-11-14-16-17-29-32-35-36-41-46-53-62-65-66-69-75-80	Pick 3: 2-7-2 Pick 4: 5-6-5-5 Pick 5: 0-6-8-2-3
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$1 billion
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$70 million

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.63 Jan. corn4.58	Wheat4.84
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.59 Jan. corn4.51 Feb. corn4.46	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.41 Jan. corn4.41 Beans10.70 Jan. beans10.70 Wheat4.99
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.36 Jan. corn4.36 Beans10.67 Jan. beans10.70	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.56 Jan. corn4.51 Beans10.37 Jan. beans10.42 Wheat4.74

Today in history	
In 1642 , South Island, New Zealand, was spotted by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman.	sein, president of Iraq, during the Iraq War: He was convicted of war crimes and executed approximately three years later.
In 1989 , singer and songwriter Taylor Swift was born in West Reading, Pennsylvania. She broke through with debut album “Fearless” in 2008 and was named best new female vocalist by the Academy of Country Music Awards. She’s won more than 200 awards in her career so far.	In 2004 , Jay County Commissioners selected Principal Financial Group for county health insurance after reviewing about a dozen options.
In 2003 , U.S. forces captured Saddam Hus-	In 2021 , Dunkirk City Council approved spending \$59,045 to install a new liner at Dunkirk City Pool.
	—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff’s Office Merit Board, training room, sheriff’s office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Regional Sewer District, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Meridian St., Portland. 9 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St.
Tuesday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S.	Thursday 4:30 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Rejects ...

Continued from page 1

It did so by carving up the two districts currently held by Democratic Reps. André Carson in Indianapolis and Frank Mrvan in the area along Lake Michigan near Chicago.

But the Senate’s Republican leader, President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, had said repeatedly that too few GOP senators supported the mid-decade redistricting for it to pass.

“This is an extremely important issue that we’ve taken very seriously,” Bray told reporters after the bill’s defeat.

Bray downplayed the prospect of retribution from the White House after Trump and Vice President JD Vance publicly criticized him and other Republican senators.

“It’s their prerogative to have opinions about what we’re doing here. So, that’s fair,” he said.

Asked whether he was concerned about possible loss of federal funding or other consequences, Bray appeared unmoved.

“I’ve had lots of conversations with folks in Washington, D.C.,” he said. “Indiana will continue to function.”

A bill needs 26 votes for passage or defeat. Because a constitutional majority — 25 votes or more — voted against the measure, it can’t be taken up by state lawmakers again until the 2027 session.

Trump was calling individual senators this week seeking support and took to social media Wednesday night to seethe over Bray and other Indiana Republicans who weren’t following his demands.

A crowd of about 100 protesters

outside the Senate chamber echoed throughout the three-hour debate, chanting, “Fair maps now!” and “Vote no!” and “Cheaters!” and “Liars!” and “Just vote no!”

Brooke Isaac of Columbus and other protesters cheered the outcome, saying she was “very surprised and so very thankful.”

Isaac said she believed Trump was trying to use Indiana as a “pawn” to acquire power.

“I’m just really relieved that the Republicans and our government have decided to show integrity and to stand up for what the people in our state care about,” Isaac said.

Sen. Sue Glick, R-LaGrange, was among the senators voting against the new maps and said she believed the pressure and threats from Washington backfired.

“You have to know Hoosiers, we can’t be bullied,” Glick said. “We don’t want that. And the instant reaction is we dig in our heels and say, why?”

Indiana House Republicans pushed the proposed maps through that chamber last week by a 57-41 margin, with 12 GOP members joining Democrats in voting “no.”

Several Republican senators against the redistricting plan cited what they described as overwhelming public opposition. Others said they didn’t believe it was proper to overhaul the Republican-drawn maps approved in 2021 for such blatant political purposes, with some objecting to the overt gerrymandering of Indianapolis among four districts spanning as far away as the Ohio River.

Trump started the national redistricting fight by pushing Texas Republicans to redraw its congres-

sional map this summer, followed by Republican redistricting moves in Missouri, Ohio and North Carolina. An attempt by Kansas Republicans for a special session on redistricting stalled this fall.

Democrats responded with their own redistricting in California and possible moves in Illinois and Virginia.

Redistricting bill sponsor Sen. Mike Gaskill, R-Pendleton, used all of his 30-minute speaking time to argue in support of it after all 10 Democratic senators and three Republicans spoke in opposition.

“They want you to play by a different set of rules,” Gaskill said, referring to Democrats.

He called on his colleagues “to step up and do the right thing.”

“I want to see us on the Republican side fight as hard for our side as they do,” Gaskill said.

Sen. Greg Walker, R-Columbus — who has been outspoken against midcycle redistricting — called the bill “on its face, is unconstitutional.”

“I cannot, myself, support the bill for which there must be a legal injunction in order for it to be found constitutional,” he said.

Sen. Greg Goode, R-Terre Haute, had not announced a position before Thursday’s vote but told the chamber that “overwhelming feedback” from his constituents — “regardless of political leaning, or party affiliation” — influenced his decision. He ultimately voted no on the bill.

“I’ve done my very best to quietly and respectfully listen to the people I represent,” Goode said, “and I’m confident that my vote reflects the will of my constituents.”

Capsule Reports

Backing accident

A Florida man backed into a Jay School Corporation bus on county road 700 West about 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Kuzyk Vadym, 34, Hollywood, was driving a 2023 Kenworth T680 on the road near Indiana 67 and approaching a railroad crossing. According to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report, the crossing may have been too steep to cross with the semi’s low-laying trailer, which carried an excavator. Barbra J. Louck, 56, Redkey, was driving a 2022 Freightliner bus north on the road behind him. Vadym didn’t see the school bus and began backing up, causing him to crash into it.

The bus wasn’t carrying children at the time of the crash. The vehicle Vadyn was driving is registered to Peak Leaking. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Leg injured

A Portland man sustained a leg injury after striking a guardrail along Industrial Park Drive in Portland about 11 p.m. Monday.

Matthew A. Vore, 37, was driving his 2025 Kia Soul south on the drive near Lafayette Street when he hit the guardrail.

According to a Portland Police report, railing impaled his driver’s side bumper and went through his fender well into the vehicle’s cabin, hitting his left leg.

He was administered a blood and alcohol test with results pending. Vore was flown to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne for his injuries.

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000. His vehicle was towed.

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Winter predicts Snow in forecast

By NORMAN WINTER
Tribune News Service

After the last winter season, I've started following several weather forecasting gurus. They all seem to be on the sensationalist side of journalism, but it makes it a lot of fun. It keeps me second guessing whether the collapse of the polar vortex is a good thing or a bad thing. As a horticulturist I know one thing and that is that Snow is in the winter forecast.

I made sure of that in September. As you can guess I am talking about plants, and indeed I am referring to Snow Princess lobularia or Sweet Alyssum. I first saw Snow Princess in 2009 at the California Pack Trials



On Gardening

and a month or so later they were put in the Mississippi Medallion Plant Trials at the Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station in Crystal Spring, Mississippi. So, you can see I have already mentioned planting in the spring and the fall in the Deep South. Six or seven months ago, I wrote in this column about Snow for the Summer.

It has won 113 awards, from North to South and

East to West. The tag says cold hardy to zone 9 but I have never lost one to cold temperatures in zone 8. It is natural in mixed containers and yet is a tiger as a monoculture with the ability to reach 16 inches in height and spread to 4 feet, perfect as a floral groundcover.

In September I planted Snow Princess in mixed containers throughout the landscape. By October they were already making a colorful impact. Their fragrant blossoms with their sweet aroma permeating the garden were bringing in all sorts of bees and a pleasant surprise is that American Lady butterflies always seem to visit.

Snow Princess sweet

alyssum needs plenty of sun to live up to its potential; if you have part sun don't fret, you'll still garner the green thumb award. Next prerequisite is good drainage. This is normally not an issue in mixed containers with drainage holes and good potting soil.

Raised beds with fertile soil typically drain well if you can build your beds with the prepared raised bed mixes. Can you imagine Snow Princess sweet alyssum with Supertunia Vista Bubblegum in a raised bed, how many hundreds of awards would that combo represent?

Late October one container looked like a spring bouquet with Snow Princess sweet alyssum, Supertunia Mini Vista Yel-

low and the new Supertunia Mini Vista Pink Cloud petunias. In other containers blue shows out with the white. Superbells Grape Punch calibrachoas and Supertunia Mini Vista Indigo petunias seem to electrify the combination, or is it the contrast of the white?

Here I am in early December, and my favorite container features a combination of Luscious Marmalade lantana, Superbells Pomegranate Punch calibrachoa, Supertunia Mini Vista Ultramarine petunia and Snow Princess sweet alyssum. My love for the flaming orange will cause a dilemma in that the lantana will return from the winter but not look vibrant through

the winter in my region.

This is a wonderful plant in that you can plant whenever you find it for sale in zone 8 and warmer. I find myself usually trimming or cutting back in summer to jump start fresh fall growth.

I don't know about the predictions on the vortex, but we are going to have snow at The Garden Guy's house thanks to the Snow Princess lobularia. How sweet it is!

.....

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

Light illuminates neighbor problems

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have lived in a country home for the past 25 years. When we moved here, our only neighbors were wild turkeys, deer and raccoons. Behind our house were 20 acres of woods, which extended into a cornfield. We were isolated and loved it.

Since then, a housing development has slowly been built around us. Last fall, a couple built a house behind us. Their rear deck is within 20 feet of our property line. The back of their house has large bedroom windows. They cut down all of the beautiful, mature trees from their lot.

I have always had a dusk-to-dawn sensor light at the rear of my house for security reasons and to dissuade raccoons. Now this couple is complaining that because their house is so close to my property line and the trees (which acted as a privacy barrier)



Dear Abby

are gone, my security light of 25 years is shining into their bedroom windows and disturbing them. They want me to get rid of it.

Of course, my attitude is that we and that light have been here for 25 years. They saw our house and property lines before they chose to build there and remove all their trees. I am not inclined to accommodate them, but I'm open to suggestions from you. — BRIGHT GUY IN OHIO

DEAR BRIGHT GUY: I do have one. Explain to these new

neighbors that your security light was installed to discourage trespassers and wild animals. Then suggest they install blackout curtains or shutters in their bedroom windows to prevent unwanted light from seeping in. If that doesn't solve the problem, and there is a governing body for your growing neighborhood, ask that the matter be mediated.

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DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have two children and work opposite evening shifts so that one of us is home with the kids at all times. Recently, my best friend from high school surprised me with concert tickets to our favorite band, but the concert is on a night I'm supposed to be with the kids.

I don't have any friends or family around to babysit the chil-

dren, so I asked my boyfriend if he would take the night off so that I can go to this concert. He told me the only way he would do that is if I reimburse him for his missed wages (approximately \$300). Do you think it's fair to charge me to watch his own children? — CONFUSED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR CONFUSED: Should you reimburse your boyfriend for the wages he will miss if he takes off work so you can attend that concert? If his employer doesn't provide for personal time off, he will be out the money, and since you are the one altering your agreed-upon arrangement, you SHOULD reimburse him. What the two of you need to work out in the future is some form of plan so your children will be taken care of in the (hopefully unlikely) event that

something should happen to both of you at the same time.

.....

DEAR ABBY: Our family is already picking out items they want after my wife and I pass. They bring the subject up at every gathering. They have even started marking the items they want. My wife and I are 67 and 68. We are healthy and don't plan on dying for a while. This is starting to upset us both. How to shut them up is my question. — ANNOYED IN TEXAS

DEAR ANNOYED: Your family gatherings remind me of a pack of slavering wolves surrounding their potential prey. Here's how to shut them up: At the next gathering, tell your kin that if they keep this up, when you and your wife depart this earthly plane, ALL of your possessions will be going to charity.

Community Calendar

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

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 - BRIANNA'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.

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

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant.

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 —

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

The
Commercial
Review

Dinner
committee
expresses
its thanks

To the editor:
This community is absolutely amazing.

Once again, you stepped up for the Thanksgiving season with an unbelievable response to the community. Our local agencies, service clubs, lodges, busi-

Letters to
the Editor

nesses, sororities, churches all started calling early to donate kind-heartedly and help wherever needed. Your generosity is so appreciated.

When the event was over, we saw over 600 meals served to the homebound and to those dining inside. Thank you to all who came in to lend a hand putting this day together. It was refreshing watching families taking the leftovers to enjoy later, knowing their appetites would be satisfied for the next few days.

The success of this day is only possible because of the kindness of this community. We hope you will find a special blessing on your lives as you have blessed the lives of many.

With heartfelt thanks,
Carol Smith
Chair
Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee

MARGULIES APOLOGIES TO SCHULZ
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Beckwith has fertile imagination

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

It's hard to know what Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith is worse at—math or history.

His understanding of history, particularly U.S. history, is to real history what the Harry Potter novels are to science.

And his math skills?

Well, let's just say that he's the kind of guy who can add one and one and come up with 4,674—if 4,674 is the number he needs to gain his objective, which generally is some sort of nakedly self-serving goal disguised as an ideological quest.

What makes all of this dangerous is that Beckwith's inability to perform simple computations or comprehend basic history enables him to delude himself and a smattering of other truly gullible souls into believing he is the second coming of William Jennings Bryan, an evangelical populist with massive public support.

That was the essence of his response to a bill filed by Indiana Rep. Danny Lopez, R-Carmel, that would require candidates for governor to choose their running mates by naming a lieutenant gubernatorial candidate prior to July 15 of an election year.

Lopez's bill is designed to prevent episodes such as the one that landed Beckwith in office, when he foisted himself on Gov. Mike Braun at the 2024 Indiana Republican Convention by narrowly defeating Braun's choice, Indiana Rep. Julie McGuire, R-Indianapolis.

Beckwith called Lopez's bill "the Micah Beckwith"—because, really, everything is always all about Micah Beckwith—and derided Lopez as a "DID," or Democrat in Disguise. Beckwith also claimed his convention win was a victory for the people over the "establishment."

Like so many of the things Beckwith says, it's more fiction than fact.

John
Krull



The truth is that Micah Beckwith has tested how appealing to voters he is on his own only once. He sought the Republican nomination for Congress in a GOP-friendly district in 2020. He finished a distant third in the Republican primary.

He won 12.7% of the vote. That's right.

Even among Republicans—the people who are supposed to agree with him already—he couldn't capture even 13% of the vote.

That's why, in his endless quest for self-advancement, he settled on a different strategy. He decided to do the retail salesmanship of persuading delegates to the convention to support him rather than the wholesale—and truly populist—method of persuading mass numbers of citizens to support him.

Even then, he needed to catch a break.

Braun was so confident—overconfident, it turned out—that he had enough votes to secure McGuire's nomination that he let a fair number of his delegates leave early and miss the vote. If he hadn't done that, chances are McGuire would have eked out a victory and Beckwith would have gone back to being another wannabe braying away from the fringes.

Somehow, Beckwith interpreted this lucky escape from anonymity as a divinely inspired appointment as the voice of the people. In office, he has acted as if he's not accountable to anyone.

Not the governor whose administration he's, in theory anyway, part of.

Not the Indiana state government that grants him whatever limited authority a

lieutenant governor possesses.

Not the state constitution he took an oath to defend and obey.

What Beckwith seems to be arguing here is that a lieutenant governor should be a kind of free agent, one who uses taxpayer funds to cause trouble and jam up the works wherever he or she sees fit.

We tried that at the national level.

At this nation's birth, in our presidential elections, the person who became president was the candidate who received the most electoral votes. The vice president was the person who received the second-most votes, even if that candidate was from a different party.

It didn't work.

President John Adams, a Federalist, and Vice President Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, spent their four years together at loggerheads.

Things went from bad to worse. Jefferson became president and Aaron Burr assumed the vice presidency. Before Jefferson left office, his administration would charge Burr, by then out of government and Jefferson's mortal enemy, with treason.

It was at that point that wiser heads decided that presidents and vice presidents should form a willing partnership, not have their relationship be the product of a shotgun wedding.

Particularly if the second-in-command thinks of it as an open marriage.

But that's Micah Beckwith for you.

Bad at math.
Bad at history.

But good, oh so good, at deluding himself and others.

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Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouse-File.com, a news website powered by, Franklin College journalism students.

President gets map,
voters disenfranchised

San Antonio Express-News
Tribune News Service

In a last-minute decision that should have surprised no one, the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority has given President Donald Trump his preferred Texas congressional districts map.

In its decision, the court's conservative majority gave too much deference to the supposed good faith of state lawmakers while expressing concern about changing the map so close to an election. The filing deadline for candidates was Monday.

Of course, this decision ignores key aspects of reality.

It was the Texas Legislature that redrew the state's congressional districts this summer, with Gov. Greg Abbott signing them into law Aug. 29. That is incredibly close to the election for such a profound change.

The timing issue here is not the legal challenges to this overtly partisan map, but the occurrence of rare mid-decade redistricting that prompted those challenges.

As for good faith, lawmakers were clear that this new map is all about maximizing power with the goal of Republicans flipping five seats in the U.S. House, where Trump rightfully fears his party losing the majority.

If successful, that would lead to a 30-8 Republican advantage among Texas' U.S. House members, with the few Democratic seats clustered around San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Houston and El Paso.

This is in a state where 42.5% of voters supported Democrat Kamala Harris for the presidency in 2024, and 46.5% of voters supported Democrat Joe Biden for the presidency in 2020. Under the old map, Democrats held 13 House seats, which was already viewed as an extreme gerrymander. If representational government were the goal, Democrats would hold about 17 of Texas' congressional seats.

But representative government is not the goal, and the Supreme Court's majority, which routinely debases itself with overt partisanship and subservience to the president, is entirely comfortable with the use of gerrymandering to maximize partisan power.

Given the demographic makeup of the political parties, partisan gerrymandering can often serve as a proxy for racial gerry-

Guest
Editorial

mandering, and we see this in how the new districts map changes representation in Texas' diverse cities.

While 54% of voters in predominantly Latino Bexar County supported Harris in 2024 and 58% supported Biden in 2020, the new map tilts toward Republican representation. The San Antonio area will no longer be represented by U.S. Rep. Greg Casar, an Austin-based Democrat. Instead, a new Congressional District 35 will loop around San Antonio from the north to the east to the west, with a 10-point Republican lean.

San Antonio loses representation in Congressional District 28, a seat held by Democrat Henry Cuellar. The district will have a Republican advantage and no longer reach into San Antonio's East Side, which means one of the fastest-growing metropolitan metro areas in the nation will lose a representative in Congress. It also may only be represented by one Democrat despite being a blue county in a red state.

The result is a map that "dis-serves the millions of Texans whom the District Court found were assigned to their new districts based on their race," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a dissent joined by Justices Kentanji Brown Jackson and Sonia Sotomayor.

The three judges also argued this opens the door for other states to draw similarly gerrymandered maps near candidate filing deadlines because the nation's highest court has shown it will not intervene.

The question ahead is whether the new map will backfire on Republicans. Outrage over this map, coupled with Trump's exceptionally low approval ratings, especially among Hispanic voters, may make some of these congressional races competitive in November 2026.

But make no mistake, the new map of Texas congressional districts is intended to place bricks in a red wall that is designed to withstand a blue voter wave.

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
— Thomas Jefferson

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12-13CRYPTOQUIP

NHJHV HXJH XJN EVZTPV HXV

ZTQAHWI'N UVJGKAL GVMVUTCVW

TS EWVJHX-SWVN XVAKAL

CWTGQZHN: MVWPKAH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO PLANT STALKS WERE REALLY TRYING TO TALK, BUT A FEW UNOPENED FLOWERS KEPT BUDDING IN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Continental queries

1) Which U.S. general led Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of North Africa during World War II?

2) What European country colonized Algeria for 132 years before it won independence in 1962?

1) Dwight D. Eisenhower

2) France

12-15CRYPTOQUIP

LACC HQTP PQQ ECTT C OEE

OEE EEE VAWWVY? EEEZP

QCNW LACC EMO WGHFMZ

OP E GARNID LHC EHHFPCGM

Saturday's Cryptophone: NASH HALL HAS BECOME THE COUNTRY'S LEADING RESTAURANT FOR MEDITERRANEAN DINING. A SERVING OF MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN IS BEING SERVED.

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to cats. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 13 = S)

A. 22 8 26 13

Clue: Feet

B. 6 1 14 4

Clue: Touch with tongue

C. 26 24 1 13 4 12 25 13

Clue: Sensory hairs

D. 22 2 19 20 14 12

Clue: Jump upon suddenly

Answers: A. paws B. lick C. whiskers D. pounce

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cats.

RSRUP

Answer: Purrs

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in Texas on December 13, 1967. I broke several school records as a young football player in high school. I had a breakout role on a TV series that also included Jim Carrey. I won an Oscar for playing a famous blind musician.



Book FACT:

This term refers to reading texts quickly but not completely.

Answer: Skim

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

GPAES 1 2

CVROE 3 4

KAMR 5

AIED 6

4 2 1 6 1 3 3 5

Answer: Read a book

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC 10

1768: The first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica is published.

1817: Mississippi becomes the 20th U.S. state.

1901: The first Nobel Prize ceremony is held in Stockholm on the fifth anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

NEW WORD

SYNOPSIS

a brief summary of something

ON THE PROWL WORD SEARCH

U U S Q Y B C K A C L C S E I R O I T P

B N A I N I S S Y B A F X R K W A M O K

W P C A L I C O W D S T B U E C P W P I

S U T C H A W K P A C S M B K R O M R

N G M A U O T I B H P Y R Y Y X S D S H

H O Q L X M T D G C R H R A G K B I I T

L K O Y L T I M X E C L S L T K B H D

N L P C E E D B S O L L T H G C K T L W

S O A N N W H Q S U B Q O Y I E H X R G

G I I B S I A S L R T R E X W A S A T W X

H Y A T R F A T E I E U D U S L P C

Y N E M A I O M E S X W E T W E E G G I

Q Y L U E C A N C G I D D T I R N Q O

P F B B L S I H E A N O M E M I I T N M

E E P E N X E T G E L S T E U R L O I Y

R R E A A I W C S Y U Y M R R N T M X P

S A Y D D W O D A E I Q B U O F S C M C

I L T Y T S E T L W M Q P B I T K A L S

A G X Q P Y M X G T B O N F A F E T W G

N D P M R G F L E C P C D W T T R S A C

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ABYSSINIAN

CALICO

CLOWDER

DOMESTICATION

FERAL

HAIRBALL

HISS

KITTEN

LITTER BOX

MEOW

PADS

PERSIAN

POST

PURRING

QUEEN

SCRATCH

SIAMESE

TABBY

TOMCAT

TORTOISE SHELL

WHISKERS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

43 Prince

1 Autumn

Valiant's

pears

son

6 Trans-

mits

44 Fashion

11 Red wine

button

12 Set afire

47 Mexican

14 Write

crypto-

grams

Villa

15 Depress-

ing expe-

rience

51 Sound

system

16 Sports fig.

52 Woke up

17 Roof

53 Online

over-

hangs

gauge, e.g.

19 Goof up

54 Beam

20 Slay

DOWN

1 Painter

23 Florence's

river

Thomas

Hart —

24 Result

2 Corsage

26 Commut-

ing option

flower

28 Calendar

abbr.

30 Seminary

subj.

31 Eating

area on a

train

35 "Poison"

shrub

39 Sediment

40 Filch

42 Pop

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-13

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The end justifies the means

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

AKQJ973

KQ

108

Q5

WEST

10865

J7

7432

842

EAST

42

108532

KQ5

KJ7

SOUTH

A—

A964

AJ96

A10963

The bidding:

South West North East

1 Pass 4 NT Pass

5 Pass 7

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

A reader from Indiana reports this hand, which he says arose in his regular Saturday night husband-wife bridge game.

The bidding was certainly not scientific — in effect North bid a grand slam on the assumption that the three aces shown by South in response to Blackwood would be all that was needed to produce 13 tricks.

It's hard to quarrel with North's assumption, since South made the grand slam — although she must have suffered a severe shock upon finding herself declarer at seven spades without a trump in her hand!

West led a heart, won by dummy's queen, and declarer cashed five trumps and the king of hearts, producing this six-card position:

North

73

108

Q5

West

743

842

East

108

KQ

KJ

South

A9

AJ

A10

South — who had started with only 12 tricks and was hoping somehow to acquire a 13th — now led dummy's seven of spades, placing East under extreme pressure. It didn't matter whether East discarded a heart, a diamond or a club — whatever East chose would establish declarer's 13th trick, so the grand slam, worth 2,410 points, came rolling home.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jamboree

39 Poise

41 Unseed

42 Ooze

43 Woe

44 Man

45 Ullage

46 Ullage

47 Ullage

48 Ullage

49 Ullage

50 Ullage

51 Ullage

52 Ullage

53 Ullage

54 Ullage

55 Ullage

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95 Ullage

96 Ullage

97 Ullage

98 Ullage

99 Ullage

100 Ullage

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 12-15

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13

14 15

16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52

53 54

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

10852

AQ82

Q76

A4

WEST

763

J4

109543

109

EAST

KQJ9

10973

A82

Q5

SOUTH

A4

K65

K

KQJ7653

The bidding:

North East South West

1 Pass 2 Pass 4 Pass

2 Pass 4 Dble 6 Pass

Opening lead — seven of spades.

The outcome of most deals depends on a combination of luck and skill. Sometimes the two come in equal measures, but on other occasions one factor far outweighs the other. In this deal from the 1991 world team championship, luck played a much greater role, but a certain degree of skill was required to take advantage of it.

The bidding shown took place in the semifinal match between Iceland and Sweden. The Icelandic North-South pair reached six clubs,

and West led a spade in response to his partner's lead-directing double.

The spade lead would seem to doom the slam, since it establishes a second winner for the defense before the ace of diamonds can be driven out, and the opposing hearts are not divided 3-3. But declarer didn't panic. He won the ace of spades and cashed all seven trumps, keeping the ten of spades and A-Q-8-2 of hearts in dummy.

This left East in a hopeless position. Unable to keep all four hearts, the high spade and the ace of diamonds, he elected to discard the diamond ace. South then cashed the diamond king to make the slam, losing dummy's last heart at the end.

Not to be outdone, in the other semifinal match between Brazil and Poland, the Polish declarer wound up at the same contract and made all 13 tricks!

At this table, due to the vagaries of the Polish bidding system, North became declarer at six clubs, and East led the king of spades. After taking dummy's ace, declarer also ran seven clubs, but here East could not see the ten of spades in declarer's hand and decided to keep four hearts and the ace of diamonds. When North next cashed the spade ten, East could not guard both diamonds and hearts, and declarer scored the rest of the tricks.

Tomorrow: Quantitative analysis.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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47 48 49 50

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53 54

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

12-13
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

12-15
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Peanuts

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

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Rose is Rose

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Agnes

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Agnes

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Hi and Lois

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Hi and Lois

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Between Friends

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Between Friends

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Blondie

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Blondie

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Snuffy Smith

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Snuffy Smith

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Beetle Bailey

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Beetle Bailey

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We Deliver

Laughter

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

A
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ing. ANY ANNOUNCE-

MENTS MADE DAY OF

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF

ADMINISTRATION

TO CREDITORS

ESTATE NO.

38C01-2511-EU-000032

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF JAY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that IAN

N. SMITH was on the 13th day of

November, 2025, appointed as

Personal Representative of the

ESTATE OF JUNE L. SMITH, de-

ceased, who died on the 27th day

of September, 2025.

All persons who have claims

against this estate, whether or not

now due, must file the claim in

the Office of the Clerk of this Court

within three (3) months from the

date of the first publication of this

notice, or within nine (9) months

after decedent's death, whichever

is earlier, or the claims will be for-

ever barred.

DATED AT PORTLAND,

INDIANA, THIS 14TH DAY OF

NOVEMBER, 2025

Melissa Elliott

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT

COURT FOR JAY COUNTY,

INDIANA

CR 12-6,13-2025- HSPAXLP

Public Notice

Alcohol & Tobacco

Commission

LEGAL NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING

The Alcohol Beverage Board of

Jay County, will hold a public

hearing at 11:00 am on Decem-

ber 23, 2025 at the Portland Fire

Station, Council Chambers,

1616 N. Franklin St. in the city of

Portland, to investigate the prop-

erty of holding an alcoholic

beverage permit by the appli-

cants listed herein.

To watch the hearing, visit

https://www.in.gov/ate/public-meetings/local-board-hearings

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1 Jim Zimmerman 03/29/2018

2 Willard R Micheau

03/23/2021

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Wendel, Jutte get All-Ohio honors

The Indians found some success on the field and were rewarded with a run in the playoffs.

A month later, a pair of Indians were recognized at the state level.

Reece Wendel and Breaker Jutte of the Fort Recovery High School football team were both named to the Division VII third team All-Ohio.

Wendel made it on the offensive side of the ball at the running back position. The senior carried the ball 184 times throughout the season to for 1,341 yards. He also punched in 14 touchdowns.

Jutte received honors for his defensive work, earning a spot as a linebacker.

Jutte made 75 tackles, including 53 solo tackles.

Fort Recovery Roundup

Among them were 7.5 tackles for a loss of 24.8 yards. Jutte sacked opposing quarterbacks 2.5 times for 13.5 yards. He broke up three passes and intercepted one with a 14-yard return. The junior also forced one fumble.

Wendel and Jutte's efforts helped lead Fort Recovery to a 7-6 record and seventh in the Midwest Athletic Conference at 3-5. The Tribe only fell in the regional semifinal to top-ranked Marion Local.

Tribe falls

MARIA STEIN, Ohio — Bridget Homan had a career day, but it wasn't enough as the Fort Recovery girls basketball team fell to the Marion Local Flyers 47-29 in the MAC opener Thursday.

Homan posted a career-high 19 points. She made a pair of baskets in the first and second quarters and hit two free throws as well for 10 first-half points. She found the hoop three more times in the third quarter and went 2-for-3 at the charity stripe, but only scored one more point in the fourth.

Makenna Huelskamp was the only other Indian to score more than one basket. Cameron Muhlenkamp, Paisley Hart and Ivy Tobe scored

the other points for Fort Recovery (0-6, 0-1 MAC).

Kate Ashman led Marion Local (3-3, 1-1 MAC) with 12 points.

Smith stays strong

TROTWOOD, Ohio — Caleb Smith continued his strong start to the season as the Fort Recovery swim team competed at the Warrior Wayne Invite hosted by Trotwood on Thursday.

Smith broke his own school record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1 minute, 9.09 seconds to claim second and help the Tribe boys finish 13th of 19 teams with 58 points. The girls gained 71 points for 11th of 19 schools. Bellbrook won the boys meet with 317 points while 251 claimed the

top spot for Centerville.

Smith also finished third in the 100 freestyle (56.31), while Carson Fullenkamp claimed fifth in the 200 individual medley (2:27.24) and eighth in the 100 butterfly (1:05.22).

The girls also had four top-10 finishes. Two of them belonged to Livy Timmerman in the 100 freestyle (sixth – 1:03.62) and the 200 IM (ninth – 2:51.61). The other top-10 finish for the FRHS girls came from Autumn Leuthold in the 100 breaststroke, in which she claimed ninth in 1:26.15.

The Indians opened the meet with a seventh-place finish in the 200 medley relay with a team of Claire Wenning, Leuthold, Emily Boeckman and Timmerman. They swam a time of 2:18.64.

Jay Co. swim splits with Norwell Knights

OSSIAN — The boys won a majority of their events but the lack of depth kept them from a victory.

The girls got six of the 12 first place finishes and still managed to come back to Portland with a win.

The Jay County High School girls swim team managed a 99-84 victory over the Norwell Knights, while the boys fell 94-89.

The JCHS girls won six of the 12 events. Maria Laux claimed two of the victories including the 50-yard freestyle in 26.55 seconds and the 100 freestyle in 1 minute, 0.69 seconds.

Jay County Roundup

The other wins for the girls came from Elly Bryum (100 butterfly), Kali Wendel (200 freestyle), the 200 freestyle relay team and the 400 freestyle relay team. The Patriots also had eight runner-up finishes and placed third seven times.

Cooper Glentzer and Grady Warvel led the Jay County boys with two wins each. Glentzer topped the 100 butterfly

(56.94) and the 500 freestyle (5:19.15), while Warvel won the 200 individual medley (2:11.49) and 100 freestyle (52.41).

The Patriot boys claimed four more individual victories.

Peyton Yowell (50 freestyle) and Carson Westgerdes (100 breaststroke) claimed the individual wins while the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay teams also topped the field.

Getting matches

NEW HAVEN — The Jay County girls wrestling team fell to the New Haven Bulldogs 30-24 on Thursday.

The Patriots (5-2) made

an effort to match girls up so that they would be able to wrestle matches, resulting in the loss rather than having girls wrestle at their true weight and taking forfeits.

As a result, Jay County, which was riddled with injuries and illness, was forced to take forfeits in six weight classes, resulting in the loss.

No. 6 Katie Rowles and Madison Gage both won by pins in the 105 and 155-pound weight classes. The other two returning Patriots from last year, No. 8 Amara Crawford and Maleah Parsons, both took wins via forfeit.

Boys split

BLUFFTON — The Jay County Junior High School boys basketball team split with Bluffton on Thursday evening.

The eighth grade team edged out the Tigers for a 35-33 victory, while the seventh graders fell 34-28.

Abram Lee led the eighth graders with 13 points, while Finn Hemmelgarn supported with eight. Other Patriots to score were Job Dirksen (six), Eli Homan (four), Dillon Dunnington (three) and Bentley Comer (one).

Carson Pfeiffer powered the seventh grade team with 20 points, but didn't receive enough support for the win. Sawyer Smit-

ley added five points, while Calvin Jessup had three.

Petro leads

Jay County Junior High School's girls basketball teams split with the Bluffton Tigers on Thursday as the eighth graders lost 43-10 and the seventh graders won 32-26.

Gretchen Petro fueled the win with 17 points. Haley Comer and Kendall Farr supported Petro with nine and six points.

Arabella Link produced the team-high for the eighth grade team with four points. Kyla Sims, Kenzi Homan and Mackenzie Coy all had one bucket as well.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Boys wrestling hosts ACAC Duals – 9 a.m.; Girls wrestling at Northwestern Dreamcatcher – 10 a.m.; Boys basketball at New Castle – 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Minster – 9 a.m.; Wrestling at Versailles – 9:30 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Minster – 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Bradford – 6 p.m.

Monday

Jay County — Swim at South Adams – 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. St. Henry – 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Blackford – 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Northside – 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Ansonia (JV 2 quarters) – 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at St. Henry – 6:30 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Parkway – 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Memorial – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Jay County — Swim at Delta – 6 p.m.; Boys wrestling at Norwell – 6 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Blackford – 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling at South Side – 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Swim in quad-meet at South Adams – 6 p.m.; JV boys bowling at Min-

ster – 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Randolph Southern – 5:30 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

12 p.m. — College football: South Carolina State at Prairie View A&M (ABC); Villanova at Tarleton State (ESPN)

12 p.m. — Serie A soccer: Parma at Lazio (CBS)

12 p.m. — College basketball: Iona at St. John's (TNT); DePaul at Wichita State (ESPN); Arkansas at Texas Tech (ESPN2); Michigan State at Penn State (BTN)

12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Burnley at Fulham (NBC)

12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Old Dominion at George Mason (USA)

1 p.m. — College basketball: Old Dominion at George Mason (USA)

1 p.m. — Horse racing: America's Day at the Races (FS1)

2 p.m. — College basketball: Jackson State at Northwestern (BTN); Providence at Butler (TNT); Cincinnati at Georgia (ESPN)

2:30 p.m. — College basketball: George Washington at Georgia (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — College football: Army at Navy (CBS)

3 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas State at Creighton (FOX)

3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis

at Louisville (ESPN)

3:30 p.m. — College football: South Dakota at Montana (ABC)

4 p.m. — College basketball: UC Davis at Oregon (BTN)

4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Oklahoma at Oklahoma State (ESPN)

4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Pittsburgh at Villanova (TNT)

5:30 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Southern Cal (FOX)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Southern Utah at Washington (BTN)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisiana Tech at LSU (ESPN)

7 p.m. — College basketball: North Florida at Dayton (CBS); Arizona State at Santa Clara (TNT)

7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Indiana at Kentucky (ESPN)

8 p.m. — College football: Boise State vs. Washington (ABC)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Maryland (FOX); San Francisco at St. Louis (FDSN Indiana); Rutgers at Seton Hall (FS1); Ohio State at West Virginia (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Alabama (ESPN)

10 p.m. — College basketball: Mississippi State at Utah (ESPN)

11:30 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA at Gonzaga (ESPN)

Sunday

12 a.m. — UFC: Kevin Vallejos at Giga Chikadze (ESPN2)

12:30 a.m. — UFC: Manel Kape at Brandon Royval (ESPN2)

7 a.m. — Women's Super League soccer: Brighton & Hove Albion at Chelsea (ESPN2)

9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Crystal Palace at Manchester City (NBC)

1 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at New England Patriots (CBS); Cleveland Browns at Chicago Bears (FOX)

1 p.m. — College basketball: Texas Southern at Minnesota (BTN)

1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Baylor at Texas (ABC)

1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Grant Thorton Invitational (NBC)

1 p.m. — Horse racing: America's Day at the Races (FS1)

3 p.m. — NBA: Washington Wizards at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

3 p.m. — College basketball: Troy at UAB (ESPN2); Western Michigan at Iowa (BTN)

3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Penn State at South Carolina (ESPN); Kansas State at Creighton (FS1)

4:25 p.m. — NFL: Indianapolis Colts at Seattle Seahawks (CBS); Detroit Lions at Los Angeles Rams (FOX)

5:30 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan

State at DePaul (FS1)

6 p.m. — NLL lacrosse: Rochester Knighthawks at San Diego Seals (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Washington State at USC (FS1)

8:20 p.m. — NFL: Minnesota Vikings at Dallas Cowboys (NBC)

Monday

3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester United at AFC Bournemouth (USA)

8 p.m. — NHL: Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)

8:15 p.m. — NFL: Miami Dolphins at Pittsburgh Steelers (ESPN)

Tuesday

7 p.m. — College basketball: Louisville at Tennessee (ESPN); South Carolina at Clemson (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Pittsburgh Penguins (TNT)

9:30 p.m. — College football Salute to Veterans Bowl: Troy vs. Jacksonville State (ESPN)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Towson at Kansas (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — College basketball: Cal Poly at UCLA (BTN)

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Clean ...

Continued from page 10

“I just think it was our mental focus,” McIntire said. “Obviously Adams Central did what they needed to do, but they weren’t full-court pressing us or in a tight man-do-man defense. I just think we were making poor decisions with the basketball and we weren’t ready to go.”

Along with the turnovers, Jay County struggled to finish. The Patriots entered halftime 8-of-31 (25.8%) from the field, including 6-of-21 (28.6%) from inside the arc.

For the first seven minutes of the second half, JCHS didn’t manage to make a dent in the lead, trailing 35-27.

At that point, Hallie Schwieterman began to step up and take care of the ball for the Patriots and made an emphasis on finding driving lanes to either put up a shot or find offense for her teammates.

“In the locker room, coach said we need a leader,” Hallie Schwieterman said. “I think, as an upperclassman, that is my job and as one of our leading scorers, that is my job to take that responsibility at times. ...

“Playing the same team, and they’re a conference team, a bunch of times, you learn their tendencies. That team is really good at closing out on shooters, but they leave a lot of gaps. So I was just driving those gaps and if they crash, kick it out, or go up for layup or get fouled. It’s whatever’s working in that moment.”

As a result, Jay County only finished with four fourth quarter turnovers, none of which came from Hallie Schwieterman.

She also fueled a 7-2 run to end the third quarter. Twice she found Elizabeth Brunswick on base-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County center Charlee Peters puts up a bunny off a pass from Natalie May during Friday’s 50-45 victory. Peters ripped down seven rebounds as the Patriots outplayed Adams Central on the glass 51-25.

line-out-of-bounds plays sitting wide open at the weak-side wing – the first time Brunswick converted on a euro step and the second she knocked down a triple. Hallie Schwieter-

man also scored herself on a baseline-out-of-bounds play by driving the baseline after the ball reversed sides of the floor.

The final quarter

opened with a pair of buckets by Demi Landis – she had 10 points for the Jets, trailing only Tenley Hendricks with 12 – and Karsyn Schwieterman, who had a double-double

with 12 points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

Shortly after, Hallie Schwieterman gained the Patriots their first lead since 3-0 by getting fouled after pushing the ball all the way up the floor from a missed free throw by Jillian Brotherton and then making a quick pull up jumper. The junior point guard finished with game-high 22 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double.

“A big key was keeping Hallie from getting driving lanes,” said ACHS coach Tim Hildebrand. “I told the girls, it’s easier said than done with her. She is phenomenal in the open court and when she gets a chance to drive to the basket. ... We couldn’t stop her but we tried to limit it and I think early on we did a better job of that.”

After Schwieterman earned the 40-39 lead, JCHS padded the advantage when Brunswick exploited Adams Central’s 2-3 zone by finding a cutting Raylah Newton on the weak-side out of the high post.

Jay County went on to hit 8-of-10 free throws to maintain the lead, only turning the ball over one time, leading to a Hendricks triple on an assist from Ava Stafford.

Adams Central struggled to handle Jay County’s defense in the fourth quarter and without free turnovers, the Jets only managed eight points to allow the comeback.

“Their defense did a really good job making things difficult for Ava (Stafford) and Kate (Fisher) to get clean looks,” Hildebrand said. “We had other girls that were stepping up but just not enough.”

While JCHS escaped with the close victory, the Patriots don’t want this trend to continue and will

Box score

Jay County Patriots
at Adams Central Jets

Girls varsity summary

Jay County (4-3, 1-0 ACAC)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
KSchwtrmn	3-10	6-12	12
Newton	2-8	0-0	5
HSchwtrmn	7-23	8-9	22
Brunswick	3-5	2-4	9
Dirksen	0-2	0-0	0
May	0-1	0-0	0
Peters	1-6	0-0	2
Totals	16-55	16-25	50
	.291	.640	

Def. Rebound percentage: .725

Adams Central (4-6, 0-2 ACAC)

	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Fisher	3-9	0-0	9
Brotherton	0-4	2-8	2
Hendricks	5-7	0-2	12
Isch	2-2	0-0	4
Stafford	3-17	2-4	8
Landis	5-15	0-2	10
Totals	18-54	4-16	45
	.333	.250	

Def. Rebound percentage: .523

Score by quarters:

Jay Co.	11	11	12	16	— 50
Adms Cen	17	11	9	8	— 45

3-point shooting: Jay County 3-16 (Brunswick 1-1, Newton 1-4, HSchwierman 1-9, Dirksen 0-2). Adams Central 5-22 (Fisher 3-7, Hendricks 2-4, Landis 0-5, Stafford 0-6).

Rebounds: Jay County 51 (KSchwierman 13, HSchwierman 10, Dirksen 7, Brunswick 6, Newton 5, Peters 4, Team 4, May 2). Adams Central 35 (Fisher 10, Brotherton 7, Isch 5, Stafford 5, Landis 3, Team 3, Hendricks 2).

Assists: Jay County 5 (HSchwierman, Brunswick, Dirksen, May). Adams Central 11 (Stafford 4, Hendricks 3, Landis 3, Fisher).

Blocks: Jay County 3 (KSchwierman, HSchwierman, Peters). Adams Central 1 (Brotherton).

Personal fouls: Jay County 17 (Newton 4, Brunswick 3, Dirksen 3, KSchwierman 2, May 2, Peters 2, HSchwierman). Adams Central 16 (Fisher 4, Hendricks 4, Landis 4, Brotherton 2, Isch 2).

Turnovers: Jay County 22. Adams Central 15.

look to start off games on a better note.

“We just need to come out in the first quarter ready to play and I think we’ll be a very, very good team,” Hallie Schwieterman said. “We started out slow, but I think us pulling out that win says a lot about our team our mental part of the game and how locked in we can get when we need it.”

Probe ...

Continued from page 10

The firm’s investigation into the entire situation will continue and look into the way Moore’s firing was handled and the culture of the athletic department that allowed his relationship with a subordinate to go on, along with other scandals that have rocked the university in recent years, a source with knowledge of the investigation said.

Moore has subsequently been charged with third-degree felony home invasion and misdemeanor stalking and breaking and entering

after he was arrested in Pittsfield Township at the apartment of the staffer. He could spend up to five years in prison on the home invasion charge, which is the most serious of the three.

In a statement released to the university community late Thursday evening, interim President Domenico Grasso asked those with knowledge of the situation to email UMconcerns@jenner.com. He praised the university’s “swift and decisive action” in firing Moore.

How long the investigation and

how much of what Jenner & Block the university will release is yet to be known.

Moore’s case is the latest scandal to hit the athletic department after the football program won a national championship under the cloud of an elaborate sign-sealing scandal orchestrated by low-level staffer Connor Stalions that led to multiple game suspensions that season for then-head coach Jim Harbaugh, who did not cooperate with NCAA investigators, and one for Moore, who was then the team’s offensive coordinator.

Reaves to miss a week

By THUC NHI NGUYEN
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Lakers star Austin Reaves has been diagnosed with a mild left calf strain and will be re-evaluated in approximately one week, the team said after practice Friday.

The guard is averaging 27.8 points, 5.6 rebounds and 6.7 assists and has led the Lakers in total minutes played this season as the team weathered stretches without stars LeBron James and Luka Doncic.

Reaves responded with a career start. He is ninth in the NBA in scoring and could be on track to earn his first All-Star nod as he enters a critical contract decision this offseason.

Reaves will at least miss Sunday’s game against the Phoenix Suns, a road game at Utah on Dec. 18 and a game at the Clippers on Dec. 20.

After another road game against the Suns on Dec. 23, the Lakers begin a stretch of five consecutive home games, starting with a marquee Christmas Day matchup against the Houston Rockets.

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Clean fourth quarter

Patriots limit mistakes in fourth quarter to pull off comeback

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review
MONROE — The Patriots played sloppily in the first half. Despite racking up more turnovers than made shots in the first two periods, their size and speed kept them within striking distance of the Jets. So when the elder Schwieterman stepped up and took ownership of the rock and the Patriots started applying pressure, the Jets’ engines started to falter. Jay County High School’s girls basketball team took better care of the ball in the fourth quarter to secure a comeback victory over the Adams Central Jets in Friday’s Allen County Athletic Conference opener 50-45.

“I was disappointed in the fact that we started out so poorly, and weren’t just ready to go,” said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire, whose team went down 13-5 with two minutes remaining in the first quarter. “But very proud of the kids and how we gutted it out. We came out in the second half and played with a lot of grit, and did the things that we needed to and stepped up and hit free throws when we needed them.” The Patriots’ biggest issue came in the form of turnovers as they coughed up possession of the ball 12 times in the first 16 minutes.

A majority of the Jay County turnovers didn’t come as the result of defensive pressure from the Jets (4-6, 0-2 ACAC), but rather as the result of poor passing. As a result, Adams Central only managed to score eight points in transition against Jay County (4-3, 1-0 ACAC) in the first two quarters.

See **Clean** page 9



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School’s Claudia Dirksen reaches to try and steal the ball away from Ava Stafford of Adams Central during the 50-45 victory on Friday. The Patriots struggled with turnovers through the first three quarters but a late run in the third quarter and some strong defense fueled a comeback in the Allen County Athletic Conference opener for JCHS.



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Tribe suffers first loss to Marion Local

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians held their own in the first and even won the third quarter. But the Tribe got simply outplayed in the second and fourth periods as they dropped their first Midwest Athletic Conference game of the season.

The Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team struggled in the even quarter on Friday as it dropped the MAC opener to the Marion Local Flyers 53-39.

Fort Recovery (3-1, 0-1 MAC) trailed the Flyers (1-0, 1-0 MAC) by six after the first quarter but after scoring just six in the second, they entered halftime down 26-16. FRHS won the third period 15-9 but couldn’t take advantage as Marion Local dropped 18 points in the final eight

minutes to claim the game.

Grant Fortkamp led the Indians with 11 points. Seven of those points came in the opening period, with the other four coming in the third.

Breaker Jutte and Brody Barga followed with nine and eight points, respectively. Hudson Overman contributed five points, Braylon Dilworth contributed four and Colson Post found the bucket once for two.

Braden Mescher led all scorers with 17 points for MLHS. He was held scoreless in the third quarter but made two or more buckets in the other three. Kale Ahrens supported Mescher with 13 points, while Grant Kremer and Luke Everman each added eight.

Michigan will expand probe

By **SARAH ATWOOD**
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service
The University of Michigan board has authorized the law firm Jenner & Block to expand its investigation into the “situation” around former football coach Sherone Moore’s firing, according to two sources familiar with the board’s plan but not authorized to speak publicly.

The Chicago-based law firm was previously hired to investigate the allegations against the head football coach weeks ago, when the board first heard the rumors, the two sources told The Detroit News on Friday. After enough evidence was gathered, Moore was fired by Athletic Director Warde Manuel for having an inappropriate relationship with a staff member. Jenner & Block is the same firm the university’s board hired to investigate the allegations of former President Mark Schlissel’s relationship with a university employee. The board fired Schlissel, who denied there was a “physical relationship,” but wrote a letter of apology as part of a settlement with the university that said he showed poor judgment in having the “close personal relationship” with a university staffer.

See **Probe** page 9