

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Concrete addition

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

BRYANT — For decades, Bryant leaders have dreamed of creating a town park. That dream was granted in the last year, and improvements continue to take place at the town's newest hotspot.

Construction work recently finished on the town's walking trail, a more than half-mile path that curves through Bryant Area Park. The town celebrated Nov. 11 with a ribbon cutting for the project priced at nearly half a million dollars.

Park director Paul VanCise led the ceremony, which included a community lunch and Veteran's Day service. He

Walking trail is the latest addition to Bryant Area Park

referenced the freshly set concrete path, which starts along Wilson Street and continues north, passing the community pavilion and traveling along the west side of the park until reaching Indiana 67.

"If you do choose to walk, you can today," VanCise said to a small crowd gathered in the park. "It's completely open, all the way to the highway."

More than 100 trees will be planted along the trail. The trees — they'll be installed at 6 feet tall — are intended to provide privacy for residents who live next to the path. More bushes are also on the way. VanCise noted several flowering trees and Dogwood trees have been planted already in the park.

See Addition page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Bryant Park Board held a ribbon-cutting ceremony this month for the new half-mile walking trail in Bryant Area Park. The trail is the latest addition to the park, which has seen new playground equipment and repairs to existing facilities in the last couple of years.

Rate up to 3.1% in October

Unemployment in Jay is still below state average

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Local unemployment jumped back above 3%, but just barely.

Jay County's unemployment rate in October was 3.1% according to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released Monday.

The local rate went up by 0.2 percentage points from September. It was 2.9% in October 2022.

The rate had climbed to 3.8% in July.

With its 0.2 percentage-point increase, Jay County joined Blackford and Wells counties, which saw their rates go up by 0.4 and 0.1 percentage points, respectively. Adams County saw no change while Delaware and Randolph counties each saw declines of 0.1 percentage points.

Indiana's unemployment rate remained unchanged from September at 3.3%.

"Indiana's labor market continues to show strength for both workers and employers," said department of workforce development commissioner Richard Paulk in a press release. "Though the state set a private employment record, employers still need to fill many more critical jobs. Economic trends are favorable and we encourage Hoosiers considering re-entering the workforce to take advantage of this worker-friendly economic climate."

Daviess and Gibson counties tied for the lowest unemployment rate in the state, each coming in at 2.4%. White, Hendricks, Hamilton, Dubois and Clinton counties were next at 2.6%.

Lake County had the highest unemployment rate in the state at 4.7%, followed by Fayette and Howard counties at 4.5% and Blackford County at 4.3%. The remaining 88 counties were all under 4%.

See Rate page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Winterfest wonder

Winterfest activities Saturday included the Kids Breakfast and Carnival, Little Miss Winterfest Pageant and Parade of Lights. Pictured above, Murphy Ellis adjusts her antlers while riding on a float during the parade Saturday evening in downtown Portland. Below, Nash Loden, 4, Portland, plays the penguin race game during the Carnival at East Jay Elementary School. At left, Little Miss Winterfest contestant Trinity Bentz looks up at master of ceremonies Gage Sims during the pageant Saturday afternoon at Fellowship Baptist Church.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Deaths

Marvin Lehman, 79, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Sunday. The low was 34.

Tonight's forecast calls for a 20% chance of rain with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and a low in the mid 30s. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high in the mid 40s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The City of Portland will continue leaf pick-up through the end of November. Leaves should be raked to the edge of, but not into, the street.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Fort Recovery Village Council meeting.

Friday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team's season opener.



Addition ...

Continued from page 1
Other improvements include a parking lot addition finished Oct. 24 between Elm and Main streets and repairing and relocating the town's 130-year-old former jail building, which now sits along the trail just southwest of the playground equipment.

Bryant has been developing its own park system for more than two and a half years. The idea stemmed from town board president Gregg Ellenberger suggesting Bryant utilize the five acres of former railroad property west of Meridian Street and north of Elm Street. In May 2021, the town established Bryant Park Board, and it created a five-year park plan with Jay County Trails Club.

Part of that process included applying for grants. Bryant received \$438,500 from a Next Level Trails Grant through Indiana Department of Resources in April 2022. The grant — it requires a 20% match — funds trail development for non-motorized trails and some multi-use trails. Indiana Economic Development Corporation regional office in Muncie then supplied the town's match of about \$175,000.

Locally, Jay County Commissioners allocated \$50,000 in Bitter Ridge Wind Farm economic development funds toward recreational projects in Bryant. (Commissioners agreed to contribute \$50,000 to Bryant, Salamonia, Redkey and Pennville, as well as \$100,000 to Portland and Dunkirk, in November 2021.)

"I so appreciate all the help we've got," said Ellenberger earlier this year. "We could've never done it without all the help."

The Portland Foundation also provided \$110,000 to Bryant Park Board for new playground equipment, which was installed and opened to the public in April. The play set includes two rock walls, four swings, a Spinami — it's similar to a playground roundabout — and a large multi-activity set, which has three slides and two additional climbing devices. Throughout the playground are Freenotes musical equipment, which are flower-shaped chimes, and a Unity Web 3D climbing surface.

Using the park's general funding and donations from local businesses, the park board also installed a gaga ball pit, tether ball, volleyball and four square



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Bryant Park Board held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 11 for the new concrete walking trail that curves for a half-mile through Bryant Area Park.

courts in October 2022 with help from Jay County REMC.

In the last few years, volunteers have helped make renovations and repairs to the park's existing facilities, which included a restroom building and basketball court.

Bryant resident Donna Glassford said she's thankful to have a safe place for children to play.

"This is probably a lot safer place to come down ... and the community can watch it," he said. "It's a place that everyone can gather."

John Glassford has lived in the area for more than 60 years. His father and former Bryant Town Council member Carl Glassford ventured with others to Cincinnati in the 1980s to purchase the land now used by the park. At that time, he said, the town didn't have the finances to do much with the grounds.

In an interview earlier this year, VanCise referenced those community leaders who first bought the former railroad property.

"They had the dream to help develop something for the town, they just didn't know what it would be," he said.

During the ribbon cutting Nov. 11, VanCise thanked several groups and individuals involved in the project, including Indiana Economic Development Corporation for its matching dollars.

"Do the math, we have inherited the blessing of having a trail about a half a mile long for about half a million dollars," said VanCise.

CR almanac

Wednesday 11/22	Thursday 11/23	Friday 11/24	Saturday 11/25	Sunday 11/26
45/31	49/26	42/26	40/26	40/27
Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday, when the high will be around 45 degrees.	Thanksgiving Day looks to be sunny and slightly chilly, with the high expected to pass 50.	Mostly cloudy on Friday, with temperatures dropping at night to the mid 20s.	Saturday's forecast looks similar to Friday, with mostly cloudy skies and cool temperatures.	Mostly sunny on Sunday, when the high won't pass 40 degrees during the day.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$295 million	53-59-62-63-64-66-67-75 Cash 5: 4-8-12-21-38 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$289 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-5-1 Pick 4: 1-7-0-5 Pick 5: 1-9-3-0-5 Evening Pick 3: 4-1-3 Pick 4: 8-3-6-6 Pick 5: 7-4-3-6-9 Rolling Cash 5: 3-13-20-27-37 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 1-0-2 Daily Four: 8-1-7-3 Evening Daily Three: 5-9-3 Daily Four: 4-5-6-6 Quick Draw: 1-17-18-31-32-35-38-45-47-48-50-52-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.17 Dec. corn4.38 Wheat4.51	Dec. beans13.39 Wheat 5.04
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.17 Dec. corn4.57 Late Dec. corn4.57	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.12 Dec. corn4.51 Beans13.24 Dec. beans13.39 Wheat5.04
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.13 Dec. corn4.43 Beans13.14	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.23 Dec. corn4.38 Beans13.01 Dec. beans13.06 Wheat4.64

Today in history

In 1620, 41 men signed the Mayflower Compact, meaning they agreed to abide by the laws of their new government.
In 1783, the first crewed hot-air balloon flight took to the skies.
In 1931, "Frankenstein," the stage adaptation of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's 1818 novel, was released in the United States.
In 1967, president Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Air Quality Act. — The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, 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.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA Service Center, 1331 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St., Dunkirk.	

Obituaries

Marvin Lehman

Nov. 2, 1944-Nov. 18, 2023

Marvin Lehman, age 79, a resident of Portland, passed away peacefully in the presence of family members on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at IU Health Jay Hospital in Portland.

Marvin was born in Portland on Nov. 2, 1944, the son of Harold "Hap" and Mary (Whiteman) Lehman. He married Shirley J. VanDeusen on Feb. 16, 1964.

Marvin was a 1962 graduate of Portland High School. He worked for Sheller-Globe, Portland Forge and Joyce-Dayton all of Portland. He enjoyed golfing, traveling and ballroom dancing.

Survivors include:
His wife of 59 years — Shirley

Lehman, Portland, Indiana

Children — Kellie Grile (husband: Wayne), Redkey, Indiana, and Greg Lehman, Portland, Indiana

Grandchildren — Adam Grile (wife: Rachel), Portland, Indiana, Brittany Lehman, Gosport, Indiana, and Mackenzie Conaster (husband: Devin), Noblesville, Indiana

Great-grandchildren — Ryan, Lucas, Caleb, Arabelle, Emma and Callahan

Siblings — Patricia Smith, Portland, Indiana, and Valera Thomas, Indianapolis

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Williamson-



Lehman

Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home with Pastor Steve Arnold officiating. Burial will follow at a later date in Green Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Jay County Cancer Society or Riley Hospital for Children.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Noblesville mayor pushes for more mental health \$\$\$

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In recent years, Indiana leaders have jumpstarted conversations about mental health crises but, for one Central Indiana mayor, more could be done to dedicate state dollars to the cause.

"I appreciate state leaders talking about erasing the stigma ... (but) I think I was desiring to see more. I want to see something in place to incentivize cities and towns across the state to really invest," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said in an interview with the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "That's why I decided, 'Well, if no one else is going to run with it, then I'm going to.'"

To tackle Indiana's burgeoning mental health crisis, Jensen is pushing the General Assembly to establish the Indiana Community Cares Initiative, a grant program to shore up local paramedicine programs that proactively address issues in their communities.

As an example of the

proposal in action, Jensen points to his community's NobleACT, which launched in February of 2020 and took on an outsized role during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We started with one officer, Ben Lugar, and one therapy canine, Luna," Jensen said of the program, which now has two other specially trained dogs, four other employees and will soon hire a licensed clinical social worker. "They have been an instrumental part of our public safety outreach."

The donor-funded dogs — Luna, Carbon and Sadie — can comfort children on a domestic violence call as law enforcement addresses their parents or connect with a suicidal veteran, helping community members process their emotions.

Sadie works specifically with the city's law enforcement, a career with high rates of substance abuse, suicide and domestic violence, so those officers can address their own mental health.

See Health page 5

SERVICES

Today Mills , Anita: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Miller , Eva: 2 p.m., Bryant Redeemer Lutheran Church, 201 N. Malin St., Bryant.
Wednesday Lehman , Marvin: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Rate ...

Continued from page 1
Rates for Jay and adjacent counties are as follows:

Adams County: 2.8%, no change, tied for 15th-lowest
Blackford County: 4.3%, up 0.4 percentage points, fourth-highest
Delaware County: 3.7%, down 0.1 percentage points, tied for seventh-highest
Jay County: 3.1%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 42nd-lowest
Randolph County: 3%, down 0.1 percentage points, tied for 33rd-lowest
Wells County: 2.8%, up 0.1 percentage points, tied for 15th-lowest

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Rates do not apply to the Christmas Greetings special section. Ads must run in December

There's much to be thankful for this year

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

It is almost Thanksgiving and we have a lot to be thankful for. Most of us have a roof over our heads and food in our bellies. Although we complain about high prices, we can afford groceries. In a world where we are used to finding well-stocked shelves, we find bare shelves that force us to try different brands of our favorite products, and we are reminded why we don't like generics.

We have people who love us and the opportunity to talk to them often. We may live far apart but phones and social media allow us to see the huge feral hog that they shot

As I See It



with a bow and arrow, and the latest pictures of the grandkids.

I am also thankful for the neighbors' cats. The cats wander over to get petted and to take a drink of water. The best thing they do is to keep the mouse population down. They don't limit their choices to mice. They include other bite-sized animals in their diet. Best of all, I don't have to clean up after them.

It is the season of holidays. We survived Halloween, and now it is time to either cook all day or take a trip somewhere to eat a huge meal. We may get to see family that we don't see often. If we are lucky we get to catch up with whatever our relatives have been doing.

Many of the service organizations offer free Thanksgiving dinners. Every year I wonder what people are supposed to do for food the rest of the year. There are food giveaways locally that are scheduled weekly but from what I have seen, the products are intended to supplement what people normally buy and not

to provide balanced meals.

When I was a lot younger, we received several boxes of food each Christmas. In addition to sugar, flour and canned food there were always cake mixes and other treats. Notice I didn't mention anything about meat, bread, shampoo, soap, cleaning supplies or other items that we buy on a regular basis.

When I was first married to my first husband, I had the bright idea to host Thanksgiving for both sides of the family. The food was acceptable and everybody got along. I had made a lemon meringue pie for dessert. It tasted fine even though

the crust ended up mostly on top.

I rarely bake pies any more.

For many years my current husband and I visited both families for the holiday. What I wouldn't give to relive those days again.

Then there was the time when we chose to move on Thanksgiving. Hubby had gotten a new job and we thought it would make sense to move much closer to his workplace. After we had done as much as we could, we realized that our new house didn't come with food. The only thing open was a convenience store. We bought a loaf of bread, a container

of mustard and a package of bologna. That was the simplest holiday meal we ever had.

These days we spend the holiday with just the two of us. We will get together with family eventually. I am thankful that we aren't going to Oklahoma on a hunting trip with our daughter and her family.

There is much to be thankful for this year. We may not have a Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving but one way or another we will give thanks for this life we have been given.

And I can guarantee the menu won't include lemon meringue pie with the crust on top.

Boss takes advantage of her employee's offer

DEAR ABBY: My boss, who recently separated from her husband and is getting divorced, has moved within walking distance of work. The problem is, she can't drive, and her daughter needs to be taken to and from school. I offered to help her out with her daughter, but now she's asking me to take her everywhere she needs to go.

I have been accommodating and have done this for a couple of months, but she has never offered me any money toward gas in my car even though she's always bragging about all the things she has ordered off the internet. I never offered to be her chauffeur.

I work third shift, which is hard enough, and have my own child to take care of during the day. How can I tell her it's got to stop without hurting her feelings? I am getting close to losing control and telling her

Dear Abby



off. Everyone I know is advising me to stop, and she's just using me. — USED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR USED: Explain to your boss (politely) that you were glad to help her out "temporarily" by making sure her child had transportation to and from school, but you have responsibilities outside of work that preclude your continuing to serve as her chauffeur.

Then tell her that if you are going to continue driving her CHILD, you will

need to be reimbursed for the fuel you expend doing it — something she seems to have forgotten. Speaking up is not rude or hurtful; it's called being assertive.

DEAR ABBY: Should I be upset that my grandchildren have a step-grandfather who has no children of his own and is always giving money and other gifts to my grandchildren? I bought my 18-year-old grandson a used car with the understanding that he would repay me in installments when he started working. He did just that, and then he had a fender bender, so I helped him get it partially repaired. I made the same deal with him as before. I paid for the repairs; he again repaid me in installments.

Well, one of the doors has a large dent and won't open. Now he has sweet-talked his step-grandfather into shopping for

another car! My grandson doesn't want to fix the door because it's easier to get his step-grandfather to buy him another car. Should I be upset about this? What should I tell his step-grandfather? — FRUSTATED GRANDFATHER

DEAR GRANDFATHER: I can see why you would be concerned. You have been trying to not only help your grandson but also to teach him responsibility. His well-meaning step-grandfather is interfering with that. By all means, have a discussion with him because Step-Grandpa is being manipulated. If he really wants to help your grandson, he should consider treating him to driving lessons.

DEAR ABBY: Isn't it considered bad manners to comment about the length of time someone spends in the restroom?

Several times when I've been out with people at a restaurant or bar, someone has commented "That was quick!" when I returned to the table. I want to tell them the comment is inappropriate. Any suggestions for an appropriate response that isn't too snarky would be appreciated. — PRIVATE LADY IN GEORGIA

DEAR PRIVATE LADY: Try this: Smile at the person and say, "I didn't know you were clocking my action!" (It's better than saying, "That's because I didn't take the time to wash my hands. Would you like me to pass you the bread?")

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

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

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday 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.

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 - BRIANNA'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.

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.

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. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E.

Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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THANKSGIVING DAY NOVEMBER 23, 2023 1:00 P.M. ASBURY U. M. CHURCH PORTLAND, INDIANA

EVERYONE WELCOME

FREE...but bring a dish IF YOU WISH

Turkey & dressing, ham, beverages and table service provided through donations from individuals and organizations in the community. Those wishing to make a donation may call:

Carol Smith 260-726-9049
or
Caren Huey 260-729-1239

For those who are homebound, have a special need, or need transportation to Asbury, please call:

Asbury U.M. Church 260-726-8464
Zion Lutheran Church 260-726-8832 (Mornings)
Home delivery requests due by Noon Wednesday

Carry-in dishes may be brought to Asbury the afternoon before or Thanksgiving Day morning.

33rd Year of Caring and Sharing

Parents are satisfied, in the dark

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

Despite widespread griping about the quality of K-12 education, polls consistently show that most parents are happy with the public schools their children attend. Since 2001, Gallup surveys on the topic show an average 76% satisfaction rate for those with kids attending a local campus.

This disconnect might be explained by a survey released this week which found that parents are rarely accurately apprised of the academic progress of their children. They're being deceived.

Guest Editorial

The report, by Gallup and Learning Heroes, revealed that 88% of parents believe their kids are performing at grade level. In reality, testing last year shows that just 36% of American fourth graders and 26% of eighth graders are proficient in reading. Math numbers are similarly dismal.

Yet the vast majority of students who perform below grade level still bring home report cards packed with decent grades.

"Grades are the holy grail," Bibb Hubbard, founder and president of Learning Heroes, told The Associated Press. "They're the No. 1 indicator that parents turn to to understand that their child is on grade level, yet a grade does not equal grade-level mastery. But nobody's told parents that."

This makes it difficult even for involved parents to know when academic problems exist. "Knowing whether a child is

'at grade level' is critically important to supporting them," according to the report, "as parents who recognize their child is not performing at grade level can take different actions to best advocate for their child's learning and support them at home."

The problem goes beyond simple grade inflation. Instead, school districts across the country regularly promote students who are unprepared for the next grade level. They have also implemented measures that make it easier for students to slide by while gaining minimal knowledge of the subject matter at hand.

In recent years, the education establishment — nationally and locally — has sought to undermine assessments of student achievement in favor of feel-good academic blather and pie-in-the-sky grades in an effort to inflate graduation numbers and mask problems and deficiencies. Meanwhile, public school "activists" fight to kill virtually every reform intended to promote achievement and accountability.

Taken together, it leaves many parents in the dark about what's actually going on in their child's classroom. A cynic might conclude that's the entire point.

Hoosiers should have paid leave

By RICHARD PETTS
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee recently held its first full hearing on paid family and medical leave, an issue that has seen increased attention given that most Americans support paid family and medical leave.

Additionally, 14 states (plus Washington, D.C.) have enacted comprehensive paid family leave legislation. Although similar bills have been introduced in Indiana, none have received a hearing.

It is time for Indiana to take action toward supporting, and ultimately implementing, comprehensive paid family leave for all Hoosiers.

As a member of the International Network on Leave Policies & Research and an active researcher on leave policies and leave-taking, my colleagues and I have found that paid leave is beneficial to individuals, families, businesses, and societies more broadly. Overall, when parents have access to, and are able to take, parental leave, it is linked to a host of positive outcomes including better health for mothers and children, increased father involvement, greater co-parenting support, more stable parental relationships, and closer relationships with children.

Beyond families, paid family leave increases perceived employee commitment and productivity, and recent evidence shows that businesses — even small businesses — report no negative effects of paid family leave policies in states that have implemented this legislation. Paid family leave also helps to promote greater gender equality in both work and family life. Simply put, all empirical evidence supports the passage and implementation of paid family and medical leave — which explains why the vast majority of countries throughout the world offer some form of paid family leave.

As a father, I was denied the ability to take paid leave when my children were born as my employer did not have a paid leave policy that applied to men at the time. I am in the privileged position of having a flexible job, and so I was able to work remotely for two months when my son was born. But this is a luxury that most US workers — particularly those in low-wage and precarious jobs — do not have.

The need for paid leave became even more evident to me when my daughter (my second child) was

Richard Petts



born. Minutes after birth she was fighting for her life with an undiagnosed lung problem in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). She was eventually transferred to Riley Hospital for Children where we were told that she was the sickest baby in the NICU and that we would likely be there for a long time. Because she was born at the end of the semester, I was able to stay at the hospital with her the entire time.

Along with my wife, we advocated for her health and were able to be involved in crucial decisions that likely had a significant impact on her health and survival. Again, this was a luxury that many families did not have. Few rooms in the NICU had two parents in them regularly, and many did not even have one — presumably because only 27% of U.S. workers have access to paid family leave. Most parents cannot afford to take extended periods of unpaid time off, especially in situations when there will be impending medical expenses (my daughter's stay at Riley amounted to approximately \$500,000).

The stress of having to even think about work when your child is in the hospital is something no parent should have to experience, yet this is a reality in the United States. I am pleased to report that Riley saved my daughter's life, and she is a happy, healthy nine year old. We owe this to the excellent care she received from doctors and nurses, but also to the fact that we were able to be involved every step of the way.

Access to paid leave is a right that exists for most people throughout the world, and is something that Hoosiers (and all Americans) should have as well. Paid leave is an urgent need that has significant health, financial, and relational consequences for families and businesses. For Indiana to truly be a state that works for everyone, we need legislation that provides paid family and medical leave to all Hoosiers.

Petts is a professor of sociology at Ball State University. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Code won't change a thing

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

It's great that the U.S. Supreme Court promulgated a code of conduct for the justices.

It should help put an end to the narrative that the court has been tone deaf to criticism of its ethical lapses. That said, the code will change nothing substantive about the way the justices conduct themselves. The code provisions roughly match those of the code that binds lower federal court judges — and that in practice the justices have been following for years. And no independent entity will formally apply the code to the Supreme Court. The justices will continue to be judges of their own ethical propriety — a product of the constitutional system that makes the Supreme Court the highest organ of the judicial branch.

The justices did not equivocate when it came to explaining why they are announcing the code now. A statement preceding the code explained that "for the most part these rules and principles are not new." The problem was "the absence of a code," which the court said "has led in recent years to the misunderstanding that the justices of this court, unlike all other jurists in this country, regard themselves as unrestricted by any ethics rules."

You can't get much more polemical than that in an unsigned statement attributable to nine Supreme Court justices. The justices were saying that not having a code was leading to them being beaten up in the court of public opinion. And that beating, they were saying, was unfair, based on a "misunderstanding."

In one sense, the justices are right. As anyone who follows the court closely knows, the justices have long treated a variety of sources as governing its ethics. Those included statutes, the general judicial code, advisory ethics opinions issued by the relevant committee of the confer-

Noah Feldman



ence of federal judges, and historic practice. It's accurate to say that the current code "largely represents a codification of principles that we have long regarded as governing conduct."

In a different sense, the justices' insistence that the code was only needed "to dispel" misunderstanding downplays the background reasons for needing to adopt a code formally. In the wake of the court's Dobbs opinion overturning Roe v. Wade, the legitimacy of the court's decision making has come under intense attack, probably greater than during any era since the 1920s. In that environment, the accusation of illegitimacy has been fueled in part by a series of mini-scandals of varying degrees of gravity, such as Justice Clarence Thomas's relationship with Texas billionaire Harlan Crow, who bought Thomas's mother's house with the stated intent of historical preservation.

It's fair to say that the drumbeat of ethics criticism aimed at the justices has therefore been part of a broader attack on the jurisprudence of the conservative majority. The court's adoption of the code is therefore a defensive maneuver. The justices can't - or rather won't - roll back their revolutionary decisions. But they can make it clear that they follow ethics rules.

The biggest difference between the rules governing the justices and those governing other judges have to do with recusal, the decision not to participate in the consideration of a given case. Both the code and the brief commentary accompanying it make it clear that recusal of a justice

sitting on a case can have a major impact on a court that has only nine members, all of whom sit on all cases. In the lower courts, if one judge recuses, another judge can step in. Not so on the Supreme Court. In closely contested cases, recusals can make the difference for who wins and loses.

In recognition of this difference, the court's code repeats what it calls the "time-honored rule" that where it's necessary for a justice to sit on a case, the justice may choose not to recuse even though recusal would ordinarily be warranted. That makes sense. But it is unlikely to satisfy some of the court's harsher critics, who want the justices to be utterly beyond reproach.

What's more, the need for all nine justices to sit on close cases explains functionally why it would be impossible for the justices to, for example, create a subcommittee that would decide on who should be recused when. That subcommittee would effectively become the whole Supreme Court for purposes of determining outcomes in close cases.

The upshot is that the justices must be the judges in their own cases when it comes to recusal. There's something funny about that, given the old common law idea that the most fundamental principle of justice is that no man should be the judge in his own cause. The truth is, however, that whether to be recused is not a "cause" in the ordinary legal sense of the term. It's a discretionary judgment about ethics, to be made by each justice for himself or herself.

That's a good reminder that the justices, in the end, are human. They are neither angels nor robots. They may have agreed to an official code, but the buck of judicial judgment must stop somewhere. And it stops with the nine Supreme Court justices.

Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Harvard University.

The Commercial Review



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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Little Miss court

Jay County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Little Miss Winterfest 2023 pageant Saturday. Pictured above, from left, are second-runner up Claire Schmiesing, Little Miss Winterfest Londyn Cavanaugh and first-runner up Trinity Bentz.

Talks progress while fighting continues

By PAUL WALLACE
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israeli forces engaged in heavy fighting with Hamas in the northern Gaza Strip overnight as the U.S. said it was optimistic about a deal to free hostages held by the militant group.

The Israeli military and Shin Bet, the country's domestic security service, said they killed three Hamas commanders, while fighter jets bombed more sites used by Hamas.

The main thrust of Israel's ground offensive is eastwards into Gaza City, which the military describes as Hamas's "center of gravity." Israeli forces have taken control of many parts of the city's Al Shifa hospital and over the weekend showed videos they say prove Hamas exploited the facility, building a command center and tunnels underneath it.

Hamas, backed by Iran and designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union, used Al Shifa "to carry out gruesome terrorist activity," Israeli military spokesman Amnon Shefler said in a briefing on Sunday night. "They have it as a command center, as a control center, as a place to hide hostages, as a place to murder and kill."

The movement of troops into the Shifa complex last week was controversial, with the U.S. urging Israel to exercise restraint and prioritize the safety of the patients still there as well as civilians taking shelter.

Despite the continued clashes, a deal for Hamas to release a large group of hostages is making progress, according to the U.S.

Health ...

Continued from page 2
"It's just a little way that shows... the state has a role to play in this too," Jensen said. "Let's move beyond erasing the stigma and actually put a program in place that saves lives."

The COVID-19 pandemic itself came with many surprises, exacerbating existing shortfalls in child care, learning disparities and addiction supports. But the drag on mental health is ongoing and unprecedented, costing billions in unrealized economic potential.

After a particularly harrowing week in Noblesville, where suicides spiked and overtook COVID-19 deaths in April of 2020, Jensen himself was struggling like many Hamilton County residents. A local therapist, Kristen

Dale, approached Jensen and offered to do a Facebook Live video of a therapy session.

Jensen's first reaction was "hell no," but after some reflection he concluded that takeaway was "selfish."

"I probably overshare way too much but it's easier to live if you just tell everybody your stuff. And everybody's got stuff so I did it," Jensen said. "We talked about the emotions around that, the scariness of having three little kids at the time and all of our kids are at home and my wife's teaching online and what does that look like."

The first video got 2,000 views and the moment of vulnerability from a "white, male Republican in Central Indiana" inspired others to reach out to Jensen about

their struggles, especially older generations unaccustomed to addressing their own mental health.

"Over any road I build or job I helped create, if I can help save a life or lead people to a better life ... I can walk away from this job someday feeling like I've done something to better my community," said Jensen, who still hosts Facebook Live therapy sessions on "Mental Health Mondays."

Jensen recognized the unusualness of a mayor pushing state legislation but has found a champion in Sen. Scott Baldwin, a Noblesville Republican, who agreed to author the proposal.

Baldwin declined an interview with the Indiana Capital Chronicle, saying details hadn't yet been fully worked out but that he'd

speak once he had more information.

However, he added that he had a passion for expanding veteran resources to combat PTSD and suicide — the latter of which received a \$1 million line item in the last biennial budget.

"As a retired police officer, I've seen firsthand the challenges of untreated mental health in our communities. The success of Noblesville's NobleACT program underscores the need for proactive approaches like the Indiana Community Cares Initiative," Baldwin said in an earlier release. "I'm committed to advancing this vital initiative, enabling Indiana to partner with communities in an effort to ensure every Hoosier receives the support they deserve."

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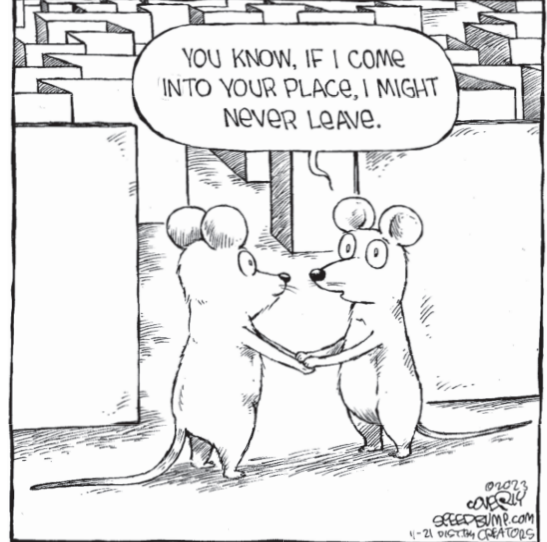
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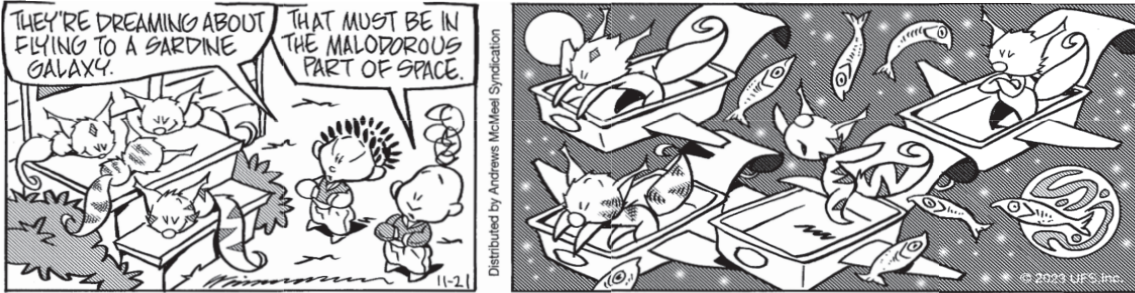
It's so easy to go wrong

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J953
WEST
QJ1052
1095
10753
7
EAST
986
J6
K842
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AK
K872
AQJ
AQ108
Assume you're declarer at Seven Notrump. How would you proceed after the queen-of-spades lead?

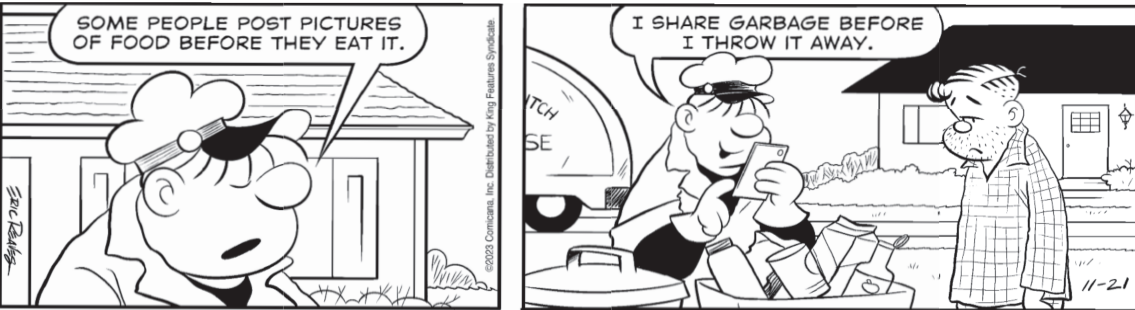
There are hands where declarer must do everything exactly right in order to make the contract. This is one of those cases. Normally, you wouldn't see the East-West cards and wouldn't know that absolute perfection in the play is required to be successful. But even if you had the advantage of seeing all four hands, you'd still have to mind your p's and q's diligently to avoid coming home lame. The seven-notrump contract (certainly not recommended) is imaginary. But if that's where declarer lands, he should make the contract by taking advantage of a few lucky breaks here and there. For starters, he wins the spade lead with the king and plays the seven of hearts (not the deuce) to dummy's queen. He next leads the jack of clubs and, after East follows low, plays the ten (not the eight) under the jack. Declarer continues with dummy's nine of clubs, on which he plays the eight. (Alternatively, South could first have led the club nine, playing the eight, and then the jack, playing the ten.) This allows him to remain in dummy to lead a third club to the queen, successfully completing the first part of his mission. South next leads the eight of hearts (not the deuce) to dummy's ace and finesses the jack of diamonds. He then cashes the king of hearts, leads the deuce to dummy's four and finesses the queen of diamonds to finish with all 13 tricks. Analyzing South's play, we find that he took five finesses with leads from dummy, even though dummy had only two obvious entries. By careful handling of his spot cards, declarer gained maximum mileage, entrywise, from dummy. The importance of the entry problem must be recognized at the outset. One careless play and the contract goes down the drain. Even the best chef in the world can't unfry an egg!

Tomorrow: A delicate defensive play. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

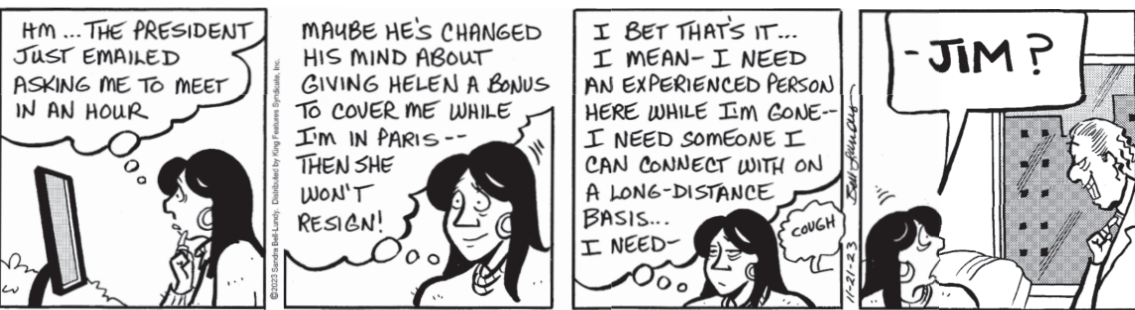
Peanuts



Agnes



Between Friends



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



11-21 CRYPTOQUIP

EXWSC DQCT JCZJAC JVXHBLHC
EXTBVLH KOLA AK SCBDCCT
ECULBXBLZT HAXKCK, BQCW UZ
BQCLV ZE-DZVO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID THE AIRPORT SKYCAP SUDDENLY FEEL BACK PAIN? BECAUSE HE WAS CARRYING THINGS TOO FAR. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P

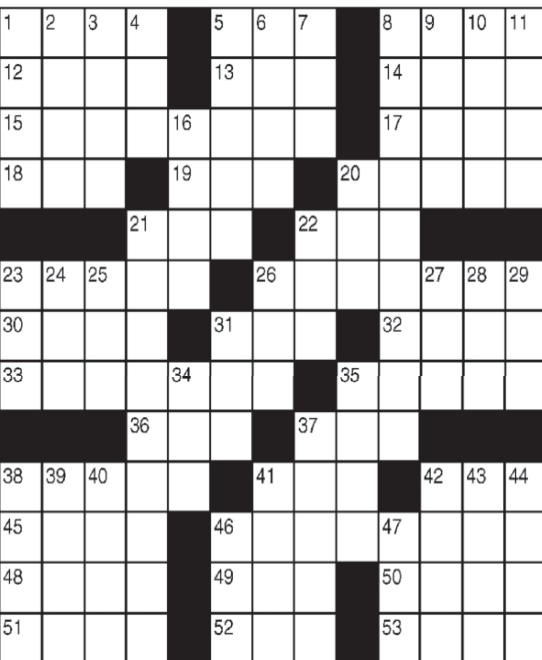
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Melville's "Billy —"
5 Use henna
8 First-place medal
12 Slender weapon
13 TV's Romano
14 Mine, in Marseille
15 Disembark
17 Give temporarily
18 NBC weekend show
19 Many millennia
20 Argentinian dance
21 Mountain pass
22 Meadow
23 Pottery fragment
26 Bum wraps?
30 First-rate
31 MSN rival
32 Sch. supporters
33 Large butterfly
35 Oodles
36 Hanoi holiday
37 "The Simpsons" barkeep
38 The staff of life
41 Soap unit
42 Recede
45 Harvest
46 Donate
48 Con-cerning
49 Citric beverage
50 Nevada city
51 Dick Tracy's love
52 "Air" director
53 Grouch
23 Muppet eagle
24 "Yoo—!"
25 Raggedy doll
26 "What was I thinking?"
27 Arles
28 Unprocessed
29 Snake's warning
31 Revue segment
34 Roulette bet
35 Harboring a grudge
37 Expert
38 Telly watcher
39 Painter
40 Jug handles
41 Wait
42 Pitcher
43 Eric of "Troy"
44 Informal party request (Abbr.)
46 Talk on and on
47 Curved line

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Yesterday's answer 11-21



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Jay swimmers finish third in season opener, See related story

Patriots boys basketball open at Elwood tonight, see Sports on tap

Sports

24-hour turnaround



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Breanna Dirksen of the Jay County High School girls basketball team launches a three pointer in the first quarter of its 65-40 clobbering of Winchester on Saturday. JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said it was Dirksen's best performance this season as the senior had 14 points and led in steals, rebounds and assists.

After a slow start Friday, Jay Co. jumps out early Saturday

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

WINCHESTER — The Patriots got out to a slow start on Friday night, only managing four points in the first quarter.

Twenty-four hours later, they made a 180 degree turn.

After struggling to get going the previous night, the Jay County High School girls basketball team locked in early to explode to a 21-4 first-quarter lead as it took down the Winchester Golden Falcons 65-40 Saturday.

"Very pleased tonight," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "We came ready to play. I knew that we needed to get off to a quick start, and I thought we did that. Then we had good intensity throughout the whole game."

The Patriots (3-2) were active defensively, trying to create turnovers out of their 1-2-2 zone. Winchester's guards were overwhelmed by the defensive effort, committing 10 turnovers in the first period.

Throughout the game, Jay County utilized turnovers to get out in transition where it scored 10 points and got to the free throw line several times as well. Some points were left on the board due to missed layups, but the havoc the defensive presence caused was more valuable as it fit the Patriots' style of play.

"I was jumping up on their passes, which really helped me get quite a few steals, and then I would bring it to the other side, but I was struggling, mak-

ing my layups," said guard Breanna Dirksen, who finished with 14 points on 5-of-19 shooting. "We just didn't want to have a night like we did last night. We were ready to come here today and compete, and we just knew that we had to work hard."

Winchester (1-4) committed 36 turnovers, 24 of which were the result of steals. Breanna Dirksen led the Patriots with six steals and seven rebounds, tied Hallie Schwieterman with three assists and was one point behind Schwieterman who tallied 15.

The Patriots' defense was so stout in the first quarter that the Golden Falcons only managed to get off only six shot attempts through the first eight minutes. Conversely, Jay County got off 18 shots, converting eight. Five of the shots came from beyond the arc, powering the Patriots to the early lead.

Jay County got a nice boost offensively from its bench. Meredith Dirksen and Danielle May both scored season highs as they dropped 10 and eight points, respectively.

"It felt really good, especially after not making a few for a while," said Meredith Dirksen, who shot 1-for-6 through the first three games before finishing 4-for-5 against Winchester. "I think it really helps with playing JV before, because I really have to step up whenever I do that. Once I go to varsity, I don't have to do as much so it just really comes naturally."

See **Turnaround** page 7

Manor and Winner continue dominance

INDIANAPOLIS — Malory Manor and Emily Winner have had a phenomenal start to the season.

Jay County roundup

They refuse to lose. Winner and Manor topped the 155-pound and 140-pound brackets to power the Jay County High School girls wrestling team to a fourth-place finish Saturday at the Ben Davis Girls Invitational.

Jay County earned 111.5 points to place fourth out of 24 teams. Above it were champion Franklin Central (170), New Palestine (140) and Warren Central (125).

Manor pinned one opponent and beat another in a 4-1 decision before she demolished Noblesville's Evangaline Howard in a 17-0 technical fall.

Winner pinned two wrestlers and earned an 8-0 major decision before she got past Maylie Skinner of Madison in a 7-2 decision.

Other placers included Lina Lingo (second) at 130, Katie Rowels (third) at 100, Sophie Thomas (fourth) at 105 and Tatianna Willis (fourth) at 110.

Swimmers open
WESTFIELD — The Jay

Other Patriots to score 20 or more points were Sophia Hoevel, Zion Beiswanger, Morgan DeHoff, Kenzie Clayton and Lauren Fisher.

Acheson leads

FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery boys bowling team started off on the right foot as they took down the Greenville Green Wave 2,570-2,613 Saturday morning at Miracle Lanes.

Lucas Acheson rolled the high game of 242 pins in his second individual game en route to 440 total pins.

Austin Steinbrunner was the only other bowler to break 200 as he threw a 211 in his first game. He finished behind Acheson and Owen Knapke (378) with 369.

Other individual bowlers included Nate Jutte (364) and Evan Keller (339).

During the Baker games, the Indians (1-0) knocked down 860 total pins. The best game was the final, when they took out 189 pins.

The junior varsity team also took down Greenville by 551 pins. AJ Siefing led all bowlers with a 359 series in two games.

Las Vegas Grand Prix hit with class action lawsuit

By **MICK AKERS**
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

LAS VEGAS — A class action lawsuit has been filed against the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix after fans were forced to leave Thursday's practice session following an hours-long delay.

Dimopoulos Law Firm and co-counsel JK Legal & Consulting filed the suit Friday in Nevada District Court on behalf of 35,000 fans who purchased tickets to Thursday's practice run, the legal firms announced Saturday. Five individuals

were named as plaintiffs in the suit, which are seeking over \$15,000 in compensatory and general damages.

Just nine minutes after Thursday's practice session began, a water valve cover came loose and damaged multiple F1 drivers' vehicles. That led to a 2 1/2-hour delay, with a 90-minute second practice session beginning at 2:30 a.m. Friday.

Fans were forced by police and security officers to leave at 1:30 a.m. Friday and weren't able to watch the session.

See **Lawsuit** page 7

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AWARD WINNING MEATS

While supplies last, no rain checks

<p><i>Whole Boneless</i></p> <p>Pork Loins \$2.99/lb</p> <hr/> <p><i>Frozen (2 pcs/pkg)</i></p> <p>Pork Fillets \$1.99/lb</p> <hr/> <p>Country Style Sausage \$2.69/lb</p>	<p><i>Boneless</i></p> <p>Chuck Roasts \$6.99/lb</p> <hr/> <p><i>Boneless</i></p> <p>Prime Rib \$16.49/lb <i>seasoned \$16.99/lb</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Standing Prime</i></p> <p>Rib Roast \$15.99/lb <i>seasoned \$16.49/lb</i></p>
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Old Fashion Summer Sausage Chubs (10.75 oz) \$5.49 each

Garlic Cracker Bologna (11 oz) \$3.69 each

County Line Colby & Cojack Cheese \$5.39/lb

From Fisher's Smokehouse

Bone In Smoked Ham (17 to 20 lb) \$3.29/lb	
Semi Boneless Ham \$3.79/lb	
Spiral Sliced, Fire Glazed Ham \$4.99/lb	
Boneless Pit Ham (13 to 16 lbs) \$4.29/lb	

-for half hams, add 30 cents/lb

***while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

300 W. Walnut St., Portland, IN
(260) 726-7355

Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm • Saturday 8 am-1 pm • Closed Sunday

Call your order in today!

Freezer bundles are also available. They offer the perfect mix of our most popular cuts of meat in quantities small enough to not crowd your freezer or cramp your budget.

Save time and energy with call ahead ordering and have your order ready to go when you arrive.

www.fishermeats.com