

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Monroe to run in south district

McGalliard confirms he will seek re-election

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

They can't make it official for more than a month, but Jay County already has its first contested race for the 2024 election.

Jefferson Township resident Duane Monroe in a press release issued Tuesday afternoon announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for the Jay County Commissioner south district seat.

"I am proud and excited to announce my candidacy for the Republican nomination for Jay County Commissioner South District," said Monroe in the press release. "I believe, more than ever, that we need strong leadership that will unite Jay County. For the past few years we have seen dysfunction in how our county government operates and it needs to stop."

Incumbent Republican Brian McGalliard subsequently confirmed to The Commercial Review that he plans to run for a second term.

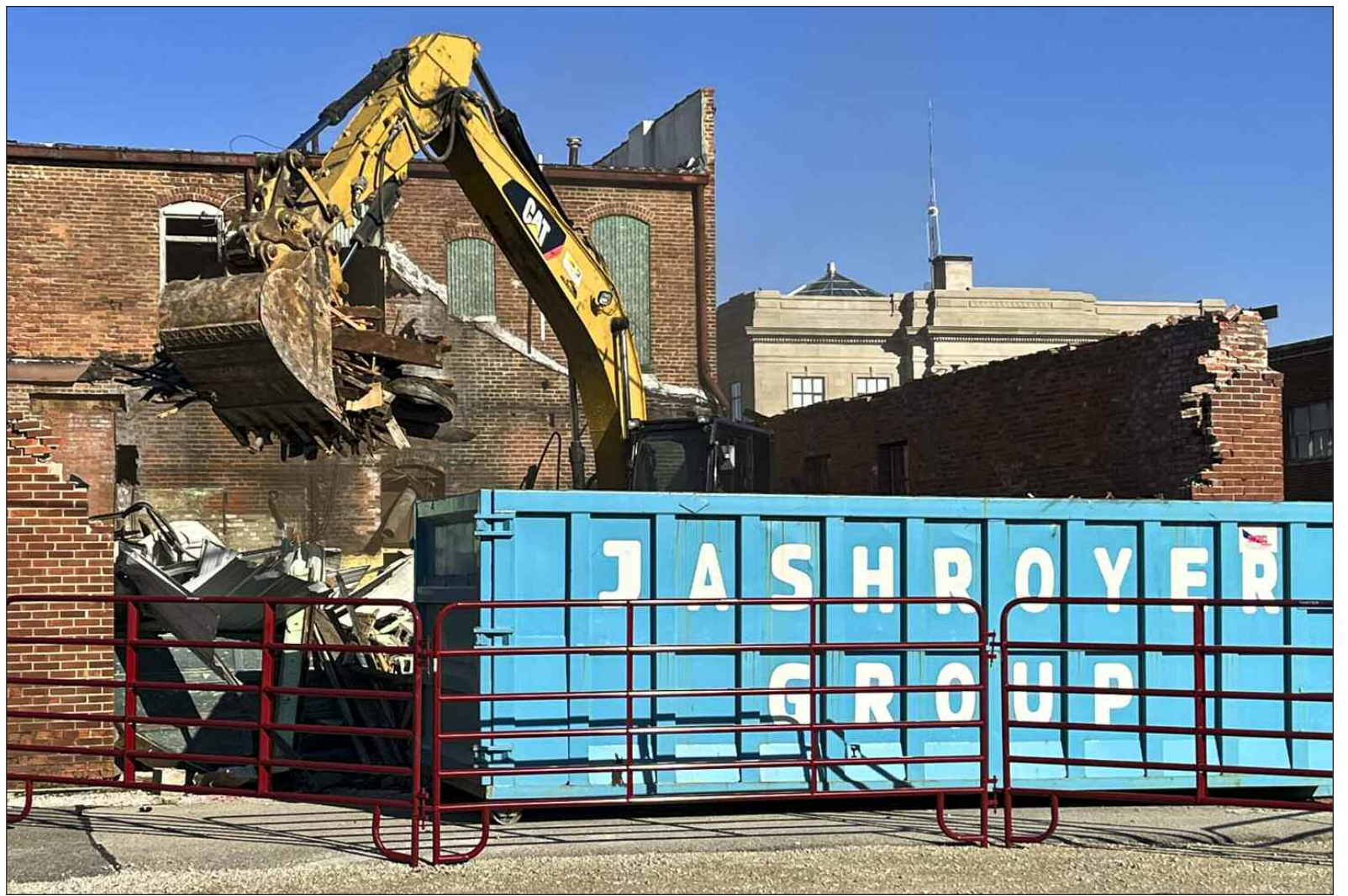
"I fully intend to run again, but I feel it's a little early for me to start campaigning or to make a formal announcement," said McGalliard. "There are some major projects that the county has started since I have been in office, and I would certainly like to see them through to fruition."

The race will be a rematch of the 2020 Republican primary that saw McGalliard receive 1,345 votes (45%) to win a three-way race for the south district nomination. Monroe was second at 1,102 (36.8%) and Barb Street was last at 544 (18.2%). McGalliard went on to defeat independent Bruce Counterman in the general election.

Monroe is a Jay County native who graduated from Jay County High School in 1993. He received an automotive degree from the University of Northwestern Ohio and earned an associate's degree from Ivy Tech Community College.

He has worked for Jay County REMC for 25 years. He is a member of Jefferson Township Advisory Board, is on the Jay County Road Committee and has coached youth sports.

See Run page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Coming down

Demolition of a couple of local buildings began this week. Pictured above, JAShroyer Group of Muncie started the demolition of The Bailey Building at 201 through 205 W. Main St. in Portland. The City of Portland contracted with the firm to bring down the dilapidated structure. At right, Shroyer Solutions of Muncie works on taking down the chimney at the former Judge Haynes Elementary School. The west wing of the building, which had extensive roof damage that led to water leaks, is also coming down. The Portland Foundation is in the process of repurposing the building to become Jay County Early Learning Center.



At least one killed in Osprey crash

By JON HERSKOVITZ
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

At least one person was killed when a U.S. military Osprey aircraft crashed into waters off of Japan's southwest island of Yakushima on Wednesday, Kyodo News reported, citing the country's Coast Guard.

Initial reports said eight were aboard the aircraft while national public broadcaster NHK said there were six aboard. There has been no official word on the other people on the tilt-rotor plane.

Japanese Coast Guard personnel arrived at the crash site and found the plane in the water along

with a capsized rescue boat, according to the group's 10th regional headquarters.

There have been no details released yet on the likely cause of the crash but Kyodo said the plane's left engine may have caught on fire, citing prefectural officials in Kagoshima.

Top government

spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno said at a news briefing the plane disappeared from radar at about 2:40 p.m. Yakushima is about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) southwest of Tokyo and Japanese media reports indicated the aircraft was flying to the U.S.'s Kadena Air Base in Okinawa.

Japanese Prime Minister

Fumio Kishida will not be seeking a suspension of U.S. Osprey flights for now, Kyodo reported.

In August, three U.S. Marines were killed and five others critically injured after a V-22 Osprey went down while performing drills off the coast of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Festive face

Kenci Grayson, right, paints 9-year-old Calvin Hardwick's face Monday at Living in Joy during Dunkirk's Feel the Warmth event.

U.S. suicides hit historic high in '22

By EMILY ALPERT REYES
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Rising rates of suicide among older adults drove the number of such deaths to a historic high in the United States last year, even as suicide declined among youth, according to a report released Wednesday by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 49,000 people died by suicide in 2022 across the country, the highest tally recorded for the nation, according to federal fig-

ures. It's the latest evidence of a troubling trend in the U.S., where suicide has been on the rise for much of the 21st century.

The U.S. suicide rate fell somewhat between 2018 and 2020, but then resumed its upward trend, alarming health officials. After adjusting the raw numbers to account for the age distribution of Americans, CDC researchers found that the nation's suicide rate last year was 14.3 deaths per 100,000 residents — a level not seen since 1941.

See Historic page 2

Deaths

Amos Graber, 69, rural Adams County
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 28 degrees Tuesday. The low was 18.

Rain is expected tonight with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and a low in the upper 30s. Friday will be rainy as well, with a high in the upper 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The jury trial scheduled for Monday in Jay Circuit Court has been canceled. Jurors do not need to appear.

Coming up

Friday — Imagination Library brings books to children from birth.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game against Woodlan.



Historic ...

Continued from page 1
The rate is based on preliminary figures for suicide deaths, which are expected to increase as 2022 deaths continue to be assessed and more of them are classified as suicides.

The growing numbers were propelled by rising rates of suicide among people 35 or older, federal figures indicate.

Between 2021 and 2022, rates actually fell among those younger than 25, but rose significantly for many groups of older adults, the report shows.

"It's somewhat different than what we've seen in past years," said Sally C. Curtin, a statistician at the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics and one of the authors of the new report. Suicide

rates have increased across many demographic groups, but "if there's a bright spot in the report, it is that decline for some of the younger groups which had been marching steadily up."

The gender gap remained wide in 2022, with 23.1 deaths per 100,000 men and 5.9 deaths per 100,000 women. Elderly men were at especially high risk: Among men ages 75 and older, the suicide rate (43.7 deaths per 100,000) was roughly twice as high as for young males ages 15 to 24 (21.6 deaths per 100,000).

Though suicide was much less common among women than men, the age-adjusted rate for women rose 4% between 2021 and 2022, compared with 1% for men. Among women, the age range at

highest risk of suicide was 45 to 54, with 8.9 such deaths per 100,000, according to the new report.

And there have been marked differences in suicide rates by race and ethnicity, with American Indian and Alaska Native people at highest risk (26.7 deaths per 100,000), followed by non-Hispanic white people (17.6 deaths per 100,000), according to the report.

Suicide rates have been significantly lower among other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S., including Black people, whose rate was 9 such deaths per 100,000. But other studies have questioned whether misclassification of deaths among Black people might affect the accuracy of those numbers.

The U.S. has seen suicides rise even as rates fell in many other

countries. Experts have suggested a range of factors that might play a role, including the opioid epidemic, economic uncertainty and access to firearms.

The new report did not examine the specific manner in which people died, but a KFF analysis this year found that firearm-related suicides continued to rise in the U.S., accounting for 55% of all suicides in 2021 and 2022. Reducing access to such "lethal means" has become one focus for suicide prevention.

The U.S. surgeon general issued a call to action in 2021, saying that suicide prevention "requires a comprehensive approach that combines multiple strategies to reduce risk and strengthen protective factors at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels."

Obituaries

Amos J. Graber, rural Adams County, a Geneva native, Nov. 12, 1954-Nov. 28, 2023. Services will be at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Graber residence, 7712 S. 600 East, Berne.

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

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

CR almanac

Friday 12/1	Saturday 12/2	Sunday 12/3	Monday 12/4	Tuesday 12/5
47/38	49/37	52/35	44/30	40/30
Showers are expected with a high in the upper 40s.	Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high in the upper 40s.	The forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies with a chance of showers throughout the day.	There is a 30% chance of rain with mostly cloudy skies. The high temperature will be in the mid 40s.	Expect mostly cloudy skies with a 20% chance of showers and a high of 40 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$374 million	Evening Daily Three: 4-5-7 Daily Four: 0-4-9-5 Quick Draw: 3-4-12-17-19-22-24-31-38-39-42-44-47-50-56-60-61-71-74-75
Mega Millions 27-37-42-59-61 Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$335 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 5-8-2 Pick 4: 2-0-3-1 Pick 5: 4-9-5-1-7 Evening Pick 3: 2-5-4 Pick 4: 9-0-5-4 Pick 5: 4-6-1-8-5 Rolling Cash: 9-21-29-37-39 Estimated jackpot: \$194,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-5-1 Daily Four: 1-2-4-1 Quick Draw: 1-5-10-13-15-27-31-36-40-41-46-47-50-52-55-60-65-66-72-77	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.28 Dec. corn.....4.28 Wheat4.99	Dec. beans13.21 Wheat 5.39
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.27 Dec. corn.....4.27 Late Dec. corn.....4.42	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.98 Late Nov. corn4.32 Beans13.13 Dec. beans13.23 Wheat5.10
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.36 Dec. corn4.36 Beans13.21	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.14 Dec. corn4.24 Beans12.94 Dec. beans12.99 Jan. wheat.....4.80

Today in history

In 1763, the oldest synagogue — Touro Synagogue — in the United States was dedicated in Newport, Rhode Island. It was designed by English architect Peter Harrison.

In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself the emperor of France. The event was witnessed by Pope Pius VII.

In 1972, Jay Circuit Court Judge Keith Frasier announced the appointment of Bob Bowers as acting probation officer for the county, effective Jan. 1.

In 1981, Britney Spears was born in McComb, Mississippi. She was on "The Mickey Mouse Club" before becoming a pop music superstar with hit songs

including "... Baby One More Time" and "Oops! ... I Did It Again."

In 1983, the video for the Michael Jackson song "Thriller" made its debut on MTV.

In 2021, the Jay County High School girls wrestling team won its first home dual meet 36-12 over Brebeuf Jesuit. Senior Lizzie Dollar needed just 41 seconds to pick up a victory over Nia Stewart in the 113-pound match.

In 2022, Blake Bogen-schutz scored a game-high 18 points to lead the Jay County High School boys basketball team as it overcame a 13-point deficit for a 56-51 victory over the Woodlan Warriors.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community	7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, School-house Community Center.

Herzog planning visit to UAE

By **ETHAN BRONNER, BEN BARTENSTEIN and COURTNEY MCBRIDE**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel's President Isaac Herzog is planning a quick visit to Dubai later this week to take part in COP28, the United Nations climate talks, several people familiar with the situation said.

It will be his first trip abroad since the war with Hamas erupted last month. The plans are subject to last-minute changes if there are significant developments in the conflict.

While in the United Arab Emirates, he may meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, according to Japanese news agency Kyodo. Others expected to attend COP include U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

While Herzog's role is largely ceremonial — executive power's held by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — he's become more visible since the war started, speaking to and meeting world leaders to bolster support for Israel.

The conflict began on Oct. 7 when Hamas operatives crossed into Israel from Gaza, killing 1,200 people and abducting 240, according to Israeli officials. More than 15,000 have been killed in Gaza since Israel retaliated with airstrikes and a ground offensive, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Herzog is taking representatives from the communities around Gaza that were attacked by Hamas to the UAE. He's also planning a series of diplomatic meetings that are mainly about the war and not the envi-

ronment, two people familiar with the matter said.

Israel and Hamas, designated a terrorist group by the U.S. and European Union, agreed to a truce last week that's now in its sixth day. Under the agreement, Hamas is freeing some of the hostages each day and Israel is releasing Palestinian prisoners.

More aid is also getting into Gaza, where more than 1 million people have been displaced and hunger and disease are spreading.

U.S. President Joe Biden is keen for the cease-fire to be extended, which Israel says it's open to as long as Hamas agrees to release more captives. Netanyahu has insisted, though, that Israel won't pull back from its goal of destroying Hamas.

Netanyahu was invited to COP months ago by the UAE government. Before the war broke out, he was widely expected to attend.

Former rep pleads

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Former Shelbyville Rep. Sean Eberhart pleaded guilty to a felony charge Tuesday before U.S. District Judge Matthew P. Brookman, admitting his role in a gambling corruption case.

The plea to conspiracy to commit honest services fraud can include accepting

bribes or kickbacks related to one's public service and includes a maximum punishment of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Though federal prosecutors indicated that Eberhart didn't act alone, no others have yet been named or charged.

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Run ...

Continued from page 1
Monroe pointed to a need for county unity as the key factor that led him to decide to run again.

"If I am elected, I will work with the different county agencies, the cities and towns, Jay County Development Corporation, and other interested parties to create an environment in which we can all be successful," he said in the release. "I want to be able to say, 'Look what we accomplished,' not 'Look what I accomplished.' Jay County will win if our leaders agree on a unified vision and work together on fulfilling that vision."

McGalliard, a Dunkirk resident, owns Pizza King in Portland and is in the midst of his first term as a county commissioner. A 1988 graduate of Jay County High School, he attended Ball State University and bought into the family business in 2006. He previously trained race horses and worked for Prudential Security, and has been a trustee of the Portland Eagles Lodge and Portland Elks Lodge.

County offices up for election in 2024 include the north and south district commissioner seats, three at-large county council seats, surveyor, clerk, coroner and treasurer.

Filing for the 2024 primary elections begins Jan. 10. The deadline is Feb. 9.

SERVICES

Saturday
Graber, Amos: 9 a.m., Graber residence, 7712 S. 600 East, Berne.
Gonser-Rose, Patricia: 1 p.m., Lawson - Miller Chapel, 1702 E. National Ave., Brazil.

Wednesday
Rains, Paula: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.

Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**
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SMILE...

It's that Time Again!

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

DNR offering deer program

Indiana Department of Natural Resources is continuing this year.

The program allows Hoosier hunters to take their field-dressed deer to one of more than 50 meat processing sites in the state. The processor then butcher's the meat and donates it to area food banks.

Indiana Hunt for Hunger pays all processing fees.

"Too many Hoosiers are struggling to put food on the table," said Feeding Indiana's Hungry executive director Emily Weikert Bryant in a press release. "Our member food banks around the state are serving record numbers of families. Items like protein can be unaffordable on a tight household budget, creating a high demand for it at our food banks. By hunters taking an extra deer and donating it through Hunt for Hunger, Hoosier food banks and pantries will have more healthy protein to share with our friends and neighbors this deer season."

Participating meat processors in the area include Fisher Packing in

Taking Note

Pennville and Wright Brothers Buckstop in Redkey.

For more information, visit on.IN.gov/hunt-for-hunger or contact jquillen@dnr.IN.gov or (317) 232-0658.

Enroll in 4-H

Enrollment is open for the upcoming 4-H year.

Children in third through 12th grades are welcome to join 4-H. Mini 4-H is also offered to kindergarteners through second graders.

The youth development program started more than 100 years back offers a variety of clubs and hands-on experiences for children to learn about their community and world. Jay County Purdue Extension Office advises children to sign up by Jan. 15 for the full experience. Enroll at v2.4honline.com. To learn more, call (260) 726-4707.

Five generations

Pictured are five generations of the Mills, Masters, Mong, Ronald family. Above, in front, are Evelyn Mong, great-grandmother, and Martha Sue Ronald, great-great grandmother, holding Laineey Sue Mills. Standing are Hunter Mills, father; and Melissa Mills, grandmother. Below, in front, are Evelyn Mong, great-grandmother, holding Oakley Dale Masters and Martha Sue Ronald, great-great grandmother. In back are Rhianon Masters, mother; and Melissa Mills, grandmother.



Photos provided



Apps open for vets program

Applications are open to become Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs 2024 Non-Profit Partner.

Through the program, Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs teams with a non-profit organization in the state that is dedicated to serving Hoosier veterans. It has raised more than \$40,000 for veterans programs over the last two years.

"Through this program we've been able to team up with incredible organizations around the state, making a real impact in their ability to serve the Indiana Veteran Community," said Dennis Wimer, Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs director in a press release. "We are excited to be able to continue the partnership program in 2024 with a new organization dedicated to making Indiana the choice for veterans to Live, Work and Thrive."

Applications are available at in.gov/dva. The deadline is 4 p.m. Dec. 15.

Prognosis prompts different reactions

DEAR ABBY: I was married young to my high school sweetheart. We had five children together. During that time, I joined the Air Force. After six years of marriage, I discovered my wife was cheating on me. Once I realized we couldn't reconcile, I told her I wanted a divorce and custody of the children. She agreed. It cost me my career with the USAF.

Flash-forward to today: Thirty-seven years have passed. I have never said a bad word to my children about their mother. My ex never took the time to build meaningful relationships with them. My oldest daughter once tried to have a relationship with her. A month or so later, she asked, "Dad, why did you ever marry that woman?"

I have just learned from my oldest daughter that her mother is dying and has less than six months to live. My oldest shared the news with her siblings, who had given up on having a mother years ago. She also offered to drive her mom to appointments.

Do you think it would be good for my children to write letters to their mother, expressing their feelings toward her and giving her forgive-

ness from their point of view? Their ages range from 38 to 43. They are stable, hardworking adults and great parents as well. — DO-RIGHT DAD IN OHIO

DEAR DAD: You are a thoughtful, caring and forgiving parent. Your children are adults now. You might "suggest" this to them, but do not pressure them into doing anything with which they are uncomfortable. They may not deeply grieve their mother's passing in light of the fact that she left them behind decades ago.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good Christian friend in her 70s who has basically done nothing with her life. Her husband supports her. For 35 years, my friend has been saying, "God will show me what I should do." How can

I tell her that God helps those who help themselves?

She suffers from bouts of severe depression but will not even choose a hobby because she's waiting on God. Of course, I can't help her to help herself, so I feel at a loss. And it's difficult for me to watch her wait for answers that never come. What advice would you offer? — FRUSTRATED FRIEND IN GEORGIA

DEAR FRIEND: You stated that this woman is a good friend. If you have offered her suggestions about how to utilize her time and they have been ignored, you may find less frustration if you quit doing that. You cannot "fix" her indecision.

However, when she starts cycling down into another depression, you should urge her to discuss it with her doctor. If she says she's waiting for God to tell her to do that, because God isn't telling her anything directly, explain that God sometimes speaks to us through the people who love us, of which you are one. Hope it will stir her to action, because there is help for those who suffer from depressive illness.

Dear Abby



Capsule Reports

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.

Friday
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction

Support Team recovery 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
SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon

to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumsoldier.com.

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Holiday Advertising Specials

IN THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW

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1/2-page color ad (including Christmas Greetings) \$500

1/4 page color ad (including Christmas Greetings) \$375

Four 3x5 ads (regular price - \$780) \$335

Ads must run in December

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Are we OK with our slow growth?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

For several decades, Hoosiers have heard state candidates vow to raise per capita personal income (PCPI).

That means those vote-seeking missiles of state economic development must aim at the level of PCPI, not the rate of growth. If we want to progress compared to the nation, we can't just float along with the tide, being content with a below average rate of growth.

The facts are these: In 1989, PCPI for Indiana was \$16,924, 9% lower than the nation. By 2022, at \$58,323, we dropped to 11% below the nation. What happened?

Was it party politics? No. It was not Democrat versus Republican politics. Evan Bayh,

Eye on the Pie



Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan, Democrats, held the governor's office from 1989 to 2004. From 2005 onwards, the office was held by Mitch Daniels, Mike Pence and Eric Holcomb, Republicans. That's 16 years of Democrats and 17 years of Republicans, enough time for each to take credit/blame for where we were in 2022.

It was politics, however, in the sense of Urban versus Rural.

The Past versus the Future. Yesterday's versus Today's economic interests. My patch of ground versus Your patch of ground. Hesitation versus Anticipation.

The results: Personal income, the numerator of PCPI, rose on average by 4.8% annually across the nation, but just 4.5% in Indiana. Population, the denominator for PCPI, advanced 0.9% at an annual rate in the U.S and 0.6% in Indiana.

That left per capita personal income to rise nationally by 3.9% and 3.8% in the Hoosier state. Just a 0.1 percentage point differential, compounding over 33 years of stop and go, changing horses at every crossing, trying to satisfy all and helping few.

What did that mean at the individual level? Whereas, our

PCPI in 1989 was \$1,734 below the national PCPI, we fell to \$7,147 below the nation's average by 2022. The spread between the average American and the average Hoosier grew by 4.4% compounding every year.

That's because, starting from our low 1989 level, we lagged the national rate of personal income growth by 0.3 percentage points annually. If you want to get up closer to the national average, you have to grow faster than the nation.

Actually, the per capita numbers look better than they might because our population growth was also slower than the nation. Whereas the U.S. population grew by 0.9% at an annual rate, Indiana had a 0.6% growth rate.

Again, just 0.3 percentage points short of the nation, but this time in the denominator of the PCPI measure.

The slower the growth of population, the faster PCPI grows. A declining population can make PCPI growth seem like boom times, if personal income continues to grow, which often happens when the kids leave home.

Thus official apologists can say, "Oh, Indiana's only a tad slower than elsewhere in meeting the challenges of our times."

Are you satisfied being a tad slow?

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

Don't saddle us with the bill

By JIM NUSSLE

Miami Herald
Tribune News Service

Big-box retailers are seeking a bailout from consumers, especially those of modest means. And strangely enough, some people in Congress think that's a good idea.

At issue is the Credit Card Competition Act, a bill spearheaded by Senators Dick Durbin, D-Illinois and Roger Marshall, R-Kansas. Retailers don't like paying the fees associated with accepting credit cards. So they're lobbying Congress to lower their cost of doing business — and saddling consumers with the bill.

The bill would grant retailers the exclusive power to choose a payment-processing network to handle their transactions, rather than using the network selected by the consumer, as signified by the logo on their credit card.

The problem? Retailers would pick the network that charges the least, not the most secure option. After all, they have no obligation to protect consumers' financial data.

Retailers claim they'll share their savings with consumers by lowering prices. But that's not likely.

Look at what happened the last time Congress lowered retailers' cost of doing business by capping interchange fees on debit card transactions with the "Durbin amendment" to the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial reform law. Three-quarters of merchants didn't change their prices at all. More than one in five actually raised prices. Just 1.2% reduced them.

Big-box stores kept most of the money they saved. But most small merchants didn't benefit from the fee caps. Two-thirds of retailers experienced no savings or failed to notice one way or the other.

In many cases, the discounts that payment-processing networks offered on small transactions went away. That drove up costs for businesses that make "small" sales — like local coffee shops and mom-and-pop restaurants.

Maintaining a payment-processing network and keeping consumers' data secure is expensive. Financial institutions responded to Durbin's debit-card interchange fee caps by raising fees elsewhere — for example, by instituting monthly fees and minimum balance requirements on checking accounts. Economists at the University of Chicago

Jim Nussle



go estimate that the Durbin amendment has cost consumers between \$22 billion and \$25 billion since 2010.

Low-income Americans feel the burden of those extra fees acutely. It's nearly impossible for people living paycheck to paycheck to maintain a minimum balance. In the absence of services like free checking, they may turn to costlier financial services providers like check-cashers and payday lenders.

According to a George Mason University study, the Durbin amendment caused the unbanked population to spike by an additional 1 million people.

History will repeat itself if the Credit Card Competition Act becomes law.

In fact, this bill could be even costlier than the old Durbin amendment because it raises the likelihood of fraud.

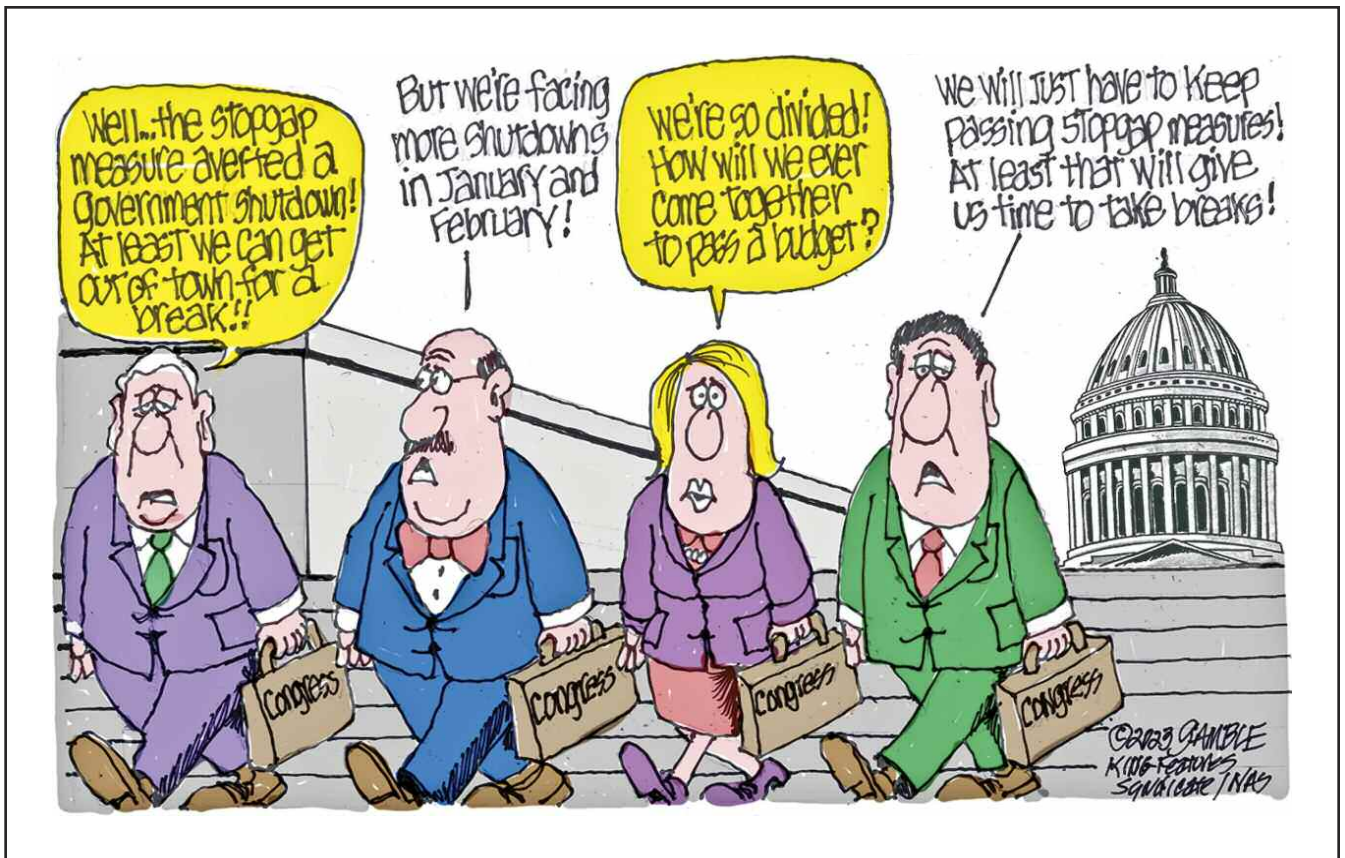
When a retailer experiences a data breach, it's the financial institution that makes the consumer whole. And fighting fraud is growing more expensive. From 2020 to 2021, payment card fraud losses in the United States increased 18%, to nearly \$12 billion.

Interchange fees help defray the costs of fraud-detection efforts and reimbursements for cardholders who fall victim. But the costs of fraud are outpacing interchange fees. Overall, card programs cost 1.6 times more than interchange revenue.

If Congress effectively slashes what retailers pay to accept credit cards, then issuers will face hard choices. They could scale back anti-fraud protections and expose individuals to more financial risk. They could hike fees. Others may issue fewer cards or stop issuing them altogether. That would reduce the availability of credit, particularly for people with less-than-perfect credit or no credit history.

Congress must not relieve big-box retailers of their cost of doing business. Doing so would threaten the security and sanctity of consumers' finances.

Nussle is president and CEO of the Credit Union National Association.



Don't cut, seek to reform

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

This was supposed to be the year for a new Farm Bill, the five-year legislation that funds farm subsidy programs, conservation efforts and food assistance for low-income Americans.

Unsurprisingly, our dysfunctional Congress couldn't get its act together for what is usually a bipartisan effort and chose to punt instead, extending by one year the 2018 Farm Bill that expired on Sept. 30. The extension means that agricultural landowners will get government money that otherwise would have dried up at year-end, and 40 million people will continue to receive food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Yet the stopgap spending bill approved earlier this month funds other government functions outside the Farm Bill only through Jan. 19. That includes the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program, known as WIC, providing food, breastfeeding support and other services to more than 6 million low-income mothers, babies and kids up to age 5.

If you've been paying attention to the deeply divided Beltway, you can see where this is likely going: A far-right Republican House speaker will refuse to keep the government open without spending cuts, including cuts to WIC. Democrats eyeing the November election will paint him as indifferent to the inflation-fueled surge in hunger that has sent Americans flocking to food banks.

Indeed, the evidence shows that reducing food insecurity for poor families, increasing healthier births and giving needy toddlers a helping hand is money well spent. The evidence also shows, however, that WIC is almost as dysfunctional as Congress itself, which is really saying something these days.

As of 2021, the latest data available, just 51.2% of those eligible for WIC received benefits. Only the

Guest Editorial

truly poor are eligible, so almost half of the acutely vulnerable people who could be receiving relief got nothing out of the program. And that low level of participation in 2021 wasn't a function of the pandemic: Coverage rates had been sliding for years, well before COVID-19.

For political reasons, WIC is paid for by the feds but administered by individual states, with wildly different results. California, true to form, does relatively well at handing out government money, and you might think deep-blue Illinois would be good at that too.

Not in this case. Illinois is among the worst states, as measured by WIC participation rates, much closer to Arkansas than California. Why? You could chalk it up to general mismanagement, though the reality is more complicated because the program is complicated. Illinois not only lags in funds distributed to impoverished babies, but also in cutting through red tape.

In 2019, local do-gooder organizations led by EverThrive Illinois published a well-informed report with 28 recommendations for improving the state's WIC program, getting into details of blue versus orange food coupons and how to streamline WIC sign-ups for those already in SNAP and other programs serving poor people.

Then COVID hit, and the game changed as government office closures and social isolation added new complications to qualifying those in need and delivering services. The pandemic made outreach more difficult, and staffing levels were stretched as state employees dedicated to WIC took on COVID-19-related work as well.

States that had been proactive in

replacing paper vouchers with electronic benefit cards had an advantage. Illinois finally got around to scheduling a partial rollout of its eWIC card system for March 2020, in what turned out to be the teeth of the pandemic.

Lastly, increased SNAP benefits and economic impact payments during the pandemic may have temporarily reduced demand for WIC. But at the same time, indicators of food hardship grew. For most of those eligible for it, WIC still was not keeping up with the need.

Fast-forward to the grocery stores of today, where prices have skyrocketed. Food bank managers across the country say their budgets are buckling, and the Agriculture Department reports that food insecurity is rising to recession levels.

The dire situation finally has led to growing enrollment in WIC, and in the Farm Bill negotiations, the White House asked for an additional \$1 billion to cover rising program costs. Congress passed the extension without extra funding.

Unlike some programs for the poor, WIC funding has attracted bipartisan support over the years, with both parties working to ensure that eligible mothers and children can receive benefits. Today's House GOP has broken that consensus, saying harsh cuts in safety-net programs are needed to address federal debt. That raises the specter of impoverished young families being turned away from WIC next year.

Rather than pushing to take food out of babies' mouths, playing into the hands of their political opponents, House Republicans should push for reforms that would make this program more effective. The low participation rate, and huge disparities from state to state, provide strong evidence of a program that needs to be rethought, revamped and re-energized.

House GOP, put away the hatchets, take out the scalpels, and schedule hearings to get to the bottom of what's wrong with WIC, and how it can be fixed. Have a heart.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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



Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

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., Portland
Michael Burk
(260) 726-4282
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church of Christ (Southside)
1209 S. Shank St., Portland
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., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
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-portland.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., Redkey
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 Yinger
(937) 337-5781
Services: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 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, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

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

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

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
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., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Sugar Grove Nazarene
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. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

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

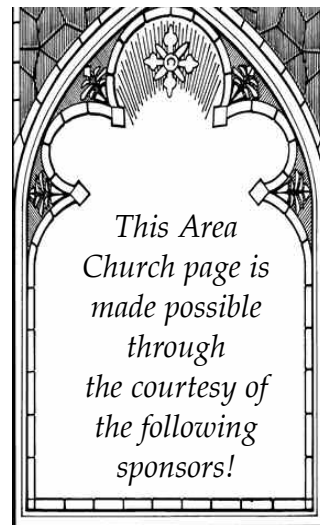
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

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



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Death of a monarch

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠K 7
 ♥A 9 6 2
 ♦9 6 3
 ♣K J 8 4

EAST
 ♠9 8 6 5 2
 ♥K
 ♦Q 7
 ♣Q 10 5 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠A Q 4
 ♥Q J 10 8 3
 ♦8 4 2
 ♣A 7

The bidding:
 West Pass North Pass East Pass South 1♥
 Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥
 Opening lead — King of diamonds.

West surely would have bid at some point with such a hand, and it was therefore reasonable to assume that he did not have the king of hearts. It followed from this that a heart finesse, if taken, was sure to lose. True, going up with the ace of trump did not have much chance of success either, but it did have the great merit of offering at least some chance for the contract, while the finesse offered none.

Actually, West could have defeated the contract by continuing with a fourth diamond at trick four, allowing East to ruff with the king. However, it must be added that this was a much easier play for West to make on paper than at the table.

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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

11-30 CRYPTOQUIP

FBQ MHAOITO OH TII SJBMJ
 HN OJI GBQT SHDKY EHHO
 DG FDEBIY BOIZT OJI NPTOITO:
 P TAHDOBAQ ZPOMJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR THE WITCHES' BIG POTLUCK EVENT, I'M PRESUMING EVERYBODY WILL BE EATING COVEN-BAKED FOOD.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 First lady of scat
 5 "Jeopardy!" champion — Buttrey
 8 Oriole or wren
 12 "Carpe —!"
 13 Espionage org.
 14 Grooving on
 15 Region
 16 Blunder
 17 Im-petuous
 18 Brando of "The God-father"
 20 Foot fraction
 22 Gardener's gift
 26 Countrified
 29 "Not impressed"
 30 Seminary subj.

35 Take to court
36 Secret rendez-vous
37 Computer storage device
40 Starring role
41 Bets
45 WNBA star
47 Floral ring
49 Anti-oxidant berry
50 Joel or Ethan of Holly-wood
51 Triage ctrs.
52 Par
53 Clothing

54 Doo follower
55 Till bills

DOWN

1 Dutch cheese
 2 Old Italian money
 3 Lusty look
 4 Dental filler
 5 Public outburst
 6 Melody
 7 Iwo Jima soldiers
 8 Canoe material
 9 Rushing
 10 ACLU issues
 11 Homer's cry
 19 Magic, on score-boards
 21 Ultimate
 23 Glowing coal
 24 Disarray
 25 Ink smudge
 26 En-grossed
 27 "Oops!"
 28 Drove away
 32 Hugged
 33 Pizza sauce
 35 Govt. loan agcy.
 36 FDR project
 38 Stands for
 39 "If only!"
 42 Nobel Prize subj.
 43 Scarce
 44 Super-model Molly
 45 PC screen type
 46 Hitch
 48 Time line period

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-30

40 NOTICES

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Lincoln Clamme of Jay County High School swims the breaststroke for the Patriot boys 200-yard medley relay on Tuesday. The boys fell 220-76 in the opening meet.

Split ...

Continued from page 8

After only winning one event on Nov. 18, the girls (1-0, 1-0 ACAC) took the top spot in each race, as well as second place in all but the 500-yard freestyle (there were only two competitors, one from each team) and the 400 freestyle relay. They swept the top three spots in the 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke.

Last year, the Patriots weren't as strong in the freestyle events compared to other strokes, but Slavik is pleased with how they have come out of the gate so far.

"All of our freestyle events tonight we had best times," Slavik said. "It's a change of focus this year as we try to fill in some places especially with the freestyle, so I was super pleased with how our training and our changing is paying off and when you go top to bottom in all our freestyle events."

Three of the girls took first in two events. Morgan DeHoff claimed the 50 freestyle (28.42 seconds) and the 100 breaststroke (1

minute, 20.42 seconds), Avery Wentz won the 200 individual medley (2:23.82, career best) and the 500 freestyle (6:31.04) and Sophia Hoewel hit the wall first in the 200 freestyle (2:42.32, career best) and the 100 freestyle (1:04.35).

Hoewel was looking to improve her time in the 100 freestyle from the season opener — the Patriots finished third out of four teams at the Westfield Invitational — and was happy with her improvement but wants to shave some more off.

"Last Saturday, I swam a 1:05 for my 100 time," Hoewel said. "I wanted to get a 1:04 and I did, but I think I could have gotten a little faster. Other than that, I just wanted to swim as fast as I can."

Along with Hoewel, Slavik mentioned that he was impressed with the improvements Maisey Keller has made and the strong performance from Snow, who was uncontested at in the 1-meter diving and scored 203.25.

The boys (0-1, 0-1 ACAC) failed to claim first in any event, but

earned second-place finishes three times. Those came from the 200 medley relay team composed of Matthew Fisher, Lincoln Clamme, Joseph Dow and Peyton Yowell, and the 50 and 100 freestyle races, both from Yowell.

Slavik said Max Klopfenstein showed the most improvement out of the boys team in the season opener. He was also impressed with the strides made by Grayson Swoveland.

While the scoreboard didn't reflect it, Slavik thought it was a good start for his team, recognizing the strength of Bluffton's boys team and focused on the improvements the swimmers made from a year ago.

"A lot of the boys dropped time tonight so that's a benefit starting this year," Slavik said. "Some people had to blow some dust off because they haven't done some of these events since last February. So it was nice to do that and get in and gain some experience moving forward for the rest of the year. I think it's a great starting point for all our boys."

Tames ...

Continued from page 8

She started the second period in the top position and eventually used an arm bar to push Life into a pin at the 2:54 mark.

"So she wrestled the No. 2 ranked girl in the state quite well and came back with a nice pin victory," Jacks said. "And that set the tone I think for where she stands as the No. 1 girl in her weight class."

Other victories for the girls (3-0) came from Willow Hardy (125) over Krista Smith by pin in 3 minutes, 10 seconds, Lina Lingo (135) by a 4-2 decision, Emily Manor (140) over Aleah Skinner by pin in 46 seconds and Maleah Parsons (145) over Alyssa Gipson by pin after 2:45.

The boys (1-0) opened up their season strong, winning six out of the eight matches wrestled.

"I thought we wrestled fairly well," coach Eric Myers said. "We were a little bit rusty for the first match of the season ... we've got some things to work on but it was nice to get out there."

"We're working on getting guys into the right

weight classes and in shape and that's pretty much where we're at right now."

Myers said that he felt Tave Curtis' match in the 144 weight class over Oshea Phillips was the highlight of the meet for Jay County. They battled through the first and most of the second period before Curtis pinned Phillips as time expired in the second.

Other Jay County wins came from Cody Rowles (132) over Nick Roberts in 30 seconds, Tony Wood (138) over Kale Creech at 2:20, Cameron Clark (150) over Quentin Turner after 28 seconds, Jacob Robinson (157) over Preston Matthews in a 3-0 decision and Leighton Brown (175) over Xavier Terrell at 1:35.

"Overall, we wrestled pretty well," Myers said. "We're just gonna have to refine a few things to be ready for this weekend and next Tuesday in the coming weeks."

The Patriots won three of four junior varsity matches. All three matches were won by fall with Gabe Ardizzzone, Gavin Hambrook and Hayden Ison all coming out victorious.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Tony Wood completes a double-leg takedown to score against Centerville's Kale Creech in the 138-pound match Tuesday. Wood was meticulous with his offense, focusing on his technique before pinning Creech 20 seconds into the second period.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swimming at Anderson — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Woodlan — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Woodlan — 6 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Woodlan — 6 p.m.; JV boys

wrestling — 5:45 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas Tech at Butler (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: New Orleans at Minnesota (BTN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at North Carolina (ESPN);

Arkansas at Florida State (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Miami Heat (Bally Indiana)
8:15 p.m. — NFL football: Seattle Seahawks at Dallas Cowboys (FOX)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Creighton at Oklahoma State (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Virginia Tech at LSU (ESPN)

Friday

6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Houston at Xavier (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Maryland at Indiana (BTN); St. John's at West Virginia (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College football: Oregon at Washington (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa State at DePaul (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Connecticut at Kansas (ESPN2); Purdue at Northwestern (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Denver Nuggets at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at Saint Mary's (FS1)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023 9:00 A.M.
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Tract 3: 31 Acres in section 8 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 30.4 acres tillable balance being road frontage.
Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland Township, Jay County all tillable.
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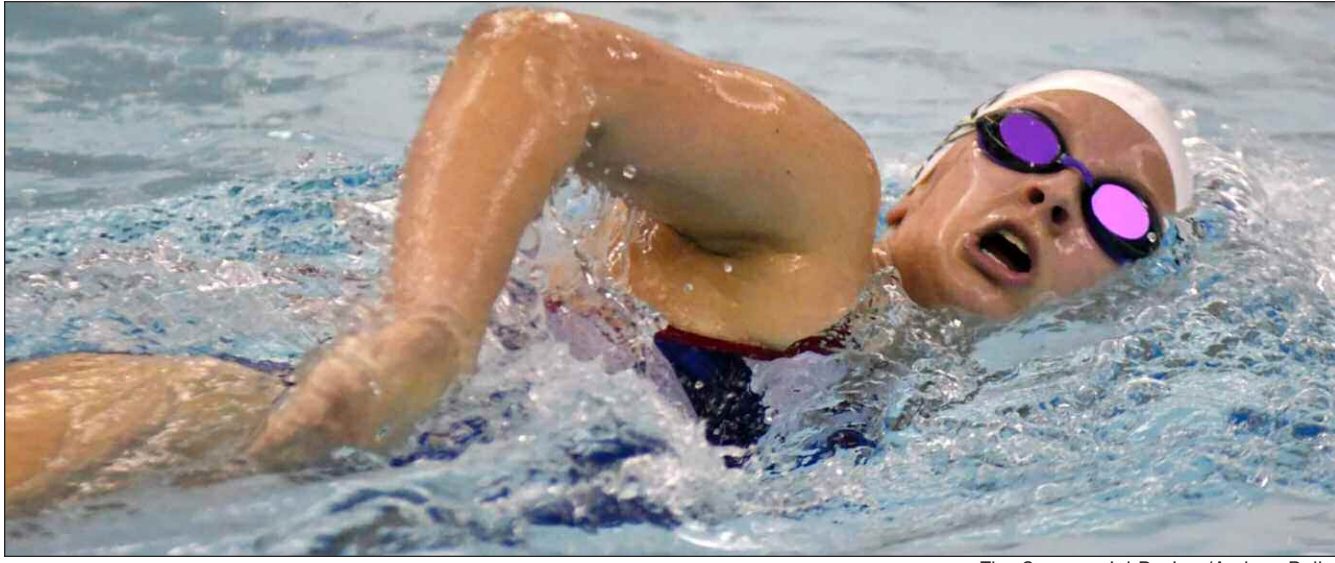
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Patriot wrestlers open season with a win, see story below

Jay swimmers travel to Anderson today, see Sports on tap

Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Avery Wentz swims in the 500-yard freestyle, which she won with a time of 6 minutes, 31.04 seconds, Tuesday during the Jay County High School girls swim team's 198-44 win over Bluffton.

Tankers split with Bluffton

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Maddy Snow was the only Patriot to win an event in their first meet of the season.

She started the Patriots' home opener with a strong performance, but this time, she wasn't the only one to come out on top.

The Jay County High School girls swim team demolished the visiting Bluffton Tigers 198-44 in its home opener Tuesday as the Patriots took first in

every event. The boys team was on the other end of the score as the Allen County Athletic Conference foe took it down 220-76.

"It was a great meet tonight," JCHS coach Matt Slavik said. "It was the first meet with both boys and girls together, first dual meet of the season and people were swimming in some different events but still putting up best times so that was a great way to start off."

See **Split** page 7

Indians earn first victory

Basketball roundup

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians couldn't get their offense going in the season opener. It came alive a little bit in the home opener, but it wasn't enough to pull out the win.

Cali Wendel provided the offense for them to help the Indians to their first victory Tuesday.

Wendel scored eight of her 22 points and hit two of her six threes in the fourth quarter as the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team cracked the win column with a 43-38 victory over the Mississinawa Valley Blackhawks.

The Indians (1-2) entered the fourth quarter up 28-26 on the Blackhawks (0-1). Mississinawa Valley's leading scorer Cora Hoggatt (nine points) put pressure on Fort Recovery by hitting three shots, including a three, in the final period. It wouldn't matter, as Wendel drained two 3-pointers as well as a two to keep the Indians ahead.

Saige Leuthold, Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Karlie Niekamp also scored in the quarter, each getting one bucket with Muhlenkamp also shooting 1-for-2 on free throws.

Niekamp was the only other player in the game to break double digits with 12 points. Leuthold and Kennedy Muhlenkamp both had three points, while Makenna Huelkamp followed with two and Cameron Muhlenkamp rounded out the scoring with one.

Jay wins third

FOUNTAIN CITY — The Jay County girls basketball team won its third straight game as it took down the host Northeastern Knights 55-48 Tuesday.

Two players reached double digits for Jay County (5-2). Molly Muhlenkamp led the way with a team-high 18 points while Danielle May followed with a career-high 13.

Bella Denton also scored a season-high eight points in the matchup. The rest of the Patriots' offense came from Hallie Schwi-

Basketball roundup

eterman (six points), Breanna Dirksen (four), Sophie Saxman (four) and Natalie Carreno (two).

Saxman led Jay County on the boards with 11, and Schwieterman and Muhlenkamp weren't far behind with nine and eight, respectively.

The junior varsity team fell to the Knights 36-25.

Carreno led Jay County (2-5) with nine points. Alexis Sibray and Raylah Newton both dropped six in the game while Meredith Dirksen and Livia Luzzi each added a basket as well.

JH dominates

The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams dominated Driver from Winchester and Belmont from Decatur on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

The seventh grade team (5-0) toppled Driver 44-4 and completely shut out Belmont 45-0.

Charlee Peters tallied the most points among all Patriots with 28 between the two games. Karsyn Schwieterman wasn't far behind with 22.

Other scorers included Kendall Schemenaur with 15, Claudia Dirksen with 12, Alivya Schwieterman with eight and Avery Snow with four.

The eighth graders (4-1) got past Driver 36-20 and clobbered Belmont 51-1.

Scoring was a lot more balanced for the eighth graders, but leading them was Raylin Hummer who had 15 between the two games. One point behind her was a trio of Patriots — Amelia Heath, Natalie May and Kylie Shannon. The other players in double digits were Elizabeth Brunswick (12) and Gabi Petro (10).

Rounding out the scoring were Lyla Kunkler (six) and Stella Skirvin (two).

Jay County tames Bulldogs

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Only one girl has beaten Mallory Winner during her high school career. The junior who is ranked first in the 150-pound weight class had the opportunity to face Shelby Life, who is listed as the second-ranked wrestler at 170 by Indianamat.com, for a fourth time Thursday.

Winner made sure that Life would not even up the series.

Winner was one of five athletes from the Jay County High School girls wrestling team to win a match as it took down Centerville 45-12 while the

Class 2A No. 3 boys team demolished the visiting Bulldogs 63-15.

"Shelby Life is really solid," said assistant coach Troy Jacks, who was coaching the girls alongside Chad Chowning and Jon Winner while coach Eric Myers patrolled the boys corner. "She was third in Mallory's weight class last year so we knew it was going to be a good hard match."

Winner took her time with Life, engaging in hand fighting for the bulk of the first period before scoring with a slide-by takedown with only 10 seconds left.

See **Tames** page 7



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