

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Portland mayor-elect Jeff Westlake (left) chats with city council candidate Larry Nuckols during a gathering of local Republicans on Tuesday at John Jay Center for Learning. Westlake defeated former mayor Randy Geesaman while Nuckols finished in a tie with Democrat Dave Golden for the second of two available at-large seats on council.

Westlake, Robbins win; council race ends in tie

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Portland will have a political newcomer at the helm.

Dunkirk has re-elected a mayor for the first time in more than three decades.

And one city council race remains undecided.

Tuesday's municipal election in Jay County resulted in Republican Jeff Westlake as the new mayor-elect of Portland, Jack Robbins re-elected to lead Dunkirk and incum-

bent Democrat Dave Golden and Republican Larry Nuckols deadlocked for the second of two open at-large spots on Portland City Council.

In addition to Westlake and Robbins, other winners in contested races were Republicans Gloria May for Redkey clerk-treasurer, Ron May for Portland City Council District 4 and Ashley Hilfiker for the first of the two at-large seats on Portland City Council.

The early voting num-

bers immediately showed the story for both mayoral races. Westlake took 57% of the early vote in the Portland race while Robbins earned 75% in Dunkirk.

Westlake went on to win all five precincts, earning at least 53.7% of the vote in each. His biggest win was in Wayne 7, where he earned 63.4%.

"I feel still kinda shocked," said Westlake, who gathered with fellow Republicans at John Jay Center for Learning to lis-

ten to election results on WPGW radio. "Randy put in a lot of hard work ... It wasn't without me noticing either. I was kind of nervous there for a minute."

Geesaman reacted with some shock at a gathering of local Democrats at Holiday Inn Express when the results of Wayne 1 were announced, leaving him with a 52-vote deficit that proved insurmountable. The final vote total was 624-426 in favor of Westlake.

With the results finalized, Geesaman and council candidate Judy Aker stopped by the Republican gathering to congratulate Westlake.

"It's disappointing," said Geesaman, noting that he worked hard going door-to-door campaigning. "But let me give credit to him. He did the exact same thing. He went door-to-door. ... He ran as good a campaign as I did ... I just wish him well."

See Race page 7

JCDC OKs its 2024 budget

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The Jay County Development Corporation board of directors unanimously approved the 2024 budget at \$224,816.04.

The main point of discussion on the budget was raises for employees, with the executive committee having asked to see numbers for 3%, 5% and 6% increases.

Most board members spoke in favor of a 5% increase to match the average that has been approved for the county, school corporation and other government entities. But several also expressed concern about the projected deficit spending of about \$8,000 in 2024.

Josh Atkinson asked if there is a plan to bring in additional funding while Chad Towell asked if there are any line items in the budget that can be cut back. (JCDC executive director Travis Richards said he took direction from the board, which previously indicated a desire to not become a fundraising organization, and said while there is probably some room to cut in other areas it would not make up for the full deficit.)

Joe Johnston ultimately made a motion to approve the budget with 5% raises while asking the organization's executive committee to present a recommendation in the first quarter of 2024 for how to cover the funding gap.

"We just can't go blindly ahead and anticipate another deficit budget for '25," said Johnston. "We can't accept that. We have to have some sort of a plan."

Board members voted unanimously in favor of Johnston's motion, approving the budget at \$224,816.04.

Richards also noted that the board is scheduled to elect officers at its first meeting of 2024. He added that there was some discussion amongst the executive committee about adding a second vice president. (The option of having multiple vice presidents has always been available via the organization's bylaws, but it has previously only utilized one.)

See JCDC page 7

Learning center gets another grant

Westminster awarded more than \$740,000

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A new month, a new grant. Westminster Preschools announced Wednesday that the State of Indiana Family of Social Services Office has awarded it \$741,949 through the Childcare Expansion Grant program to

fund the planned Jay County Early Learning Center.

"We are thrilled to see this project come to fruition, and so pleased to be a part of it," said Westminster executive director Danielle Svantner in a press release. "We believe this new funding further strengthens the partnership between the community and Westminster Preschools as we move forward together to see this vision come to life."

The grant was part of a total of just over \$8.7 million awarded in Indiana.

Westminster Preschools was one of 21 organizations selected for the grant funding out of more than 2,000 applications. It was one of 14 grants provided to create new programs in underserved areas of the state.

See Grant page 2

Celebrating victory

Dr. Marcela Azevedo (left) and Dr. Lauren Beene, co-founders of Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights, share a tearful hug after CNN called the state's Issue 1 for the yes side. The vote enshrines abortion rights in Ohio's Constitution. For more, see page 2.



Tribune News Service/The Plain Dealer/Laura Hancock

Deaths

Irene Weaver, 86, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

The Election Day high temperature reached 61 degrees. The low was 45.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 30s and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high in the lower 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Correction

A story in Tuesday's newspaper contained incorrect information. Jay County has not yet applied for a Community Crossings grant for the replacement of Portland's Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River. The county plans to apply during the next grant round, with applications due in January.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.

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



Grant ...

Continued from page 1
“This Child Care Expansion Grant will help high-quality providers grow their businesses and serve more children and families, particularly in underserved areas of Indiana, or expand availability to priority age groups where care is often hardest to find,” said Courtney Penn of the Family and Social Service Administration’s Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning in a press release. “The first five years of a child’s life are the most significant to build a strong foundation for future success. We are always looking for opportunities such as this to partner with providers to serve hard-working Hoosier families.”
The Portland Foundation

announced Oct. 31 that it received a \$50,000 grant from Ball Brothers Foundation of Muncie for the same project. In September, it was awarded a \$432,500 Early Years Initiative grant from Early Learning Indiana for renovation, equipment and supplies.
“It’s phenomenal assistance on making the project a reality,” said Inman. “Between Westminster and the foundation, we’ve written four grants and received all four. It’s just a testament to the need and the importance of the project.”
In 2022, The Portland Foundation purchased the former Judge Haynes Elementary School, 827 W. High St., Portland, with the goal of converting it into an early learning center. Executive director Doug Inman announced during

the foundation’s annual meeting in May that it had entered into an agreement with Westminster, based in Marion, to operate Jay County Early Learning Center.
The nearly three-quarters of a million dollars from the Childcare Expansion Grant will go toward renovating the building and updating the playground. Funds were also awarded for classroom supplies, curriculum training and implementation, accreditation fees and workforce development. (The Ball Brothers Foundation grant was also for renovation and expansion of the playground.)
A press release from Westminster said the funding will “help build the best state of the art, high-quality early childhood program.”
All environmental remediation

— removing asbestos, mold and lead paint — has been completed for the project and demolition of the west wing of the building, which had extensive roof damage that led to water leaks, is underway. The next step will be to install a new roof on the remainder of the structure, with that work expected to begin in mid-November.
The Portland Foundation has already put out the call for bids for a general contractor for the renovation of the building. The project is projected at \$3.5 million, with the foundation to use its reserves to handle any costs not covered by grants.
When complete, it is planned to serve 150 newborns through 5-year-old children.

Obituaries

Irene Weaver
Irene Weaver, 96, Geneva died Wednesday at her home.
Arrangements are pending at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, Geneva.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 11/10	Saturday 11/11	Sunday 11/12	Monday 11/13	Tuesday 11/14
52/28	50/30	52/32	53/33	57/39
Friday's forecast shows sunny skies and a low at night below freezing.	It will be sunny on Veterans Day, when the low will dip to around 30 degrees.	Sunday should be mostly sunny with a high during the day in the 50s.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Monday, when the high will be around 53.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high near 57 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$196 million	Evening Daily Three: 4-7-3 Daily Four: 4-8-0-2 Quick Draw: 1-3-10-19-23-30-32-34-40-42-44-47-52-58-59-62-63-65-70-76
Mega Millions 3-11-33-42-52 Mega Ball: 20 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$223 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 5-9-2 Pick 4: 5-1-5-8 Pick 5: 4-9-6-3-8 Evening Pick 3: 0-7-6 Pick 4: 7-5-8-4 Pick 5: 1-0-0-1-6 Rolling Cash: 4-5-27-29-38
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 2-7-3 Daily Four: 8-0-4-2 Quick Draw: 1-3-8-9-11-12-14-23-31-35-36-46-47-48-49-52-54-58-62-64	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.49 Dec. corn.....4.74 Wheat.....4.90	Dec. beans.....13.47 Wheat.....5.45
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.44 Dec. corn.....4.69 Jan. corn.....4.83	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.49 Late Nov. corn.....4.49 Beans.....13.26 Dec. beans.....13.26 Wheat.....5.45
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.48 Dec. corn.....4.59 Beans.....13.22	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.35 Dec. corn.....4.45 Beans.....13.12 Dec. beans.....13.22 Jan. wheat.....5.01

Today in history

In 1731, Benjamin Banneker was born in Ellicott’s Mills, Maryland. A mostly self-taught mathematician and astronomer, he was part of the surveying team that laid out Washington, D.C.
In 1918, Spiro Agnew was born in Baltimore. He served as vice president under Richard Nixon before resigning in 1973 as a result of the Watergate scandal. He had previously served as governor of Maryland.
In 1922, Albert Einstein won the 1921 Nobel Prize for Physics for his explanation of the photoelectric effect.
In 1972, the Portland High School freshman boys basketball team defeated Pennville 56-28 in its season opener. Dean Hunt led the Panthers with 16 points.
In 2021, the Jay County girls basketball team opened its season with a 66-55 victory over the visiting South Side Archers. The Patriots trailed by two at halftime but took control with a 12-3 run in the third quarter. Junior Renna Schwieterman led the way with 22 points.
—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Friday
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.
3 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Ohio backs abortion rights

By MARK NIQUETTE
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Ohio voters enshrined abortion rights in their state’s Constitution, a boon for Democrats running on the issue and complicating Republicans’ campaign messages with the approach of the 2024 elections.
The amendment, known as Issue 1, was adopted by a margin of 59% to 41% with a third of the vote counted in Tuesday’s general election in Ohio, according to the Associated Press. It’s the only state with an abortion issue on the ballot this fall. The amendment prevents the state from interfering with reproductive decisions up to about 23 weeks of pregnancy.
Supporters have said the amendment takes an important decision away from the government and back into the hands of individuals and was needed after Ohio Republicans enacted one of the most restrictive bans in the country in 2019. That law bans abortions after about six weeks — before many women know they’re pregnant with no exceptions.
Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision last year, anti-abortion ref-

erendums were defeated in Kansas, Kentucky and Montana, and rights measures passed in California, Michigan and Vermont. Earlier this year, a Wisconsin state supreme court candidate who pledged to back abortion rights won by a wide margin with unusually high turnout.
Passing the amendment in Ohio, a state that Donald Trump won twice, shows abortion can be a motivating issue for Democrats and younger voters while animating many Republicans, especially GOP women, said veteran Democratic strategist Doug Sosnik.
“It’s like a freight train that’s picked up even more speed on the issue,” Sosnik said.
Mark Caleb Smith, director of the Center for Political Studies at Cedarville University in Ohio, said Issue 1 supporters benefited because opponents were outspent on advertising, \$24.6 million to \$16.3 million, according to AdImpact. Another ballot issue to legalize recreational marijuana likely helped encourage turnout of younger voters, supporters said.
Abortion opponents, led by Republican Governor Mike DeWine, had argued that Issue 1 was too broad and “goes too far” by

allowing abortion at any time up until birth.
While abortion was not specifically on the ballot in Virginia on Tuesday, it figured in hotly contested races that will determine which party controls the legislature. Glenn Youngkin, the Republican governor who campaigned to give the full control of the state government, supports a 15-week abortion ban with exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.
The successful vote for Issue 1 comes after several trials. Abortion rights groups accused opponents of waging a “disinformation campaign” to defeat the measure, including approving ballot language that used the term “unborn child” instead of “fetus.” Ohio Republicans also tried using a special election in August to raise the threshold for passing an amendment to 60% from a simple majority. Voters soundly rejected it.
Ohio Department of Health data show that the vast majority, or 89%, of the 18,488 abortions in the state last year were performed before 13 weeks of pregnancy, and only 107 — or 0.6% — were done at 21 weeks and over. Often in those cases, the fetus couldn’t survive or the mother’s life was in jeopardy.

G-7 ministers call for pause

By ISABEL REYNOLDS and COURTNEY MCBRIDE
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Group of Seven Foreign Ministers agreed on the need for humanitarian “pauses” in Israel’s war with Hamas, according to a joint statement issued after the group met in Tokyo.
“We support humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement, and the release of hostages,” the ministers said. “All parties must allow unimpeded humanitarian support for civilians.”
The conflict in Gaza topped the agenda at the meeting, which came after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s whirlwind tour of the Middle East. His calls for halts in the fighting to allow delivery of basic necessities were met with more air and ground attacks from Israel and frustration from Jordan, which called for a full cease-fire.
Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa hailed the joint statement, in which the ministers condemned the “terror attacks by Hamas” and rejected both antisemitism and Islamophobia.

“This is the first time the G-7 has issued a unified message in writing on the situation,” she told reporters after hosting the meeting. “It’s an important achievement.”

Jay County Conservation Club
ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH & CHICKEN FRY
VETERAN'S DAY - VETERANS EAT FREE!
November 11, 2023
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Adults \$12.00 Kids 5 & under FREE
6243 S. 325 W Portland, IN

Extra SPECIAL SAVINGS
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Full-page color — \$500
Full-page black and white — \$400
1/2 page color — \$325
(includes tile ad on CR website through end of 2023)
1/2 page black and white — \$275
Run any 6-inch ad
(1x6, 2x3, 6x1 or 3x2)
four times in November
for **\$200** (Regular price — \$312)
Contact Lindsey at
L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141
GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS
Rates do not apply to our Nov. 22 Thanksgiving edition
Ads must run in November

SERVICES
Today
Bumbalough, Robert: 4 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.
Friday
Whitesell, Chris: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.
Saturday
Osborne, William: 11 a.m., Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.
Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Take steps to raise lung cancer awareness

By GRACE CHRISTMAN

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness of lung cancer, how to prevent it and detect it early, and the effects of lung cancer on our communities.

The American Cancer Society also holds The Great American Smoke-out on the third Thursday of November. This year the annual event is on Nov. 16. It's a time to challenge smokers to give up cigarettes for 24 hours and take the first step to quitting for good.

While studies show that lung cancer diagnoses and mortality rates are declining across the country, it is still the most common cause of cancer deaths for both

Your Health Matters



men and women in the United States. In fact, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in every racial/ethnic group among male adults.

Routine screening, early detection and treatment are essential to reducing the advanced state or late-stage lung cancer and improving cancer survivorship.

Is lung cancer preventable?
Most lung cancer

deaths are preventable. Several factors contribute to the onset of lung cancer including tobacco use, radon exposure, secondhand smoke exposure and environmental exposures at home, work or in other environments.

Quitting tobacco reduces a person's risk of acquiring a tobacco-related cancer. Tobacco cessation is also beneficial for cancer survivors, especially when considering reducing risks associated with cancer recurrence. Tobacco cessation resources, like the Indiana Tobacco Quitline and free nicotine replacement therapy, can assist you in quitting to protect your health.

Lung cancer screening

is recommended for some people who smoke or have recently quit smoking. Increasing cancer screening resources among individuals who smoke or vape, have smoked or vaped, or are frequently exposed to secondhand smoke or aerosol can improve lung cancer outcomes by detecting and treating lung cancer early nationwide. Early detection is important, as lung cancer often exhibits minimal to zero symptoms in its early stages.

What can I do if I am at risk for lung cancer?

Numerous healthcare systems offer simple and convenient lung cancer screenings. IU Health offers scans locally for

\$49. Call (765) 282-7595 for more information or to schedule a scan. This year, hospital systems around the nation — including IU Health — are offering free scans for eligible veterans from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11. To see if you are eligible, visit cancer.iu.edu/community/ecln/events or call the Imaging Center at (765) 282-7595. Veterans are 25% more likely to receive a lung cancer diagnosis in their lifetime compared to the general population. Early detection is key and can be life-saving.

How can I quit using tobacco and nicotine?

Quitting is tough, but so are you! The good news is, you don't have to quit cold

turkey. There are resources at your disposal to help you in your quit journey. Talk to your primary care provider about local tobacco treatment programs available.

The Indiana Tobacco Quitline is also a great option. Eligible individuals will receive free nicotine replacement therapy in the form of gum, lozenges or patches. You will also receive free counseling from a quit coach. Visit quitnowindiana.com or call 800-QUIT-NOW to begin your quit journey.

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Christman is the Tobacco Free Blackford County coordinator. For more information, email her at grace@tobaccofreeblackfordcounty.org.

Wife's online chats with man irk her husband

DEAR ABBY: I discovered last year that my wife was exchanging flirty texts with a local man and had been doing so for years. I found out when I uncovered an image of an adult toy in her phone's deleted images. At the time, I nearly divorced her, but although our marriage went through a tumultuous period, we are still together.

She told me then she'd stop communicating with this man, but a few months ago, she reached out to him for help with a social media account issue she had, and now they chat daily on social media. Although it seems platonic now, it bothers me and has been a source of contention in our marriage. She says she has problems finding female friends, that he understands her medical issues and he's her friend, and they are back to messaging regularly. I can see what's being said, but it still gets me upset.

Am I an ogre for asking her to

Dear Abby



stop? She says that she has changed her mind and will continue to contact him. I feel like our marriage may be on rocky ground again, but she thinks I am being awful for saying anything. What are your thoughts?

— UPSET HUBBY IN ALABAMA

DEAR UPSET HUBBY: I am sorry you feel so insecure, which must be painful. You didn't mention in what context your wife had a deleted image of a sex toy. Many people shop for them online and couples enjoy them together. During the COVID-19 pandemic, sales of adult toys went through the roof. You say that you read all of the communications between

your wife and her male (platonic) friend. Why isn't that enough? Women are allowed to have male friends, and these days, many of them do. If your marriage is in trouble, perhaps the cause is your ongoing effort to control her. It might improve if you back off.

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DEAR ABBY: My son, who is 5, has a rare spinal cord injury from birth. He can crawl, but he does not walk well. We have spent many months and a lot of money ensuring he is getting the best physical therapy and medical care possible for his condition, and we adhere closely to the medical advice of these experts.

My mother, who lives 2,000 miles away, loves my son and wants to spend time with him. However, whenever we visit, she obsesses over the fact that my son can't walk well. I have reminded her not to fixate on his disability and to just enjoy time with him, which is what

of my isolation and heal from the trauma of childhood sexual abuse. Could you please recommend some dating etiquette? What support organizations can assist with my recovery efforts?

— LOOKING IN THE WEST
DEAR LOOKING: Ask your therapist to suggest some sites you should visit. After you have looked them over, ask your therapist how to proceed. You are paying for emotional support from this person, and this is who should actually assist you with your recovery. If it works, stick with this therapist. If it does not, contact R.A.I.N.N. (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network) at rainn.org to see if you are on the right track.

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DEAR MOM: It is your duty as a mother to protect your son from harm. Tell your "helpful" mother that if she says anything again to shame him, it will be the last time she sees him. The person who creates the familial rift won't be you, it will be your incredibly ignorant and insensitive mother.

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DEAR ABBY: I am a 63-year-old heterosexual male who has recently joined an adult dating site to enhance my social and sexual life. A therapist suggested that it would help me to break out

of my isolation and heal from the trauma of childhood sexual abuse. Could you please recommend some dating etiquette? What support organizations can assist with my recovery efforts?

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

Community Calendar

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

Today
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana

University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Nov. 9 at the post at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Friday PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets

at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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

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

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

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.



Our Christmas Greetings issue will appear in The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette, The News Times and The News and Sun the week of Dec. 18.

Ads 15 inches or larger may include a photo of your staff. For those who provide their own photo, the fee will be \$20. (The fee will be waived if you get your photo to us by Nov. 30.) If you'd like us to come take your picture, the fee will be \$50.

Deadline for all ads & photos is December 8th!

We try hard not to miss anyone who wants to be in this issue.

If you do not get contacted and would like to be in our Christmas Greetings special section, please email ads@thecr.com or call (260) 726-8141.

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

The benefits aren't quite so clear

By MORTON J. MARCUS

If you recall last week's homily, we were discussing taxes on business and how Indiana was ranked favorably in 10th place among the 50 states by the reputable Tax Foundation. Favorably to business, that is.

The story is: If we rank well, we will see our economic status improving over time. But in what dimensions should this improvement be found?

Does that mean Indiana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a share of the nation's GDP should be rising? Lo and behold, in 2017 Indiana's GDP was 1.823% of the nation's GDP and rose to 1.827% in 2022.

Please, don't belittle small percentage changes when dealing

Eye on the Pie



with trillions of dollars. That tiny 0.004% represented a billion dollars more of GDP produced in Indiana than if we did not have that extra sliver of advantage.

Yet, our total GDP slipped from 16th to 19th place among the states. Our growth was 31.6% (not adjusted for inflation) compared with booming Idaho and Utah, respectively at 52% and 49%.

Thus, Indiana's share of the nation rose slightly, but our relative place (our ranking) declined.

Which is more important: our relative improvement or our relative decline? Only our state-sponsored economic development gurus could possibly tell us.

Jobs? Not so good. Between 2017 and 2022, Indiana added nearly 240,000 jobs, but slipped from 16th to 18th place in the nation. If we'd kept pace with the nation in adding jobs, there would have been another 81,700 jobs in Indiana.

"Labor productivity" rose faster in the Hoosier state than in the nation. Or we could say changes in production, including automation and redefinition

of jobs, sacrificed about 82,000 Hoosier jobs so that our average compensation per job could improve from 29th-highest to 26th-highest in the U.S.

In 2017, Hoosier workers averaged \$88.96 for each \$100 in compensation of the average worker nationally. That rose to \$89.46 per \$100 in 2022. That slight achievement might not impress the average Hoosier who saw the spread between "us and them there in other states" increase by \$807 from \$5,868 to \$6,675.

Thanks for sticking with me. I know this is a lot of numbers that seem to be a jumble of mixed digits, but that's the point. There is no clear evidence that states with lower business taxes necessarily improve their

economies or the well-being of small businesses. consumers, homeowners, renters, working and retired people.

Nor can we prove or disprove that tax cuts for business show up denying necessary improvements in public services, through the erosion of roads, dams, education, public health, parks and other amenities.

The irony is that some Indiana politicians are now shifting from jobs and income to focusing on something else they cannot define or measure, the quality of place. But that's another story for another time.

.....
Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Fed is right to stay course

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Last week, the Federal Reserve did the right thing by leaving well enough alone, keeping the benchmark interest rate at about 5.4%. With the acute pressure that the board and Chair Jay Powell in particular have faced in the past several months, we're glad they've had the wisdom to know when to step back.

There have been those that, wedded to formulaic understandings about the economy, have insisted it's all but mechanically impossible for inflation to come down into acceptable ranges without seriously harming the economy. We've even heard that we need a recession, that a recession is the inevitable endpoint of a sadly necessary effort to wrangle inflation under control, and that the Fed should not have relented on its campaign to sharply raise rates.

These critics pointed to the 1970s and the reign of Paul Volcker. When things looked grim, the story goes, Volcker stepped up and did what had to be done, pushing the economy into a recession with prolonged unemployment but in the process saving it from a worse spiral of soaring prices that threatened to derail the country's prosperous postwar climb. The horrifying prospect that this approach may not really have been necessary is something the conventional economic view all but put out of mind.

We should all be mightily thankful that Powell and his Fed colleagues didn't listen to the naysayers, in part because of some powerful and clear-headed voices bucking the trend, including Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee. We now find ourselves right where they said we couldn't be: not only have we avoided a recession, but by most metrics, the economy is doing great. Unemployment is low, wages are gaining after a virtual decadeslong standstill, inequality is a bit down.

None of that is to say that it's milk and honey for everyone out there; that we haven't had a recession doesn't mean that rising interest rates and inflation haven't both hurt households, and the majority of Americans

Guest Editorial

Unemployment is low, wages are gaining after a virtual decadeslong standstill, inequality is a bit down.

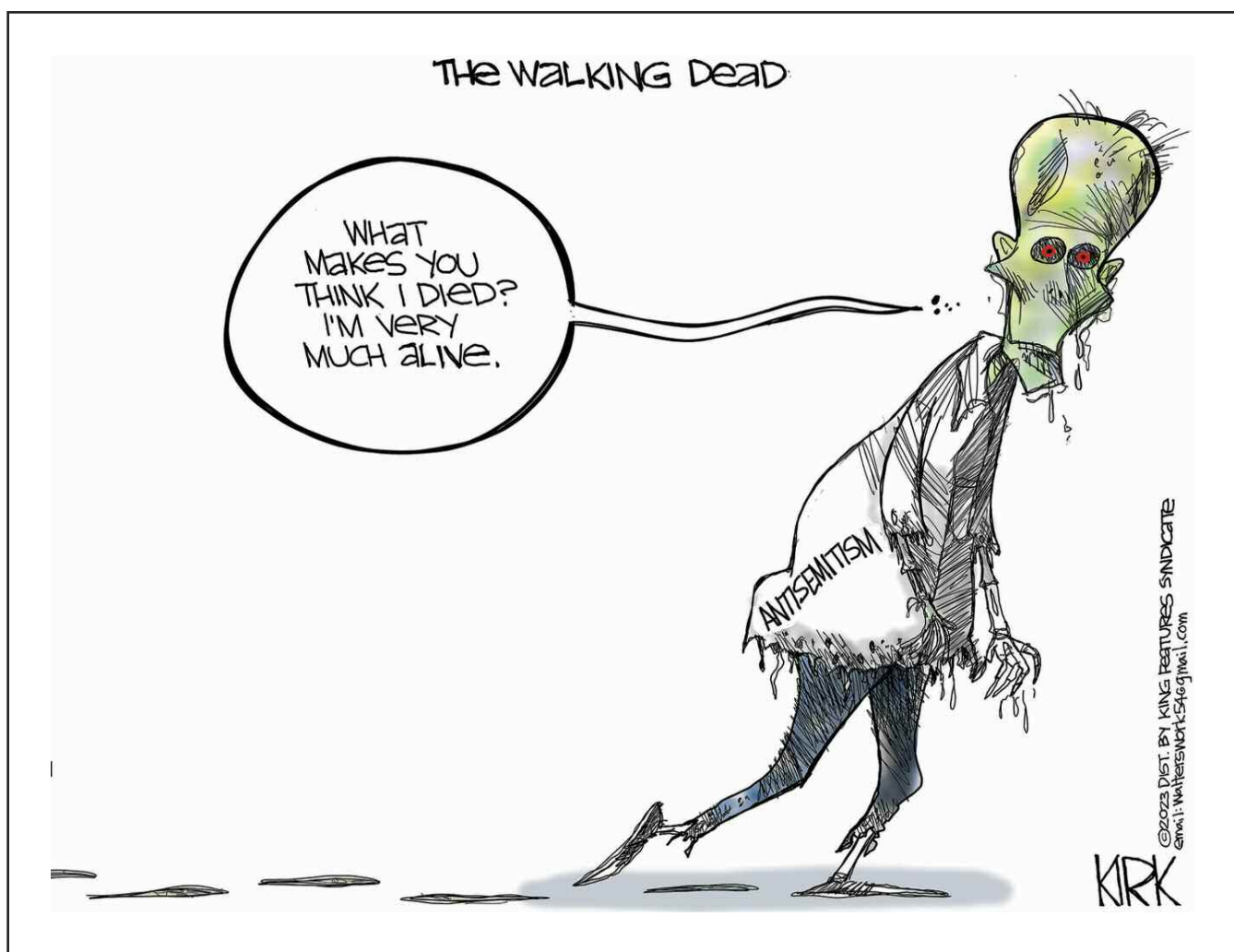
are still living paycheck to paycheck. The job certainly isn't done, and a combination of factors including President Joe Biden's continuing commitment to robust industrial policy and the resurgent power of labor organizing can keep pulling things in the right direction.

Is this graceful landing the product of the particular circumstances of the contemporary economic picture? Maybe, but what isn't? The point is that it worked, and what definitely won't help now is if the Fed busies itself fixing what ain't broke.

Though the interest rates were kept steady this time around, Powell has repeatedly insinuated that he envisions a potential additional hike in the near term. This doesn't sound like too big of a deal given that the Fed's earlier series of successive rate increases did not drive us into recession already; what's another few basis points?

Yet the primary distinction between a healthy economy and a recession isn't whether interest rates were hiked — pretty much everyone agreed they had to be hiked — but how aggressively and how quickly; the problem is that once a recession sparks, it's next to impossible to get it back under control before it inflicts massive damage, and why would we play with fire when things are fine now?

The Fed should instead revel in pulling off what some thought impossible.



We should teach self-control

By ALEX R. PIQUERO

Miami Herald
Tribune News Service

Think back to the last time you were eating a bag of plantain chips. Did you eat just one or did you end up eating the whole bag? What about the last time you opened up a half gallon of ice cream — did you scoop some into a bowl or take a spoon to the whole carton?

These are decisions that we make on a routine basis. The options we choose have much to do with self-control and our ability and willingness to exercise it.

At its core, self-control is the ability to manage and moderate one's impulses and to consider the longer-term implications of one's actions. It is established largely through parental socialization, early in childhood, and can change and improve with age and with training and modification.

Self-control has been found to be strongly related to crime, victimization, health, wealth and other life outcomes. Importantly, self-control also can be a way to prevent crime.

Yet, when people and policymakers think about crime prevention, they tend to start with what the criminal justice system can do about it. We know that the police are part of a comprehensive response to crime prevention. But they are not the only one nor always the most effective one when it comes to improving public safety.

Efforts like cleaning and greening vacant lots, streetlight improvements and, in some cases, community violence intervention/interruption have also had some success. But, for my money, there may be no better way to pre-

Alex R. Piquero



vent crime — and improve many other outcomes in life — than to build up the self-control of individuals.

In several studies I led, we found very strong evidence that early family/parent training programs focusing on teaching children self-control and better decision-making skills were effective in preventing antisocial and delinquent behavior. In another study I led reviewing self-control improvement programs, we found that such programs work to improve self-control and reduce delinquency. Bottom line: These programs can improve self-control and reduce antisocial behavior.

There are various examples of programs that work to help parents teach children effective emotional regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills. One promising, cost-effective program is Stop Now And Plan. SNAP works with parents and children to help kids learn to pause and think before they act, so they make better choices "in the moment" that help keep them in school and out of trouble. Research supporting SNAP — using randomized controlled trials and among different demographic groups — documented improvements in self-control and reductions in externalizing (antisocial) behavior.

These kinds of programs are getting attention from county and city leaders and government offi-

cials throughout the United States and abroad. In Miami-Dade County, Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Peace and Prosperity Plan secured a round of funding for SNAP. And the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, which oversees a range of programming "in order to prevent juvenile delinquency and encourage good choices and healthy family relationships," says SNAP operates in over a dozen counties, including Miami-Dade.

Cost-benefit analyses of SNAP and similar self-control programs strongly support the concept. Since saving a youth from a life of crime can save several million dollars in criminal justice and other costs, Mark Cohen — a Vanderbilt University professor who has studied these issues with me — and I concluded that it is much wiser to invest in people early in life rather than pay the price later.

The decision to invest in self-control programs, however, should not be motivated solely by money. It should be motivated by investing in people, as early as possible.

Some years ago, I wrote that we can be smarter on crime by being smarter on people. Focusing on self-control is one piece of an overall public safety strategy that complements — but does not substitute for — policing. But the fact that self-control affects so many other things in life makes investing in it so simple. We must spend smartly now to gain the benefits later.

.....
Piquero is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology, and Arts and Sciences Distinguished Scholar at the University of Miami. He previously served as director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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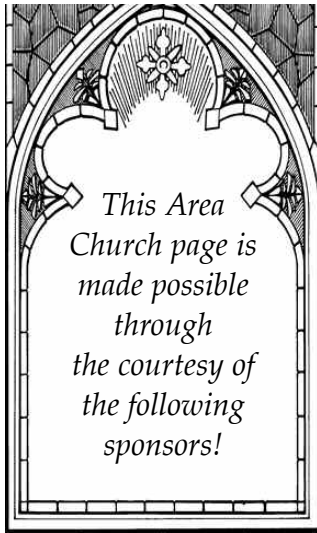
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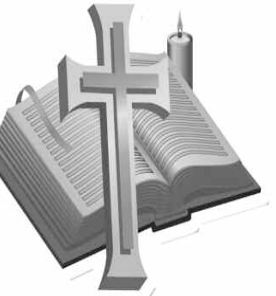


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phone number, services and
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All services are Sunday,
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**Asbury United
Methodist**
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11
a.m.
asburyministries.org

**Banner Christian
Assembly of God**
1217 W. Votaw St., Port-
land
Michael Burk
(260) 726-4282
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Christ Chapel
105 S. Elm St., Fort Recov-
ery
Quentin Elsea
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

**Church of Christ
(Southside)**
1209 S. Shank St., Port-
land
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30
p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Cornerstone Church of
Pennville**
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South,
Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

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

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

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m.,
5 p.m.

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

**First Community
Baptist**
341 S. Meridian St., Red-
key
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

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

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

**Fort Recovery Church
of the Nazarene**
401 E. Boundary St., Fort
Recovery
Revs. Brad and Kate
Ratliff
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
frnaz@frontier.com

**Fort Recovery
United Methodist**
309 E. Boundary St., Fort
Recovery
Rev. David Porath
(419) 678-2071
Services: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 755-6354
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sun-
day

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

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

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

Sugar Grove Nazarene
County roads 400 North
and 550 West
Rev. Mike Heckman
(260) 731-4733
Services: 11 a.m.

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

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort
Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contem-
porary service, fourth Sun-
day)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

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

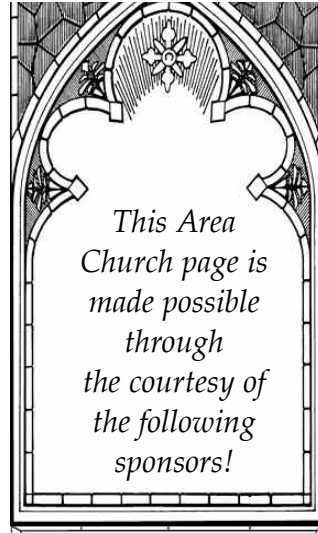
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris
Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6
p.m.

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

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

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

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



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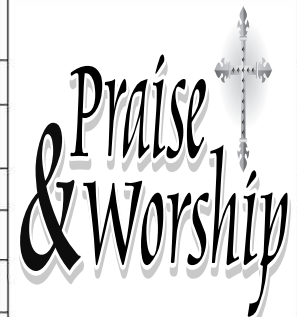
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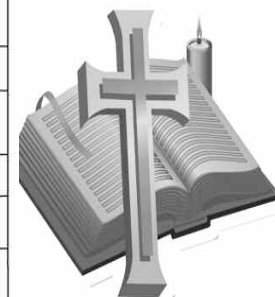
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

ARE YOU KIDDING? WHO CAN AFFORD A HOUSE THESE DAYS?

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"We don't want Daddy on our paper. He worked for the Philadelphia Bulletin and it folded."

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Peanuts

AND SO, WORLD WAR II CAME TO AN END...

MY GRANDMOTHER LEFT HER JOB IN THE DEFENSE PLANT, AND WENT TO WORK FOR THE TELEPHONE COMPANY...

WE NEED TO STUDY THE LIVES OF GREAT WOMEN LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER... TALK TO YOUR OWN GRANDMOTHER TODAY... ASK HER QUESTIONS...

YOU'LL FIND SHE KNOWS MORE THAN PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES! THANK YOU!

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Agnes

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I LIKE FAST PRAYERS... YOU CAN GET TO EATIN' SOONER.

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Hi and Lois

WHIPPED CREAM WITH A CHERRY ON TOP.

WILL YOU EAT YOUR BROCCOLI NOW?

IT'S STILL UNDER THERE?

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Between Friends

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? HOW AM I GOING TO HANDLE THIS?

I JUST ASSUMED THE PRESIDENT WOULD ACCEPT MY RECOMMENDATION TO GIVE HELEN A BONUS FOR TAKING OVER MY DUTIES FOR SIX MONTHS—IT'S NOT FAIR TO DO THAT FOR NOTHING.

IS THAT ALL THEY THINK OF HER?

IS THAT ALL THEY THINK OF ME?

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Blondie

WELL, I'M HEADED TO CHEERLEADING PRACTICE AGAIN? THAT'S THE FOURTH TIME THIS WEEK.

I KNOW, BUT THE TEAM IS 2-6 RIGHT NOW, SO WE'RE WORKING ON A NEW CHEER TO MOTIVATE THEM OUT OF THEIR LOSING STREAK.

IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S THE FOOTBALL TEAM THAT NEEDS THE EXTRA PRACTICE.

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Snuffy Smith

BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH PRESENT... SPARKPLUG'S GRANDSON... LI'L SPARKY

HOW CAN YOU TWO EAT THAT WIFOUT SALAD DRESSIN' ?!

CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP!

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Beetle Bailey

THAT HELMET IS NOT REGULATION! GO CHANGE IT!

WHY CAN'T I HAVE A SPONSOR?

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Imagination

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠6
♥10 9 8
♦A Q 10 8 5
♣A J 10 6

EAST
♠A 5
♥K Q 6 5 2
♦K J 9 2
♣K 7

SOUTH
♠K Q J 10 9 4 2
♥A J 4
♦—
♣8 4 3

The bidding:
North 1♦ East 1♥ South 1♠ West Pass
2♣ Pass 4♣

Opening lead—seven of hearts.

If you play against opponents who never make a mistake, this article is not for you. But if, as is more likely, your opponents are human and occasionally err, these words will not be in vain.

Assume you're South and West leads the seven of hearts against your four-spade contract. Right away you get a sinking feeling about what's going to happen. After you take East's queen with

the ace and lead a trump, you know East will win the trick, cash the king of hearts and return a heart for West to ruff. In the fullness of time, you will also lose a club trick and so go down one.

But there is no place for a defeatist attitude at the bridge table, so you begin to look for a way out until, after a while, you concoct a scheme that you hope will turn the tide.

Instead of taking East's queen of hearts with the ace, you play the jack instead! When East continues with a low heart, you win with dummy's ten and then cash the ace of diamonds, discarding the ace of hearts! Now you cannot be defeated, and you make four spades.

The fly in the ointment is that East can upset your plan by returning the king of hearts at trick two rather than a low heart. The low-heart return by East is an error to be sure, but it is one he might easily make.

So if, as we said before, East is a player who never makes a mistake, he will return the king of hearts, and your grand scheme will go up in smoke. But it certainly doesn't hurt to try!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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11-9 CRYPTOQUIP

JR RTO TOJIVGJLD-CJBWDJGRWLKBF
GUCNJBQ, OAOLQMUIQ GJZZV
RTOKL AKGO NLOVKIOBR

"VOGUBI MBIJBJ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEBODY STERNLY SCOLDS YOU BUT THEN IMMEDIATELY COMMENDS YOU, IS THAT BERATE-AND-SWITCH? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 42 Vegas opener? | 2 Brooch | 20 Piano support |
| 1 Mimic | 44 Snacked (on) | 3 Grants a right to | 21 Fed. workplace monitor |
| 4 Detail | 46 Sampling wines | 4 Tel Aviv's land | 22 Salt |
| 8 Assess | 50 Tibetan bovine | 5 Menlo Park | 23 Lake City squad |
| 12 Feminine principle | 51 Sweet sandwich | 6 Building wings | 27 River blocker |
| 13 Shopper's delight | 52 Weaponry | 7 "Twilight" author | 29 Uzbek capital |
| 14 Nobel Prize subj. | 56 Actress Hatcher | 8 Danger sign | 30 Theater award |
| 15 100% | 57 Occupy acronym | 9 "Superfood" berry | 31 Peruse |
| 17 Scurry | 58 Formerly known as | 10 Rent creatures | 33 Shoulder muscle |
| 18 Savings plan | 59 Stated | 11 Tolkien Apr. check | 35 Cacophony |
| 19 Many Instagram photos | 60 "Les États—" rival | 16 Apr. casher | 43 Major mix-up |
| 21 Square one | 61 Delta's one-time rival | | 45 Muppet eagle |
| 24 Seminary subj. | | | 46 Youngsters |
| 25 Cardinal cap letters | | | 47 Bailiwick |
| 26 Cover | | | 48 LPGA star Pak |
| 28 Croc's kin | | | 49 Wide smile |
| 32 Obey | | | 53 Roman 1051 |
| 34 Knee protector | | | 54 Up-to-date |
| 36 Comedian Kaplan | | | 55 Brewed drink |
| 37 Plus | | | |
| 39 Russian space station | | | |
| 41 "Diamonds" singer | | | |

Solution time: 24 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 11-9

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		
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46	47	48			49		50				
51				52		53				54	55
56				57					58		
59				60					61		

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Race ...

Continued from page 1
Geesaman, who served two terms as mayor from 2012 through 2019 before losing to current mayor John Boggs four years ago, said he will not run for office again.

Westlake, who won a four-way Republican primary in May that included incumbent John Boggs, said his administration will be focused on bringing a positive atmosphere to the city.

"I'm looking forward to personally getting out there," said Westlake. "I want to inspire people. I want to motivate people."

Robbins expanded his margin of victory from 2019, earning 65% of the vote against Republican Jay Miller. (He picked up 57% in his victory four years ago over Gene Ritter.) The final tally was 171-93.

He becomes the first Dunkirk mayor to earn re-election since Grant Fager was unopposed in 1991.

"That's a pretty good feat to beat," said Robbins. "There were a lot of good mayors that didn't make it. I don't have an answer why they didn't."

"I think I'm going to enjoy the next four years, knowing the people appreciate what I'm doing. It makes you feel better."

He said he wants to focus on filling downtown buildings with businesses, specifically mentioning the Todd Building and the Stewart Brothers Building.

Hilfiker dominated the three-way race for the two at-large seats on Portland City Council, racking up 669 votes. She will replace Republican Janet Powers, who chose not to seek re-election.

Golden, the incumbent Democrat, and Nuckols, a Republican, tied for second place with 485



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Portland City Council member Matt Goldsworthy (left) chats with council member elect Ashley Hilfiker (right) and her husband Dustine (foreground) during a gathering of Republicans on Tuesday at John Jay Center for Learning.

in 2020, in the race for Redkey clerk-treasurer. She won by an 81-43 margin.

Re-elected to Portland City Council without opposition Tuesday were Republicans Matt Goldsworthy (District 1), Michele Brewster (District 3) and Kent McClung (District 5), and independent Mike Aker (District 2). Also unopposed for re-election and returning to office will be incumbent Democrat Lori Phillips (clerk-treasurer) and Republican Don Gillespie (city court judge).

All Dunkirk City Council members were elected without opposition. The council will include incumbent Republican Jesse Bivens (District 3), incumbent Democrat Christy Curts (District 4) and newcomers Republicans Dan Watson (at-large) and Randy Murphy (District 1) and Democrat Donna Revolt (District 2). Curts was elected to her own term after being chosen in 2021 to replace Lisa Street after she moved. Watson is a former mayor of Dunkirk, having served from 2012 through 2015. Also re-elected without opposition in Dunkirk was Democrat Tina Elliott for clerk-treasurer.

In Redkey all three town council candidates were guaranteed victory with three at-large seats available. Joining council will be Democrat "Watermelon" Jim Phillips and Republicans David Dudelston and Brenda Beaty.

Voter turnout came in at 28.1%, with 1,498 ballots cast amongst 5,332 registered voters. Of that total, 574 (38%) voted early with 924 casting ballots on Election Day.

There were 223 straight party Republican ballots and 84 for the Democrats.

votes apiece. They expressed similar sentiments after the results were announced.

"This is democracy," said Golden. "We let the process play out and that's that."

"We're still in the fight," said Nuckols. "We'll go through the process and hopefully we can still win."

Jay County clerk Jon Eads said Tuesday evening he was unclear on how the tie would be broken and that he would contact the Indiana Secretary of State's office Wednesday morning for guidance.

The Commercial Review searched Indiana Code on Tues-

day and found that section 3-12-9-4 indicates that in the case of a tie the fiscal body of the political subdivision resolves the tie by selecting one of the candidates involved in the tie. In the City of Portland, the fiscal body is Portland City Council.

Indiana Code also indicates that candidates can file for a recount or contest an election result.

Upon checking with the state Wednesday morning, Eads confirmed those details. Candidates have until noon Nov. 21 and party chairs have until noon Nov. 27 to file a verified recount or contested petition. If the race

remains a tie, Portland City Council must choose a winner by Dec. 31. (As a sitting council member, Golden would abstain from the vote. A tie would be broken by the clerk-treasurer.)

The battle for the other contested Portland City Council seat was also close with May topping former four-term council member Democrat Judy Aker 119-100. May will replace Republican Don Gillespie, who chose not to run for another term.

May nearly doubled up incumbent Democrat Mary Eley, who was appointed following the retirement of Debbie James

JCDC ...

Continued from page 1

The board expressed support for adding a second vice president in order to prepare members to step into the role of president in the future. There was some discussion about whether to have the vice presidents on parallel or staggered two-year terms.

Richards also issued a reminder that the call for projects is open for the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), a state program that can allocate up to \$75 million apiece

(\$500 million total) to regions across the state. (Jay County is part of a region that also includes Blackford, Grant, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne and Fayette counties.)

Anyone can submit a project by visiting forgeeci.com/project-portal. The deadline is Nov. 17.

Tabby Sprunger, executive director of Jay County Chamber of Commerce, also told the board that the chamber, JCDC, United Way of Jay County and

The Portland Foundation are partnering on an opportunity for grant funding through the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. The program has \$25 million available through the Employer-Sponsored Child Care Fund to support employers and communities in providing or expanding child care.

The grant requires a 10% match.

Local employers interested in participating can

email tabby@jaycounty-chamber.com. The grant has a quick turn-around time, with those interested in taking part needing to inform the chamber no later than Wednesday, Nov. 15.

In other business:
•Sprunger noted that Winterfest begins next weekend with Christmas at the Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, and the Kids Carnival and Breakfast, Little Miss Winterfest Pageant and Parade of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 18.

•Learned from Faron Parr that the Bryant Park trail project is nearly complete. The community will celebrate with a community chili lunch at noon Saturday at Bryant Community Center and a short dedication to follow at 1 p.m.

•Heard a request from Mary Adair of Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau to submit events to her for the 2024 calendar by the first half of December.

•Richards updated the board on the Launch Jay!

event held last month. Dawn Alicea's Blessings Photography took first place and the audience favorite award at the event. Richard's also noted that he and Sprunger attended the Randolph County Open for Business competition, which was modeled after Launch Jay!

•Heard from Richards about various recent business investments, including projects at Fort Recovery Industries, Pioneer Warehousing and Joyce/Dayton.

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	100 JOBS WANTED	190 FARMERS COLUMN
<p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located : 822 S 500 W, Portland, IN. Friday Morning, NOVEMBER 17, 2023 10:00 A. M. EQUIPMENT-DUMP TRUCK-CLUB CAR Bobcat T870 2 Speed Track Loader, 2021 Kubota KX080-4S2R3A Excavator, Include Angle Blade, Power Factory Thumb and 24" GP Bicket; 2023 Bobcat Toolcat UW56 - 4X4 Diesel, 2018 Enduraplas Field Boss XTREAM UTV Sprayer with 12' Booms, 50' Hose Reel, and Honda Motor; 2021 EZ GO L6 - 6 Passenger Gas Club Car. TOOLS Hobart Stick Mate LX Welder on cart; Bed-scraper Trencher; Stor-Loc Modular Drawer System Tool Bench; Mats; Dog Cage; Clay Targets; Tannerite; Stihl Safety Helmet, Pants, and Chaps; Propane Burner; Shop Vacs; Come Alongs; and other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: EQUIPMENT, TRUCK AND CLUB CAR WILL BE SOLD VIA LIVE AND ONLINE BIDDING THRU EQUIPMENT-FACTS. 3% CONVENIENCE FEE FOR ONLINE BIDDING. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GARY LOY, AUCTIONEER AT (260) 726-5160. MYRON FARMING MANAGEMENT LLC & MYRON TERRAIN MANAGEMENT LLC Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p>	<p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located : 7638 N 650 W Bryant, IN Saturday morning NOVEMBER 11, 2023 9:30 A.M. REAL ESTATE PARCEL #1: 2 Story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, large family room, partial basement, and a 2 car attached garage. This home has a new gas furnace plus a wood furnace, newer windows, new well, and a metal roof. This parcel has several outbuildings and will contain approximately 4 acres. PARCEL #2: 58.11 Acres of land with 48 acres tillable, 6.5 acres of woods and the balance in roadway and ditch. Parcel #3: 62.11 acres of land with house and outbuildings. HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS Whirlpool side by side refrigerator; Whirlpool washer & dryer; Oak punched tin cabinet; wood bench; galvanized rinse tubs; horseshoes; metal horse clock; 2 milk cans with seats; and many other items not listed. VAN-MOWER-GOLF CART -EQUIPMENT-TOOLS 2004 Chevrolet Venture van; Easy Go Club Car electric golf cart; Grasshopper 618 zero turn mower with 1099 hours; Hover Round mobility cart; pony saddles; work horse harnesses; scrap metal; and many other items not listed. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KIM LOY BROKER 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160. PERSONAL PROPERTY TO SELL IMMEDI-</p>	<p>ATELY AFTER REAL ESTATE. HOUGH FAMILY TRUST By Freda Corwin & Mitch Corwin Co-Trustees Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 1889 E 200 S, Portland, IN Friday Morning November 10th, 2023 10:00 A.M. VEHICLE -RV-FARM EQUIPMENT-TOOLS 2016 Chevy Equinox LS with 73,000 miles, 2006 GMC Envoy with 144,000 miles and rebuilt title, 2016 Keystone Sprinter 5 th wheel RV with triple slide, 2 bathrooms, fireplace and sleeps 9, 2007 John Deere TS Gator with gas engine and hydraulic dump, John Deere 3010 diesel wide front tractor with 3 point, John Deere semi mount sickle mower; and many other items not listed. HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD AND COLLECTORS ITEMS GE Profile washer & dryer;(2) Smith Bros sofas; (2) Lazy Boy recliners; TOY TRACTORS (NIB). crows; Longaberger baskets; Little Golden books; 1957 Corvette and 1955 Chevy Street Machine toy cars; and other items not listed. JOHN STEWART RINES ESTATE BY JANNA MAITLEN, PERSONAL REP. JOSH ATKINSON - ESTATE ATTORNEY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers</p>	<p>Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION MONDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 2023 TIME 5:00 P.M. LOCATED: 7259 W 200 N. Pennville, IN REAL ESTATE 79 Acres in section 7 Greene Township, Jay County Indiana. To be offered in two tracts and entirety. Tract 1: 16 acres with approximately 13 acres tillable, balance being road frontage on County Road 200 N and wooded. Tract 2: 63 acres practically all tillable with road frontage on County Road 150 N. Tract 3: Combination of tract 1 and 2. For more information phone auctioneers. OWNERS: Carl and Betty Stultz Estate SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023 9:00 A.M. LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 1/2 miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South. FARM TRACTORS-FARM EQUIP.-CONSTRUCTION EQUIP. - TRUCKS-TRAILER-VEHICLES- RIDING MOWERS-ATVS-ATTACHMENTS-MISC. NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS</p>	<p>UNTIL 5p.m. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023. Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad. TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NO SHOWS AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction. AREA CONTRACTORS & FARMERS OWNERS AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 www.auctionzip.com - Auctioneer ID #4243</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 TH , 2023 TIME 6:00 P.M. LOCATED: 4579 W 200 N, Portland IN 64 ACRES OFFERED IN TRACTS Tract 1: 3 Bedroom two story home containing 2376 square foot of living area. Home has central air and is in move-in condition. 55' x 44' Barn with lean-to and porch. Nicely situated on 5 acres. Tract 2: 59 acres practically all tillable in section 10 Greene Township, Jay County Indiana. Tract 3: Combination of tracts 1 and 2. OWNER: Chris Schwartz SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.</p>	<p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>CDL OTR DRIVER-FLEXIBLE home times, home 3 out of 4 weekends. FLT Coronado 13 spd. Can get \$91000 yearly/ \$.70/Mile including drop wages. 3 yrs. CDL exp. req. RGN, SD exp. helpful. All miles, drops, downtime, and weekends are paid if out. Interested? 260-273-1245</p> <p>SEEKIN FT LABORER Water Dept., Dunkirk. Applications @ City Building And accepted till Nov. 16th.</p> <p>LOOKING FOR A CDL DRIVER Class A with a tanker endorsement, part time and full time hours. Call Allen at CJR trucking 260-726-5522</p> <p>HIRING PART-TIME INSERTER Hours vary each week. Apply at The Graphic Printing Company • The Commercial Review 309 West Main Street • Portland, IN 47371 Office Hours: 10 am - 4 pm, Tuesday - Friday NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Equal opportunity employer.</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p>	<p>AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p> <p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</p> <p>NEED MORE STORAGE? 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Early shutdown



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School freshman guard Hallie Schwieterman (12) dives on the floor for a loose ball in the Patriots' 60-35 win over South Side in Tuesday's season opener. Schwieterman led the Patriots with 20 points and six steals in her varsity debut.

Jay County defense only allows two points in first quarter of 60-35 blowout

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Off the tip, Bella Denton tapped the ball forward to Sophie Saxman. The senior quickly swung the ball over to freshman Hallie Schwieterman on the right wing. Schwieterman immediately pushed the ball ahead to Breanna Dirksen who was streaking to the left block for an easy layup to kick off the game seconds in.

The Patriots didn't slow down after the quick start. The Jay County High School basketball team dominated the South Side Archers in the first half of a 60-35 win in the season opener.

"I felt like we came out ready to go, mentally we were focused," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "I thought the first quarter, even into the second, things were going well. Obviously, I did not feel that way in the second half. I just never really felt like we got back on track and the second half, so that was a little disappointing."

The preparation and mental focus allowed the Patriots (1-0) to impose their will on the game early. They opened up on a 13-0 scoring run that included eight points off of fast breaks and was capped off by Schwieter-

man converting on America's Play.

The Archers (0-1) ended the run and finally cracked the scoreboard with 2 minutes and 40 seconds remaining in the first quarter. The score came from South Side's Ga'Naysia White who eased a layup through from the right half of the lane.

Jay County tacked on five more points on a drive from Molly Muhlenkamp and three free throws by Schwieterman to end the quarter with a commanding 18-2 lead.

The length of the Patriots bothered South Side, forcing eight turnovers in the first period.

"We were putting ball pressure, we weren't letting them split us and did a pretty good job on rebounding at that point too when they did get a shot up," McIntire said. "We just did the things we need to do in our Zorro (1-2-2) defense. That first quarter, I thought our defense was really good."

A big supplement to that defense was Schwieterman's offensive play. The freshman dropped a game-high 20 points in her varsity debut 6-of-13 shooting, including two threes, and six-of-seven from the free throw line. She added four assists to be responsible

for an additional eight points.

She was the only Patriot to connect from beyond the arc, draining a second three point shot in the second quarter off of an assist from Muhlenkamp.

Schwieterman also pushed the pace by turning defense into offense. She led Jay County with six steals, three of which resulted in fast break baskets.

"It's just, it's a team thing," Schwieterman said. "Everybody knows how to spread the floor, and they know what to do, know where to go. I guess I just followed off of that. ..."

"It was super fun. I was really excited about it." Muhlenkamp was the second-leading scorer with 15, most of which came off drives to the hoop. She also had three assists.

Saxman led the Patriots in both rebounds and assists. She pulled down nine boards while dishing out six assists.

The Patriots' defense held up well in the second quarter. It only allowed five points which came off of a baseline-out-of-bounds play for a Renasha Autry triple and two buckets by JaMaya Green after pulling down offensive rebounds.

It wasn't until the third

quarter that South Side junior Kamoni Grayson found her rhythm. She only took three shots in the first half before tallying 17 points, including three threes in the second half.

"In the first quarter, she was very hesitant," South Side coach Juanita Goodwell said. "She saw the long arms, and she was just playing out of character. ... She can really be that spark, ... I think that it just took her some time to get warmed up to that opportunity to get going."

The Archers managed to score double digits in both second-half quarters with 14 in the third and 12 in the fourth. Despite the defense relaxing a little, the Patriots found a way to win every quarter, putting up 15 in the third and fourth.

Even if McIntire would have liked to see more follow through in the second half from her team, she was still pleased with the opening effort.

"I do like our effort," McIntire said. "We were on the floor for loose balls and, this team, that's their strength is their grit. We just want to keep doing that. Those are the things that are going to help us be successful and get us to play our best basketball as the season progresses."

Box score

Class 3A No. 9				Score by quarters:				
Jay County Patriots vs. South Side Archers				Away	2	7	14	12—35
				Jay Co.	18	12	15	15—60
Girls varsity summary				3-point shooting: South Side 5-18 (Grayson 3-7, Autry 2-4, Hill 0-1, Diedrich-Williams 0-1, Odom 0-1, White 0-3). Jay County 2-9 (Schwieterman 2-4, BDirksen 0-1, Petro 0-1, MDirksen 0-1, Sibray 0-1, Muhlenkamp 0-2, May 0-3).				
South Side (0-1)				Rebounds: South Side 15 (Odom 3, Waller-Thomas 3, Grayson 3, Autry 2, White 1, Diedrich-Williams 1). Jay County 27 (Saxman 9, Schwieterman 5, May 4, Muhlenkamp 3, BDirksen 3, Petro 3).				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	Assists: South Side 2 (Grayson 2). Jay County 14 (Saxman 6, Schwieterman 4, Muhlenkamp 3, Denton 1).				
Hill	0-1	0-0	0	Personal fouls: South Side 14 (Odom 4, Autry 2, White 2, Roddy 2, Green 2, Diedrich-Williams 1, Waller-Thomas 1). Jay County 12 (Muhlenkamp 4, Schwieterman 3, Saxman 2, BDirksen 1, May 1, Petro 1).				
Autry	2-7	0-2	6	Turnovers: South Side 22. Jay County 20.				
White	3-9	0-0	6					
Diedrich-Williams	0-1	0-0	0					
Roddy	0-0	0-0	0					
Odom	1-3	0-0	2					
Grayson	6-18	2-2	17					
Waller-Thomas	0-2	0-0	0					
Green	2-2	0-1	4					
Totals	14-42	2-5	35					
	.333	.400						
	Def. rebound percentage: .478							
Jay County (1-0)								
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS					
Muhlenkamp	7-16	1-3	15					
Saxman	2-5	1-2	5					
Schwieterman	6-14	6-7	20					
MDirksen	1-2	0-0	2					
Sibray	0-1	0-0	0					
Denton	2-2	0-0	4					
Petro	2-4	0-0	4					
BDirksen	4-9	0-0	8					
May	0-5	1-2	1					
Newton	0-0	1-2	1					
Totals	24-58	10-16	60					
	.414	.625						
	Def. rebound percentage: .75							

Junior varsity

The junior varsity girls basketball team was also successful, securing a three-quarter 18-8 win over South Side.

Alexis Sibray was responsible for 61% of the Patriots (1-0) points

as she poured in 11 points.

Raylah Newton, Kady Allred and Meredith Dirksen all added a bucket as well. Newton finished with three points while Allred and Dirksen had two.

Coombs named referee of the year

By **HUNTER TICKEL**
The Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Tribune News Service

Rhonda Coombs picked up the whistle 23 years ago. On Saturday, Coombs, a college and high school sports referee, collected a Referee of the Year award from the Indiana High School Athletic Association in Muncie.

The IHSAA volleyball state finals occurred in Worthen Arena on the Ball State campus over the weekend.

Coombs, who graduated from South Decatur in Greensburg in 1980, got into this business 23 years ago.

She sought a side hustle, in addition to working at the Vigo County health department — she's spent 33 years there — and a quencher to her competitive hankering. She was 37 when she took the exam to be an official.

See Coombs page 9

Coombs ...

Continued from page 8
Volleyball has become Coombs' bread and butter over the years as a line judge and working the net. She said she's worked two state finals.

She's seen gruesome injuries on the court.

One was a Class 4A state championship matchup — Crown Point vs. Avon — in 2017. A player broke her tibia and fibula during the match.

'I love the sport. I'd love to see more kids getting involved and becoming officials.'

—Rhoda Coombs

"It was 20 minutes of utter silence," Coombs said. "Jeff Morris was the official [on the ladder] and I was on the floor. I was asked how I felt that following season.

"We haven't talked about it a lot, but it affected both of us. We are both parents. The coach was having to deal with that player."

Coombs has been a line

judge for Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Rose-Hulman and worked prep basketball for boys and girls.

She's kept a low profile as a ref out of respect for everyone else in the field.

"There are so many officials that are so good," Coombs said.

"For the longest time, no one knew that I did [officiate]."

Her spouse, Jeff, officiates too and she has three kids. She's slightly man-

aged to shift her schedule in the past to see her kids play sports.

Coombs' gigs as an official have stretched from Crawfordsville to Evansville during her career.

"As far as an official, it's just filled a gap that I need to be involved in a sport that I love," the West Terre Haute resident said. "I love volleyball but I can't say enough about the mentors that gave me that

base to stand on, that taught me those things when you go into a match.

"I am my worst critic. I think we all critique ourselves after a match, look at how we do. What could we have done better? Could I have answered that coach's question a little better? Or [given] him a little more information? I love the sport. I'd love to see more kids getting involved and becoming officials."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Saturday
Jay County — Girls wrestling at East Noble — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball scrimmage vs. Russia — 12 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Southern Indiana at Michigan State (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Virginia at Louisville (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa at Virginia Tech (ESPN2)

Friday
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: LeMoyné at Villanova (FS1); Youngstown State at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Duke (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Brooklyn Nets at Boston

Celtics (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Rider at Marquette (FS1); Dayton at Northwestern (BTN)
9 p.m. — College football: North Texas at SMU (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)
10:45 p.m. — College football: Wyoming at UNLV (FS1)

Saturday
7 a.m. — U17 World Cup: Senegal vs. Argentina (FS1)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Tottenham Hot-

spur at Wolverhampton (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League: Luton Town at Manchester United (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Michigan at Penn State (FOX); Tulsa at Tulane (ESPN2); Georgia Tech at Clemson (ABC); Texas Tech at Kansas (FS1); Indiana at Illinois (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at AFC Bournemouth (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Miami at Florida State (ABC); Utah at Washington (FOX); Tennessee at Missouri (CBS); Rutgers at Iowa (BTN); Minnesota at Purdue (NBC); Northwestern at Wisconsin (FS1)

4 p.m. — College football: Washington State at Cal (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College football: Ole Miss at Georgia (ESPN); West Virginia at Oklahoma (FOX); Cincinnati at Houston (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Michigan State at Ohio State (NBC); Texas at TCU (ABC)
8 p.m. — NFL: Gothan FC at OL Reign (CBS)
10 p.m. — College football: New Mexico at Boise State (FS1)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Iowa State at BYU (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — College football: USC at Oregon (FOX)



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