

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

ICE scrutiny builds; Trump sends Homan

Adviser heads to Minnesota following 2nd fatal shooting

By JENNY JARVIE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

As federal immigration tactics face mounting legal and political scrutiny after a U.S. Border Patrol agent fatally shot a Minneapolis man over the weekend, President Trump announced Monday that he was dispatching his border adviser Tom Homan to Minnesota.

Until now, Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino has overseen the federal government's immigration crackdown in Minnesota. But as the Trump administration's Department of Homeland Security faces widespread criticism for its aggressive tactics since it launched Operation Metro Surge in December, Trump signaled Monday that he could be shifting strategy as he deploys Homan to the region.

"He has not been involved in that area, but knows and likes many of the people there," Trump said of Homan on Truth Social. "Tom is tough but fair, and will report directly to me."

In a sign that the Trump administration may be questioning its hard-line immigration approach in Minneapolis, Bovino and some federal agents are expected to leave the city as early as Tuesday, a source told the Associated Press.

Muzaffar Chishti — an attorney and immigration policy expert at the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington-based think tank — said no one knows what Trump will do next, but Homan's arrival in Minnesota marks a significant shift in the balance of power in the administration's immigration enforcement efforts.

"There was a big rift here between seasoned ICE officers and these new troopers," Chishti said. "This may become the moment where things begin to change, if not fully reverse. I would be surprised if we don't see some change."

See ICE page 5

Drifting issues



The Commercial Review/Bailey Call

A Portland Street Department employee removes snow from the median Tuesday at the intersection of Meridian and Race streets in Portland. City crews spread 6.5 tons of salt on Monday.

Crews continue to attempt to clear roads; watch remains as winds create challenges

By BAILEY CALL
The Commercial Review

County and municipal crews have been plowing since the weekend, but high winds and drifting snow have made progress difficult.

Jay County continued to operate under a travel watch Tuesday morning, with schools closed for the second day in a row after nearly a foot of snow fell over the weekend.

Mercer County continued to be under a Level 2 snow alert and Fort Recovery schools were closed.

Jay County Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel said the county planned to keep the travel watch in effect until Jay County Highway Department could make headway on clearing roads.

"We're kind of just in a holding pattern until we see what they're going to be capable of," Rhodehamel said.

Under a watch in Indiana, only essential travel is advised, such as for work or emergencies.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Call

Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley shared an update late Monday, indicating that in-person classes and after-school

events would not be held as long as the county is on a travel watch.

Under a Level 2 snow alert in Ohio, only those who feel it necessary to

Austin Schlosser of Portland Water Department works on thawing out a water meter Tuesday for First Presbyterian Church at the corner of Ship and Arch streets in Portland.

drive should be on the roadways, with travel for work allowed.

Jay County Highway Department drivers started around 5 a.m.

Tuesday. Superintendent Bob Howell explained Tuesday morning that the wind was making it difficult to keep roads clear.

"(Our drivers) blow it off, and we still have the wind, so we're still experiencing drifting," he explained.

While north-south roads were problematic Monday, the drifting snow issue spread countywide Tuesday. Progress seemed to quickly deteriorate with the wind and extreme cold. Around 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Howell and his crew were trying to figure out what directions to focus on, pointing to the fact that the wind wasn't expected to calm down until that afternoon.

City crews were in much the same position.

"We're chasing our tail," said Portland Street Department superintendent Matt Shauver, whose crew started around 3 a.m. Tuesday.

Portland crews spread 6.5 tons of salt on streets Monday.

See Drifting page 2

Enforcement bill clears state senate

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A Republican-backed immigration enforcement bill that expands local cooperation with federal authorities and penalizes noncompliance cleared the Indiana Senate on Monday along party lines.

Senate Bill 76 passed 37-7, with all "no" votes coming from Democrats. Five senators were

GOP-backed measure would expand cooperation with federal authorities

excused and did not vote. The bill now heads to the House.

The vote comes as immigration enforcement — particular-

ly actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE — has sparked protests, clashes with law enforcement

entities that fail to comply.

"Senate Bill 76 addresses a serious problem," Brown said Monday, addressing the chamber.

"The Biden administration deliberately created a humanitarian crisis in this country. Because of this, the Trump administration in the course of enforcing our laws has at times asked for state and local cooperation across many sectors."

See Bill page 2

Deaths

Barry Stoner, 64, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature Monday was 10 degrees. The low was 4.

Tonight's low will be minus 5 with wind chill values as low as minus 15 and winds gusting to 20 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy Thursday with a high of 11.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Commercial Review will be upgrading its website soon. Subscribers will need to have a phone number on file with us to use to log in for the first time, after which they will be able to set up their own password.

If you do not have a phone number on file with us, or if you are not sure, please call us at (260) 726-8141.

Our target launch date for the new site is Feb. 3.



Bill ...

Continued from page 1
"This state has always been on the side of law enforcement, and we've had our own policies — such as banning sanctuary city policies — to ensure that law enforcement can do their job."

What would it do?

The latest draft of Brown's bill requires governmental bodies that have custody of an individual subject to an immigration detainer request — such as county jails or local law enforcement agencies holding someone after an arrest — to notify the judge overseeing bail decisions that the individual is subject to an ICE detainer request.

It also requires those agencies to record the detainer in the individual's case file, comply with the

detainer and inform the individual that they are being held pursuant to the request.

Judges who receive notice of a detainer would be required to ensure that notice is recorded in the court's record.

The bill also directs the Indiana Department of Correction to adopt statewide rules for how county jails must cooperate with ICE. In practice, that would require jails to follow uniform procedures when ICE asks that someone be held for pickup.

Officers who complete department-approved training would be granted an affirmative defense in certain civil actions. The provision is intended to shield law enforcement from legal liability when they follow the state's

required standards for cooperating with ICE.

Senate Bill 76 further allows the governor to withhold grants or state funding from a governmental body for up to a year if it's found to have violated detainer-related requirements laid out in the legislation.

It also strengthens prohibitions on state or local entities — including public colleges and universities — limiting or restricting the enforcement of federal immigration law, regardless of whether that enforcement is carried out by federal, state or local agencies, Brown noted.

Other provisions in the bill would tighten enforcement against employers who knowingly hire unauthorized workers; require

state agencies to submit immigration-related reports to lawmakers; and expand the state's ability to pursue "indecent nuisance" actions in cases tied to human trafficking, allowing government entities to recover investigative and court costs.

A similar immigration enforcement bill debated during the 2025 session advanced from the House but ultimately died in the Senate after Brown refused to give it a hearing.

Tensions fuel debate

Debate on the Senate floor unfolded against a backdrop of heightened national tensions surrounding immigration enforcement and ICE operations.

See Bill page 5

Obituaries

Barry W. Stoner, Geneva, Oct. 19, 1961-Jan. 24, 2026. There will be no viewing or services at this time.

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

Thursday 1/29	Friday 1/30	Saturday 1/31	Sunday 2/1	Monday 2/2
13/-3	11/-5	13/2	18/10	21/14
Mostly cloudy skies are expected Thursday when the low will be around -3.	Friday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with the low dipping to -5.	Saturday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 13 degrees.	Temperatures will start to warm up slightly Sunday, when the low will be around 14 degrees.	Slightly warmer Monday, when the low will be around 14 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball	Daily Four: 9-4-1-3 Quick Draw: 1-4-5-16-18-22-23-26-35-38-39-43-45-48-51-56-65-70-76-79
Monday 21-31-51-60-63 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$43 million	Cash 5: 2-16-20-23-35 Estimated jackpot: \$398,500
Mega Millions	Ohio
Estimated jackpot: \$285 million	Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-5-6 Pick 4: 3-7-8-2 Pick 5: 5-8-9-3-2 Evening Pick 3: 3-7-5 Pick 4: 6-0-9-5 Pick 5: 4-2-7-4-2 Rolling Cash: 4-5-21-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$170,000

Hoosier	Hoosier
Monday Midday Daily Three: 9-4-6 Daily Four: 4-6-1-9 Quick Draw: 1-2-3-4-5-8-9-10-11-20-27-29-31-32-39-42-55-64-65-70 Evening Daily Three: 1-9-5	Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-5-6 Pick 4: 3-7-8-2 Pick 5: 5-8-9-3-2 Evening Pick 3: 3-7-5 Pick 4: 6-0-9-5 Pick 5: 4-2-7-4-2 Rolling Cash: 4-5-21-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$170,000
Markets	Markets
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Feb. beans 10.64 Wheat 4.88
POET Biorefining Portland	ADM Montpelier
Corn 4.45 Feb. corn 4.47 March corn 4.47	Corn 4.31 Feb. corn 4.31 Beans 10.64 Feb. beans 10.64 Wheat 5.08
The Andersons Richland Township	Heartland St. Anthony
Corn 4.37 Feb. corn 4.39 Beans 10.60	Corn 4.45 Feb. corn 4.45 Beans 10.33 Feb. beans 10.33 Wheat 4.78

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Feb. beans 10.64 Wheat 4.88
ADM Montpelier	
Corn 4.31 Feb. corn 4.31 Beans 10.64 Feb. beans 10.64 Wheat 5.08	
Heartland St. Anthony	
Corn 4.45 Feb. corn 4.45 Beans 10.33 Feb. beans 10.33 Wheat 4.78	

Today in history

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died. His 9-year-old son, Edward VI, assumed the crown.

In 1813, Jane Austen's renowned English novel, "Pride and Prejudice," was published anonymously. More than 20 million copies of the work have been purchased since then.

In 1871, Paris, France, surrendered after a four-month siege during the Franco-German War.

In 1915, Congress created the United States Coast Guard.

In 1922, the roof of Washington, D.C.'s Knickerbocker Theatre collapsed under heavy snow, killing 98 people.

In 1935, Iceland became the first western country to legalize abortion.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on CBS' Stage Show, helping launch his rapid rise to fame.

In 1958, the LEGO Group submitted a patent application for its stud-and-tube building brick, a key step in creating the LEGO brick as it's known today.

In 2005, Portland street department workers were still cleaning up the effects of the Jan. 5 ice storm. About 60% of the debris had been collected, street and park department superintendent Jeff Harker said. He estimated the limb collection would cost more than \$50,000 out of the department's annual \$1.1 million budget.

— The CR

City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.

Citizen's calendar

Today
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland

Main St.

Drifting ...

Continued from page 1
He expressed optimism, noting city departments have teamed up to work through the weather event. A few employees from the wastewater and water departments joined snow-clearing efforts Tuesday.

Fort Recovery village administrator Aaron Rengers also shared positive thoughts, saying the streets continue to be maintained and in passable condition. Village workers continued to clear roads Tuesday.

Jay County Highway Department didn't have as much luck on its end.

Trucks started breaking down — five were out of commission at one time, with three of those back on the road as of noon Tuesday — as snow and freezing temperatures took their toll.

"When they're out, and it's blowing and they're taking that snow off, it just turns into a big old ice cube underneath," Howell explained.

The department parked three snow plows inside overnight to thaw. Limited indoor space, though, kept some vehicles that needed attention outdoors.

With the travel watch still in effect, Rhodehamel asked residents to exercise patience with road-clearing efforts.

"(Highway department



The Commercial Review/Bailey Call

Cage Reynolds, 9, shovels snow Monday from the sidewalk and driveway at The Vision on Votaw recovery home in Portland. Reynolds and brothers Cooper, 15, and Cash, 13, worked Monday evening to clear snow from the facility operated by Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

workers are) still actively working to get the roads back open and get them so they are passable by something other than a four-

wheel drive (vehicle)," she said.

Snow began falling about 5 p.m. Saturday and continued throughout the day

Capsule Reports

Intersection crash

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland man crashed into another Portland man at the intersection of Arch Street and Western Avenue about 8:47 a.m. Monday.

David C. Ennik II, 33, was driving a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan north on Western Avenue when he stopped at its intersection with Arch Street. He told police he didn't

see the oncoming 2015 Chevrolet Silverado driving west on Arch Street, and he continued forward. (Traffic on Arch Street has the right of way at the intersection.) Ennik's vehicle hit the Chevrolet Silverado driven by 72-year-old Melvin E. Walters.

Both vehicles were towed.

Lost control

A Muncie man lost control of his vehicle and went off Indiana 26,

causing an accident about 6:17 p.m. Sunday.

Arick X. Lehman, 22, was driving his 2013 Jeep Wrangler east on the highway near county road 400 East when he went off the south side of the road and into a ditch. He told police he had been driving too fast on the snow-covered road.

Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500. His vehicle was towed.

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The Commercial Review

'Cloud Dance' at home

By NORMAN WINTER

Tribune News Service
The Garden Guy has had the best time following the Pantone "Color of the Year," which is Cloud Dancer. By following, I am talking about the color gurus verbalizing on social media. I'll not call any out by name lest they come after me.

Cloud Dancer as you might expect is white. Now I admit while I will always hope for Electric Orange, I know the chances are slim to nonexistent. Plus, I would keel over if they did. The complainers wanted their favorite color, no doubt, and used as their principal argument: "White is the absence of color." But that argument fails because when you look up in the blue sky, you don't see puffy absences of color; hence the name Cloud Dancer is most appropriate.

As a national garden writer, my job is to bring Cloud Dancer to the garden. The Green Industry wants to play Pantone too! With that in mind I look no further than the 1850 Illges Woodruff house, a most magnificent historic home, a safe distance just off the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Georgia. Today, it is coupled with the even larger JP Illges Woodruff house with landscape touching plus the wonderful new conservatory form



Tribune News Service/Norman Winter

The smooth hydrangea is also native and has beauty that borders on the spectacular. Its blooms begin later but overlaps the oakleaf bloom period and is landscape effective into the fall.

the Illges Woodruff Estate. Together they are recognized as premier wedding venues especially if you consider opportunities to have the bride's family in one home and the groom's family in the other. Can you see where I am headed? What is the mandatory color for weddings? White!

The Illges Woodruff House is the epitome of Greek Revival. It is tall and white with incredible

columns. The blooming shrubs and flowers are obviously white. Cloud Dancer has been associated with cumulus clouds by several gurus of color. No plant depicts cumulus any better than hydrangeas.

The growing season is long, and hydrangea blossoms start off in April with the various oak leaf types (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). These blooms are large and show off their native adapt-

ability. They typically offer up burgundy and bronze foliage in the fall.

These are overlapped by the smooth hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*), which are also native. The display of blooms borders on the spectacular. The bloom time is long and the effectiveness time in the landscape is much overlooked, probably thanks to the popularity of the panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*).

These keep the continuous hydrangea overlapping going in the garden. They are native to China, Korea, Japan and Russia and certainly competitive in the beauty category. They are also the tallest, making a picturesque presence in the long sweeping gardens seen at the Illges Woodruff House. The white theme is always in play. The huge planters on the front porch are always full of season color like pansies and Snow Princess sweet alyssum in the winter and Supertunia Mini Vista White petunias in the summer. In beds adjoining the hydrangeas, you will find various ferns, Heart to Heart caladiums and Surefire White begonias.

.....

Winter is a horticulturist, garden speaker and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden."

.....

Win Super Bowl tickets for blood drive donations

Taking Note

Jay Community Center, 115 E. Water St., Portland

• Monday, Feb. 23 — 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bloomfield Elementary School, 350 E. 500 North, Bryant

Academy graduate
A Portland resident has earned a diploma through Indiana Connections Academy.

Adrionna Dailey graduated from the public virtual school, joining the Class of 2026.

Births

Wilson

Emry Sue, a daughter, was born Jan. 4 to Natasha and Ryan Wilson of Winchester at St. Vincent Randolph.

She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Grandparents are Joni and Rick Wilson and Tony and Jennifer Dalrymple. Great-grandparents are Kathy Dalrymple, Pat and Lavon Wilson and Diana and Stephen Glass.

Older woman dislikes showering sensation

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: I am a longtime divorcee and a retiree with grown kids. What is troubling me is I've always had an issue with taking a shower and all the oil and dirt flowing down my body. I think it's gross, so I usually wash my hair in the kitchen sink. I also don't get in the shower to wash my body. I hate getting out of the shower and feeling cold, or trying to get dressed partially wet.

When I've been in relationships, I force myself to shower or wipe down with hospital-type wipes. (I still wash up this way, just not regularly, and I know it's gross.) I dry shave my legs and underarms when needed, but this is really an issue for me. I brush my teeth twice a day. I use a light perfume and often get compliments, but I know

from reading your advice that seniors lose their sense of smell and I could be ripe.

I don't know how to overcome this, and, for obvious reasons, I don't have a friend I can float this by. I'm healthy and, like everyone, struggle with depression, but I don't feel it's bad enough to seek professional help. I'm on a fixed income.

Just curious as to what your thoughts are on this. It's been a good six weeks since I've had a proper shower, and I find no jus-

tification for it other than I don't enjoy it. — UNSHOWERED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR UNSHOWERED: If I thought your quirk could be solved as easily as buying a portable heater for your bathroom, I would suggest it. You state that you suffer from depression "like everyone else." From the mail I receive, people do have problems interacting with interpersonal relationships, workplace issues, etc., but they do NOT "all" suffer from depression.

Although you live on a fixed income, you could benefit from discussing your issue with a licensed psychotherapist. Help is available on a sliding financial scale through your county's

department of mental health or your local university with a department of psychology. While medication might help you overcome your depression, getting to the root of your shower avoidance will likely happen once you start talking.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My question is about dating among older adults. I have been on a dating website for a while now. Most of the profiles are fake. I finally encountered a legitimate profile of a nice-looking man, and we are now talking. After one week, we are finally going to meet for dinner. I'm thrilled, but he stated that he has "baggage." When I asked him what kind, he replied, "It's physical." What does that MEAN?

We have discussed being intimate and, at our age, we are no longer virgins. I intend to go on the date and be gracious and kind, but I am more than a little confused. What are your thoughts? I thought we clicked or I wouldn't be going on a date with him. What did I miss? — PERPLEXED IN FLORIDA

DEAR PERPLEXED: The nice-looking man who has made a date with you could have been alluding to any number of physical problems. He might be missing a limb or need assistance getting around, or he may be impotent. Because he didn't give you the laundry list he included in his "baggage," you are just going to have to find out for yourself and take this a step at a time.

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in

the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

PORLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw

St., Portland.

PORLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE — BRINA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at

Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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.

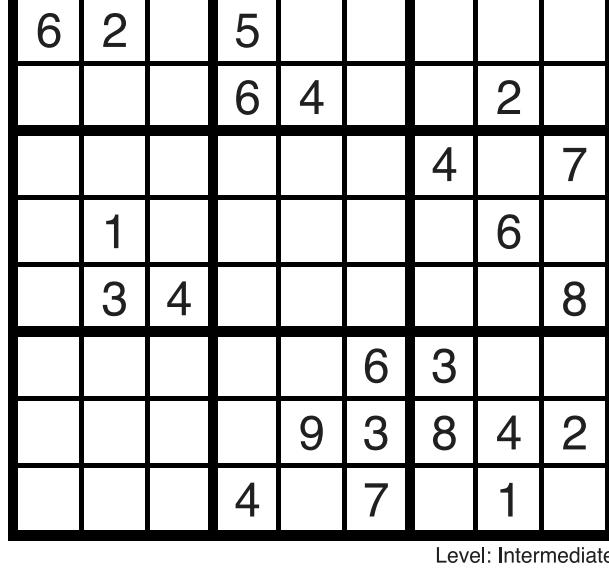
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Chris-

tian 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.

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.

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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.

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

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Mink lived by his faith, principles

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Jan. 25, 2006. The role of a newspaper editor involves meeting a lot of folks. Some are quickly forgotten; others make a lasting impression. Jack remembered a former mayor for all of the right reasons.

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

Every conversation was an education.

At least that's the way it seems in retrospect.

Time has a way of burnishing these things, so it's probably an exaggeration to say "every conversation."

But it sure seems that way.

I remember meeting with Jack Mink in his office when he was mayor of Dunkirk. It was a tiny

Back in the Saddle



space, not much bigger than a closet, tucked down a hall at the back of what is now the Dunkirk Police Station.

In those days, as I recall, it was not only the police station but home to every municipal office in Dunkirk.

Upstairs, if you followed the narrow, winding staircase, you'd find the blank-slate of a room where the city council met on

Monday nights and city court met on Wednesdays.

But Jack's office was downstairs in the back. And if the title of mayor sounded impressive, the office was another story, as humble as one of Jack's old sweaters.

I remember stopping by to visit — interview is too formal a term — whenever I was in Dunkirk filling in at The News and Sun.

We'd talk about the challenges facing the community. We'd share concerns about worrisome trends. We'd trade bits of Portland-Dunkirk gossip.

But every time we talked, I think I learned something.

Sometimes it would be in what Jack had to say.

Once, after I'd rambled on about the importance of the county acting as a single community of 20,000 people when it came to issues of economic development, he had nodded quietly.

Then, with no hint of vinegar in his tone, he had acknowledged the positives of county unity but had added, "I still notice that the road from Portland to Dunkirk is longer than the road from Dunkirk to Portland." His point was clear: He'd been expected to come to the county seat but had trouble getting folks from the county seat to come to the second-largest town in the county.

Sometimes it would be in what Jack didn't say.

The gossip was never the

nasty sort. He took no pleasure in the shortcomings of others. Instead, he wanted to know what his counterpart, Jim Luginbill, in those days mayor of Portland, was up to.

But mostly it was in the way he lived.

All of us like to believe we live our lives according to a set of convictions.

The reality is that most of us shade it now and then. We cut corners. We disappoint ourselves and others. We fall short.

With Jack, what he believed is what you got.

He lived his faith. He lived his principles.

It was an honest life, and higher praise cannot be found.

Keep politics out of the sanctuary

Chicago Tribune

Tribune News Service

We've reached the point in America's polarization story where not even churches are sacred spaces.

Protesters angry about the fatal shooting of Renee Good and the increased presence of federal agents in the Minneapolis area crossed a line when they entered Cities Church in St. Paul and disrupted Sunday worship.

Videos posted online show scenes of a mob of people marching into the church, angrily expressing their frustration over the Trump administration's immigration enforcement activity.

Children are present who look visibly afraid, and of course they do — a group of adult strangers has entered their place of sanctuary, yelling and screaming at them and their parents, as well as confronting the pastor, Jonathan Parnell, who appears to do his best to remain calm and ensure the safety of his parishioners. Churchgoers can be seen either fleeing the sanctuary, sitting frozen in their seats or trying to reason with the intruders.

Protesters alleged one of the church's pastors — not Parnell — has ties to immigration enforcement. Regardless, that doesn't give anyone the right to invade a worship service. It's up to the church to decide who leads them.

If the protesters who showed up at Cities Church had set up outside, fine, so long as they weren't preventing people from getting to church. If they had posted up around the corner, all good. But to enter the church, berate peaceful worshipers and scare children crosses a line.

The First Amendment robustly protects protests and political speech, but it does not grant the right to commandeer private property or disrupt lawful assemblies. Courts have long recognized that religious worship is entitled to protection, and both state and federal law prohibit intentional interference with a congregation's ability to practice its faith.

be surprised to learn that you also can't break into his house because you dislike his actions.

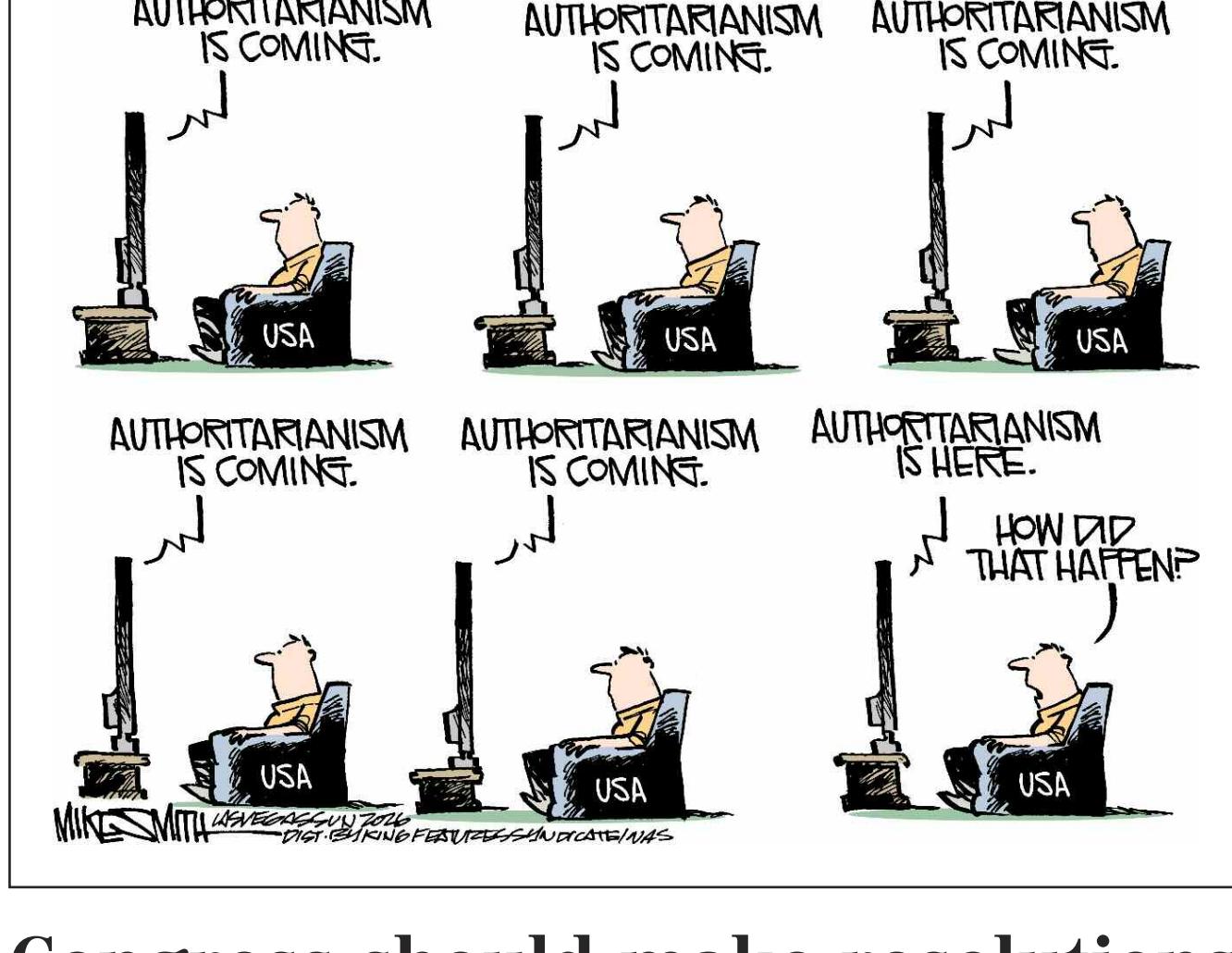
The Department of Justice is investigating the incident, and a St. Paul Police spokesperson said in a statement that they are "actively investigating this incident as a disorderly conduct investigation," according to ABC News.

We've written before that some places should be off limits. We were outraged that federal authorities chased one of their quarry inside a day care center in Chicago, alarming kids. Churches are in the same category. That's why we were appalled when the Trump administration rolled back long-standing guidance discouraging immigration arrests in sensitive locations such as churches. And it's why we're alarmed now.

We don't pretend to know how higher powers feel about immigration enforcement. But we do know this: If you find yourself storming a church filled with people who are peacefully practicing their religion, you are not in the right.

If you're tempted to reflexively respond "yes, but one of the pastors works for ICE in some capacity," you may also

Courts have long recognized that religious worship is entitled to protection, and both state and federal law prohibit intentional interference with a congregation's ability to practice its faith.



Congress should make resolutions

By LINDA GUSTITUS

The Fulcrum

Tribune News Service

Every January, many Americans face their failings and resolve to do better by making New Year's Resolutions. Wouldn't it be delightful if Congress would do the same? According to Gallup, half of all Americans currently have very little confidence in Congress. And while confidence in our government institutions is shrinking across the board, Congress is near rock bottom.

With that in mind, here is a list of resolutions Congress could make and keep, which would help to rebuild public trust in Congress and our government institutions. Let's start with:

1. Working for the people

We elect our senators and representatives to work on our behalf — not on their behalf or on behalf of the wealthiest donors, but on our behalf. There are many issues on which a large majority of Americans agree but Congress can't. Congress should resolve to address those issues.

2. Working together

No institution works well when the members of that institution pick sides and refuse to work with the other side. This is true in companies, in laboratories, in houses of worship, and in the arts. Collaboration is essential to a quality work product. Members of Congress should resolve to work with each other — to listen to each other — to stop attacking each other.

According to Public Agenda, 93% of Americans want to reduce political divisiveness. And two-thirds of Americans believe doing so is "very important." One way to begin to do this in Congress could be for members to direct their staffs to work

together — to have them jointly identify issues, seek facts, and select and interview witnesses.

Another way is for members to visit the districts and states of members of the opposite party — with those members. They can try to see issues through another member's eyes — and the needs of another member's constituents.

3. Returning to order

It's been years — even decades — since Congress followed the regular order in passing legislation and appropriations. No school, company, house of worship, small business, PTA — no organization could survive long if it fails to address its budget and prepare for the coming year's finances. Board members would be derelict in their duty if that were to happen, but Congress routinely lets the established order of the budget process and appropriations process slip so that, in the end, either all the bills are bunched together by the leadership at the last minute, and no one knows everything that's in them, or the government shuts down.

As they say — "that's no way to run a government." Congress should resolve to follow the normal budget and appropriations process — hold hearings, take public and expert testimony, have committee mark-ups (where bills are considered and possibly amended), issue committee reports explaining the contents of the bills, and allow for full Senate and House consideration

Linda Gustitus



in a timely and inclusive manner. This would be a big one.

4. Balancing the budget

Again, no company, social organization, or religious community could survive under the mountain of debt that Congress has allowed the nation to accumulate. To achieve fiscal sustainability, tough decisions have to be made. The discrepancy in wealth that has been allowed and that grows each year is intolerable. And Congress must — based on facts and not partisanship — direct its attention to separating the wheat from the chaff in our federal programs.

5. Supporting watchdogs

Agency inspectors general and the Government Accountability Office were established by Congress to help identify and address waste, fraud, and abuse. They should be fully funded, kept out of political influence, and have their budget-saving recommendations adopted. That's called being responsible.

6. Stopping the name-calling

There was a popular book many years ago titled "Everything I Learned in Kindergarten." One such "thing" is to be polite and not call people names. It's embarrassing for our grandchildren to hear the words some of our leaders use to describe a fellow human being. Decency and respect go a long way to building trust, and trust can yield accommodation and accomplishment. Congress should resolve to follow decorum and speak with decency and respect.

This is just a start — but how different our country would be if Congress would adopt these resolutions and stick to them!

.....

Gustitus served for 24 years as staff director and chief counsel for Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan).

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Bill ...

Continued from page 2

Democrats pointed to two recent deaths involving federal agents in Minnesota and urged lawmakers to slow down.

"Two people have died at the hands of ICE agents," said Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, explaining his no vote. "We have a responsibility as legislators to put forward public policy that protects against those things."

But at least one Republican pushed back.

"I want you to stop and think for just a minute of how different things would be in Minnesota if that state would simply let the ICE officials into their jails to get the people that have broken our immigration law and that are already in custody," said Sen. Mike Gaskill, R-Pendleton.

"Think how much easier things would be in Minnesota if political leaders of that state were not inciting an army of citizens who think it's okay to attack law enforcement."

Gaskill described incidents in which ICE agents have been targeted and criticized Democratic lawmakers for what he called a "mischaracterization" of immigration enforcement.

"Our immigration laws were passed in Congress by Democrats and Republicans years ago," he said. "It's just a matter



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muniz

State Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, speaks on the Senate floor in 2025. Brown rejected claims that a bill she authored targets immigrants. "If you are here legally, this bill doesn't pertain to you," she said. "If you are here legally and you continue to abide by our laws, this bill doesn't pertain to you."

of, are we going to enforce them, or are we not?"

Democratic senators warned the bill would strain already overcrowded county jails, divert local law enforcement

resources and further undermine trust between police and immigrant communities.

"County jails across the state are already full," said Sen. Shelley Yoder, D-Bloomington. "Yet,

this bill demands more holds, more time in custody and more administrative burden and not taking into account even constitutional rights."

She described the legislation as "virtue signaling with real and devastating consequences" and argued that local governments would be left to absorb costs and fallout.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, additionally referenced opposition from Indianapolis law enforcement during similar debates last year.

"The Fraternal Order of Police in Indianapolis had a press conference and they opposed that type of legislation," Qaddoura noted. "It diverts local resources of law enforcement to enforce federal law, and that will break the trust between law enforcement and our communities."

AG still opposed

But Brown rejected claims that the bill targets immigrants broadly.

"If you are here legally, this bill doesn't pertain to you," Brown maintained. "If you are here legally and you continue to abide by our laws, this bill doesn't pertain to you."

She said the bill's intent is to prevent "rogue units of government or higher ed" from impeding enforcement and to ensure

law enforcement has the training it has requested.

"Allow law enforcement to do their jobs, enforce the laws that we have in our books, federal, state or local," Brown said. "And if you do not, there will be consequences."

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita — who has previously criticized Brown's bill — remained sharply skeptical on Monday.

In a statement to the Indiana Capital Chronicle, Rokita called the bill "window dressing," saying Brown is "desperately trying to dig herself out of a hole with conservatives."

Although he acknowledged that recent amendments made the bill "marginally better," Rokita said it remains "toothless" and argued stronger enforcement language is still available.

He said the "FAIRNESS Act" — a controversial, previously unsuccessful federal immigration bill — "is still available and can be put into" the Indiana bill.

"If you want to talk about virtue signaling, using words to describe this bill as aligning with hate and fear," Brown said in closing, "the underlying pinnings of this bill are to allow law enforcement to do their jobs and enforce the laws that we have on our books."

ICE ...

Continued from page 1

Trump said Monday that he had a "very good call" with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, who called on the president this weekend to "pull the thousands of violent, untrained officers out of Minnesota."

"We, actually, seemed to be on a similar wavelength," Trump wrote on TruthSocial.

"I told Governor Walz that I would have Tom Homan call him, and that what we are looking for are any and all Criminals that they have in their possession," Trump added. "The Governor, very respectfully, understood that... He was happy that Tom Homan was going to Minnesota, and so am I!"

Walz's office described the call as "productive," noting that Trump agreed to talk to Homeland Security officials about enabling the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to conduct an independent investigation into the fatal shooting of Alex Petti.

"The President also agreed to look into reducing the number of federal agents in Minnesota and working with the state in a more coordinated fashion on immigration enforcement regarding violent criminals," Walz's office said.

Trump's latest statements come as a federal judge heard arguments Monday on whether to temporarily halt his administration's immigration enforcement in Minnesota. Meanwhile, Democratic senators plan to oppose a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security, raising the possibility of a partial government shutdown.

A small but growing number of Republicans — including former Vice President Mike Pence — have also joined Democratic calls for a thorough investigation into Petti's killing.

The Department of Homeland Security said Petti, a 37-year-old intensive care unit nurse, approached federal officers on the street Saturday morning with a 9-millimeter semiautomatic handgun and "violently resisted" when officers tried to disarm him. But cellphone videos recorded by eyewitnesses contradict that account.

According to videos taken on the scene, Petti was holding a phone, not a handgun, when he stepped in front of a federal agent who had shoved a woman to the ground. The agent shoved and pepper sprayed him and then multiple agents forced him to the ground. In the middle of the scrum, an agent secured a handgun. Less than a second later, the first shot was fired.

Petti is the second U.S. citizen in Min-

neapolis to be killed by immigration officers this month. On Jan. 7, Renee Good, a 37-year-old mother, was shot in the head by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer.

At a briefing in Washington on Monday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Department of Homeland Security and FBI were investigating the shooting and U.S. Customs and Border Protection was also conducting its own internal review.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem drew criticism this weekend for asserting, without evidence, that Petti committed "an act of domestic terrorism" and saying that her agency would lead the investigation into his killing.

Asked if Trump agreed with Noem and Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller that Petti was a domestic terrorist, Leavitt said she had "not heard the president characterize Mr. Petti in that way."

After federal officials denied Minnesota state investigators access to the shooting scene in south Minneapolis, local and state officials accused the Homeland Security agency of mishandling evidence. Late Saturday, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension asked a federal court to block Homeland Security and Justice Department officials from destroying or concealing evidence.

On Monday, Pence, a Republican who served during Trump's first term, described images of the shooting as "deeply troubling."

"A full and transparent investigation of this officer involved shooting must take place immediately," Pence wrote on X. "The focus now should be to bring together law enforcement at every level to address the concerns in the community even while ensuring that dangerous illegal aliens are apprehended and no longer a threat to families in Minneapolis."

Until now, Bovino has been the public face of immigration enforcement in Minneapolis, but Leavitt said Monday that Homan would now be "the main point of contact on the ground" and Bovino would "very much continue to lead" the Border Patrol.

Noem, who has backed Bovino's aggressive tactics, said Monday it was "good news" that Homan was going to Minneapolis.

"I have worked closely with Tom over the last year and he has been a major asset to our team,"

Noem wrote on X.

HEALTHCARE

Symptoms of radon exposure

Although radon is a naturally-occurring substance, it can be detrimental to human health. One of the dangers associated with radon is that it is not something that can be seen, smelled or tasted. Plus, it can take years before radon exposure begins to produce symptoms.

What is radon?

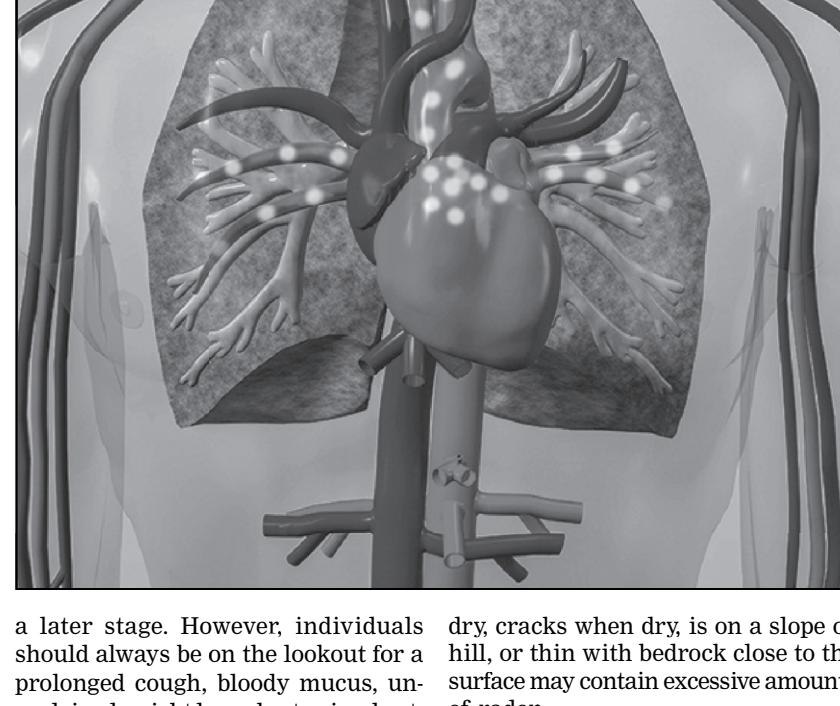
Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, radioactive gas, says the Cleveland Clinic. It forms when uranium, a heavy metal found in the ground and in most rocks on Earth, decays and turns into another metal called radium. When radium breaks down, it becomes radon.

Typically, radon is in such small amounts outdoors in the air and water that it isn't harmful. But if radon becomes concentrated, it can be toxic if exposure is high and extensive.

Are there symptoms of radon exposure?

Initially, a person may not realize that radon is posing a problem. Radon can get into the lining of the lungs when breathed in and will give off radiation. Over time, that radiation can damage the cells in the lungs and lead to lung cancer, says WebMD. In fact, radon is the second biggest cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.

Radon poisoning symptoms may start off small, and it can be challenging to connect them to anything amiss until they are prolonged. There typically are not any symptoms until lung cancer has formed and progressed to



a later stage. However, individuals should always be on the lookout for a prolonged cough, bloody mucus, unexplained weight loss, chest pain, shortness of breath, wheezing, and chest pain. Frequent infections like bronchitis and pneumonia also are concerning.

Is radon more prevalent in particular areas?

Some types of soil are more permeable than others, which means radon gas can pass through more easily, says WebMD. Other soils may have higher concentrations of radon. Soil that's

dry, cracks when dry, is on a slope or hill, or thin with bedrock close to the surface may contain excessive amounts of radon.

In the United States, Alaska, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Ohio are the states with the highest average levels of radon. In Canada, New Brunswick, Manitoba and the Yukon have the highest percentage of homes exceeding the safe radon guideline. Every homeowner is advised to test their home for radon.

Radon, although naturally occurring, is a threat to lung health. Since damage occurs over many years, it is essential to detect radon as early as possible to avoid prolonged exposure.



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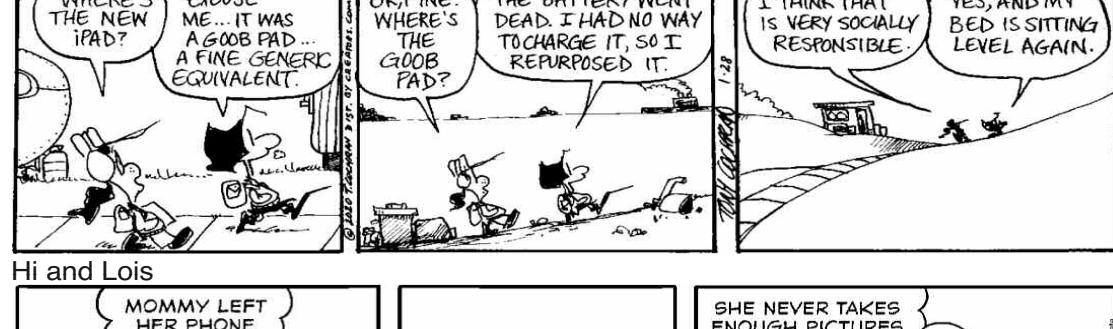
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Poised ...

Continued from page 8
"I don't think I'd change for another AFC team, but I've followed his career up to this point, so he'll for sure be my favorite quarterback," Lopez said. "The Dolphins don't have one (a quarterback) and I don't think Tua (Tagovailoa) will be there, but I'll follow him (Mendoza). I won't become a Raiders fan, but I'll follow him throughout his career for sure."

Tyler Droste of Evansville, Indiana, who attended the CFP championship last Monday night at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, said despite being a Minnesota Vikings fan he will follow Mendoza's NFL career.

"I'm from Indiana, but I'm a Vikings fan. ... We root for the (Indianapolis) Colts, too, but I would definitely wish him the best success possible at the Raiders," Droste said. "I think it would be a cool story for the Raiders to get him. I know he's a huge Tom Brady fan, he really looks up to him. So to be part of an organization that Tom Brady is a part of would be a cool story, because he could get mentorship from

someone he really looks up to."

Josh Silverman of Baltimore, Maryland, was in Florida with his two sons to root on Mendoza and the Hoosiers. Silverman said he couldn't think of a better player for his two sons to look up to than Mendoza, highlighting the quarterback's positive character.

"He's an amazing athlete; he's an amazing person and individual and a great leader," Silverman said. "I will follow him for the rest of his career, whether that's in football or out of football. He's quite an amazing individual."

If the Raiders do select Mendoza first overall on April 23, he seemingly already has the gamblers mindset when it comes to making big plays on the field, that will see him fit in Southern Nevada just fine.

"When it's fourth down-and-4, fourth down-and-5, we're going to lay it all on the line," Mendoza said postgame Monday. "We got to this point by betting on ourselves. So the ultimate gamble; we're going to double-down and make sure we hit the jackpot."

Gaining speed

Avery Wentz of the Jay County High School swim team backstrokes onward during Saturday's Allen County Athletic Conference meet. The Jay County girls scored 452 points to claim the conference crown.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Depth ...

Continued from page 8

The Tigers claimed him off waivers from the Arizona Diamondbacks on June 18, and he was called up to the big-league club after a short stint at Triple-A Toledo. Misiewicz allowed three runs on four hits, including a home run, in his only appearance against the Texas Rangers on June 27, 2023.

He was designated for assignment by the Tigers two days later and claimed off waivers by the New York Yankees the following week.

Misiewicz returned to

the Yankees in 2024, spending most of the season at Triple-A Scranton

but earning a brief stint in the Bronx. He signed a minor-league deal with the Twins before the 2025 season and was called up to the big leagues in July, making five appearances.

After three years at Michigan State, he was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 18th round in 2015. He debuted during the COVID-shortened 2020 season and became a regular in the Mariners' bullpen in 2021. He was acquired by the Kansas City Royals in

2022 and by the Diamondbacks in 2023.

Although he has bounced around quite a bit, Misiewicz has now made at least one big-league appearance in six consecutive seasons.

Another journeyman Michigander could also be on the move. Right-hander Kaleb Ort was designated for assignment by the Yankees on Friday.

Ort, who turns 34 next month, is a native of Lowell and played college ball at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.

After going undrafted

and starting his career in independent ball, Ort made his big-league debut for the Boston Red Sox in 2021 and has now pitched in five consecutive big-league seasons, most recently with the Houston Astros in 2025.

Ort finished the season on the 60-day injured list and was designated for assignment by the Astros on Jan. 2. He was claimed by the Yankees seven days later and now waits for the end of waiver limbo to determine where he will head for spring training in two weeks.

Defensive ace Bader signs with San Francisco

Justice delos Santos

The Mercury News

Tribune News Services

The San Francisco Giants' outfield defense graded out as among the worst in the majors last season. With spring training approaching, the team addressed that weakness by signing the best defensive outfielder left on the market.

San Francisco has reportedly agreed with free-agent outfielder Harrison Bader to a two-year, \$20.5 million contract, giving the Giants a defensive savant who's equipped to roam Oracle Park's spacious outfield.

The 31-year-old Bader is a one-time Gold Glover with +67 outs above average and +51 defensive runs saved as a center fielder over his nine-year major-league career. Bader totaled +7 outs above average last season, and since his debut in 2017, only Kevin Kiermaier (+74) has more outs above average in center field. He became a free agent after declining his \$10 million mutual option with the Phillies.

Bader's defensive

Gold Glover gets 2-year, \$20.5 million contract

prowess will be invaluable for the Giants, which ranked last in outs above average (-18) and 28th in defensive runs saved (-21) last season. Jung Hoo Lee, in particular, was worth -5 outs above average and -18 defensive runs saved.

With Bader in the mix, Lee will likely slide over to right field, a position he hasn't played since his time in the KBO. Lee, 27, has exclusively played center field since signing a six-year, \$113 million deal with San Francisco ahead of the 2024 season, but Lee's athleticism and arm (91st percentile in arm strength) could allow him

to become an above-average defender. Bader's range could also help left fielder Heliot Ramos, who was worth -6 defensive runs saved and -9 outs above average last season.

"Without a doubt, defensively, I wanted to sharpen up my skills there," Lee said on Saturday at the Giants' FanFest tour through an interpreter. "So, a lot of training in the offseason focused on my work on my defense in the outfield. Really happy about the strides I made and excited about next season."

Bader, who has a career 96 OPS+, is coming off the best offensive season of his career, one where he posted career-highs in batting average (.277), on-base percentage (.347), OPS (.796), home runs (17), RBIs (54) with the Minnesota Twins and Philadelphia Phillies. Despite his success at the plate, Bader projects to be due for some regression.

Last season, Bader had the second-highest difference between his actual batting average and expected batting average (.220). Additionally, Bader

had the sixth-highest difference between actual slugging percentage (.449) and expected slugging percentage (.374). There's also Oracle Park, which will diminish Bader's offensive output as well.

Along with his defense, Bader provides the Giants with some much-needed speed. Over the last four seasons, Bader has swiped 65 bases and posted 85th percentile sprint speed last season. Last season, San Francisco's 68 steals ranked last in the National League.

Bader could be the Giants' last significant addition of the offseason, one where they've added two starters (Adrian Houser, Tyler Mahle), two relievers (Sam Hentges, Jason Foley) and a backup catcher (Daniel Susac). Still, it's possible that San Francisco continues looking for ways to add before pitchers and catchers report in two weeks.

The Giants aggressively pursued Nationals shortstop CJ Abrams according to a recent report from The Athletic but Washington's front office rebuked the deal. San

Francisco has also been connected to the Chicago Cubs' Nico Hoerner and the St. Louis Cardinals' Brendan Donovan, a pair of second basemen with track records of productivity. Bader was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the third round of the 2015 MLB draft, making his debut with the Cardinals in '17 and playing with St. Louis until being traded at the '22 trade deadline. Over the past three seasons, he's spent time with the New York Yankees, Cincinnati Reds, New York Mets, Twins and Phillies.

Harrison Bader had a .277 batting average during 146 games of the 2025 season, playing for both the Minnesota Twins and the Philadelphia Phillies.

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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@thecr.com

Sports on tap

Local schedule**Thursday**

Jay County — Junior high girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament at Woodlan — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament at home — 5:30 p.m.

Thursday

Jay County — Swims vs. Marion — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.; Junior High girls basketball at Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Allen

County Athletic Conference tournament — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. New Knoxville — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Ansonia — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball in seventh grade MAC tournament at Marion Local — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball in eighth grade MAC tournament at St. John's — 5 p.m.

Today

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at

Cincinnati (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN); Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Texas at

Auburn (ESPN2); USC at Iowa (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Columbus Blue Jackets (TNT)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at TCU (ESPN2); Minnesota at Wisconsin (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado State at San Diego State (FS1)

11 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA at Oregon (BTN)

Thursday

3 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN2)

12 p.m. — Farmers Insurance Open golf (ESPN)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kansas at TCU (ESPN); Michigan State at Purdue (BTN)

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

8 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at Memphis (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Stanford (ESPN); Wisconsin at Ohio State (BTN)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Washington at Illinois (FS1)

10 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at UCLA (BTN)

10:30 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)

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corner shelf; #5 crock;

Christmas figurines and

90 SALE CALENDAR

90 SALE CALENDAR**90 SALE CALENDAR****90 SALE CALENDAR****90 SALE CALENDAR****90 SALE CALENDAR**

Mendoza poised for next level

By MICK AKERS

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Tribune News Services

Fernandomania — or Mendozamania, if you prefer, for the excitement surrounding Heisman Trophy-winning college quarterback Fernando Mendoza — is heading to the NFL. If the Raiders play their hand correctly by drafting him with the top pick, Las Vegas will serve as the hub of that fandom.

Mendoza declared for the NFL draft Friday via a LinkedIn post, officially positioning the Raiders to use their No. 1 pick in the April draft on the budding superstar. Raiders owner Mark Davis, minority owner and NFL quarterbacking great Tom Brady and general manager John Spytek were in attendance Monday night to watch Mendoza's triumphant national title win over Miami (Florida).

A few days prior to Friday's announcement, the mania swept through south Florida during the College Football Playoff national championship game and related events.

From a flock of media covering his every move, to taking a candid moment to sign autographs for a pair of fans, to Mendoza and Indiana gear as prevalent as Miami Hurricanes gear in south Florida, to even the Hoosiers' band and cheer team fanning out on the QB as he gave them

**Mick
Akers**



high-fives after the title win like he was the second coming of the Beatles, it was evident Mendoza has the making to become an NFL superstar, both on and off the field.

One of the people who got an autograph from Mendoza on media day, Eddie Lopez of Miami, said he's looked up to the star football player since he was a freshman at Christopher Columbus High School when Mendoza was a senior. Lopez worked for the school paper later in his time at Columbus High and interviewed Mendoza when he was playing at Cal.

Lopez respects the time he took out of his day for that interview and to give him his autograph last weekend.

"He took the time out of his day to make that interaction and make it meaningful and that meant the world to me," Lopez said.

Lopez is a die-hard Miami Dolphins fan, so he'll continue to root for his hometown team, but will also pull for Mendoza, even if he's on an opposing AFC team in the Raiders.

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Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Defying Gravity

Jay County High School junior Bryden Carter performs a dive at the Allen County Athletic Conference championships on Saturday. The Patriot boys placed second as Bluffton won the meet.

Former Colt Rivers out of Bills search for next head coach

By CREG STEPHENSON

al.com

Tribune News Services

Philip Rivers has withdrawn from consideration for the job as head coach of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, according to multiple reports.

The 44-year-old Rivers — who played three December games with the Indianapolis Colts this past season — interviewed with the Bills last Friday. He has spent the last five years as head football coach at St. Michael Catholic School in Fairhope, but has never coached above the high school level.

An Athens High School graduate, Rivers played from 2005-2020 with the Colts and San Diego/Los Angeles Chargers, but had not suited up for a game in nearly five years before returning to Indianapolis last month. He told AL.com's Mark Heim on Jan. 8 that while he was happy at St. Michael, the idea of coaching in the NFL intrigued him.

"You're talking about one of 32 jobs in the world at the highest level and certainly getting my feet back into it the last four weeks was exciting," Rivers said Jan. 8 on "The Opening Kickoff" on Mobile's WNSP Radio. "But that's not something I've set out to do like, 'Oh shoot, that's what I want to do.' I said openly and honestly I love it here and hope to be here a long time."

Rivers played three games for Colts in 2025 after five years out of NFL

"But you never rule anything out. We'll see where that all goes."

Buffalo is looking for a head coach after abruptly firing Sean McDermott on Jan. 19, two days after 33-30 overtime loss to the Denver Broncos in an AFC Division Playoff game. McDermott coached the Bills to eight playoff berths in nine seasons, but never made it to the Super Bowl.

Rivers is 42-16 in five seasons at St. Michael, reaching the Class 4A semifinals in both 2024 and 2025. His son, Gunner, is a rising senior and the Cardinals' starting quarterback — with scholarship offers from numerous major-college programs — heading into 2026.

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Reds add depth to pitching

By EVAN WOODBURY

mlive.com

Tribune News Services

DETROIT — Detroit-area native Anthony Misiewicz, who was very briefly a member of the Tigers, has signed a minor-league deal with the Cincinnati Reds.

The 31-year-old left-hander attended Anchor Bay High School in Fair Haven and Michigan State University. He spent just one day on the Tigers' active roster during a whirlwind 2023 season.

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