

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## A smile for Christmas

Izzy Huelskamp poses Tuesday at the conclusion of the Jay County Junior High School choir's production of "Lights! Camera! Christmas!" Huelskamp played Student Isobel in the show that featured the songs "Super Santa," "Mary, Did You Know?" and "Get Along, Little Reindeer."

## READI received more than 170 projects

*Regional applications for grant program due to state by Feb. 23*

READI 2.0 applications are due in late February.

The East Central region has plenty of projects lined up for its application.

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership reported that the eight-county East Central Region collectively submitted more than 170 projects as the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 initiative.

Jay County Commissioners last month declared development of the 68 acres acquired by Jay County earlier this year as the county's priority for READI 2.0.

A majority of the submitted projects will be included in the regional development plan for the East Central Region, a recent press release from East Central Indiana Regional Partnership indicated.

The READI 2.0 application will focus on priority projects that align with "key performance indicators" set by Indiana Economic Development Corporation, including population growth, per-capita income growth and educational attainment. Applications are due to the state by Feb. 23.

The East Central Region includes Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Wayne and Fayette counties.

See **READI** page 2

## Trump to seek Supreme Court review

By **GREG STOHR**  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

A U.S. Supreme Court shaped by Donald Trump is destined to play a pivotal role in determining whether he will land in prison — or return to the White House.

Trump vowed to seek Supreme Court review after Colorado's top court on Tuesday barred him from the 2024 presidential ballot there, saying his incitement of the Jan. 6

attack on the Capitol disqualifies him from holding office. The 4-3 decision said that under the Constitution's insurrection clause, he had forfeited his right to run.

And the high court could say this week whether it will take up Special Counsel Jack Smith's request for fast-track review of the former president's bid for absolute immunity from criminal charges over his efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election results.

Together, the cases — and others potentially on the way — promise to give the justices enormous sway over his legal and political fate.

Supreme Court involvement is "all but a certainty," said Carter Phillips, a Washington lawyer at Sidley Austin who has argued 81 high court cases and signed a brief opposing Trump's assertion of immunity. "There are just too many issues floating around."

Already the justices are set to hear an appeal from a Jan. 6 Capitol riot defendant in a case that could undercut part of Smith's prosecution of Trump.

Supreme Court success isn't guaranteed for Trump. Although his three appointees — Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett — shifted the court sharply to the right, that hasn't translated into victories for Trump in his legal battles.

## State rate has doubled

*Editor's note: This is the first in a multi-part story about chronic absenteeism from school in Indiana. (The first part ran in Tuesday's newspaper.)*

By **CASEY SMITH**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana fares better than most other states for chronic absenteeism, but in the last three years, the rate of Hoosier students who have been chronically absent more than doubled compared to before the pandemic.

Indiana's chronic absentee rates have especially shot up since the 2018-19 school year, when just 11.2% met that definition.

The rate rose to 18.5% in 2020-21 — the first year after the pandemic — and topped out at 21.1% in the 2021-22 school year, according to state data.

The 2022-23 data indicates that 19.3% of students were chronically absent from school.

Black students saw the largest percentage of chronic absenteeism of any racial or ethnic group last year. Only White and Asian students had below the state average.

English learners and students eligible for free and reduced lunch additionally experience

### *Chronic absenteeism has been around 20% for last three years*

greater-than-average rates of chronic absenteeism, per state records.

Still, chronic absenteeism was higher in some schools than in others. In 84 school buildings, 50% of students were chronically absent. Another 270 schools recorded one out of every three students as chronically absent, while 547 schools had one in four students.

Statewide, 1,651 Hoosier schools had at least one out of every 10 students marked as chronically absent, according to state data.

Rates were typically highest in high-poverty urban school districts and charter schools, while suburban schools reported lower rates.

Gary Community Schools had the highest chronic absenteeism

rate among the state's public school districts at about 66%. District officials declined the Indiana Capital Chronicle's request to comment on student absences.

Chronic absenteeism was higher than 40% in Muncie and South Bend schools and over 30% in Anderson, Richmond, Indianapolis Public Schools and at least two dozen other districts.

Multiple rural districts had high rates, too, including 43.2% in Cannelton, 37.5% in Madison and 32.1% in Medora.

High rates of absenteeism, especially chronic absenteeism, has been an ongoing concern in South Bend Schools, and challenges have "spurred" since COVID-19, said Diamond Robinson, the district's assistant superintendent of academics.

See **Doubled** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Trumpeting

Brinley Fortkamp of the Fort Recovery junior high band plays the trumpet Sunday during the school's Christmas concert. It included "Waltz of the Flowers" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and "A Special Christmas" arranged by David Shaffer.

### Deaths

**Gary Street, 71, Portland**  
**Zona Cook, 85, Dunkirk**  
**Robert Thompson, 68, Geneva**  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 34 degrees Tuesday. The low was 24.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 30s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with a chance of rain and a high in the upper 40s. Rain is expected Friday night.

For an extended outlook, see page 2.

### In review

Cruis'n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds concludes its 2023 run this week. The holiday light display is open from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight, Friday and Saturday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Free-will donations will be accepted.

### Coming up

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

**Saturday** — Results from Friday's East Central Indiana Classic wrestling tournament.





# Obituaries

## Gary Street

Gary Street, 71, Portland, died Tuesday at his home. Arrangements are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

## Zona Cook

May 29, 1938-Dec. 18, 2023  
Zona Cook, age 85, passed away at IU Health Ball Memo-

rial Hospital on Dec. 18, 2023. She was born on May 29, 1938, in Cuzzie, West Virginia, and was the daughter of Arthur and Blanche McClellan.

Zona attended Man High School in Man, West Virginia. She moved to Indiana in 1964



Cook

and retired in 2001 from St. Gobain in Dunkirk, Indiana. Zona is survived by her grandchildren Andy Thompson and Seth Thompson; great-grandchildren Kelsey Burden, Ashely Thompson, Ethan Thompson and Rylee Thompson; great-great-granddaughter Kaiya Phipps; and a sister-in-law who was also Zona's caregiver, Clara Skeens. Zona was preceded in death

by her parents, Arthur and Blanche McClellan; her husband, Jack Cook; and a daughter, Lora (Denise) McConnell. Services for Zona will take place at Garden View Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023. Burial will be at Gardens of Memory Cemetery.

**Robert Thompson**, Geneva, March 21, 1955-Dec. 19, 2023. Private services will be held at

Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.  
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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# CR almanac

Friday 12/22	Saturday 12/23	Sunday 12/24	Monday 12/25	Tuesday 12/26
<b>47/39</b>	<b>49/43</b>	<b>53/44</b>	<b>57/46</b>	<b>54/43</b>
The forecast calls for a 30% chance of showers. The high will be 47 with rain in the evening.	The high will be 49 under mostly cloudy skies. There's a slight chance of rain throughout the day.	Expect partly sunny skies with a high of 53. More rain is possible Sunday as well.	The early Christmas forecast calls for a 60% chance of showers. The high will be in the mid 50s.	Another day of rain is expected Tuesday, when the high will be around 54 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$572 million	Evening Daily Three: 8-1-9 Daily Four: 0-2-1-6 Quick Draw: 2-3-6-7-18-19-20-26-31-36-37-38-44-46-47-50-57-67-73-76
<b>Mega Millions</b> 17-26-50-58-61 Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$57 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday MIDDAY Pick 3: 1-4-2 Pick 4: 0-2-0-4 Pick 5: 3-6-8-0-4 Evening Pick 3: 1-5-1 Pick 4: 8-7-5-6 Pick 5: 2-0-5-1-6 Rolling Cash: 2-4-11-20-23 Estimated jackpot: \$204,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday MIDDAY Daily Three: 2-0-6 Daily Four: 6-4-4-5 Quick Draw: 2-13-16-18-22-29-30-33-37-38-42-50-53-62-63-64-66-68-74-76	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.55 Jan. corn.....4.61 Wheat .....5.34	Jan. beans .....12.99 Wheat ..... 5.74
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.55 Jan. corn.....4.55 Feb. corn .....4.58	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.25 Jan. corn.....4.42 Beans .....12.86 Jan. beans .....12.92 Wheat .....5.64
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.45 Jan. corn.....4.55 Beans .....12.89	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.45 Jan. corn .....4.45 Beans .....12.73 Feb. beans.....12.66 Wheat .....5.25

## Today in history

In 1898, Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium, a radioactive metal element. Radium was used to treat cancer.  
In 1891, the first game of basketball was played by 18 students in Springfield, Massachusetts.  
In 1911, professional American baseball catcher Josh Gibson was born. Gibson, also known as "the Black Babe Ruth," became famous for his home runs and was elected to the Hall of Fame in '72. He is credited with slamming a 580-foot home run in 1967 at Yankee Stadium.  
In 1937, the classic Walt Disney film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" premiered.  
In 1968, Apollo 8 launched from Cape Kennedy. The first human spaceflight to the moon, it completed 10 lunar orbits before returning to Earth.  
In 1988, a terrorist bombing caused Pan Am flight 103 to explode over Lockerbie, Scotland. The bomb, hidden inside an

audio cassette player, killed all 259 passengers and 11 citizens at ground level. Libya's government accepted responsibility for the explosion in 2003, agreeing to compensate the victims' families.  
In 2004, 22 people died after a suicide bomber attacked a base near the United States military airfield in Mosul, Iraq.  
In 2012, South Korean singer PSY's music video for his pop song, "Gangnam Style," became the first video on Youtube with 1 billion views.  
In 2015, Portland City Council rejected a change to the payroll ordinance that would have granted outgoing clerk-treasurer Mickey Scott pay for her remaining personal and sick days from when she was a city employee. Some council members argued the action would set a precedent for all city workers, and four of seven members voted against the ordinance amendment.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	<b>Wednesday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 11 a.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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# Doubled ...

Continued from page 1  
"Chronic absences have various reasons and contributing factors, and these can often be complex and interconnected," she said, noting that common factors keeping students out of class include chronic health issues and family responsibilities — such as caring for younger siblings or dealing with crises at home. Families facing financial difficulties might also encounter obstacles like a lack of transportation or unstable housing, making it challenging for students to attend school consistently.

The demand for wraparound services with local agencies "is great, and has increased," but "community resources and agency manpower" has not increased with the rate of demand, Robinson added.

As a result, "some families are not prioritizing education due to overwhelming needs within their household," she continued.

Robinson said, too, that students' boredom or feeling disconnected from school activities can lead to a lack of motivation, making them more prone to skipping classes. Students who struggle academically may also avoid school "to escape the challenges they face in the classroom."

Kwiatkowski, who leads Muncie's school system, said further that families are "far more comfortable," post-COVID, keeping their students at home.

"If someone is sick, we still don't want them in school. But before, when we had days where we may not feel our best or you have a cold, you persevere through it. And during the pandemic, nobody tried to persevere through it. We all stayed home," she said. "I believe that has been a major struggle for us to get that reversed. Now, it's changing that culture of, okay, you have sniffles, you can still be in school — we don't need you to stay home for a lot of days anymore."

"We let students stay home and then they continued to do OK in school. And now we're saying we need you here, and we have a lot of ground to make up, and you need to be in school and to be present," Kwiatkowski continued.

Regardless, students who miss school often tend to live in poverty, said Brad Meadows, assistant principal at Anderson High School, and with that "comes a number of chal-

lenges which make it more difficult for students to attend school regularly."

Less surprising, chronic absenteeism rates have remained mostly lower in suburban and more affluent districts like Carmel Clay — at 8.4% — and in Zionsville, which recorded a 7.3% rate of chronic absenteeism.

School leadership in the Hanover Community School Corporation, which had a chronic absenteeism rate of just 4.7% last year, said regular communication with parents and close monitoring of missing students has helped keep absenteeism at bay.

"Usually, it's the same kids who are out. Being a smaller school helps — it's a little bit more of a personal touch. We know our kids. Whereas I've worked in a bigger school before, it's harder to know them all," said Hanover Central High School assistant principal Brian Parker. "I think the key word here is relationships. It starts on the ground floor."

Another assistant principal, Lori Bathurst, said attendance letters are sent to parents after a student accumulates five unexcused absences. Principal Tami Kephshire added that students who show early signs of struggling attendance are called in — along with their families — to meet with school administrators "right away, before there becomes an issue."

Tying privileges like prom attendance and being allowed to drive to school additionally encourages good attendance, Hanover officials said.

Incentives have been key to lowering chronic absenteeism rates in Clarksville Community Schools, as well.

Instead of primarily focusing on "punishments" for absent students, Clarksville schools are directing efforts around "good behavior," said district spokesperson Brian Shaw.

Clarksville students who participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities tend to have better attendance than those who don't, Shaw continued. Recognizing that, the district "has been making a really big push" to get more students involved in clubs and sports. New athletic teams and school-based service groups have already launched this school year.

Shaw said absenteeism rates for the district's brick-and-mortar schools — which averaged 32% in the 2023-2023 academic year — are already showing signs of improve-

ment. Still, he said some parents "have gotten used to the leniency" around absences that was offered during the pandemic. Part of the district's attendance campaign now aims "to educate parents about how important attendance is."

"I think that is one of the challenges that we run into most — parents being educated on chronic absenteeism — because we found that a lot of parents don't even know how to define that," Shaw said. "They don't know what that means."

In Anderson, district schools prioritize bussing and offer free breakfasts and lunches to all enrolled students, Meadows said.

Nearby Muncie schools have rolled out an even larger initiative.

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# READI ...

Continued from page 1  
"We still have work to do as we put the finishing touches on our READI 2.0 application, but I am energized and encouraged by the progress we have made working together to develop a shared vision, goals and strategies for East Central Indiana," said Trevor Friedeberg, president and CEO of the East Central Indiana Regional Partnership in the release.

"I am eager to share our final plan with the IEDC and continue to strengthen our partnership that will have a meaningful positive impact on our region for years to come."  
The East Central Indiana Regional Partnership has been working on plans for READI 2.0 throughout the year, including workshops in each of the counties in the region. Those were followed by regional workshops to continue honing in on goals. There

were also two surveys that received more than 3,000 responses.

"The level of engagement and commitment from participants has been truly remarkable," said Friedeberg. "I am thrilled with how participants have stepped up to support the process because they believe in the potential of the region."

Through those efforts, the region set a focus on quality of life, housing and infrastructure, child-care and support for families, and education and opportunity.

Launched in 2021 by Gov. Eric Holcomb, READI 1.0 provided \$500 million statewide for projects in infrastructure, job growth and quality of life. Another \$500 million has been allocated for READI 2.0, with regional grants to be announced in April.

The East Central Region

was awarded \$15 million through READI 1.0. Projects in Jay County that received funding through

READI 1.0 were the Salamon Schoolhouse and Jay County Early Learning Center.

# Felony arrests

**Intimidation**  
A Portland man was arrested Monday for intimidation.

Derek M. Edwards, 33, 701 S. Western Ave., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for intimidation, along with a Class A misdemeanor for criminal trespassing and a Class B misdemeanor for disorderly conduct. He was being held on a \$5,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

## SERVICES

Today  
**Moore, Tonia:** 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by  
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## Responsible students

East Elementary School recently awarded several students for demonstrating responsibility. Pictured, front row from left, are Maitlynn Castillo, Lia Trejo-Nieto and Kayda Kahlig. Back row are Ariana Esquivel, Aldrick Perez, Jordan Ramirez and Mailen Garcia.

## Entries open for inaugural civics bee

Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Indiana Department of Education last week announced the launch of the state's inaugural Civics Bee.

### Taking Note

The event is aimed at encouraging Hoosiers in sixth through eighth grade to engage in civics and contribute to their community. The event will be held in August at the Indiana Statehouse.

For more information, visit [indianachamber.com/civicsbee](http://indianachamber.com/civicsbee).

### Deadline is Friday

Students interested in participating must submit an essay to the participating chamber of commerce closest to their home. (Participating chambers include Greater Grant County, Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce and Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.) The deadline is Jan. 8.

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](mailto:apply@rotaryglobalscholar.com). The deadline is Dec. 22.

### Applications open

"Increasing civic engagement for all Hoosiers is one of the goals of the Indiana Chamber's new long-range visioning plan," said Indiana Chamber CEO-elect Vanessa Green Sinders in a press release. "Having a foundation in American democracy — to engage respectfully, constructively and collaboratively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions — is critical. That's why we are so excited to help lead the way with this state competition that will help inspire our middle schoolers to take part in elections, get involved in their communities and even consider going into public service themselves."

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](http://IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program).

## Mother considers ways to help

DEAR ABBY: How can I help my financially drowning, 57-year-old daughter without being pulled under myself? I live comfortably now, but that could change in an instant with a stroke or a fall and the need for assisted living.

### Dear Abby



My daughter had been employed throughout her adult life but was recently part of a group layoff. She has failed to find another job in her field, and her benefits have run out. I don't blame her for the job loss, but I do think she could have been earning some money by working part-time. She didn't do that until the benefit well had run dry.

I "loaned" her some money but have made it clear that it will be short-lived. She hasn't asked for my opinion but, boy, do I ever want to give it. She would have had a nice financial cushion had she not blown a \$300K inheritance some years back.

I feel guilty going out to lunch with friends or buying something unnecessary for the house when she's close to being homeless. My house is large enough for my daughter to live here, but she has I-don't-know-how-many dogs (she hides the number). Am I awful for living my life (well) while

she flounders? Is there help for her? — MEAN MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR MOM: At 57, your daughter is an adult. She, not you, is responsible for the poor choices she has made, including blowing her inheritance and not immediately looking to add to her benefits before they ran out. You are not "awful" for living your life, so stop flagellating.

Tell your daughter she may need to find a job that pays less than the one she lost. This is a fact of life for many people. And if she needs to move in with you, draw the line at how many dogs she can bring with her, and make the responsibility of finding safe homes for the rest hers.

DEAR ABBY: I left my husband of 17 years six months ago. He is a good

man, loyal, funny, bright and successful, but a complex person with a history of trauma who is hard-wired to always see the negative. He's very rigid and critical, and he has a need to control everything. I love him, but I am not drawn to him physically or emotionally. We have done couples counseling numerous times.

He desperately wants me back, so he's now doing everything in his power to dig deep and change. It kills me to see him in such emotional pain. We have young children who want us to reunite. Our families want us back together. He's making progress, but I still have no desire to be with him, and I haven't for a long time. Any wisdom would be greatly appreciated. — BEYOND CONFUSED IN OREGON

DEAR BEYOND CONFUSED: It's sad to say, but your husband could twist himself into a pretzel and it wouldn't change the fact that you are no longer attracted to him physically or emotionally. You may need some sessions with a licensed therapist before you deliver the news, because the time has come to be honest with him about your feelings (or lack of them) so he can move on with his life.

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Today**  
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets

from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room. JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome. PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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

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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

### Do you know the difference between dinosaurs and newspapers?

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Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in January

**Contact Lindsey at [L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com) or (260) 726-8141**



# The fear of foreigners is misplaced

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The following is a transcript of my cousin Mumbles Marcus' recent podcast.

No doubt you've heard about those people, those foreign-born folk who cause havoc wherever they may be. Yea verily, even unto here, in our Hoosier Holyland, they could be tainting, polluting and dining on our blood.

Where do they live? Just recently, the Census Bureau made public certain population data on these aliens, calling them what they are, in the 57 most populated of our 92 counties. And right here, right now, we're going to put those numbers right before you, so you can assess the danger for yourself. There are 99,268 foreign-born

## Eye on the Pie



persons in Marion County, smack where our courageous legislators convene and our precious conventioners drip tips for the services rendered unto them. That's 10% of the county's residents born outside the U.S. of A., without even benefit of a red, white and blue diaper.

Now, I don't know about you, but I think it's not just the numbers, but it's also the ROI (rate of

infiltration) of these foreigners. Tippecanoe County suffers from an 11.8% ROI and in Bartholomew County it's a flat 11%.

These figures are high because of foreign students and workers who come over here and take or send all of our knowledge back to wherever they came from.

What is the right percentage of the population who are foreign-born? Should we put a cap on foreign-born people in our country, state and counties? Henry and Adams counties have less than 1% of their residents born abroad. Aren't they better off than Cass (9.3%), Hamilton (9.2%) or Elkhart (8.5%) counties?

And these foreigners are not necessarily short-termers. Just a whisker shy of 71% of foreign-born persons now living among the good folks of Lawrence County entered this country before the year 2000.

Plus, and don't it make shivers run up your spine, in 10 other counties, places we think of as solid Hoosier havens, more than 50% of the foreigners living there have been in America since before Y2K.

In 29 of these 57 counties, more migrants came to this country pre-2000 than in the succeeding two-plus decades. This held true from Clark and Floyd counties along the Ohio River, through Gibson, Hancock, Howard and Cass, right up to

our Michigan border, from Lake County over to Steuben County.

Sure, we admit, many of these foreigners do become American citizens. In 52 of the 57 counties, more than half of those foreigners 60 years or older are naturalized citizens. Some of them became very productive and well-compensated planted in our good soil.

So, as you contemplate these matters during the upcoming football and basketball playoffs, ask yourself: "Is it right that a foreign-born person will be the highest paid baseball player in 2024?"

.....  
Marcus is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).

# Make deal to save Ukraine

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

In exchange for approving a supplemental national-security bill providing aid to Israel and Ukraine, Republican lawmakers are insisting on a far-reaching crackdown on the flow of migrants at the US's southern border.

Many Democrats continue to resist the GOP's demands. They should reconsider.

The Republicans' plan is not unreasonable. They want to increase detentions of unauthorized migrants, curb the use of "humanitarian parole" to release asylum seekers into the US, and require that migrants apply for asylum in countries they pass through before arriving at the border. They say these measures would deter people from giving themselves up at the border, requesting asylum and then being granted entry until their cases are processed, often years later — an influx that is overwhelming communities stretching from El Paso to New York City.

Faced with criticism from Democratic mayors, President Joe Biden's administration has backed some GOP proposals, including toughening the "credible fear" standard that migrants would have to meet in their initial screening to determine their eligibility for asylum. But Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and other Senate Democrats have balked at harsher restrictions and pushed to include a path to citizenship for the more than 2 million undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children, a group Democrats refer to as the Dreamers.

Republicans have refused to give ground. Last week, they blocked Schumer's attempt to advance the national-security bill, increasing the likelihood that the Pentagon will run out of aid for Ukraine in early 2024.

It's fair to say Republicans are acting cynically. But such is life in divided government. Failing to make an immigration deal that unlocks additional Ukraine aid would hand a Christmas present to Vladimir Putin and waste the \$110 billion in US taxpayer money that's already gone to defend the country. It would also scuttle Congress's best opportunity in years to make meaningful reforms to an asylum system that both parties

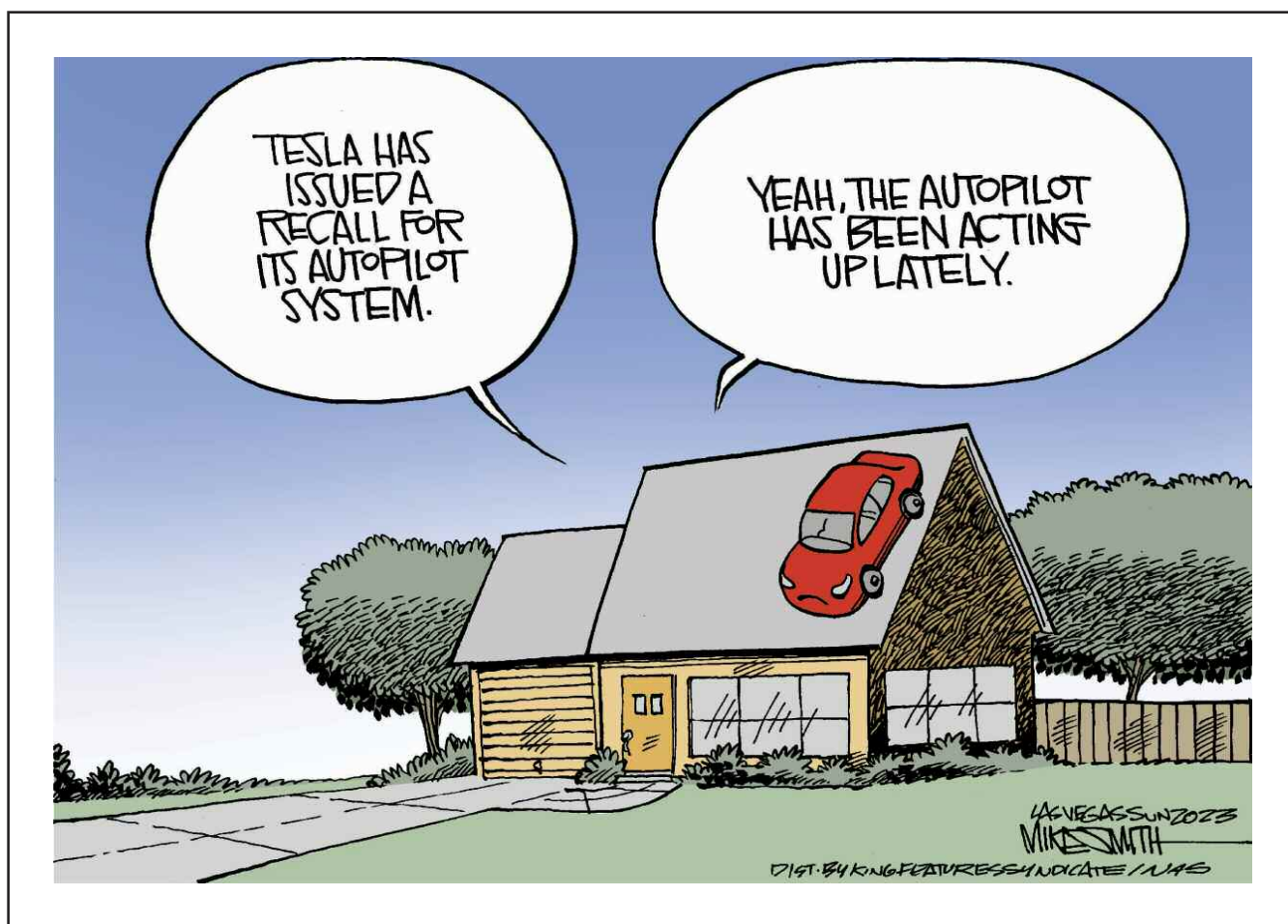
## Guest Editorial

*It's fair to say Republicans are acting cynically. But such is life in divided government.*

describe as broken — at a time when daily border crossings have reached a record high. If Democrats think they can reject efforts to restrict unlawful entry and escape blame for the results, they're deluding themselves.

Biden needs to step in. He should insist that Democrats redouble efforts to reach a deal, despite potential opposition from progressives, and lay out the terms he'd be willing to accept. The White House appears to have signaled some openness to additional deterrence measures, including expanding the government's authority to deport unauthorized migrants and sending some to third countries while their cases are processed. That should be the basis of compromise. A policy that combines tighter restrictions on asylum with more funding to hire immigration judges and protections for at least some of the Dreamers — those who've been in the country for more than 10 years or have earned college degrees, for instance — would be in the interests of both parties and provide a first step toward comprehensive reform.

The disorder at the southern border has fractured the Democratic coalition and damaged public support for admitting the foreign talent that the US needs to compete. By fueling populist anger, it's also making Donald Trump's election next fall more likely. If the Democrats miss this opportunity to address the problem, the whole country will pay the price.



# Case shows cruelty of ban

By MARY ZIEGLER  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

A historic drama playing out in Texas ended Tuesday when the Texas Supreme Court held that Kate Cox, a woman 20 weeks pregnant with a fetus with trisomy 18, an almost always fatal abnormality, could not legally end her pregnancy in her home state.

Cox had taken the rare step of petitioning for a court-ordered abortion. She succeeded in the lower court, prompting Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to appeal and threaten local hospitals and Cox's doctor with prosecution if she got the procedure. The Texas Supreme Court quickly handed down its ruling: State law did not make an exception for fatal fetal abnormalities and Cox was not near enough to death or permanent impairment of a major bodily function to qualify for an exemption. She traveled out of state to terminate her pregnancy.

Cox's loss in court illustrates the confusing, contentious state of abortion law since *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe vs. Wade* in 2022. (The Supreme Court's announcement Wednesday that it would take up challenges to medication abortion is another such indicator.) Abortion-ban exceptions are particularly fraught. Their complexities and the current antiabortion playbook add up to an extraordinary reality: Present-day abortion-ban exceptions will fail to protect patient health, no matter how Americans may interpret them or the intentions of the legislators who passed them.

When states began criminalizing abortion in the 19th century, almost every ban had an exception for the life of the patient. In the 1960s, legislators introduced additional exceptions: for sexual assault, incest, fetal disability and certain health risks.

Even then, exceptions proved to be contentious and unworkable. Early

on, before the 1940s and 1950s, prosecutions were rare unless a patient died. In practice, that gave physicians discretion to determine when there was a real threat to patients' lives. But later, prosecutors began cracking down on a larger group of abortion providers. Hospitals and physicians responded by setting a high bar for legal abortion to shield themselves from criminal liability. Patients without money or connections had little luck, and it could be daunting, even traumatic, to try to convince physicians that a sexual assault had really occurred, or that a health threat was serious enough to qualify them for an exception.

The post-Roe generation of abortion-ban exceptions are even more gravely problematic. The legislators who passed "trigger bans" before *Dobbs*, or fresh bans afterward, have often authorized punishments for doctors — and others in women's support networks — that are much harsher than any that were common before 1973, including life in prison, the penalty in Texas for doctors.

Many of the new abortion statutes copy model language developed by antiabortion groups anxious that any exception could become a loophole for abortion on demand. For example, an exception for sexual assault could invite women to "cry rape." Or if health dangers included risks to mental well-being, it could be too easy for women to get permission to legally terminate a pregnancy.

The new bans seek to eliminate discretion for physicians as well. Some, creating so-called affirmative

defenses, require doctors to prove they are innocent rather than mandating that prosecutors establish their guilt.

As important, leading antiabortion figures oppose exceptions as a matter of principle. They embrace the idea that a fetus is a rights-holding person, and therefore no exception can be justified if the unborn child is by law treated like the rest of us. Even though — as Cox's case shows — Texas' ban makes an exception almost impossible, for Americans opposed to abortion, it represents compromise.

In other words, the goal of the new bans is primarily to protect fetal life. Exceptions appear in virtually every law, but their purpose is more to deter patients viewed as undeserving — unless you can prove your imminent demise, for example — not to safeguard women's health.

Cox's lawsuit is far from the only attempt to clarify or challenge abortion-ban exceptions. A plaintiff in Kentucky has filed a class action seeking permission for an abortion. Lawsuits in Texas, Tennessee and Idaho argue that if state exceptions cannot be more broadly interpreted, then the laws themselves are unconstitutional. In some states, courts have already weighed in on the constitutionality of specific exceptions, with more cases likely to follow.

The same message emerges from these cases, whether plaintiffs like Cox win or lose, and perhaps especially if they fail. The exceptions *Dobbs* brought into effect do not work the way many Americans might have guessed, and may be designed not to work for patients at all. When the state's interest in fetal life clashes with real health threats faced by women, patients will always find themselves on the losing side.

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Ziegler is a law professor at UC Davis and the author of "Roe: The History of a National Obsession."

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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

**Banner Christian Assembly of God**  
1217 W. Votaw St., 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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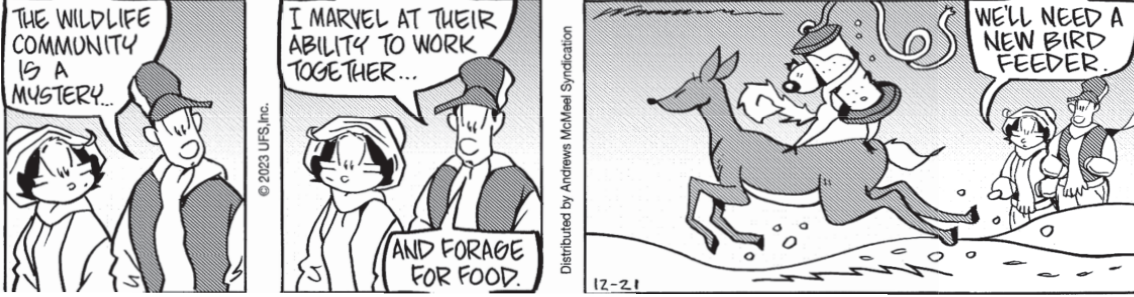
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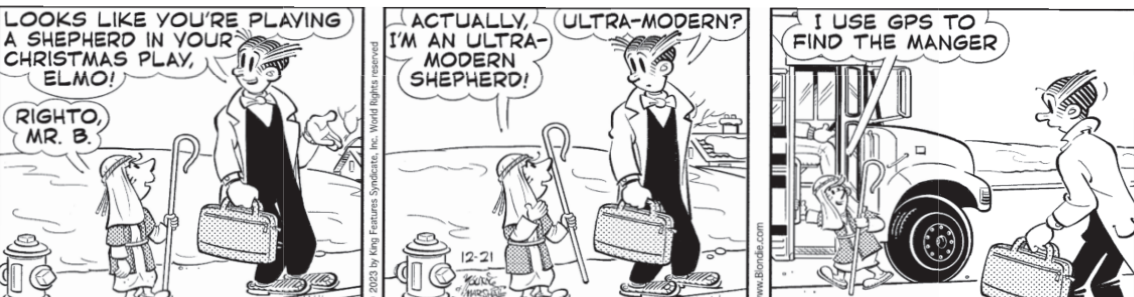
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12-21 "Why did you put your first and last name on this card for Mommy and Daddy? They know Dolly who."

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A little bit of rope

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

The bidding: North 1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass 4♠ Pass East 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass South 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass West Pass Pass Pass Pass

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

12-21 CRYPTOQUIP

FY VAZI RFPB AY IQQAQ KHV GIIP DQFMMIP BADP AP H VKIIM AY OHIOQ, MKHM'V H MIHQHCCI ZFVMHRI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER PEELING SOME FRUIT, THE PREP COOK HAD SO MUCH FOOD TO MAKE THAT HE LOST HIS PARINGS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Assess feet wet? 5 Blue-print 9 Furry foot 12 Mountain goat 13 Off-quoted Berra 14 Inventor Whitney 15 Prepare, as coffee 17 Hog-wash 18 Regard highly 19 Bistros 21 Therefore 22 Loon's cousin 24 Sulk 27 Buddy 28 Canyon sound 31 Enzyme suffix 32 Ad- (improvise) 33 Up to 34 Street edge 36 Multi-purpose truck



Table with 11 columns and 11 rows representing a crossword puzzle grid. Some cells contain numbers indicating the start of words.

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Kennedy Muhlenkamp (20) goes up for a layup late in the Indians' 34-31 loss to St. Marys Memorial on Tuesday. Muhlenkamp scored seven points in the second half to keep Fort Recovery in the game.

## Ride ...

Continued from page 8  
While Leuthold wasn't able to get a shot off at the end, she played her best game of the season.

Leuthold took advantage of having a height advantage against Memorial — the tallest Roughrider that played was five foot, nine inches — by setting up in the paint and attacking the offensive glass which resulted in two early baskets.

The senior had nearly half of Fort Recovery's first half points, owning nine of the 19 points.

She finished with 11 while going 5-for-6 from the floor and pulled down seven rebounds.

"That was my goal to be aggressive, because I have been falling behind these last couple of games," Leuthold said. "It feels great to hit my shots that don't usually fall. I just feel proud of myself."

While Leuthold supplied most of the offense early, Muhlenkamp performed well in the second half. She finished with 11 points, five of which came in the fourth quarter, and a game-high eight rebounds.

The Indians dominated the paint, outscoring the Roughriders 24-10. They also forced 18 turnovers.

Memorial's ticket to victory was the 3-point line. While FRHS only hit one triple, Memorial went 6-for-14 (42.9%) from deep to make up for its lack of height.

Reese Rable led the way, shooting 4-for-8 from 3-point range herself and added a layup as well.

"We need her offense," Memorial coach Scott Jordan said. "She's our leading scorer. ... When she's putting the ball in the basket, good things are going to happen for us. She sets the tone for us offensively."

"It was big because we were giving them a lot of free possessions on offensive rebounds. We shoot a lot of threes. That's part

Box score			
<b>Fort Recovery Indians vs. Saint Marys Memorial Roughriders</b>		<b>Score by quarters:</b>	
		<b>Mem.</b>	<b>11 10 10 3 — 34</b>
		<b>Ft. Rec.</b>	<b>12 7 5 7 — 31</b>
<b>Girls varsity summary</b>			
<b>Memorial (5-2)</b>		<b>3-point shooting:</b> Memorial 6-14 (Rable 4-8, Menker 2-2, Hirschfeld 0-1, Nuss 0-1, Greber 0-2). Fort Recovery 1-17 (Huelskamp 1-5, Leuthold 0-1, KMuhlenkamp 0-4, Wendel 0-7).	
<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b>	<b>PTS</b>	
Jacobs 3-5	0-0	6	
Allemeier 0-3	2-6	2	
Greber 1-2	0-0	2	
Menker 3-4	2-4	10	
Hirschfeld 0-3	0-0	0	
Nuss 0-1	0-0	0	
Rable 5-9	0-0	14	
Ott 0-0	0-0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12-27</b>	<b>4-10</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>.444</b>	<b>.400</b>	
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .552</b>			
<b>Fort Recovery (2-5)</b>		<b>Blocks:</b> Memorial 2 (Greber, Rable).	
<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b>	<b>PTS</b>	
Niekamp 2-7	1-3	5	
Guggenbiller 0-0	1-2	1	
Wendel 0-7	0-0	0	
Leuthold 5-6	1-2	11	
CMhinkmp 0-0	0-0	0	
KMhinkmp 5-12	1-2	11	
Huelskamp 1-10	0-0	3	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13-42</b>	<b>4-9</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>.310</b>	<b>.444</b>	
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .933</b>			
		<b>Turnovers:</b> Memorial 18. Fort Recovery 12.	
<b>Personal fouls:</b> Memorial 10 (Jacobs 3, Greber 3, Menker 2, Allemeier, Rable). Fort Recovery 11 (Leuthold 3, Huelskamp 3, Niekamp 2, KMuhlenkamp 2, Guggenbiller).			

of our style and they were dropping tonight."

Jordan noted how impressed he was with how Fort Recovery battled despite not having a lot of depth.

The Indians only used two substitutes in the entire game, with both Sophia Guggenbiller and Cameron Muhlenkamp playing in the third quarter. Huelskamp, Wendel, Muhlenkamp, Niekamp and Leuthold played the entirety of the first, second and third quarters without taking a break.

"Our girls fight hard and they play hard from the tip all the way to the end," Deitsch said. "We had five total girls who played in the first half, so we knew in the second half there could be some tired wheels on the car. They played hard all the way through and these guys will never give up, so that's great to see."

Fort Recovery's next game isn't until after the

holiday break, when they will host Marion Local for a non-conference doubleheader with the boys team.

### Junior varsity

The Fort Recovery junior varsity team couldn't slow down St. Marys Memorial's offense in a 35-23 loss on Tuesday.

The Roughriders scored 10 points in the first, third and fourth quarters, while tying the Indians for five apiece in the second.

Regan Hittle, Kendal Davis and Logan Henschen all scored seven points to lead Memorial. All of the Roughriders' scoring was spread out, with the most coming from any individual in a quarter was five from Hittle in the third.

Bridget Homan had the best performance for Fort Recovery. She dropped 10 points on two first-quarter threes and a fourth-quarter basket and two free throws.

## Resign ...

Continued from page 8  
The team is expected to formally announce the deal as early as Wednesday, and for a few different reasons, it's absolutely the right move. It's also possible — if not likely — that it will upstaged soon by something bigger.

The most likely outcome is a trade. The goal is to address the starting rotation in 2024 and beyond.

As far as McCutchen, though, the calculus was simple, even though we could've discussed things like playing the outfield, rotating the designated hitter spot or the approach at the plate that the 37-year-old employed this past season.

It's Andrew McCutchen. Given what he represents to generations of

Pirates fans, they simply couldn't let his last home game at PNC Park be one where he limped off the field, having suffered a partially torn Achilles while stuck on 299 home runs.

McCutchen deserves better. He has earned the chance to rehab and run it back and potentially reach 300 homers at home. After producing a .776 OPS in 112 games this past season, flirting with a potential All-Star nod given his terrific first half, McCutchen deserves to go out on his terms.

Not that this contract means 2024 will be McCutchen's last season. He's certainly not looking at it that way. It's doubtful the team is, either. Obviously injuries and health matter, but this contract

was signed so McCutchen could do more than take a victory lap.

The Pirates want him to be a leader and set an example for a young team, demonstrating what it means to be a good person, produce on the field and connect with a fan base, an art for McCutchen over the years.

They also want his offense — a .378 on-base percentage, plus 19 doubles, 12 homers, 43 RBIs, 55 runs scored and 11 steals — which looked markedly better before injuries became a factor.

At one point around early July, McCutchen was hitting .282 with an .843 OPS, reaching base in 23 of 24 games. He collected his 2,000th MLB hit on June 11 against the Mets

and could experience a similar type of moment when he gets to 300 homers.

If McCutchen can stay healthy, which obviously was not the case in 2023, we saw the possibilities over the first three months or so. It would also help if he could play some outfield to give Bryan Reynolds a break and create some flexibility at DH.

Battling elbow and knee injuries before his season ended early due to a partially torn left Achilles, McCutchen was limited to just eight games in the outfield in 2023, seven of them starts.

McCutchen, who hit .256 and had an OPS+ of 113 (his best since 2019), was hurt while legging out a double on Sept. 4.

His recovery has progressed nicely in recent weeks, to the point where he has returned to mostly normal offseason work when it comes to hitting, throwing and running.

As of now, the Pirates' opening day lineup could include Oneil Cruz, Bryan Reynolds, McCutchen, Rowdy Tellez, Ke'Bryan Hayes, Jack Suwinski and Henry Davis, plus potentially Jared Triolo at second base or right field or Nick Gonzales, Liover Peguero or Ji Hwan Bae locking down a spot.

Suwinski could shift to right if Bae emerges. Connor Joe or Joshua Palacios are depth options. Edward Olivares has shown flashes of power. But there's also uncertainty because the

Pirates likely aren't done, sources said.

They'd like to potentially invert what they've done the past few years and funnel the value of several players into one, perhaps acquiring a pitcher with years of club control.

After trading for Marco Gonzales and signing Martin Perez via free agency, the Pirates have taken some initial steps to address their pitching deficiency. But they're also aware it's not enough.

If you think about it, the bigger goal feels a bit like a throwback.

They added McCutchen, an important move spurred by that pregame meeting with Nutting and subsequent conversations with general manager Ben Cherington.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls wrestling at Findlay — 12 p.m.; Swim at Celina Sprint at Jay County — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Swim at Celina Sprint at Jay County — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Jay County — Boys wrestling at ECIC tournament at Jay County — 9 a.m.; Girls wrestling at Findlay — 11 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at South Adams — 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kentucky at Louisville (ESPN)  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Jacksonville at Purdue (BTN)  
8 p.m. — College football Boca Raton Bowl: South Florida vs. Syracuse (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Memphis Grizzlies (Bally Indiana)  
8:15 p.m. — NFL: New Orleans Saints at Los Angeles Rams (FOX)  
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North

**Friday**  
3 p.m. — Premier League: Sheffield United at Aston Villa (USA)  
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Bowling Green at Indiana (BTN)  
6:30 p.m. — College football Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl: Georgia Tech vs. UCF (ESPN)

Alabama at Indiana (BTN)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgia Tech vs. UMass Amherst (ESPN2)  
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Portland vs. Hawai'i (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at Marquette (FS1)  
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Chicago State at Wisconsin (BTN)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Illinois at Missouri (FS1); Maryland at UCLA (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Washington Wizards at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)

### Local notes

**Tryouts scheduled**  
Tryouts for A League of Our Own Independent Baseball League is hosting a tryout at the

Mojo-Up Sports indoor Complex in Noblesville on Jan. 30.  
Anyone 19-years-old or older that is looking for the opportunity to continue playing baseball can try out.  
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**Kaydin Carpenter lifts the Patriots to victory, see story below**

# Sports

**The Celina Sprints will be held at Jay County today, see Sports on tap**

## Pirates resign 'Cutch for 1-year

**By JASON MACKEY**  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
Tribune News Service

PITTSBURGH — It was a late June game at PNC Park. Andrew McCutchen, in his first season playing in Pittsburgh since 2017, was enjoying a renaissance, the pieces of his return clicking into place. The most popular Pirate in decades was also a trade candidate, having attracted interest from the Texas Rangers and likely other MLB clubs.

As McCutchen dipped back into an empty and quiet clubhouse following the national anthem, he bumped into Bob Nutting, who delivered an impromptu message. Nutting reinforced to McCutchen that the trade talk was a non-factor. The Pirates owner then went a step further and publicly dismissed the idea himself.

"Andrew should stay a Pirate as long as he wants to," Nutting said a few days later when approached by the Post-Gazette in the service tunnel at PNC Park.

That meeting set the stage for the latest chapter in McCutchen's Pirates tenure, as multiple sources told the Post-Gazette on Tuesday that the club has signed him to another one-year, \$5 million deal, pending a physical.

See **Resign** page 7

# Rough ride



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School senior Saige Leuthold (10) takes contact from St. Marys Memorial's Syerra Gerber on a shot attempt during the 34-31 loss on Tuesday. Leuthold scored a season-high 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting.

## Memorial gets key stops to take down Indians 34-31

**By ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Wins haven't come easy for the Indians this season and the losses haven't been particularly close.

Against the Roughriders, the Indians not only had a chance to win, but also had the ball with less than a minute left. The Indians just couldn't get a shot up.

The St. Marys Memorial Roughriders forced two turnovers in the final 36 seconds to sneak away with a 34-31 victory over the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team on Tuesday.

"That's a tough one to lose coming down to the wire, especially knowing how much the girls care about it," FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch said. "They really want to win now that they know they can and have gotten a taste of it, so any loss stings a little bit more now."

The Indians (5-2) started the fourth quarter on a hot streak. Kennedy Muhlenkamp put up two baskets in the first two minutes to make it a one-possession game.

With 2 minutes, 9 seconds remaining, Makena Huelskamp drove the baseline to dish the ball to Saige Leuthold to pull Fort Recovery within one. A free throw by Muhlenkamp a minute later tied the game up, making it seven unanswered points.

With the game tied and 36 second left, Cali Wendel forced a turnover to give Fort Recovery the ball.

A loose-ball foul on Karlie Niekamp after an errant pass ended up in the hands of Reagan Allemeier allowed the Roughriders (5-2) to score their first points of the quarter, hitting 1-of-2 foul shots.

On the other end, Deitsch called a timeout with 11.4 seconds to try and draw up a play.

A ball tipped out of bounds, a foul and two more timeouts left the Indians with a sideline out-of-bounds opportunity with 4.2 seconds left.

After Fort Recovery was denied its designed play, the ball was lobbed into Saige Leuthold, who had the hot hand for the Indians all game. She took a drop step and a power dribble, which allowed Sophia Menker of the Roughriders to come from behind and tie Leuthold up and turn the possession over without getting a shot off.

Menker then iced the game away by hitting a pair of free throws while Wendel's three-quarter court prayer came up short.

"The more times we are in these types of scenarios is when we will be able to handle it," Deitsch said. "Getting in these types of games with good teams is huge. We've just got to learn and it will definitely be something we will be able to finish next time."

See **Ride** page 7

## Carpenter hits game-winner

As the clock was racing towards zero, it looked like the Patriots and the Eagles were going to go to overtime.

Kaydin Carpenter prevented that from happening.

Carpenter hit a game-winning layup for the Jay County Junior High School boys basketball eighth grade team as it took down the Delta Eagles 39-37 on Tuesday night.

The seventh grade team fell to Delta 32-26.

The Patriots (9-2) were down eight points heading into the final period. A 17-5 run that was capped off by Carpenter's layup earned Jay County the victory.

Carpenter scored a team-best 11 points. Brayden O'Brien and Tyler Wasson both had 10 points as well.

Other scorers included Nick Snow (five), Cohen Shimp (two) and Brayden Barlow (one).

The seventh grade team (9-2) had a small lead in the first quarter, but it slipped away as Delta outscored it 10-4 in the second.

Only four Patriots found the basket in the game, with Brody Collins' nine points leading the way.

Sam Wiggins and Andrew Crump were one point away from each other with seven and six respectively while Paul Dirksen put up four.

# Brides



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