

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Board reviews 2024 options

Projects include lighting, fencing

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Portland Park Board is considering several improvement projects for 2024.

The park board during its meeting Tuesday heard cost estimates and proposals for projects including lighting around the walking trail at Hudson Family Park, improvements to the baseball/softball diamonds at Weiler-Wilson Park, fencing around the new pickleball courts at Milton Miller Park and the addition of a heater for Portland Water Park.

The board took no action on any of the potential projects, with president Brian Ison asking members as well as street and parks department staff to consider the options in relation to the 2024 budget (\$45,000 for capital improvements) and other funding options.

Matt Shauver of the city's street and parks department presented several quotes and estimates that had previously been requested.

The board has discussed installing lighting along the walking trail around the pond at Hudson Family Park. Shauver presented estimates of \$33,800 and \$39,000 from Coppersmith and of \$44,300 and \$50,000 from 4TC, both of Portland. He noted that the more expensive option from both is for oval lights that relatively match those that are already in the park while the cheaper option is for rectangular lights.

Ison asked various questions about the lights, including regarding height and longevity. He also noted that there was a concern about lighting at the park's amphitheater following the most recent Arts Place concert held there.

See Options page 2

Classic quotes



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Cam LeFevre of Fort Recovery gestures during Tuesday evening's rehearsal for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of the musical, "A Christmas Story." LeFevre plays Ralphie, who is on a quest to receive a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. The show opens at 7 p.m. tonight, with additional performances at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Other shows are set for 7 p.m. Dec. 15 and 16, and 2 p.m. Dec. 17.

Jay County Civic Theatre will bring favorite Christmas movie to life on stage starting tonight

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

"When you're a kid, all you want is the perfect Christmas gift."

"You'll shoot your eye out, kid."

These popular phrases from "A Christmas Story" characters will be acted out on the stage in Portland tonight and for the next two weeks.

Jay County Civic Theatre opens at 7 p.m. tonight with its production of "A Christmas Story: The Musical," at Jay County Campus of Arts Place. Other showings are set for 7 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. Dec. 17.

Based on the classic 1983 movie directed by Bob Clark, it follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker — he's portrayed by Cam LeFevre — during the holiday season in which he attempted to convince his parents to get him a specific BB gun for Christmas. Narrated by adult Ralph Parker, played by Jason McGraw, the stage version has various elements from the original film, including the "Red Ryder BB gun" and the infamous leg lamp.

Director Jennifer McGraw said she has wanted Jay County Civic Theatre to perform "A Christmas Story" on stage for a long time. The musical version, she added, seemed to be some-

thing the local audience would enjoy.

"It's a popular movie, of course at Christmastime, so we figured it would be a good draw for people to want to come see it as well," she said.

Jennifer McGraw noted the cast comes from all over, with cast members like Julie Crandall from Decatur and Reid Knuth from Fort Recovery, along with others from Coldwater, Ohio, St. Henry, Ohio, Portland, Dunkirk and Redkey.

"I just think it's great that we have so many people from not just Jay County, but surrounding areas that have started to come and become a part of the family," she said.

Cam LeFevre — he performed in civic theatre's recent productions of "Frosty the Snowman," "The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever" and "Descendants: The Musical" — stars as Ralphie. "He's a very mischievous kid," said LeFevre, noting his character grows to be more mature throughout the show.

Julie Crandall performed as Maria in Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "The Sound of Music." She's returning to the stage for the first time in 15 years, this time as Ralphie's mother.

"I'm Mother, basically I'm the glue that's keeping this family together," she said.

See Classic page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

To the beat

Bloomfield Elementary third graders Jaxson Mumby, Kazlynn Morehous and Isaac Rosenbeck beat on drums during their practice Christmas program session Tuesday morning at East Jay Elementary School.

Jenner supportive

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's top education official on Tuesday said she wants Hoosier lawmakers to toughen the state's third grade retention policies — while keeping some exemptions in place — as part of an "urgent" push to improve dismal literacy rates.

Secretary of Education Katie Jenner maintained that too many Indiana third-graders who lack foundational reading skills are advancing to the fourth grade.

Currently, thousands of Indiana third-graders who fail the statewide IREAD-3 exam can be held back, although there are numerous "good cause" exemptions, including for English learners and students with disabilities.

Secretary of Education says she wants tougher grade retention policies

Still, it's possible for a child who fails to pass IREAD-3 to "socially" move on to fourth grade, as long as they continue to receive third grade reading instruction during the subsequent school year.

Jenner said additional literacy supports are needed across the board but expressed specific concerns about the students who are moving up a grade without an exemption.

"We will absolutely consider, who are the students that may still need a good cause exemption? That will absolutely be a part of the conversation," Jenner said following the State Board of Education's monthly meeting Tuesday morning. "But what will also be a part of the conversation is, what about the other 8,000 students that don't have a good cause exemption?"

See Supportive page 2

Deaths

Debbie Whitesell, 65, Dunkirk

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's temperature held steady at 36 degrees Tuesday.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 30s with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. The high will climb into the mid 50s Friday under mostly sunny skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Santia will be at the Santa House on Main Street between Meridian and Harrison streets in Portland from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday.

Coming up

Friday — A look into a new e-sports team featuring a Jay County graduate.

Saturday — Results from the opening day of the ACAC wrestling duals.



Obituaries

Debbie Whitesell

Sept. 30, 1958-Dec. 3, 2023
Debbie Whitesell, 65, Dunkirk, died Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at home following an extended illness. Born in Norton, Virginia, she moved with her family to Dunkirk at a young age and graduated from Dunkirk High School in 1977. Debbie was a banker for over 30 years and retired in 2008 as the chief operating officer at First Financial Bank in Hartford City. She was a member of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church and Neighborhood Crime Watch,

was a former member of The Dunkirk Foundation and had served on the Dunkirk Library Board. Debbie loved to read. She enjoyed cooking and trying new recipes, traveling, including trips to Gatlinburg with Chris, and most importantly she loved being with family, especially her grandchildren. Survivors include her daughters, Nicole Knoth (husband: Dave), Fort Wayne, and Lauren



Whitesell

Whitesell, Fort Wayne; brothers Gordon Lowe (wife: Ginger), Redkey, Clarence Lowe (wife: Marty), Centre, Alabama, Alton Lowe (wife: Reba), Dunkirk, and Warren Lowe (wife: Jan), Portland; sister Jennie Henry (husband: Dick), Redkey; mother-in-law Aloma Whitesell, Dunkirk; brothers-in-law Junior Price, Dunkirk, Danny R. Whitesell (wife: Carol), Dunkirk, and Mike Whitesell (wife: Brenda), Dunkirk; sister-in-law Robin Hayden (husband: Kip), Dunkirk; grandchildren Sydney, Abram, Chloe and Ethan Christopher; and nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Chris Whitesell; parents Raymond and Inez (Anderson) Lowe; sister Sharon Price; sisters-in-law Ruthann Lowe and Florene Lowe; father-in-law Richard "Dick" Whitesell; nephews Jarrod Whitesell and one who died in infancy; and niece Theresa Lowe, who died in infancy. Services will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at Meacham Funeral Service with burial following at Dunkirk I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Visiting hours are Friday from noon until 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to The Dunkirk Foundation, P.O. Box 202, Dunkirk, IN 47336. Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com. *****
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 12/8	Saturday 12/9	Sunday 12/10	Monday 12/11	Tuesday 12/12
55/47	59/34	40/25	40/28	44/29
Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph.	Rain is likely on Saturday with an 80% chance of showers day and night.	Sunday has a 50% chance of rain and snow throughout the day.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday, when the high won't go past 40 degrees.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high of 44 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$435 million	Evening Daily Three: 9-1-0 Daily Four: 4-8-9-7 Quick Draw: 3-10-11-13-19-29-30-34-36-37-45-47-48-60-61-63-67-70-76-80
Mega Millions 18-35-40-64-67 Mega Ball: 18 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$395 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 3-0-8 Pick 4: 5-5-7-5 Pick 5: 2-0-1-0-7 Evening Pick 3: 9-1-5 Pick 4: 1-7-5-7 Pick 5: 8-6-1-3-9 Rolling Cash: 9-11-19-24-39 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 1-2-5 Daily Four: 9-4-3-7 Quick Draw: 6-8-14-17-23-28-33-35-36-38-41-46-49-52-57-61-65-66-76-79	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.54 Jan. corn.....4.74 Wheat5.51	Jan. beans12.79 Wheat 5.96
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.54 Dec. corn.....4.64 Jan. corn.....4.74	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.34 Jan. corn.....4.56 Beans12.66 Jan. beans12.72 Wheat5.71
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.29 Jan. corn.....4.69 Beans12.69	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.39 Jan. corn4.49 Beans12.44 Jan. beans12.52 Wheat5.36

Today in history

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the Constitution. The vote among 30 delegates in a state convention at Battell's Tavern was unanimous. The event is now celebrated as Delaware Day.
In 1917, the United States declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
In 1928, Noam Chomsky was born in Philadelphia. Sometimes referred to as "the father of modern linguistics," he is a defender of unconditional freedom of speech.
In 1941, the United States was attacked by the Japanese at its naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory. More than 2,300 Americans were killed, the U.S.S. Arizona was destroyed and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized.
In 1956, Larry Bird was born in West Baden,

Indiana. Bird led Indiana State University to the 1979 national championship game, won three championships with the Boston Celtics and coached the Indiana Pacers.
In 2004, John Jay Center for Learning asked for public support for its application for a \$500,000 grant from Indiana Department of Commerce to take steps to make the Weiler Building, which would become the organization's home, weather-tight.
In 2021, Portland Park Board approved its five-year park plan to be sent to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for its approval. Priorities included improving Portland Memorial Park's baseball/softball fields and utilizing the green space at Hudson Family Park.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	mission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 8:45 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Friday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Com-	

Classic ...

Continued from page 1
As a mother of three in real life, she added, the role comes naturally. Her son, Amos Crandall, is also joining the show's ensemble. She noted it's been a great bonding experience for them to perform together for the last few months.
Putting together the set — it includes a detailed representation of the Parkers' home with two different levels — has been one of the more time-consuming aspects of this production, noted Jennifer McGraw. As she spoke during an interview, her husband, Jason McGraw, pulled out a large piece of foam for the set.
"When I showed (Jason) my original design, he looked at me like I had three heads," Jennifer McGraw said, laughing. "I know he's put in over 100 hours on the set."

The music itself has also been a challenge. Reid Knuth, who's serving as music director and in the role of Ralphie's father, noted this musical has some difficult styles and combinations compared to some of civic theatre's more recent productions.
"I think this is the hardest music we've done since probably 'Newsies' in 2019," he said. "There's lots of parts. The styles are all over the place. There's like nine-part harmonies that make it really tough, but they've done a good job with it."
After months of preparation, the cast will take the stage tonight. Jennifer McGraw said she's looking forward to everything coming together.
"The cast, they've worked very hard, and they could go on tonight with a crowd and I would be proud

of them, even without having everything finished," she said during an interview Tuesday evening. "There's a lot of little things left to do, but I just feel like we're in such a good spot. I'm excited to just see it all come together, and I can't wait to see how the crowd responds ..."
Crandall said she had never been a huge fan of the movie, but she loves the musical version. She expects the audience will feel the same way.
"I feel like it fleshes out the characters a little bit more, and there's just a lot of fun in the songs," she said. "It keeps the storyline moving with a little bit more interest. People that know and love the movie, it'll add something, but also if you don't know the movie, you could show up and still love it."

Options ...

Continued from page 1
Shauver said light poles would be at least 30 feet tall. He added that providing additional lighting at the amphitheater for events that end later in the evening could be done fairly cost effectively. He said he would talk with Arts Place staff more specifically about what type of lighting is needed.
Estimates for a 66-foot by 60-foot fence around the new pickleball courts at Milton Miller Park came in at \$21,000 from Gabbard Fence Construction of Winchester and \$14,740 from Jacob Schwartz of Adams County. It would be 8 feet tall with two gates.
A rough estimate to install a heater for the pool at Portland Water Park is in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 range. Rural Portland resident Bev Arnold, who is also a coaching for the Jay County Summer Swim Team, said she believes she can get donors to cover

the cost of the heater. (The heater would allow the water park to open during times when the outdoor temperature has previously forced closures.) Board members question how much it would take to heat the pool on an annual basis, with Arnold and Shauver responding that they are working on getting estimates.
Shauver also presented a quote of \$1,000 for the construction of permanent cornhole courts. He suggested they might be a good attraction to take some of the space where the horseshoe pits are located at Haynes Park.
The board also heard from Matt Ransom of Portland Junior League regarding priority projects for the organization. He said the top choice would be rehabilitation of the east and west baseball/softball diamonds at Weiler-Wilson Park. The estimated cost is \$28,000,

of which he said Portland Junior League could cover half.
He listed new fencing around those fields, estimated at \$10,000, as the No. 2 priority.
Ison noted other projects the board has previously discussed include sealing the pavement at Hudson Family Park, updating playground equipment at Haynes Park and expanding the fence around Portland Water Park.
"So there's a lot of big ticket items that are coming up," he said.
Board members Michael Brewster, Jennifer Weitzel, Shauna Runkle, John McFarland and Ison took no action on the projects, other than to give Arnold the go-ahead to continue pursuing funding for the heaters at Portland Water Park.
In other business, the board:
•Learned the following from Shauver:

—A pump for the water park has been rebuilt at a cost of just under \$7,000.
—New security cameras have been installed at the water park and signs with water park rules are being prepared for the 2024 season.
•Discussed the donation of automated external defibrillators to the park board. McFarland noted that five are available, with Ison saying he would like to see one stationed at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field.
Board members plan to look into options for how to store the devices at the parks.
•Heard Ison note that he has been asked about the possibility of adding a park in the area where the Bailey Building, 201 through 205 W. Main St., is being torn down.
•Were reminded the board's next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 9.

Supportive ...

Continued from page 1
"From the longitudinal implications that we see thus far, it's not benefiting them moving forward."
"I think that's the real answer that, as a state, we have to solution-find — fast," she continued.
"We're going to have to address that this legislative session — noting that there will be some exceptions for kids — but we also have way too many moving forward right now."
According to new data from the Indiana Department of Education, in 2023, 13,840 third-graders did not

pass I-READ-3. Of those, 5,503 received an exemption and 8,337 did not. Of those without an exemption, 95% moved onto 3rd grade while only 412 were retained.
Republican legislative leaders said last month that the current state law isn't being implemented effectively. Reforming Indiana's third grade retention law now appears to be high-priority for both the House and Senate in the 2024 session. Although no bill drafts have been released yet, a mandatory statewide retention policy could be on the table.

But the proposal has so far been met with skepticism from Hoosier teachers, school officials and education experts who maintain that a more stringent statewide retention law could further inflate classroom sizes and have negative social and emotional effects for students. Critics additionally caution that holding back more kids will cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars more in education expenses.
Jenner held that — although education officials are still gathering and analyzing retention data — "it has to be a 'both and' approach."

SERVICES

Friday

Denney, Sandy: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Whitesell, Debbie: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Iliff, Anita: 6 p.m., Wayne Street Methodist Church, 130 N. Wayne St., St. Marys, Ohio.

Saturday

Timmerman, Alma: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Felony arrests

Unlawful possession

Two Redkey residents were arrested Tuesday for unlawful possession of a syringe and related charges.
James B. Young, 46, 304 E. Delaware St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was being held in Jay County Jail.
Megan D. Young, 42, 304 E. Delaware St., was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe, possession of methamphetamine and possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug, along with a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Swiss Village

NOW SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR FEBRUARY 2024 C.N.A. CLASS!

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking candidates for a Certified Nursing Assistant class that will begin in February 2024!! Classes will be held in the evenings and on Saturdays. Seeking candidates available to work in Healthcare on 2nd shift, in Assisted Living every other weekend on 1st shift, or in Assisted Living on 2nd or 3rd shifts. Full-time positions available on 2nd shift, and a part-time position available on 3rd shift in Assisted Living. Full-time positions are eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation. Part-time positions are eligible for benefits including dental and vision insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

Application deadline for the C.N.A. class: Friday, January 12, 2024.

Apply in person, online at www.swissvillage.org, or send Resume to:
Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or e-mail: careers@swissvillage.org

Keep wellness on track this winter

By **KERRY TORRES**

Winter can be a time of cold weather, staying inside and warm comfort foods, but it can also be a time of health issues such as influenza, dry skin and the winter blues.

There are steps you can take to keep your wellness journey on track or jump start to a healthier lifestyle.

What are some ways to stay healthy in the winter?

Get immunized

One of the most important ways to stay healthy during the winter is to stay up-to-date and current on immunizations.

Your Health Matters



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all adults should be immunized for COVID-19, influenza and Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap). Depending on your age, health conditions and lifestyle, other vaccines may be recommended. Contact your healthcare

provider to review recommended immunizations and to assist with scheduling.

Wash your hands

Washing your hands is also important all year.

It can help avoid catching and spreading ailments such as the flu, cold and pink eye. To make sure you are getting rid of all germs, wash your hands for 20 seconds (or hum the tune "Happy Birthday" two times).

Stay active

Staying active may be more difficult during the

cold months but it is still important.

Make sure to bundle up if going for a walk outside or find a location to walk indoors. Many local community centers and schools allow indoor walking at no cost.

Some other ways to stay active indoors include yoga, pilates, dancing, vacuuming, bowling or climbing stairs.

Attend to mental health

The shorter days can put some people in a funk or make them start to feel down or depressed. This

condition is commonly known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

If you or someone you know has feelings of hopelessness, trouble concentrating, lose interest in regularly enjoyable activities or see changes in appetite or sleep schedule, contact your healthcare provider.

Eat well

Eating healthy during the winter months is also important to help overall wellness but can also help fight off ailments and illness.

There are many seasonal fruits and vegeta-

bles that are available during the winter months. Vegetables such as beets, potatoes and rutabagas are high in potassium while fruits such as oranges, grapefruits and tangerines provide vitamin C to help boost immunity.

It is also beneficial to increase your intake of foods with Vitamin D which can boost brain and immune functions. Foods high in Vitamin D include salmon, tuna and fortified milk.

Torres is a nurse practitioner at IU Health Jay Family Practice.

Alumnus wasn't invited to 20-year reunion

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out that my 20-year high school reunion took place and I wasn't invited. I'm still occasionally in touch with several friends from high school and easy to find on social media. I did attend my 10-year reunion, although I may not have received an invite myself because I went as part of a group.

I wasn't very popular or close to the "in" crowd in high school, but I was social, albeit quirky. I'm sure it was a simple oversight, but I'm having trouble getting past this. I keep thinking about the trope of the loser in high school coming back to the reunion to shine.

Abby, I feel pathetic because I wasn't even asked. I'm not sure I could have gone because I

Dear Abby



have two babies at home, and we are still somewhat COVID-cautious, but it hurts not to have been invited. Any suggestions for how to stop feeling slighted? — UNWELCOME IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR UNWELCOME: Think back. Did you sign up for the alumni association when you attended that 10-year reunion? I'll bet you didn't because if you had, they wouldn't have left you

alone and you would be receiving appeals for money and current information. I am pretty sure your omission from the guest list was an oversight. To prevent it from happening again, all you have to do is be proactive about making sure you are included in the next one.

DEAR ABBY: My common-law husband and my daughter don't get along. Even though he is good with kids, she doesn't want him around her children. The last time we were at her home, he got upset with me. He demanded we leave and went out to the car to wait for me. (I had told my daughter we were staying for two nights; this happened after one night.) My daughter felt he was disrespect-

ful. She was upset and asked me what was going on. I became upset and my granddaughters saw me crying, which got them upset. My daughter then informed me she doesn't want him around her kids again.

Now, a year later, my husband still will not acknowledge any wrongdoing, nor will she. I'm stuck in the middle. He has threatened that if I spend time with her, he will spend time away from home. I am not choosing him over my kids. How can I handle this? — JUST WANTS PEACE IN CANADA

DEAR JUST WANTS PEACE: Handle this by stepping out of the middle. If you want to see your granddaughters, visit them alone. If your common-law husband follows through on his

threat to spend time away from home, that would be the perfect time for him to do it. If you can't trust him while you take a little family time off, then you don't have much of a marriage — common-law or otherwise.

TO MY READERS: The eight days of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah begin at sundown. Happy Hanukkah, everyone. A joyous Festival of Lights to all of us. — "LATKAS" OF LOVE, ABBY

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.

964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

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 - BRIGANNA'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. Walk-ins accepted.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio. JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

BREAD OF LIFE COM-

MUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIGANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the

Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

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.

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.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765)

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

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careers@swissvillage.org

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www.thecraguns.com

What can Indiana claim as its own?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

In my kitchen are figs from Turkey, coffee and bananas from Columbia, grapes from Chile, apples from Washington state, and Greek yogurt from Canada.

We know California wines and Michigan blueberries, Georgia peaches and Idaho potatoes. Wisconsin cheese and Milwaukee beer.

What is Indiana known for? Generic commodities like steel, corn, soybeans and auto parts. Even breaded pork tenderloin sandwiches and sugar crème pies are not unique to Indiana.

Our annual Indianapolis 500 auto race has lost much of its legitimacy as a technological event. Now it survives degraded to a competition among personalities. It remains a draw for those who have never seen it or are extreme sentimentalists.

Eye on the Pie



We've got the Mentone Egg which doesn't match the appeal of The World's Largest Toilet (Columbus). We're not in the contest for the world's largest ball of twine, but we do offer the world's largest ball of paint (Alexandria).

However, Indiana will catch up now that our General Assembly has allocated some of its surplus millions for the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC).

To make Indiana a destination,

the business sector must cooperate. Kentucky has its bourbon tour. We have an extraordinarily informative cow and pig tour (Fair Oaks).

How about an automotive tour package of stamping plants, parts factories and assembly lines. As we enter the EV era, let's see what's different from the gasoline century.

Do our visually exciting steel mills offer regular tours for regular people? How about the housing industries from the commercial forest to the sawmills, the veneer plants, the home builders, the electric, plumbing, carpenters and other trades that give us our homes.

We're known for RVs and manufactured homes. Elkhart County could have wonderful tours of those many and diverse facilities. Do these ubiquitous products

carry a badge that proudly proclaims "Made in Indiana?"

The main streets of each town seeking new residents and enterprises must be among the best-paved streets in the nation. IDDC should chip in money for paving streets everywhere with the wealthiest homes. Why not? If the rich cannot live well in a town, who else can?

Making more bicycle and walking paths is nice for slugs like me. But the longest, true hiking trail in the Midwest has been obstructed by Brown County officials and a few obdurate farmers.

Indiana once had a road map with the reverse side featuring our cities. Now they sell that space to commercial interests. True, we have our GPS to take us where we want to go. But what if we don't know where we want to go?

We're investing in interstate rest areas. Will our welcome centers compete with those of Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Kansas? Will we have attended information desks, staffed by knowledgeable, efficient people. Friendliness is cheap, competence is not.

Local Hoosier signage is missing or deplorable. That's why we had a 1980s campaign suggesting "Wander Indiana," because you're bound to get lost.

If Indiana is going to compete for tourism and investment, we need to change our image by changing our reality. It's time to erase the unwritten state slogan, "If you don't know where you are, you don't belong here!"

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

Make Indiana more welcoming

By RABBI AARON SPIEGEL

Indiana Capital Chronicle

With 2023 coming to an end, it's worth taking a moment of reflection for the year passed. As a religious leader, I understand my place in humanity by my religious perspective.

The Christian Bible gives us the concept of the "least among us" as the most important. The Torah says you shall love the stranger as yourself. The Quran says to give wealth to relatives, orphans, the needy, and the traveler. Based on these admonitions, we have a long way to go.

Migration Institute's data indicate that more than 397,000 individuals in Indiana report being foreign-born (2021). Further, from 2000-2021, Indiana experienced more than 100% population change for individuals who are foreign-born. While 38% of these individuals are of Latino origin, it is notable that those from Asia and Africa are increasingly among those who call Indiana home.

Immigrants are more likely to participate in the workforce; those who are 16 years and older make up more than 6% of state's workforce. Their economic impact is also demonstrated by entrepreneurship, jobs in healthcare and other STEM fields, as well as hospitality and logistics. In 2017, immigrants paid \$2.6 billion in local, state, and federal taxes.

Despite their contributions, Indiana has passed legislation that bars foreign-born individuals without lawful status from accessing a driver's license, in-state tuition, and protections against predatory housing practices to name a few. Our immigrant brothers and sisters, many of whom come to Indiana to escape horrific conditions, live in poverty because of the systems we've created to prevent them from thriving.

The data is clear that immigrants are the most vulnerable to abuse by predatory landlords and homelessness. We forbid undocumented immigrants from getting a driver's license, forcing them to break the law to feed their families. And without that identification, they're unable to get

Rabbi Aaron Spiegel



Our immigrant brothers and sisters, many of whom come to Indiana to escape horrific conditions, live in poverty because of the systems we've created to prevent them from thriving.

the most basic social services.

In her recent book *The Sum Of Us*, economist Heather McGhee points out that, "... we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm — the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others." And yet, despite our faith tradition's cautions to the contrary, we continue to promote the narrative that by giving to others we lose out for ourselves.

Every religious tradition affirms that the Divine resides in each of us. That includes all our neighbors regardless of where they are from, legal status, ability to speak English, or life circumstances. Each of them deserves the "dignity of inestimable worth."

Let's hope that in 2024, Indiana can advance policies that support our immigrant neighbors, make them feel welcomed, and thrive.

.....
Spiegel is the Executive Director of the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA) and a board member of Immigrant Welcome Center.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



New model should be embraced

Chicago Tribune

Tribune News Service

More than three years out from the pandemic's onset, when America's office workers suddenly had to do their jobs from their homes, a substantial majority of those employees have no desire to turn the clock back to 2019.

It's clear in survey after survey. Bosses intent on herding their workforce back into the office have met consistently with resistance, both overt and covert. White-collar workers like the flexibility the work-from-home routine provides. They appreciate not sitting in traffic or on trains for substantial portions of their day. They're happy not having to hire dog walkers and being available for their kids if the need arises.

America's workers also are unhappy generally. Strikingly so.

A recent Wall Street Journal story highlighting the trend pointed to a survey of 2,000 workers by the Lincolnshire-based human resources firm Alight in which more than a third said they "dreaded" starting work each morning. That was 11 percentage points higher than last year. Friction with bosses over returning to the office wasn't the only reason for the discontent, but it was a key part.

It's one thing to be less than enthused about your job. It's quite another to dread doing it.

It seems abundantly clear that the heyday of "the office" — that totemic feature of American life, celebrated in TV shows of yore like the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" and later satirized in shows like, yes, "The Office" — is over. The question now is, what will replace it?

It's easy to say that the new business model is likely to be a "hybrid." The majority of office workers will spend a fair chunk of time working from home, but also

Guest Editorial

will need to be "at work" for some portion of the week.

That's an overly simplistic way of looking at the issue, though. Within that broad category, managers have many choices to make. How many days per week will workers need to be in the office? Which days? Will they be able to choose which ones, or will bosses want all their workers together at the same time?

The issues aren't exclusively about what workers desire, of course. Companies hire people to do jobs. They pay them and provide critical benefits such as health care insurance. They have every right to set expectations and hold their staffs accountable for a full day's work.

So, how do managers do those things effectively in a remote working environment? To what degree should an employee working from home with flexible expectations be expected to be "on call" in return? When are after-hours requests acceptable? How much should bosses and colleagues communicate electronically, via Slack or similar systems, and when and how often is direct, verbal communication necessary? The situation is especially tricky when managing both hourly and exempt employees, job categories subject to very different regulations.

And there's the issue even the most ardent work-from-home advocates acknowledge is a problem: How do people just entering the workforce get the training and mentoring they need and — just as critically — understand the cul-

ture of their workplaces if there are little to no face-to-face dealings with their new colleagues?

The protestations of Elon Musk, Jamie Dimon and other staunch critics of WFH notwithstanding, five full days a week in the office is not the future of most American workplaces. But as we write three years after the greatest upheaval in American work life in generations, it's also unclear what the settled upon model of white-collar work will be.

The growing discontent of labor demonstrates that workers don't think their companies are acknowledging the reality of a permanent hybrid model or are trying hard enough to fashion a new routine that works for everyone.

Corporate bosses like to talk about how their employees are their companies' most valuable assets. They fret about morale. They survey their workers each year on their views of managers, benefits, pay — everything associated with their work lives.

We don't doubt most of these managers truly worry and care about worker morale.

Happy, or at least contented, workers are a critical component of long-term business success. We think few bosses would disagree with that assertion. The corporate winners of the future will be those owned and/or run by forward-looking people who give thought and attention to all these questions, solicit input from their workers on their ideas, and then act transparently and with conviction on forging this new model in collaboration with their workers.

We don't pretend to know exactly what the new American office job will look like. We understand, too, that one size won't fit all. But we do exhort today's employers to get busier on the task of forging the new reality.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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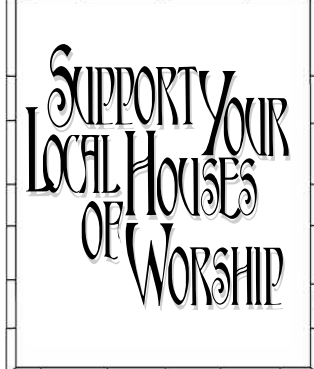
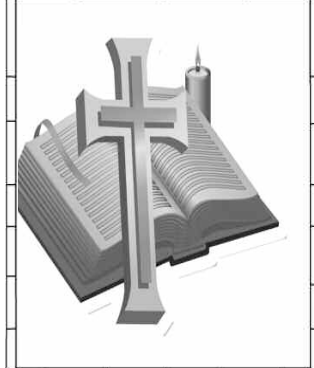
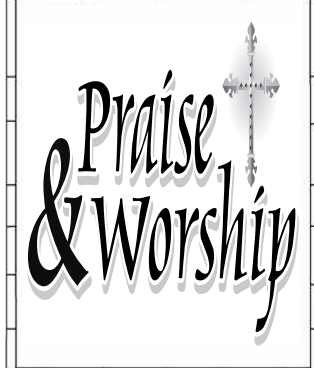
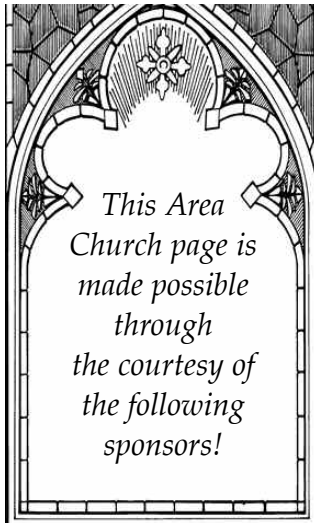
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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content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

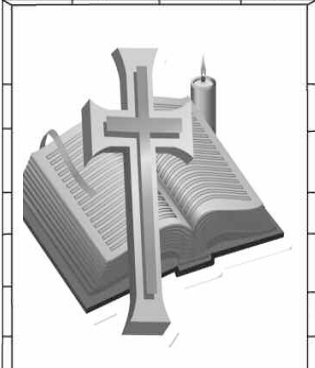
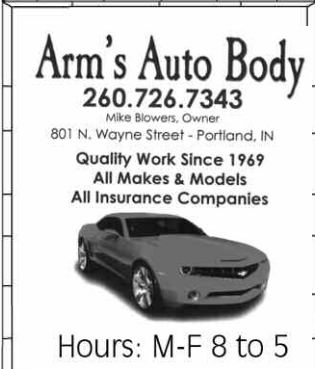
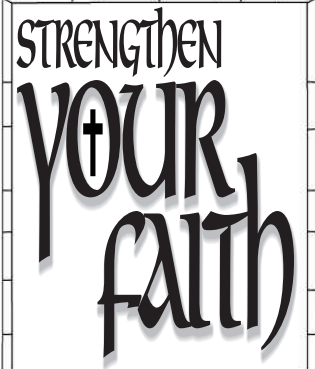
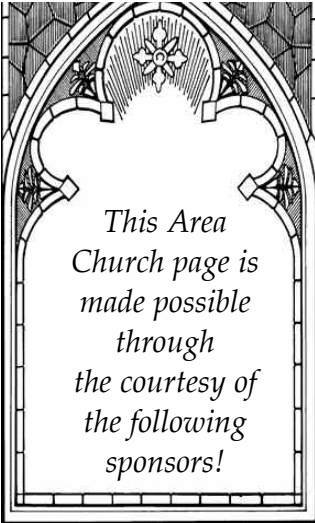
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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.



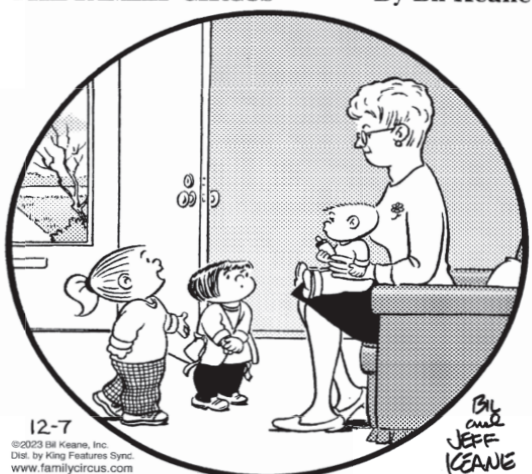
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The art of card-reading

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 7 3 2
♥ —
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ A 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 6
♥ A 10
♦ A K Q 9 4
♣ K 10 9 5 3

EAST
♠ K
♥ K Q J 8 6 5 4 3
♦ J 10 6
♣ Q

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 8 5 4
♥ 9 7 2
♦ 7
♣ J 8 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1♥ 1♣ Pass
2♠ 4♥ Pass Pass
4♠ 5♥ Pass Pass
5♠ Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead King of diamonds.

The ability to count out a hand is the greatest single asset in declarer's bag of tricks. Counting is not really difficult — you never have to go beyond the number 13 — but for some reason many players seem to look upon it as something beyond their reach.

Yet observe how easy it is in this hand where South wound up in five spades doubled. You might not agree with the bidding, but that's the way it went.

West led the king of diamonds

and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ace of spades, felling the king. In alternating order, he then trumped three hearts in dummy and two diamonds in his hand, ending in dummy after the last heart ruff.

By this time, dummy consisted of one trump and four clubs, while South had two trumps and three clubs. Then came the key play — a low club from dummy. East won with the queen and, having only hearts left, was forced to lead one.

This allowed South to dispose of his remaining club loser as the heart was ruffed in dummy, so he made five spades doubled. Note, though, that if he had led the ace and another club at the crucial point, he would have gone down one.

The particular South in this case was well-versed in the art of counting. The play to this point had revealed that East started with one spade, eight hearts (since West had shown out on the third heart lead) and three diamonds (since East had shown out on the fourth diamond lead).

With 12 of East's cards accounted for, it was certain that he had started with exactly one club. The low club play was made in the hope that East's lone club was the singleton K, Q or 10, in which case one defender or the other would have to commit hara-kiri on the next lead.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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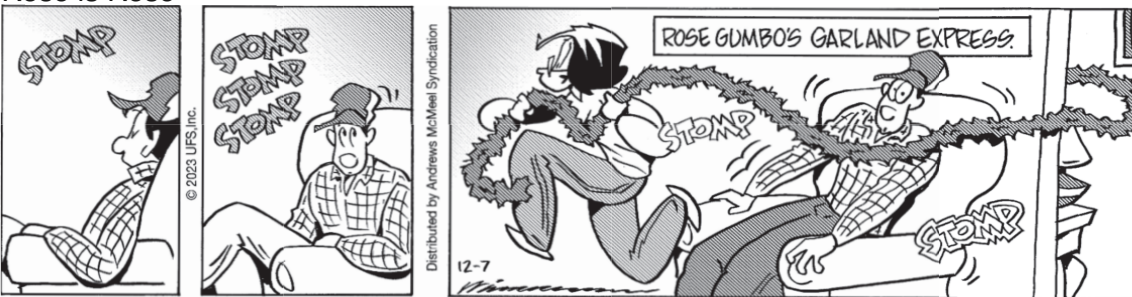
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



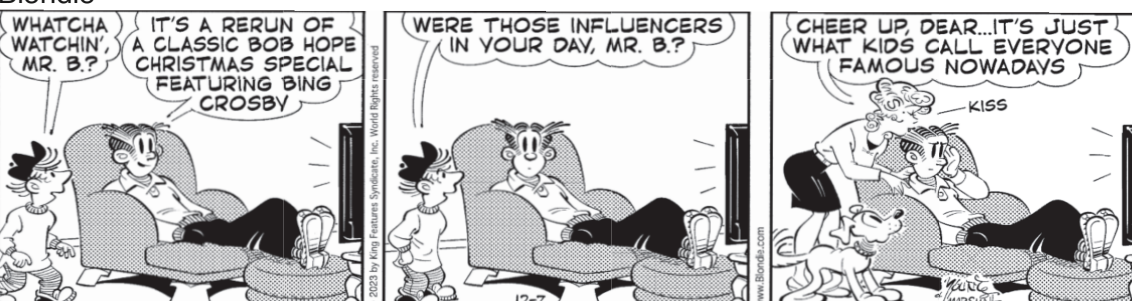
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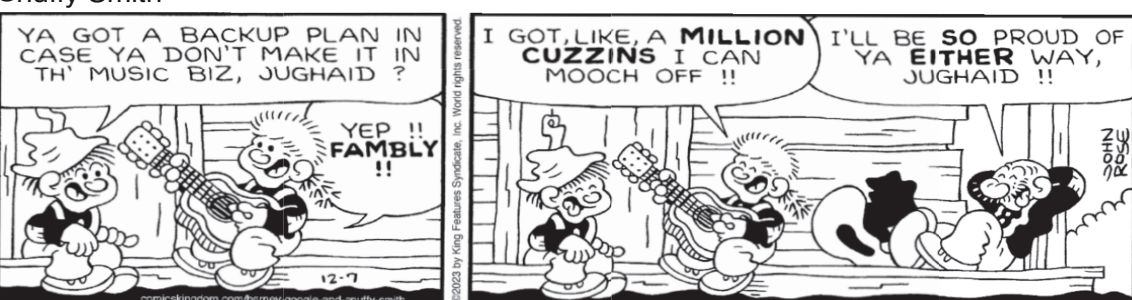
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



12-7 CRYPTOQUIP

PM QIHCO NYRCYJOR RKOOR
FQU CDSOR SOWUEFCOR, RD
UAYR MOEG KO'GO WOUUYIW
AYP E FYGUANEM HQJO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON HIGHLIGHTS ALL OF THE AMPERSANDS IN A DOCUMENT, I WOULD CALL THAT A SHOW OF ANDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals R

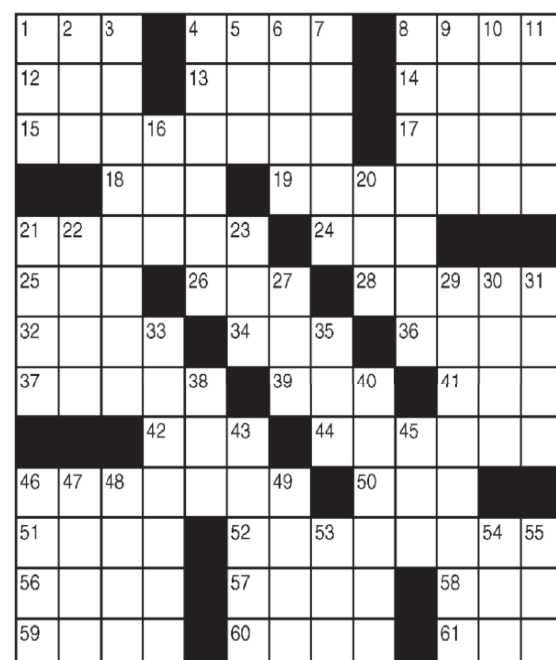
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bonfire residue
 - 4 Cougar
 - 8 Author Bellow
 - 12 Soup legume
 - 13 Singer Tori
 - 14 Golden State sch.
 - 15 Put on the air
 - 17 Burmian turn-downs
 - 18 Calendar abbr.
 - 19 Hot alcoholic drinks
 - 21 Designer Giorgio
 - 24 King, in Cannes
 - 25 Sheepish remark
 - 26 Agrees to
 - 28 Spiked clubs
 - 32 Small statue
 - 34 Flow out
 - 36 Misplace
 - 37 Modify
 - 39 Remote batteries, often
 - 41 — King Cole
 - 42 Billboards
- DOWN**
- 44 Gap
 - 46 Like some phone cards
 - 50 Goof up
 - 51 DVR brand
 - 52 Over-takes, on foot
 - 56 Help in a crime
 - 57 Tend texts
 - 58 Enjoy Vail
 - 59 Taxpayer IDs
 - 60 Actress Ward
 - 61 Levy
 - 11 Girl
 - 16 Geological period
 - 20 Monk's title
 - 21 "Fernando" group
- 48** Julia of film
- 23** White House nickname
- 27** Govt. lender for some start-ups
- 29** Partner of compare
- 30** Birthright barterer
- 31** Match parts
- 33** Oolong brewers
- 35** "Hum-bug!"
- 38** Vitamin stat
- 40** Nap
- 43** Begets
- 45** Dadaist artist
- 46** Sch. supporters
- 47** Barbecue order
- 48** Divisible by two
- 49** Ranch visitor
- 53** Goose egg
- 54** Jamaican music
- 55** StubHub buys, slangily

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-7



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Jay wrestling drops first match of season to Delta, see story below

FRHS girls basketball opens MAC-play today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Ever improving

JCHS cleans up offense as it steamrolls Bearcats

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review
Coach Sherri McIntire was blunt with her team about its Saturday performance. She liked the defensive effort, but wasn't satisfied with the offensive performance.

Three days later, it took a step toward fixing those problems.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team used its defense to create offense and crashed the offensive glass often in its 64-13 win over the

Muncie Central Bearcats on Tuesday night.

"I was very pleased with how we came out ready to play," McIntire said. "Then we got a lead and I felt like our level of play stayed where it needed to."

"Sometimes when you get a big lead, it can get sloppy and I thought we did a really good job of playing at our level."

One point of emphasis for the Patriots (7-2) during the game was to improve their shooting

near the basket. In the win against Fort Recovery on Saturday, Jay County was 19-of-55 from the field, shooting 34.5%. On Tuesday, it increased that to 27-of-66 for 40.9% from the field.

The three Patriots who had the highest shot volume all increased their shooting percentage. Sophie Saxman (57.1%) had the largest increase of 11.6 percentage points. Molly Muhlenkamp (44.4%) and Hallie Schwieterman (33.3%) both

improved as well, with 8-percentage-point and 3.9-percentage-point increases, respectively.

Breanna Dirksen also had a big offensive game. While her shooting percentage didn't go up — she shot 100% from the floor going 2-for-2 against Fort Recovery — she scored a quiet 12 points on 6-for-9 shooting.

On top of the improved shooting and finishing, when Jay County did miss shots, it

crashed the offensive glass hard. It gave itself 24 second chances.

"I felt like we finished better but one of this groups' strengths is that, while we're not always going to finish around the basket, they're gonna get their offensive rebounds," McIntire said. "That's the main thing. We didn't dwell on missing a shot, and turned it into a positive thing."

See Improving page 7



Find the **right person** for the job right here!

Jay wrestlers suffer first loss

The Patriots saw a lot of action over the weekend, but they always come victorious.

They finally met their match on Tuesday.

The Class 2A No. 1 Jay County High School boys wrestling team lost its first match of the season to the No. 3 Delta Eagles 48-29 on Tuesday as part of a tri-meet. The Patriots topped Yorktown 38-24 before the loss.

Jay County (7-1) controlled the middle weight classes while Delta (6-2) owned the majority of the lighter and heavier matches. The Patriots took the 138-pound to the 157-pound weight classes, including a forfeit in the 150. The other three matches were won on pins by Tony Wood over Jackson Teal (48 seconds), Tave Curtis over Zeke Witter (3 minutes, 32 seconds) and Jacob Robinson over Jacob Snodgrass (1:45).

The only other points came from Bryce Wenk in the 215 match, pinning T.D. Wine 1:24 in.

Jay County won 8-of-14 matches against Yorktown (6-7), but the Patriots won two more matches by falls and one by a technical fall to add some padding to their victory.

The Patriots got wins from Griffin Byrum (113), Cody Rowles (132), Wood, Clark, Robinson, Leighton Brown (175), Wenk and Connor Specht (285) against the Tigers.

Tankers fall

The Jay County girls swim team lost their first meet of the season 188-111 against Oak Hill on Tuesday, while the boys fell 213-72.

After a strong start to the season for the Patriots (2-1), the girls only had four individual winners against the Golden Eagles. Those victories came from Avery Wentz in the 100-yard backstroke (1 minute,

Local roundup

15.56 seconds), Maddy Snow in the breaststroke (1:23.71), the 200 medley team of Kenzie Huey, Snow, Lauren Fisher and Sophia Hoevel (2:10.92) and the 200 freestyle team of Wentz, Aubrey Millsbaugh, Hoevel and Fisher (1:57.41).

Joseph Dow had the lone victory for the boys (0-3) in the 100 freestyle. His time of 1:00.07 was just over four seconds faster than Josh Morgan's of Oak Hill.

Both teams had four second-place finishes.

Schwieterman leads

ELWOOD — The Jay County Junior High girls basketball teams swept the Elwood Panthers on Tuesday.

Karsyn Schwieterman dominated, scoring 21 points as the seventh grade team won 59-3 to remain undefeated.

The Patriots (8-0) also got solid games from Charlee Peters with 12 points and Kendall Schemenaur with 10. Claudia Dirksen finished just outside of double-digits with eight, while both Alivya Schwieterman and Avery Snow had four apiece.

Seven players scored for the eighth grade team in its 43-9 win.

Raylin Hummer led the way with 11 points. Natalie May and Gabi Petro both put up eight points, while Elizabeth Brunswick was right behind them with six.

Amara Crawford and Amelia Heath both had four and rounding out the Patriots (7-1) total score was Kylie Shannon with two.

Colt's offense is enhanced by Steichen

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The play is called "Germany" because it was initially ticketed to be used during the Indianapolis Colts' game against the New England Patriots last month in Frankfort.

It was called in the huddle during Indianapolis' 10-6 victory, but — as has so often been the case over the years — Bill Belichick's defense was ready for it. So the play was killed to a run option and stuffed back into storage.

Until Sunday in Nashville, Tennessee.

Trailing the Tennessee Titans 17-10 with a first-and-10 at his own 48-yard line with less than three minutes remaining in the second quarter, head coach Shane Steichen

called for "Germany" again.

Tight end Kylan Granson lined up in a trips formation to the right with wide receivers Alec Pierce and Isaiah McKenzie flanking him. At the snap, McKenzie flowed to his left as quarterback Gardner Minschew handed the ball off to running back Zack Moss.

Moss flipped the ball to McKenzie for what initially appeared to be a reverse. But McKenzie quickly flipped the ball back to Minschew, who saw a wide-open Granson streaking down the right side. The pass was completed for a 46-yard gain.

Though the drive ended when Minschew lost a fumble while being sacked at the 5-yard line, it was the latest example of how Steichen's aggressive nature and creative mind boost the Colts' offense.

See Steichen page 7

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