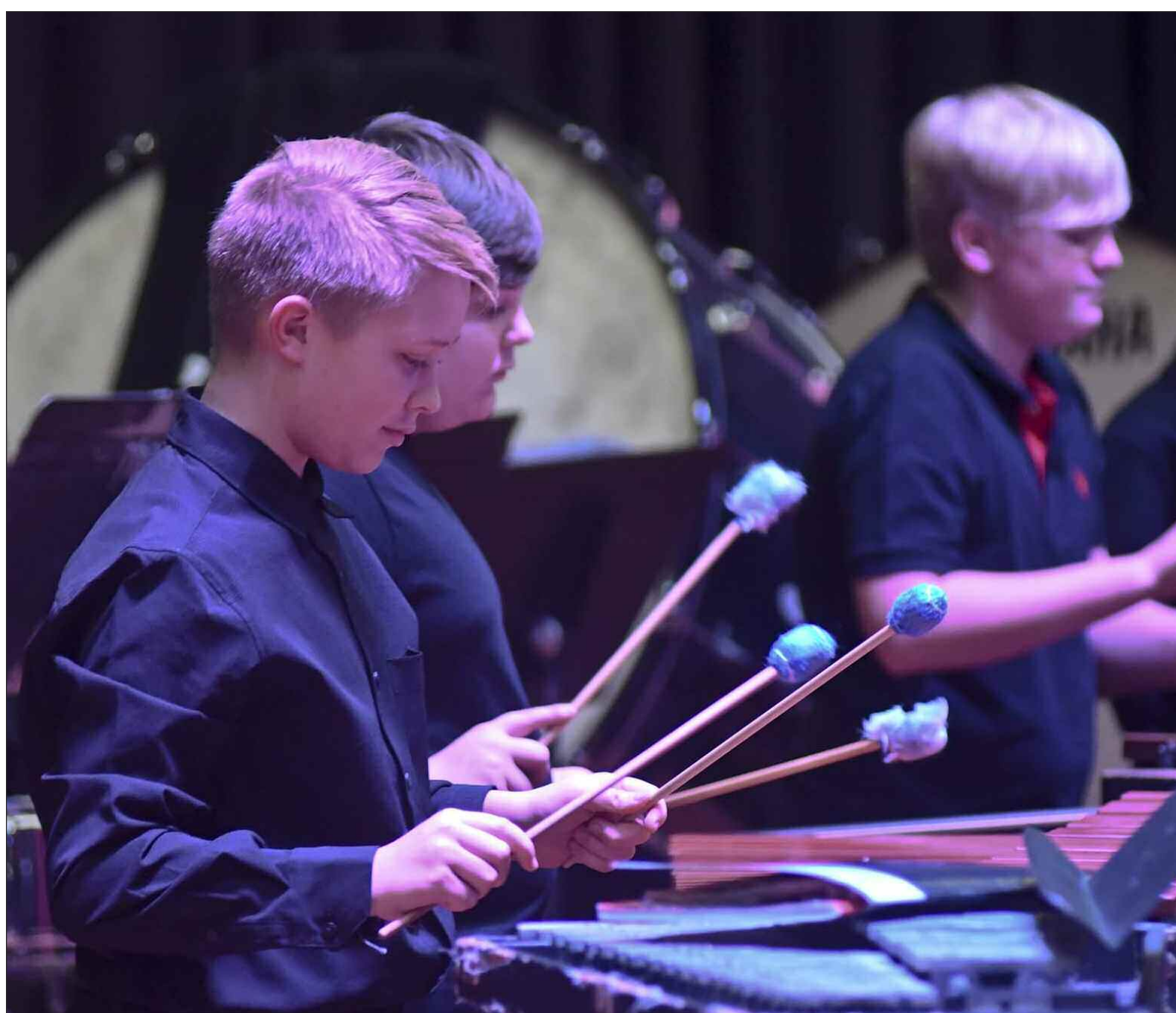


The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Junior high jammin'

Seventh grader Cooper Wright plays the marimba Tuesday evening during the Jay County Junior High School band's Christmas concert. The concert included songs performed by the seventh grade, eighth grade and combined bands.

Bucher shares vision for 3rd District

Wells Co. native is pushing for unity and civility

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Grant Bucher spent a day last week visiting Berne, Winchester and Albany.

The Wells County native and Steuben County resident is hoping to emerge from a large field of Republicans to earn his party's nomination for the Indiana 3rd District in the House of Representatives.

Bucher spoke with The Commercial Review following his visits in the southern portion of the district, advocating for controlling spending, securing the country's borders, a spirit of unity and an atmosphere of civility.

He said he's running on the principles of truth, accountability and unity.

"I reject tribalism," said Bucher, adding that he feels unity is an area in which he diverges from his GOP rivals. "I'm not an us vs. them kind of guy. I will stand up for that which I believe in. I will fight for that which I believe in. I just don't believe that every situation needs to begin with an argument, needs to begin with a fight. I think we should try to have rational discourse."

He is one of nine current candidates for the District 3 seat along with former Rep. Marlin Stutzman, Andy Zay, Wendy Davis, Eric Whalen, Michael Felker, Jon Kenworthy, Tim Smith and Scott Wise. Current Rep. Jim Banks is giving up the seat to run for Senate.

See Bucher page 2

Report card: State is falling behind

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana has improved on key economic development criteria in recent years, but has still fallen in national rankings, the influential Indiana Chamber of Commerce found in a report card Tuesday.

The chamber in August released a vision for Indiana in 2035, with 31 goals for the state's education, entrepreneurship, economic growth, energy and infrastructure,

health, quality of place and workforce.

The report cards — expected to be biannual — log progress on 59 metrics related to those goals.

Compared to previous

years, the state scored better on about 67% of the metrics — but its national rankings on those metrics improved just 41% of the time.

"What that tells us is that

we're improving overall — but the progress isn't happening fast enough, because other states are improving at a faster pace," outgoing President and CEO Kevin

Brinegar told reporters Tuesday. "We need to pick up the pace."

Indiana's strongest performance was a third-place ranking for the 11% of Hoosiers working in knowledge- and technology-intensive industries, like manufacturing or software development. It came in fourth for the 63% of foreign-born Hoosiers with science or engineering bachelor's degrees, as well as for the 10% of non-white workers who are self-employed.

See Falling page 2

National ranking improved on metrics only 41% of the time

Russian missiles target Kyiv

By OLESIA SAFRONOVA
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Ukraine said Russia targeted its capital city with missiles for a second time in three days as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy departed the U.S. where he failed to unlock aid for the war effort.

Air defenses shot down all 10 of the S-400 anti-aircraft and Iskander cruise missiles fired at Kyiv, according to Ukraine's General Staff. Zelenskyy's chief of staff Andriy Yermak said that the target was critical infrastructure as winter sets in. "We know what they're striking," he said on Telegram, without elaborating.

Zelenskyy left Washington without persuading Republican lawmakers to approve \$61 billion in aid vital to supporting his troops as Russia's invasion heads toward a third year. He is in Norway on Wednesday to meet Nordic leaders as the European Union wrangles over a four-year €50 billion (\$54 billion) support package for Kyiv.

Ukraine reports air defenses shot down S-400s and Iskanders

"President Biden and I just agreed to work on increasing the number of air defense systems in Ukraine, and the terrorist state demonstrated how critical this decision is," Zelenskyy said in a post in his Telegram channel.

Falling debris injured 53 people, of whom 20 were hospitalized, including two children, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram. Residential houses and cars were damaged in several districts of Kyiv, mostly on the eastern bank of the Dnipro River, according to the city's military administration.

The attack on Kyiv followed a drone barrage targeting the

southern city of Odesa and the surrounding region. Ten Shahed UAVs were shot down late Tuesday, local Governor Oleh Kiper said on Telegram. Two people were injured and several civilian targets were damaged, Kiper said.

While Zelenskyy was visiting Washington this week, the country faced one of the biggest wartime cyberattacks. Ukraine's largest mobile phone operator Kyivstar GSM JSC said Russia was most likely behind the disruption of phone and internet services Tuesday for about 24 million people. The company said it aims to restore service Wednesday.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Snappy performance

Andy Niekamp of the Fort Recovery junior high choir snaps his fingers during Sunday's Choral Christmas Concert. The junior high choir's selections were "A Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Like It's Christmas."

Deaths

Kaylee Kirby, 34, Redkey
William Lightner, 64, Muncie
Dennis Johnson, 71, Albany
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Tuesday. The low was 28.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 20s. Expect sunny skies Friday with a high in the lower 50s. There is no precipitation in the forecast through Tuesday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Civic Theatre's production of the musical "A Christmas Story" continues this weekend at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place. Limited tickets are available for Saturday's performance at bit.ly/JCCTAChristmasStory.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game against No. 6 Delta.



Obituaries

Kaylee Kirby

Dec. 23, 1988-Dec. 10, 2023

Kaylee Kirby, age 34, a resident of Redkey, passed away Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at her home.

Kaylee was born Dec. 23, 1988, in Muncie, Indiana, the daughter of Jeff Kirby and Misty (Quakenbush) Clark. She graduated from Delta High School in 2007 and worked at The Greazy Pickle in Portland.

Survivors include:

Her children — Kellan, Karlee and Cassidy Kirby, Redkey, Indiana

Her parents — Misty Clark (husband: Russell), Portland,

Indiana, and Jeff Kirby, Albany, Indiana

Sister — Emilee Hatzell (husband: Sean), Redkey, Indiana

Grandparents — Dottie Quakenbush, Redkey, Indiana, and Don and Phyllis Kirby, Noblesville, Indiana

Aunts — Jeannie Reed, Redkey, Indiana, Kristy Quakenbush, Redkey, Indiana, Teresa Kirby, Indianapolis, Jessica Armstrong (husband: Dan), Frankton, Indiana, and Paige Quakenbush, Elwood, Indiana



Kirby

Uncles — Bert Quakenbush (Violet Erlenbush), Redkey, Indiana, and Sterling Quakenbush (Jennifer Doughty), Albany, Indiana

Three step-sisters
Several nieces, nephews and cousins

Friends that she considered family
She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Mark Quakenbush; uncles Cork Quakenbush and Ray Kirby; aunts Judy Hallam, Ann Quakenbush and Rebecca Kirby; and her cousins, Dustin Quakenbush and Shannon Kirby.

Visitation will be held on Sat-

urday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home with Pastor Randy Davis officiating.

Memorials may be directed to A Better Life – Brianna’s Hope. Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

William “Bill” Lightner, Muncie, a former Dunkirk resident, April 23, 1959-Nov. 26, 2023. Services will be at 4 p.m. Monday at Union Chapel Church, 4622, N. Broadway Ave., Muncie.

Dennis Wayne Johnson, Albany, a member of Free Will Baptist Church in Dunkirk, died Sunday. A graveside service will be held at Marion National Cemetery at a later date.

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 12/15	Saturday 12/16	Sunday 12/17	Monday 12/18	Tuesday 12/19
52/31	50/35	49/32	47/27	44/28
Friday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high of 52 degrees. Low of 31 at night.	Mostly cloudy on Saturday with temperatures sticking in the low 50s by day and mid 30s at night.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies is expected Sunday, when the high will be in the upper 40s.	Monday looks to be mostly sunny, with the temperature dropping below 30 at night.	Another day of mostly sunny skies is forecasted for Tuesday. The high will be around 44 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$500 million	Evening Daily Three: 2-5-0 Daily Four: 3-6-7-6 Quick Draw: 8-9-10-12-14-16-17-24-28-31-35-36-39-45-47-50-52-53-55-72
Mega Millions 8-23-44-45-53 Mega Ball: 3 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$28 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-0-1 Pick 4: 4-8-7-8 Pick 5: 7-7-9-6-8 Evening Pick 3: 1-3-4 Pick 4: 1-4-5-8 Pick 5: 7-1-2-0-4 Rolling Cash: 3-9-11-27-28 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 6-4-1 Daily Four: 8-6-4-7 Quick Draw: 2-23-25-30-31-32-36-38-39-44-45-47-49-54-67-69-72-77-79-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.50 Jan. corn.....4.70 Wheat5.19	Jan. beans12.91 Wheat 5.64
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.50 Dec. corn.....4.60 Jan. corn.....4.70	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.34 Jan. corn.....4.51 Beans12.76 Jan. beans12.82 Wheat5.68
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.54 Jan. corn4.64 Beans12.81	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 Jan. corn.....4.50 Beans12.56 Jan. beans12.64 Wheat5.03

Today in history

In 557, Constantinople withstands a 6.4 magnitude earthquake. The capital of the Byzantine Empire sustained major damage from the event.

In 1287, more than 50,000 lives were lost after the Zuiderzee seawall collapsed during St. Lucia's Flood in the northwest Netherlands. It's known as the fifth largest recorded flood in history.

In 1503, astrologer and physician Michel de Nostredame (also known simply as Nostradamus) was born in France. Nostradamus is best known for his collection of poems, "Les Prophéties", that allegedly predicted the future during the Renaissance.

In 1542, Scottish princess Mary Stuart took over the throne from her father, James V, and became Queen Mary I. Stuart was six days old.

In 1799, George Washington died at his Mount Vernon home in Virginia. After serving his country for more than five decades, including in the American Revolutionary War and as the United States' first president for two terms, he died at the age of 67.

In 1920, Jack Dempsey knocked out Bill Brennan in the heavyweight boxing title in New York City.

In 1939, The League of Nations expelled the Soviet Union for its demands of Finland.

In 1952, Scottish

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5 p.m. — Portland Economic Development Income Tax Advisory Committee, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station,	1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	

Capsule Reports

Foot slipped

A Portland woman lost control of her vehicle in a parking lot in Portland, causing her to crash into a building on Meridian Street about 10:27 a.m. Dec. 7.

Phyllis G. Gillespie, 92, was parking her 2007 Buick LaCrosse at 1125 N. Meridian St. She told police she pulled into the spot crooked and backed out to straighten her vehicle. As she was parking, her foot slipped, and she drove into the building, damaging her car and the north wall of the building.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Lost control

A Winchester man lost control of his vehicle along county road 800 South, causing him to leave the road about 9:05 p.m. Sunday.

Brett W. McCoy, 35, was driving his 2015 Cadillac SRX east on the road when he slammed on the brakes to avoid hitting a deer, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. He lost control of his car, and it left the south side of the road and rolled before coming to a stop on the driver's side.

McCoy's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Backing accident

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a rural Portland man backed a county vehicle into a parked county vehicle along county road 700 West about 11:38 a.m. Dec. 7.

Michael R. Alig, 55, was backing a 217 Ford F-450 — it was filled with a load of wood — south on the road

when he struck an unoccupied 2015 Ford F-250, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Both vehicles are owned by Jay County Commissioners.

Rear collision

A Portland woman crashed her car into the back of an Ohio man's vehicle along Votaw Street in Portland about 11:54 a.m. Saturday.

Anissa A. Renner, 20, was driving her 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe west on Votaw Street. At the same time, David R. Fiely, 44, Coldwater, Ohio, was driving his 2015 GMC Sierra in front of Renner. Fiely told police he was stopped in traffic while waiting for someone in front of him to turn when Renner struck his vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Bucher ...

Continued from page 1
Bucher spent Dec. 7 traveling the district, speaking at Berne Rotary Club, visiting Mrs. Wick's Restaurant & Pie Shop in Winchester and attending the Randolph County Lincoln Day Dinner. He said he chose to run because of his desire to make America a better place and to adhere to the principles laid out by the Founding Fathers. He also expressed concern about what he sees as a disconnect between what's happening in Washington,

D.C., and the values of the nation at large.

Asked about key issues, he identified border security and spending.

Bucher said he is pro-immigration with assimilation. But he said it's crucial that illegal immigration be brought under control.

On spending, he said the executive branch needs to be punished financially when it is "not holding up its part of the deal." He was also critical of Congressional policies he says have contributed to inflation.

"Our Congress for years has been taxing people with inflation," he said. "It's discouraging."

He noted grocery and gas prices specifically.

"I empathize, not just sympathize, with the constituents of northeast Indiana," he said.

After graduating from Norwell, Bucher earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Purdue University in 2012 and a master's of business administration from Indiana University in 2019. He is cur-

rently a project manager for Weigand Construction after working for Shambaugh & Son for more than a decade.

He referred to northeast Indiana as a hard-working area of the country where the residents "just genuinely want a shot at life."

"I really just want to be a voice for those people," said Bucher, who is making his first run for elected office. "I live among them, I work among them and I am one of them."

Falling ...

Continued from page 1
And despite fears over high housing costs and low supplies, the state also came in fourth for its relatively low share — 24% — of housing

cost-burdened households. These are Hoosier families who spend 30% of their income or more on housing.

Indiana has improved on key eco-

nomc development criteria in recent years, but has still fallen in national rankings, the influential Indiana Chamber of Commerce found in a report card Tuesday.

Felony arrests

Confinement

A rural Portland man was arrested Tuesday for confinement and related charges.

Josh A. Guntle, 35, 2698 E. Treaty Line Road, was preliminarily charged with a Level 3 felony for confinement, a Level 5 felony for battery committed with a deadly weapon and a Level 6 felony for domestic battery.

He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$65,000 bond.

Domestic battery

A Montpelier man was arrested Saturday for domestic battery and related charges.

Keiton M. Stacy, 23, 1417 E. Indiana 18, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for domestic battery to a pregnant person and a Level 6 felony for strangulation against a pregnant person.

He was being held on a \$13,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Intimidation

A Portland man was arrested Friday for intimidation.

Derek M. Edwards, 33, 701 S. Western Ave., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Class C misdemeanor for disorderly conduct. He's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Drug possession

A Portland man was arrested Saturday for possession of a narcotic drug.

Joshua M. Best, 40, 932 W. High St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony. He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$7,000 bond.

Probation violation

A Berne man was arrested Tuesday for violating his probation.

Keith R. Price Jr., 52, 505 Debra Lane, pleaded guilty in August to dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to four years in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 217 days suspended, given credit for time served and placed on probation. A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed Dec. 4.

Price was being held on a \$10,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Today

Hicks, William: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday

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

Monday

Lightner, William: 4 p.m., Union Chapel Church, 4622 N. Broadway Ave., Muncie.

Service listings provided by

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Graduate scholarship open

Indiana Rotary clubs are accepting applications for the All-Indiana Global Grant Scholarship.

The \$40,000 scholarship will enable a student to study in a graduate program at a university outside of North America. It is open to Indiana residents or students who will have a bachelor's degree by May 2024.

For more information, email apply@rotaryglobalscholar.com. The deadline is Dec. 22.

Hosting market

Minnetrista of Muncie will host an indoor farmers market from December through March.

The indoor market will be held at the Center Building at Minnetrista, 1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie. Participating vendors accept SNAP, WIC, IU Health Bucks and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Dates for the indoor market will be Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 2 and March 16.

For more information, visit minnetrista.net.

Grief Share

There's a new group for those looking for hope and healing after the death of a loved one.

Grief Share, a weekly grief support group, begins Jan. 4 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. The group will meet each

Taking Note

Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church through March 28.

To register, email zion-lutheranportland@gmail.com or call (260) 726-8832.

Applications open

Applications are now open for the 2024 Indiana Senate Page Program.

The program, which runs in January and February, is open to students in sixth through 12th grade. Participants will tour the Indiana Statehouse, listen to debate, assist staff and meet their state senator.

For more information, visit IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program.

Christmas services

A few local churches have announced special services for Christmas.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 Wayne St., Fort Recovery, will host its Blue Christmas prayer service at 7 p.m. Dec. 20. The service is dedicated to those who are mourning or struggling this season.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran

Church, 218 E. High St., Portland, will host Christmas Eve services at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

Winter preparedness

Be safe during winter weather.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Indiana Department of Transportation recently offered tips for Winter Weather Preparedness Week to remind Hoosiers to take precautions to avoid issues during severe weather.

Top tips from the department include:

- Staying informed about road conditions and having an emergency kit with food, water, blankets, flashlights and other items in all vehicles.

- Wearing warm clothing when traveling during cold weather to prevent exposure.

- Slowing down and adjusting to travel conditions, especially on snow-covered roads.

- Keeping vehicles full of gas, batteries checked and fluids full, with a spare tire available.

"Winter Weather Preparedness Week is an opportunity for all residents to get ready and ensure their safety and well-being during the colder months," said Indiana Department of Homeland Security executive director Joel Thacker in a press release.

Information on road conditions throughout the state is available at 511in.org.

Alzheimer's research needs more volunteers

DEAR ABBY: After decades of research, I'm thrilled with the recent major progress being made in treatments for people who already have symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. I'm hoping that, one day, we will be able to prevent people from developing memory impairment and dementia.

Brain changes, including the buildup of a toxic protein into amyloid plaques, begin up to 20 years before a person notices any symptoms. This "asymptomatic" stage may be the perfect time to test treatments aiming to delay or prevent symptoms before they begin.

This is why we are conducting the AHEAD Study, an investigational trial of lecanemab, an FDA-approved medication for mild cognitive impairment and mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. The AHEAD Study is testing whether starting lecanemab in those with amyloid plaques BEFORE symptoms start can help prevent cognitive decline.

As a neurologist, a clinical researcher and someone who has seen Alzheimer's in my own family, I'm grateful we are seeing such progress in our field. But, Abby, we need help from your readers to test these promising medications before the devastating symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are apparent. Those interested in the AHEAD Study should call 800-243-2370 or visit AHEAD-study.org to help us get ahead of Alzheimer's.

— REISA SPERLING, M.D., PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEAR DR. SPERLING: Thank you for your letter. Readers, more than 6 million Americans have Alzheimer's. Changing the trajectory of the disease before symptoms appear is an important scientific pursuit. Clinical trials hold the key to new and better Alzheimer's disease treatments.

Approximately 55,000 volunteers are needed for more than 180 clinical trials. In addition to the AHEAD study, the Alzheimer's Association offers TrialMatch, a free service that connects people living with dementia, caregivers and healthy volunteers to clinical trials. Clinical trial volunteers are key to better treatments, prevention strategies and a future cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Visit trialmatch.alz.org or call 800-272-3900 to learn more.



Dear Abby

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

MISSISSINAWA CHAPTER OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVO-

LUTION — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Jay County Historical Society. The chapter will honor its Community Volunteer of the Year. Those attending are asked to bring non-perishable items to donate for "The Journey Home" veterans. Call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678 with any questions.

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

Friday

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.

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.

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.

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 museumofthesoldier.com.

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.

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.

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Dinner was thankful event

To the editor:
What a lot of delicious food, thankfulness and love were served up recently at the community Thanksgiving dinner.

Letters to the Editor

The compassion and concern for our friends and neighbors was evident very early as many volunteers called asking how they could help on the big day. They arrived right on schedule, donned aprons and gloves, and began working at record speed while getting acquainted with each other as they stood elbow-to-elbow.

The phone lines were busy taking calls from all across the county as folks' mouths began watering in anticipation of the traditional turkey dinner. When the day arrived, the many eager drivers handed them the much-anticipated dinner along with a heartfelt smile. A generous supply of delicious, hot food had just been delivered and hearts were truly grateful.

Back in the kitchen, food preparation continued and door prize tickets were handed out to those making their way inside for a festive afternoon. They grabbed a cup of coffee or

cold beverage while greeting old friends and making new ones. The atmosphere in the room emitted a down-home feeling of days gone by. When the day was over, they were urged to take generous portions of leftovers home for their enjoyment throughout the weekend.

This would not have been possible without the help of this entire community. Service clubs, churches, organizations, businesses and individuals all donate generously so a meal could be provided for all of our friends and neighbors.

Thanks to all of you, we were able to give warm food and hope to a hurting world. We truly have much for which to be thankful.

With a grateful heart,
Carol Smith
Chair
Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee



We're living in burnout

By SARAKAY SMULLENS
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Sarakay Smullens



Are you waking up with a lump in your throat that never used to be there? Is there an ache in your chest — best described as heartache — relatively new to you? Do you look at your children, fearing for their future and well-being? Do your eyes fill with tears, but you are not sure why?

If so, I join you. We are experiencing societal burnout. We are overburdened by a perfect storm of threatening societal challenges and a fiercely divided electorate. We are overwhelmed by moral distress due to those in positions of power and influence who, rather than address grave challenges, skillfully work to pit citizens against each other, intensify fear and anxieties, and undermine the rule of law to gain control and power.

In 1974, psychologist Herbert Freudenberger was the first to identify the burnout syndrome: Due to excessive demands on energy, strength and resources, a person becomes overwhelmed, exhausted and "inoperative." Although they did not use the term burnout in their groundbreaking 1970 book "Future Shock," Alvin and Heidi Toffler predicted that the breathtaking pace of our technological revolution would bring unsettling change, challenge and increased crime. They warned that the illiterate of the future would no longer be those who can't read or write but rather those unable to keep up with the demands of rapid change.

To cope, the Tofflers stressed preparing for the future with insight and creativity, implicitly calling on leaders to bring us together rather than exacerbate division.

That we as a society have failed in this effort became shockingly clear before the 2016 presidential election when client after client told me that America had forgotten them. This anger and frustration played an enormous

role in the victory of Donald Trump, who was, and continues to be, seen as an ally of those who feel discarded and invisible.

The sense of isolation my clients shared caused me to intensify my research into the complexities of burnout — how it's different from depression and what exactly has gone so very wrong. I've shared my findings at conferences, as well as social gatherings and book clubs, where I've focused on staying sane in a world gone mad.

Here are the basics of what I've learned: We are overlooking the process of how people develop into healthy, resilient, creative members of a family and a society, which is so necessary in this time of overload. There is an inevitable interactivity between personal development and the quality of political leadership.

Key to our future is offering children what they need for mature development: Specifically, children must feel loved and safe, which millions of children worldwide are denied. This said, something has gone terribly wrong in the lives of seemingly fortunate children, those who do not live in war-torn countries, are not abused in any apparent way and live in households that are economically sound. Yes, social media platforms are a monster, made more dangerous by deceptions nurtured by artificial intelligence, and tragically, our children are vulnerable to tormentors and bullies outside our homes. Yet, within our homes, far too many children are not properly nurtured.

Far too many are fed a diet of hatred and prejudice. Far too many are overindulged, raised to believe they are more special than others. And

too many parents fear imposing necessary boundaries and limits. As a result, many children are denied the opportunity to develop dignity, a state of being that begins with love and is a prerequisite for mental health. It is dependent on pride — "I am a valuable human being" — and humility — "All others are as important and valuable as I am."

Dignity is rooted in respect, self-awareness and awareness of others, and character, in other words. It allows one to listen deeply and question assumptions. It encourages respectful communication between those who disagree and fosters the ability to recognize those who cannot be trusted.

Tragically and dangerously, children denied the development of dignity express anger and emptiness through hatred and prejudice toward others. Without developing insight, they reach adulthood biologically but not emotionally. In essence, they are aging, fearful children. For them, love remains a foreign concept.

Many such "adults" become bullies and dictators. In democracies, they may assume positions of power and dominance in professional settings, on boards, and in elected or appointed office. Those without confidence or character cling to the perks their positions of power offer. Some may cling to pure fantasy: They wish to turn the clock back to a time that can never return. Still others, longing for a quality of parenting they never received, become fiercely devoted followers.

Eliminating societal burnout requires recognition of the essential link between personal development and trustworthy leadership, necessary in democracies for the survival of all we hold dear.

At the core of all trustworthy leadership is the ability to love. Dignity makes it possible.

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Smullens is an award-winning Philadelphia-based licensed clinical social worker, certified family life educator and writer.

Make housing dream a reality

By KAZMYN RAMOS
OtherWords

Kazmyn Ramos



Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

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OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.

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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.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

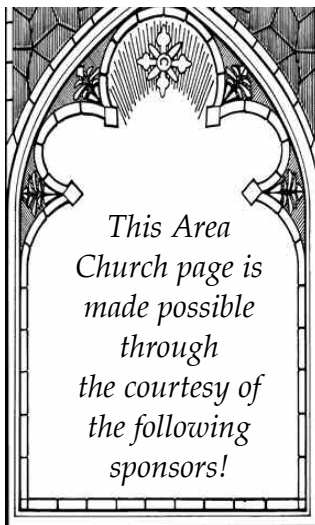
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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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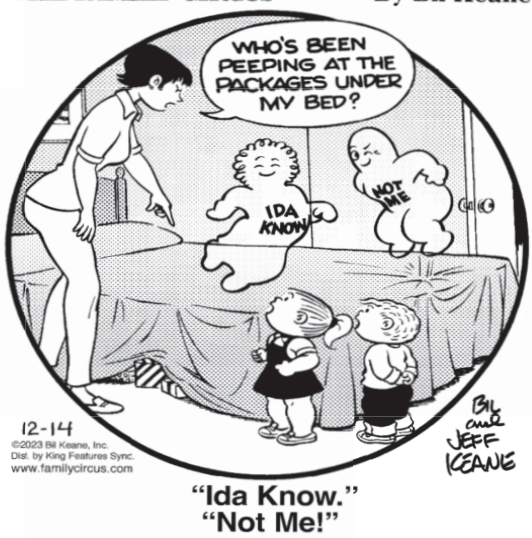
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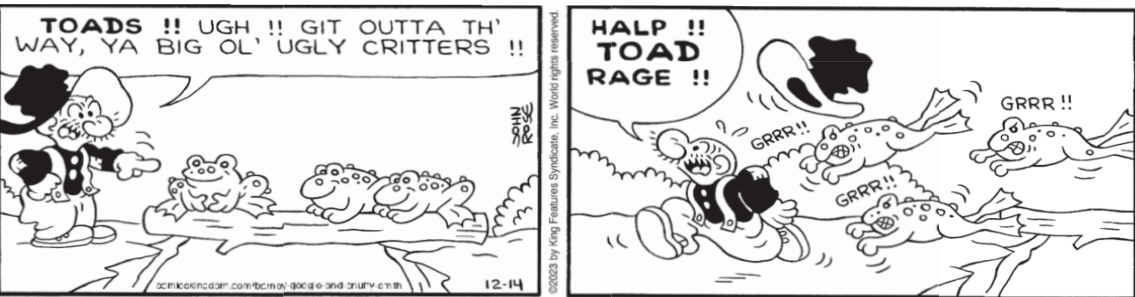
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A mandatory falsecard

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ♠K 8 5 ♥J 9 4 ♦A 10 ♣K Q 9 6 2 WEST ♠Q J 10 4 ♥8 7 2 ♦Q 9 7 5 ♣10 5 EAST ♠A 6 3 ♥K 10 ♦J 8 6 4 3 2 ♣8 3 SOUTH ♠9 7 2 ♥A Q 6 5 3 ♦K ♣A J 7 4

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

12-14 CRYPTOQUIP

TIB ZIKER HIK RAGZQJLA GIUALIRH BTI TPG EADC CI WI RAGCQIH GIUACTJMW?

IDD PMR QKJMJMW. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I CANNOT BE THAT NICE BLOKE DR. JEKYLL UNTIL LATER, SO I'LL JUST BE MR. HYDE IN THE MEAN TIME. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals F

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Cain's dad 5 Red-carpet type 8 Bard's river 12 Missile shelter 13 Big bird 14 Infamous emperor 15 Daring Knievel 16 Zodiac animal 17 Not pizzicato 18 Honeydew alternative 20 Classic arcade game 22 VCR button 23 Life story 24 Dallas team, to fans 27 Balance sheet figures 32 Dad on "Black-ish" 33 Luau instrument

Solution time: 24 mins.

Crossword grid with letters LAHR ARC TSAR ARIE TAO ACRY SCHMALTZ RHEA SHOOT YEOMAN TEAS USO BASE BLUR OHM ABC CLARO ZIP HUH LEND HEMS IRA TUTU TULIPS ABNER ALLS SCHUBERT KNEE TIA URGE EARN SAT BOSS

Yesterday's answer 12-14

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-58.

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NASCAR opens production facility in Concord

By SHANE CONNUCK

The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service

Continuing to look for ways to expand its digital content and connect with a younger generation, NASCAR unveiled a 58,000-square foot building on Dec. 6.

The \$53 million investment — which includes eight control rooms and three studios — comes a week after NASCAR announced its historic media rights agreement, which will see Cup Series races air exclusively on a streaming platform for the first time.

“This is a historic day for our sport,” NASCAR President Steve Phelps said at a ribbon-cutting event Wednesday morning. “The scope and scale of the NASCAR production business has fundamentally

changed with the live events business more than tripling in the last few years. Meanwhile, the proliferation of streaming services and the growth of social media and podcasting has made quality, on-demand content an important currency for connecting with current and, importantly, prospective fans.”

NASCAR’s production facilities had been in uptown Charlotte, and now they move next door to its Research and Development Center. Once the new media rights agreement begins in 2025, NASCAR hopes to produce more live events out of this building instead of having its entire crews on-site. The location closer to the teams could allow drivers to appear on in-studio shows more frequently.

“Cabarrus County and its cities are known for a couple of positive phrases. One is where racing lives,” N.C. Senate Majority Leader Paul Newton said. “NASCAR lives here. And NASCAR thrives in Cabarrus County.”

Currently, about 150 employees are on-site for the production of every race. That number will be down to about 45. It’ll be better from a business perspective, minimizing travel, and allow many of its production employees to live and work out of a Concord office full-time.

Announcers have already been remotely calling Truck Series races on Fox Sports out of the uptown facility. Brian Herbst, Senior Vice President of Media and Production, told The Observer “you’ll probably

see more of that in the future,” referring to broadcasters calling races from a studio.

Recently, NBC broadcasters Rick Allen, Steve Letarte, Jeff Burton and Dale Earnhardt Jr. visited the new studios. They said that what they lack at race tracks is consistency, as some press boxes are bigger than others and provide better vantage points. Depending on the track, like at a road course like Watkins Glen, they primarily call races off monitors anyway.

Remote broadcasts have yielded mixed reactions on social media across all sports, as the delay is sometimes obvious on the air. NASCAR thinks it has a way to circumvent that.

Whether NASCAR ultimately moves all of its commentators remote or not, the

announcers’ studios in the new Concord building will have a light that will go on when a car heads down pit road. That way, the announcer can make that point on-air before the car is shown heading down pit road on-air, eliminating the belief that the commentators are calling the race off the shots shown on the broadcast.

On Thursday, the mayors of North Carolina’s largest cities will tour NASCAR’s new building while they’re in town for the fall metropolitan mayors’ conference, Concord Mayor Bill Dusch said. He stressed the impact that NASCAR has throughout the state, especially in its largest communities, and how the work that comes out of this building could give the league more ways to connect with fans.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS freshman Hallie Schwieterman fires up a jump shot late in the Patriots’ 47-32 win over Blackford on Tuesday. Schwieterman scored 12 points in the game.

Bruins ...

Continued from page 8
Jay County’s defense picked up again in the third quarter, but it started to turn the ball over more as well, slowing the game down as both teams combined for 12 points.

Offense picked up in the fourth quarter as Jay County hit seven free throws and Blackford started to warm up from distance as VanSkyock nailed three 3-pointers. The Patriots once again won the quarter 17-16.

“We basically played them even in the second, third and fourth quarter,” Duggan said. “We just dug that early hole and couldn’t get out of it.”

The Patriots locked up Blackford’s two leading scorers, Wicker and Sydnee Morris.

Wicker — who averages 15 points per game and shoots 38% from three — was held to six points as she couldn’t find her range, shooting 2-for-13 beyond the arc.

The Patriots’ defense didn’t allow Sydnee Morris to get easy looks at the bucket at all, pressuring the Bruins’ guards to make entry passes difficult. The 13-point per game scorer only got two looks inside the arc, missing one and converting a three-point play on the other.

“It was huge,” McIntire said. “We knew (Wicker) was their 3-point shooter and (Sydnee Morris) was probably their best overall player.”

“That was great for our defense to shut them down because those are

Box score			
Jay County Patriots vs. Class 2A No. 9 Blackford Bruins		Score by quarters: Blackford 3 8 5 16—32 Jay Co. 13 10 7 17—47	
Girls varsity summary			
Blackford (8-2)		3-point shooting: Blackford 7-26 (VanSkyock 5-11, Wicker 2-13, SyMorris 0-2). Jay County 4-16 (May 2-5, Muhlenkamp 1-3, Schwieterman 1-5, BDirksen 0-3).	
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Gephart 0-4	0-0	0	
Wicker 2-14	0-0	6	
VanSkyock 5-13	0-0	15	
SaMorris 2-6	2-2	6	
SyMorris 1-4	1-1	3	
McCoin 0-0	0-0	0	
McClain 1-2	0-0	2	
Totals	11-43	3-3	32
	.256	1.000	
Def. rebound percentage:	.481		
Jay County (9-2)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Muhlenkamp 3-10	0-0	7	
Saxman 5-7	5-7	15	
Schwtrmn 4-10	3-4	12	
MDirksen 0-0	0-0	0	
Sibray 0-0	0-0	0	
Denton 0-4	0-0	0	
BDirksen 1-5	1-2	3	
May 3-7	2-2	10	
Totals	16-43	11-15	47
	.372	.733	
Def. rebound percentage:	.594		
Rebounds: Blackford 24 (SyMorris 7, SaMorris 5, Gephart 4, VanSkyock 3, McClain 3, Team 2). Jay County 31 (Saxman 8, Team 5, Muhlenkamp 4, Denton 4, BDirksen 4, Schwieterman 3, MDirksen, Sibray, May).			
Assists: Blackford 6 (Gephart 2, Wicker 2, SaMorris 2, SyMorris 2). Jay County 9 (BDirksen 3, Saxman 2, Schwieterman 2, Denton 2, Muhlenkamp).			
Blocks: Blackford 5 (SyMorris 3, SaMorris 2). Jay County 3 (Saxman, MDirksen, BDirksen).			
Personal fouls: Blackford 16 (VanSkyock 4, SyMorris 4, SaMorris 3, Gephart 2, Wicker 2, McClain). Jay County 14 (Muhlenkamp 5, MDirksen 3, Saxman 2, Schwieterman 2, BDirksen, May).			
Turnovers: Blackford 21. Jay County 18.			

things we’re going to need to do in the tournament.”

Saxman led Jay County with 15 points. She was efficient, shooting 5-for-7 from the field. When she wasn’t making shots, she was finding ways to get to the free-throw line, making four trips that resulted in 5-of-7 free throws.

“I just looked to make contact even though I got two charges called,” Saxman said. “We’ve been wanting to beat this team for a while. It’s been a long time coming.”

“We haven’t played them in four years, so we were all just really focused tonight and ready to go.”

Junior varsity

Jay County fell to Blackford 35-25 in a three-quarter contest Tuesday.

The Patriots (4-6) got off to a hot start, as Meredith Dirksen hit two threes and Kady Allred put two in as well to build a 13-10 first-quarter lead.

As the game went on, the well ran dry for Jay County, as the Bruins outscored it 25-12 in the final two periods.

Raylah Newton was the top scorer with nine points for the Patriots.

Kaylor Hedge led Blackford with 13 points, including eight in the second period.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. New Castle — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Southern Wells — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Parkway — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Parkway — 5 p.m.
Friday
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Delta — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Parkway — 6 p.m.
Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Coldwater — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. South Adams — 7 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Carroll — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming at Northwest Ohio

Classic at Bowling Green — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. St. Henry — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball at Ansonia — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 10 a.m.

TV sports

Today
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. Thomas at Marquette (FS1); Jacksonville State at Wisconsin (BTN)
8 p.m. — NHL: Ottawa Senators at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
10 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)
Friday
7 p.m. — College football: Albany at South Dakota State (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Saginaw

Valley at Butler (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: UConn at Gonzaga (ESPN2)

Saturday
10 a.m. — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Manchester City (USA)
11 a.m. — College football: Georgia Southern vs. Ohio (ESPN)
12 p.m. — College football: Howard vs. Florida A&M (ABC)
12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: LSU at Texas (ESPN2); Georgia Tech at Penn State (BTN)
12 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Louisville at UConn (FOX)
12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas at Indiana (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Everton at Burnley (NBC)

1:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Sacred Heart at Providence (FS1)
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Baylor at Michigan State (FOX)
2:15 p.m. — College football: Jacksonville State vs. Louisiana (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Texas A&M at Houston (ESPN2); Eastern Michigan at Michigan (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — PGA Tour Champions: PNC Championship (NBC)
3 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Ohio State at UCLA (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Fordham at St. John’s (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Miami (OH) vs. Appalachian State (ABC)
4:30 p.m. — College football: North Dakota State vs. Montana (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Florida A&M at Iowa (BTN)

5:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: North Carolina at Kentucky (CBS); Northwestern at DePaul (FS1)
5:45 p.m. — College football: New Mexico State vs. Fresno State (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Cleveland State at Iowa (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: UCLA vs. Boise State (ABC)
7:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Winthrop at Xavier (FS1)
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Alabama at Creighton (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Minnesota Timberwolves (Bally Indiana)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Denver Broncos at Detroit Lions (FOX)
9:15 p.m. — College football: Cal vs. Texas Tech (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: N.C. State at Tennessee (ESPN2)

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Jay County wrestling routs Norwell 52-23, see story below

FRHS girls basketball travels to Parkway today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Neutralizing the Bruins

Patriots hold Blackford's top two scorers to nine combined points

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

The Patriots have a scripted play they like to run off of the tip to get an easy bucket for Breanna Dirksen in the opening seconds.

Bella Denton has done a strong job at winning the opening tip, but didn't beat out Sydnee Morris.

Losing the tip and the chance to run their opening play didn't phase the Patriots, as they got off to a strong start against the Bruins.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team started its game on Tuesday on an 11-0 run to jump ahead of the Class 2A No. 9 Blackford Bruins to take them down 47-32.

"I thought we got off to a really good start," JCHS coach Sherri McIntire said. "We got into some early foul trouble and couldn't be as aggressive on defense. We have to be aggressive on defense because that's how we get a lot of our offense out of our defense."

That's exactly how Jay County (9-2) got off to its hot start. After a pair of empty possessions, Hallie Schwieterman swiped away the ball near the volleyball line and took it to

the rim herself. The Patriots continued to turn over Blackford (8-2), either directly resulting in points or putting the Bruins on their heels to create mismatches and catch them off guard.

During the 11-0 run, the Patriots forced seven turnovers and out-worked Blackford on the glass, pulling down five offensive rebounds to two defensive boards for Blackford.

"We do not do a good job of blocking out, we tend to live with our athleticism," Blackford coach Dallas Duggan said. "Well, they matched our athleticism and probably exceeded our athleticism and therein lies the problem."

Blackford finally cracked the scoreboard with 2 minutes, 19 seconds left in the quarter on a three from Chloe Wicker assisted by Savanna Morris.

Jay County scored one final time in the period, when Sophie Saxman caught the ball in the paint, nearly lost it as three Bruins surrounded her, but took her time to finish in traffic and maintain a 10-point lead.

Both Saxman and Molly

Muhlenkamp picked up a pair of fouls in the first quarter, forcing the forwards to sit out a bulk of the second. Their absence limited what Jay County could do defensively, as Muhlenkamp often plays the top role in its 1-2-2 zone, funneling opposing guards into traps, while Saxman picks off passes the guards try to make to get out of the traps.

"We just can't get in foul trouble," McIntire said. "The people that we want to utilize in our half-court press were the ones in foul trouble. Our half-court press isn't nearly as strong when we go to our bench."

The Bruins offense started to pick up in the second quarter, as they didn't have to deal with Muhlenkamp's length or Saxman's foresight. It was still a slow start, but an offensive rebound by Savanna Morris followed by a Wicker three made it a single-digit ball game with three minutes in the half.

Back-to-back threes by Danielle May pushed the lead back to 15 before Bralee VanSkyock closed the half with one of her own.

See **Bruins** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County's Meredith Dirksen (14) blocks Blackford's Sydnee Morris (31) from behind during the Patriots' 47-32 win over the Bruins. Stout defense powered JCHS to the victory, holding Morris to only three points in the game.

Gronkowski still hates Colts from "Deflategate"

By **LAUREN CAMPBELL**
masslive.com

Tribune News Service

We're approaching the nine-year mark of when the Patriots defeated the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC Championship Game. New England won handily, 45-7. But what followed the win was a controversy that would continue to follow the Patriots for years to come.

"Deflategate" when the Colts complained that the footballs used in the AFCCG were under-inflated. This turned into an investigation that lasted over a year and then-quarterback Tom Brady getting suspended for four games for his role in the scandal.

It was a long, drawn out process that even made its way to the United States court system. Even though it's well in the rearview mirror now, Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman — who both played for the Patriots against the Colts in the AFC Championship Game, reflected on the whole fiasco on Edelman's "Games With Names" podcast.

But it wasn't the AFCCG that Gronkowski believes led to "Deflategate." It was the Patriots' regular-season matchup where they won 42-20 months prior — which became known as the "Jonas Gray game" in which the running back rushed for 201 yards and four touchdowns in the 42-20 win.

"This game, I swear, led to the Deflategate. I absolutely hate the Colts, bro. They needed to find some BS answer of why they kept losing to us every single year," Gronkowski said. "And they weren't just losing to us. We were absolutely pounding that (expletive). I

don't like them. Like, you can't be any bigger of a loser pulling that off."

During the AFC Championship Game two months later, Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson intercepted Brady. He thought the football felt under inflated. That's when the accusations came out that Indianapolis believed the Patriots intentionally under-inflated the footballs to gain a competitive advantage.

"Are you kidding me?," Gronkowski said. "We ran the ball for 300 yards."

New England went on to defeat the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XLIX, but "Deflategate" was just getting started.

What followed next was a masterclass from coach Bill Belichick about air pressure, a lengthy investigation that included the United States District Court after Brady was suspended four games by the NFL in May 2015. Judge Richard Berman overruled Brady's suspension, only for it to be upheld by the league. It could have been brought to the U.S. Supreme Court, but Brady announced via Facebook in July 2016 that he was going to accept the suspension.

The Patriots also lost two draft picks and were fined \$1 million.

Brady and the Patriots got the last laugh, though. They went on to complete the historic 28-3 comeback over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI.

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FRHS girls swim team sweeps in MAC opener

BERNE — The Indians opened the dual season against some strong schools from Indiana.

Now facing teams from the Midwest Athletic Conference, the Tribe is starting to roll.

The Fort Recovery High School girls swim team opened up conference competition by sweeping Minster and Marion Local, while the boys fell to them Thursday at the South Adams High School pool.

The girls team (3-1, 2-0 MAC) earned 87 points to edge second-place Minster (72) while Marion Local trailed behind (10). The boys (0-4, 0-2 MAC) scored 34 points, but wasn't enough to pull off a win as Marion Local netted 49 and Minster 40.

The girls won nine events, including the 200-yard medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

Joelle Kaup and Teigen Fortkamp placed first in two events. Kaup dominated the 200 individual medley (2 minutes, 38.58 seconds) and had just enough to win the 100 backstroke (1:08.98). Fortkamp's wins came in the 100 butterfly (1:05.22) and the 100 breaststroke (1:16.74).

Other victories came from Allison Knapke (200 freestyle), Makenna Huelskamp (50 freestyle) and Theresa Hipple (1-meter diving).

All three boys won events in the meet, two of which swept both of their events.

Carson Fullenkamp won the 100 freestyle (59.3 seconds) and the 200

Fort Recovery roundup

freestyle (2:15.87), while Saige Wendel took care of the 200 individual medley (2:15.11) and the 100 backstroke (1:01.54).

Caleb Smith won the 50 freestyle as well.

FRHS heartbroken

Three days after earning a one-point win, the Fort Recovery boys basketball team lost a heartbreaker against Fort Loramie in overtime 46-45 Tuesday.

The Indians (2-1) scored 12 fourth-quarter points, led by Briggs Overman with five, to force the extra period.

A pair of baskets from Max Maurer and Spencer Knouff lifted Fort Loramie (1-1) to victory as Fort Recovery only mustered three points on a basket from Overman and a trip to the free throw line that Rex Leverette split.

Overman led the Tribe off the bench with 15 points while Gavin Faller trailed him with 13.

Maurer finished with the most points for Fort Loramie with 13. Also scoring in double-figures were Eli Heitkamp (11) and Alex Boerger (10).

Jay cruises past Knights

OSSIAN — Jacob Robinson didn't get a lot of opportunities as a freshman.

A growth spurt has helped him secure a spot in the lineup and he has made the most of it.

Robinson was one of nine Patriots from the Class 2A No. 3 Jay County High School boys wrestling team to win their matches as it overpowered the Norwell Knights 52-23 Tuesday.

Robinson moves to 11-3 on the season as he beat Luke Dreiband in the 150-pound match in a 4-1 decision.

Alan Ortiz also took the 285 contest in a decision, beating Carson Powell 3-1.

Cole Carpenter won by sudden victory over Nolan Weedman 8-6 to take the 157 weight class.

The other six wins came via pins. Points came from Grant Linville

Jay County roundup

(106), Cody Rowles (132), Tony Wood (138), Jason Landers (144), Juanquin Flores (190) and Bryce Queen (215).

The Patriots (13-2) also took the 113 weight class as Griffin Byrum did not have an opponent.

Gabe Ardizzone, Gavin Ham-brock, A.J. Heskett, Hayden Ison and Joaquin Johnson all won junior varsity matches as well.

Swim falls

MUNCIE — The Jay County swim team struggled as Delta cruised to a

155-49 win for the girls and a 136-61 win for the boys.

The Patriots (1-5) only managed one victory against the Eagles, as Joseph Dow took the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2 minutes, 13.29 seconds. The girls team (3-3) didn't have any individual victories, but had three second-place finishes.

Kenzie Huey was the only individual runner-up, swimming a 1:14.08 in the 100 backstroke. The other second places came from the 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay.

The boys team had six second-place finishes, including the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay teams as well.

The individual runners-up belonged to Lincoln Clamme (50 freestyle), Brasen Glassford (1-meter diving), David Keen (100 butterfly) and Dow (500 freestyle).

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