

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Opening again

An employee from Indiana Sign & Barricade removes one of the barricades late Wednesday morning from the west side of the Indiana 26 (Water Street) bridge over the Salamonie River on the eastern edge of Portland. The bridge was expected to open Wednesday afternoon. It has been closed for construction of a new concrete bridge replacing the former steel truss bridge since late June.

County pulls back on funding decision

Coalition is now looking at building sober living facility

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition will be looking elsewhere for its sober living facility.

Jay County Commissioners on Monday rescinded a decision to allocate \$35,060 for a feasibility study and earnest money toward Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition purchasing a building in Redkey.

During Redkey Town Council's meeting Dec. 21, residents aired their disapproval of the county converting the building at 319 N. Meridian St. into a recovery residence for those who have struggled with addiction. Julie Barlow, who lives nearby, pointed to a lack of amenities and resources in Redkey. She and others also expressed safety concerns. Town council president Erik Hammers shared a petition against the facility, which he said would be taken around town.

In response to Redkey's rebuttal, commissioner Brian McGalliard suggested rescinding the motion Monday, explaining Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition is now looking at options to build a new structure for the facility. He said Redkey's building had been the only suitable structure available, and he pointed out construction will likely cost two to three times the price of an existing building.

Indiana is receiving about \$507 million over an 18-year period as part of the National Opioid Settlement. According to Next Level Recovery Indiana — in.gov/recovery — the county is expected to receive nearly \$1.33 billion over a 15-year period.

See **Funding** page 2

Appalachian Ohio lacks access

By MEGAN HENRY

Ohio Capital Journal
ohiocapitaljournal.com

Most households in Ohio's Appalachian counties don't have reliable access to the internet.

About 75% of people and about a third of households in Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties don't have access to the Federal Communications Commission's bare minimum internet speed, according to Connecting Appalachia, an advocate for last-mile broadband deployment in Appalachian Ohio.

"A lot of our areas have no broadband and homes have no cellular service," said Tom Reid, President of Reid Consulting Group who works with Connecting Appalachia.

"You're talking about taking an area basically back to the 1930s," he said.

Buckeye Hills Regional Council conducted a 2019 study that shows 80% to 90% of households (in areas with 20 or fewer households per square mile) have no access to broadband. The study looked at Athens, Hocking, Meigs,

In Buckeye Hills region, 80% to 90% of households have no broadband

Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington counties.

"It completely changes your life if you don't have access to the internet," said Ryan Collins, the former program manager at Buckeye Hills Regional Council. He is now the policy manager at the National Digital Inclusion Alliance.

People might wait until the middle of the night to log on to the internet when there are less people fighting for service.

Or they might go to McDonald's just to use their wifi and then continue to sit in the parking lot after the fast food restaurant closes for

the day, but that's only if they have reliable transportation. Same with the library or local cafes.

A business owner might have to go to the library at the end of the day with a credit card reader machine to run credit cards because they aren't able to get hooked up to the internet.

"People figured out all these workarounds, but they shouldn't have to figure out workarounds," Reid said. "People deserve to have the services in their homes."

It can also make everyday things like sending a text message, working remotely and streaming videos herculean tasks.

"You literally can't reach these people," Reid said. "You have to drive to their house to have contact with them."

Broadband access issues can prevent people from moving to the region.

"They know what it's like to have the internet and the internet is one of the number one things that people check on now when they're moving to a new area," Collins said.

People can pay for line extensions to their homes, but that can cost thousands of dollars.

"Or they go with a subpar internet service just because 'hey, at least I have something that's better than nothing'," Collins said.

According to the FCC, 25 megabits per second (mbps) with 3 mbps upload speed is the minimum standard for internet speed.

Broadband access varies county by county. If there is a high concentration of the population in a certain area, the internet can be more reliable.

See **Access** page 2

Strike hits near hospital

By SARA LEMEL

dpa
Tribune News Service

GAZA, TEL AVIV — A suspected Israeli strike on a building near a hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday is reported to have left many dead, with the Jewish state also hitting targets in Lebanon and the West Bank.

A spokesman for the Hamas-controlled health authority spoke of 20 dead and dozens injured in Khan Younis.

The Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance service wrote on X: "Dozens of martyrs and wounded in the bombing of a residential building in front of al-Amal Hospital."

The information could not initially be independently verified. An Israeli

Reports from scene indicate dozens killed

army spokesperson said that the reports were being investigated.

The health authority of Islamist group Hamas said the deaths meant 195 people had been killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip within the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for Hamas, which is classified as a terrorist group by the EU and the US, said 16 families were affected, with a further 325 people injured.

Since the beginning of the war, 21,110 people have

been killed in Gaza, the spokesperson said.

The Gaza war was triggered by the worst massacre in Israel's history on October 7, when over 1,200 people in Israel were killed by Hamas terrorists and other groups. Over 200 hostages were also taken, a large number of whom have since been released.

The attack prompted Israel to bombard the coastal strip and launch an extensive ground operation.

See **Strike** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Amir Yev

An Israeli artillery unit fires into the Gaza Strip on Wednesday in Southern Border, Israel. A suspected Israeli strike on a building near a hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday is reported to have left many dead.

Deaths

Capitola Bubb, 103, Portland
Joan Bowen, 93, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Tuesday. The low was 36.

Tonight's forecast calls for a chance of rain and snow — no accumulation — with a low in the lower 30s. Expect a high 40 with a chance of precipitation Friday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Applications are open for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship. The scholarship can provide up to \$40,000 in financial aid for those who are seeking to become teachers. Applications are available at ScholarTrack.IN.gov. The deadline is Jan. 31.

Coming up

Friday — Additional coverage of this week's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

Saturday — Results from the FRHS boys basketball team's game at St. Henry.



Obituaries

Capitola Bubp

Jan. 27, 1920-Dec. 25, 2023
Capitola J. Bubp, age 103, of Portland passed away on Monday December 25, 2023 in The Waters of Dunkirk.
She was born in Wells County on Jan. 27, 1920, the daughter of Philip and Ella (Alberson) Armantrout.
She was married on Aug. 13, 1941, to James E. "Pete" Bubp and he passed away on July 31, 2001. She was retired as an RN for Jay County Hospital and private duty nurse. She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Psi Iota Xi Sorority, a Bryant High School

and Ball Memorial Nursing School graduate. Capi was a dedicated caregiver to many throughout her career in nursing.
Surviving is one daughter, Lana Ninde (husband: Mike) of Bryant; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.
She was preceded in death by her husband Pete; son Jeb Bubp; and sister Helen Theurer.
Funeral services will be Friday, Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Darrell Borders



Bubp

presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from non to 2 p.m.
Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Joan Bowen

April 28, 1930-Dec. 22, 2023
Joan R. Bowen, age 93, of Portland passed away on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.
She was born in Noble County, Indiana, on April 28, 1930, the daughter of Lee and Leafa (Locke) Hewitt. She was mar-



Bowen

ried to William Robbins on Nov. 5, 1960, and he passed away on Feb. 11, 2000, she then married Carl Bowen on July 19, 2002, and he passed away on May 22, 2017.
Joan was retired from General Electric and Essex Wire in Bluffton. She was a member of West Walnut Street Church of Christ. Joan enjoyed reading, traveling and playing cards.
Surviving are several stepchildren and step-grandchildren.
Private services will be held

with burial in the Antioch Cemetery in Portland.
Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.
.....
The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 12/29	Saturday 12/30	Sunday 12/31	Monday 1/1	Tuesday 1/2
40/31	42/29	39/26	36/24	38/27
There's a 30% chance of snow on Friday under mostly cloudy skies.	Mostly cloudy skies on Saturday with a high of 42 degrees.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies on Sunday, when the low will reach the mid 20s.	New Year's Day looks to be mostly cloudy as well, with a low around 24 degrees.	Mostly sunny on Tuesday. The high will be in the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$700 million	Evening Daily Three: 8-1-9 Daily Four: 0-2-1-6 Quick Draw: 2-5-7-10-14-22-37-43-49-51-52-53-57-59-62-66-68-71-74-80
Mega Millions 8-10-22-58-64 Mega Ball: 21 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$92 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-0-4 Pick 4: 9-7-0-0 Pick 5: 9-0-7-1-0 Evening Pick 3: 0-8-5 Pick 4: 7-6-2-2 Pick 5: 2-0-4-1-6 Rolling Cash: 1-5-26-27-38 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 9-4-1 Daily Four: 4-2-2-6 Quick Draw: 2-8-12-15-18-19-34-49-51-52-54-55-57-58-63-68-69-73-75-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.61 Jan. corn.....4.63 Wheat.....4.66	Jan. beans12.98 Wheat 5.82
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.61 Jan. corn.....4.61 Feb. corn4.64	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.30 Jan. corn4.47 Beans12.85 Jan. beans12.89 Wheat5.72
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.51 Jan. corn4.61 Beans12.88	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.51 March corn4.58 Beans12.72 Feb. beans.....12.65 Wheat5.33

Today in history

In 1065, the original Westminster Abbey was consecrated by Edward the Confessor and opened in London. It would become the site of royal coronations and other major events in England.
In 1922, Stan Lee was born in New York City. Lee established Marvel Comics' legacy.
In 1972, Portland Mayor Robert Ford announced his appointments for 1973, retaining Chuck Privett as police chief, Ray "Bud" Williams as fire chief and Ernie Gillett as superintendent of the water and sewage departments.
In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon.

The legislation requires federal and state governments to protect all species threatened with extinction.
In 2021, Teigen Fortkamp earned the only win for the Fort Recovery High School swim team as it competed in the Holiday Invitational at Lima YMCA. Fortkamp was first in the 50-yard freestyle.
In 2022, the Jay County High School wrestling team won the East Central Indiana Classic, which had been delayed because of weather. Daniel Moore, Taye Curtis, Cody Rowles, Ethan Reiley, Tony Wood and Christian Wittkamp won championships for the host Patriots.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, School-house Community Center.

Funding ...

Continued from page 1
Each municipality will also receive funding, varying between \$1,000 for Salamonia to \$52,500 for Portland. As of Monday, Jay County has received \$149,708.37 in restricted funds and \$28,801.06 in unrestricted funds.
Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition formed a task force per commissioners' request to determine how to spend the money. The group decided on a recovery residence, which falls under the settlement's guidelines for restricted funds. It will be operated by Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.
The task force had recently made an offer on the Redkey home, but before closing on the property, it had to conduct a fea-

sibility study and seek additional grants. McGalliard noted the down payment would have given the group time to determine if the location was viable.
"The sole purpose of this was to determine whether even that was a building that was reasonable to use," explained McGalliard.
In order to be certified by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, the facility would also need to meet certain structural standards, such as specific allotments for sleeping space and amenities. It will house up to 16 men, one of whom would be the house manager.
"It boils down to when they come out of prison, jail, we can turn them loose on the street, or give them an option for this where we

can help teach them," said McGalliard. "Some people don't know how to get a job. They can't even go on an application, balance a checkbook, or anything like that. This facility will teach a lot of life skills, plus we'll bring in counselors and so forth to work with people that (are) at this facility."
Michael Keller of Redkey requested Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition put together information for those who oppose the project. He referenced Barlow expressing safety concerns for her grandchildren.
"You're going to get a lot of pushback whether (you) spend a dollar or a million dollars unless people understand more of the process," he said.

Answering a concern from another Redkey resident about space for sober living facility residents to do recreational activities, McGalliard said the facility will need to have transportation available regardless. He also noted those in recovery at the facility wouldn't be the only folks living in Jay County who have struggled with addiction.
"Contrary to popular belief, people with drug addictions are living in every neighborhood throughout Jay County," McGalliard said.
Commissioners agreed to rescind the motion.
.....
For more commissioners' news, see Friday's newspaper.

Strike ...

Continued from page 1
On the other side of Israel from Gaza, six Palestinians in the West Bank were killed in an Israeli missile strike, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.
A drone shot at a house in the refugee camp in Tulkarm, Palestinian reports added. A seventh Palestinian was in a life-threatening condition with head injuries.
The Israeli army had earlier

raided the camp. The Israeli operation in the West Bank has escalated fears in the international community that the war will spread from the Hamas militant-controlled Gaza Strip to the other Palestinian territory and also into Lebanon.
Incidents with Israelis in the West Bank have led to 298 Palestinians being killed since October 7, the Health Ministry said. Overall in 2023, 494 Palestinians in the West

Bank have been killed or have died during violent incidents, including while carrying out attacks.
An Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon on Wednesday also killed three people, Lebanese state media reported.
The strike came after a series of attacks by the pro-Iranian Lebanese militia Hezbollah on Israeli posts close to the border on Tuesday.

Access ...

Continued from page 1
For example, the internet is more stable closer to Ohio University than in other parts of Athens.
"Internet service providers can make a business case for building out there, rather than building out into the rural areas," Collins said.
A major issue with broadband access is mapping.
According to the FCC, just under 4% of Ohio's broadband serviceable locations are "unserved" meaning they have no access to a service with speeds of 25/3 Mbps or greater using copper, fiber or cable.
Internet carriers file mapping data with the FCC twice a year, but Reid said the maps aren't always accurate.
"That's like leaving the fox in charge of the hen house," said Amesville Mayor Gary Goosman.
If there is one person with internet access in a census tract, the providers will go ahead and say the entire census tract is covered with service, he said.
For example, the FCC map showed a portion of Meigs County having broadband service, but in reality only one of 14 households was serviced by Frontier Communica-

tions at 10/1 speed (less than the minimum), according to the Buckeye Hills Regional Council 2019 survey results.
"Eliminating the Digital Divide is a top priority for the FCC," a FCC spokesman said in an email.
People can submit challenges to the maps and the FCC has processed over 4.8 million challenges and incorporated the results of 1.5 million challenges.
"The Map will continue to be updated to reflect the results of challenges, verifications, audits and new biannual collections," a FCC spokesman said in an email.

SERVICES

Thursday Street, Gary: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Friday Arnold, Carole: 8 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. Schwartz, Rosann: 9 a.m., Enos E.J. Schwartz home, 4362 E. 900 South, Geneva. Bubp, Capitola: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Saturday Moses, Barbara: 2 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.
Jan. 14 Williams, Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Felony arrests

Drug possession
A Portland man was arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine.
Zachary B. Combs, 34, 101 Moody Ave., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, as well as a Class B misdemeanor for public intoxication.
He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

GREAT SELECTION
of
newspaper roll ends
FOR SALE!

Stop by our office or call TODAY!

The Graphic Printing Company
The Commercial Review
309 West Main Street
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-8141
Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Rogers series artists announced

Classical, magic and barber-shop are on the schedule.

Arts Place this week announced Gabriel Royal, Jon Mobley and Instant Classic are booked for the 2024 Eric R. Rogers Performing Arts Series.

Royal will kick off the series at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16. A cellist and vocalist, he started his career in the subway stations of New York City released his first album in 2016 and in addition to performing works as a music teacher.

The series will continue with performances by Mobley, a magician, at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2, and Instant Classic, a barbershop quartet, at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21. Mobley is based out of Indianapolis, has performed around the world and was a contestant on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us" TV show. Instant Classic is an Indiana-based group that was the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2015 International Quartet Champion.

Used book sale

Fort Recovery Public Library will hold a used book sale Jan. 8 through Jan. 13.

Patrons are invited to shop for books, audio books and movies during regular business hours. Free-will donations will be accepted for items in the sale.

The library is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Hosting market

Minnetrasta of Muncie is hosting indoor farmers markets this season.

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

Taking Note

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

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

Grants available

Indiana Destination Development Corporation has announced the availability of two grants — the Indiana Destination Development Grant and IN Indiana Placemaking Activation Grant.

The placemaking activation grant offers communities the opportunity to create IN Indiana artwork and signage in highly visible locations throughout the state. (The City of Portland, Arts Place and Portland Main Street Connect partnered to receive a grant this year that funded the new mural on the north side of Community Resource Center.) The development grant offers funding for "high-impact projects that raise Indiana's capacity for attracting visitors, providing tourism experiences and enhance residential quality of life."

The deadline to apply is Feb. 2. For more information, go to visitindiana.com.



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Robert Gauthier

Santa resurgence

Santa Claus chats with young visitors at his house in Skypark at Santa's Village. The site had become a ghost town, closed for nearly two decades before extension renovations followed by a grand re-opening in 2016.

Evolving romance adds parenthood

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing the same man for a year and a half. In the beginning, we were, basically, friends with benefits, and we were OK with that. Having both gone through recent breakups or divorce, neither of us wanted anything serious. However, after six months passed, I started falling for him. He always made clear that if he didn't want to go down that road, we would break ties, but the way he acted indicated that maybe one day there would be more.

After eight months, we found out I was two months pregnant. Our baby changed how we both felt about a relationship, but we had things we needed to work through before going down that road. I started therapy — not for him, but because I knew I needed it for myself and, ultimately, our daughter.

We moved in together five months ago. Being together with our daughter has been wonderful. It has made me fall even more in love with him. When I recently told him I want to officially be his lady, he said there are still a few things he wants me to work on — not personality changes, but things like the fact that I'm pushy. I recognize I can be that way, and impatient too,

Dear Abby



but I feel I wouldn't be so pushy if he gave me more definitive answers. What do you think about this? — READY FOR A REAL RELATIONSHIP

DEAR READY: I applaud you for seeing a therapist to work through your issues. Now I think the time has come for you and this man to seek couples counseling to determine whether you can iron out your differences. I am not sure whether you two were really on the same page from the beginning of this relationship. Counseling should help you decide how to move forward now that there is a child involved, because you WILL be co-parenting for a long time, regardless of the direction your relationship takes.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I own a parrot we take with us

pretty much everywhere. He draws a lot of attention and questions from strangers, which I'm usually happy to answer.

You might be surprised at how many people own or have owned birds, and many of them love to share their stories about how their parrot or parakeet died. (It's often from neglect or improper care or breeding.) These stories are often related in a jovial way, as if they should be amusing or relatable. It really upsets me to have to stand there nodding with fake amusement or sympathy. I am tempted to say something snarky, but I refrain.

I love birds, and I don't like being reminded how disposable they are treated. People don't tend to share graphic stories about dead dogs, cats or children in public. It makes me sad to hear about their dead birds every time I go outside to enrich my own pet's life. What can I say to stop this unwanted and depressing storytelling before it gets started? — BIRD LOVER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR BIRD LOVER: Try being honest and telling these people that hearing about their experience makes you sad, and why. That should shut 'em up.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bank-

ruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical

Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30

p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

Tuesday

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

STIPP'S
PRESSURE WASHING

Experienced Washing Hog Barns
Call Jacob at 419-953-8604

Even our Adjustable Bed has a Flippable Mattress

Affordable priced everyday!

Made in Muncie for over 70 years

Holder Bedding

1815 N Granville Ave, Muncie
Open M-F 9:00a-5:30p;
Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p

www.holderbedding.net

765-747-8103

Brides

Our brides special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

full-page color - \$625
full-page B&W - \$525
1/2-page color - \$425
1/2-page B&W - \$325
1/4-page color - \$275
1/4-page B&W - \$225

Big business card (3x3.5) - \$100
Business card (2x2) - \$52

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

Deadline for ads is January 17

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Diversity varies from place to place

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Here we are, the end of 2023, and you're expecting something profound, spiritual or uplifting. Sorry.

This week we're going to take a look at the reality of the 2018-22 racial distribution within and among the states comprising "the home of the brave and the land of the free."

Normally, the Census Bureau publishes data on the Hispanic or Latino population separately from data on race (white, Black, Asian, etc.). This is warranted because Hispanics can be of any race.

Yet Hispanics in the United States are thought of and treated as if they were an undifferentiated entity. We do the same disserv-

Eye on the Pie



ice to Asians, Blacks, whites or your favorite racial group.

Here we'll consider the data for each of eight groups: The U.S. population was Hispanic (of any race) 18.7%, Not-Hispanic (NH) White 58.9%, NH Black or African American 12.1%, NH American Indian & Alaska Native 0.6%, NH Asian 5.7%, NH Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.2%, NH Some Other

Race (includes declined to respond) 0.4%, and finally, NH Two or More Races 3.5%.

What state comes closest to being the "All-American State" with the closest match to that national configuration? No, not Indiana. Hoosiers are 18.4 percentage points away from looking just like the nation. We're sandwiched in 24th place between Nebraska and Ohio in that beauty contest.

The winner of the American look-alike contest is Illinois, just 2.4 percentage points off-the-mark. Connecticut and New York states get to ride in the convertible attending the most conforming Illinois. Hawaii, however, is way behind the parade, off by 56.5 percentage points.

Nonetheless, Hawaii takes home the gold medal for "Most Diverse State," capturing first place in NH Asians with 36.5% of residents in that group, 19.6% tops in percent of population of NH Two or More Races, and easily winning first place in the NH Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander category with 9.7%.

Maine is tops with 91.4% of its population reporting as White. If the District of Columbia were a state, it would be the most Black state at 43.5%, but Mississippi wins for now with 37.1% of its population so identifying. American Indian and Alaska Native honors go to Alaska at 13.9%.

That broad range of dominance in three of the eight groups earned Hawaii a score of 87.2 on

our diversity index. (One hundred would be a case of perfect balance among groups while zero signifies only a single group is present.)

Indiana comes out 34th in diversity (a score of 44.3), ahead of Maine and Vermont, the least diverse states in the nation (scores of 18.5).

What benefits are known to exist (rather than be hypothesized) because of population diversity? Is there value, if diversity does not provide differentiation? After all, white bread is just white bread unless it has differences of texture and taste.

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

Blinken gets it exactly right

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

In this space we do the talking, about what the Daily News deems important and worthy. But today we are giving a good chunk of our space to Secretary of State Tony Blinken. America's top diplomat gave his year-end press conference Wednesday before he left for another trip to the Mideast for the Israel-Hamas war that the terror gang launched from Gaza on Oct. 7.

Meanwhile, here on the East Side, the United Nations Security Council postponed yet again a vote on an United Arab Emirates-drafted resolution calling for a pause in the fighting to bring in aid to Gaza and allow for the hostages kidnapped by Hamas to be released.

The Monday vote became the Tuesday vote became the Wednesday vote and is now the Thursday vote because the U.S. is rightly insisting that Hamas be named as instigators of this awful war that has killed Israelis and Palestinians. Great credit to Blinken and President Joe Biden for demanding that the Security Council must call a terrorist a terrorist.

Here is Blinken: "We've talked about Israel and Gaza. Let me just say this. We believe that, as we've said from the outset, Israel has not only a right but an obligation to defend itself and to try to make sure that Oct. 7 never happens again. Any other country in the world faced with what Israel suffered on Oct. 7 would do the same thing."

"We've also said — and we've been very clear — that how Israel does it matters and matters tremendously. And there, too, we've been very deeply engaged with them to maximize protections for civilians, to maximize humanitarian assistance, to minimize harm to people in Gaza."

"One of the things that's striking to me is that, understandably, everyone would like to see this conflict end as quickly as possible, but if it ends with Hamas remaining in place and having the capacity and the stated intent to repeat Oct. 7 again and again and again, that's not in the interests of Israel, it's not in the interests of

Guest Editorial

I hear virtually no one saying — demanding of Hamas that it stop hiding behind civilians, that it lay down its arms, that it surrender.

the region, it's not in the interests of the world.

"And what is striking to me is that even as, again, we hear many countries urging the end to this conflict, which we would all like to see, I hear virtually no one saying — demanding of Hamas that it stop hiding behind civilians, that it lay down its arms, that it surrender. This is over tomorrow if Hamas does that."

"This would have been over a month ago, six weeks ago, if Hamas had done that. And how could it — how can it be that there are no demands made of the aggressor and only demands made of the victim?"

"So it would be good if there was a strong international voice pressing Hamas to do what's necessary to end this. And again, that could be tomorrow."

"And again, I come back to this basic proposition. There seems to be silence on what Hamas could do, should do, must do if we want to end the suffering of innocent men, women, and children. It would be, I think, good if the world could unite around that proposition as well."

Well said, Mr. Secretary.



Take notice of chickadees

By BENJAMIN SONNENBERG
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

I am pelted by wet snow as I climb above 8,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada of eastern California, tugging a sled loaded with batteries, bolts, wire and 40 pounds of sunflower seeds critical to our mountain chickadee research.

At the research site, I duck under a tarp and open a laptop to program "smart" bird feeders for an upcoming experiment with fellow behavioral ecologist Vladimir Pravosudov.

I have spent the past six years monitoring a population of mountain chickadees here, tracking their life cycles and, importantly, their memory, in a system Pravosudov established in 2013. The consistent record from this site has provided us with a unique window to observe how chickadees survive in extreme winter snowfall and to identify ecological patterns and changes.

In recent history, intense winters are often followed by drought years here in the Sierra Nevada and in much of the U.S. West. This pattern has been identified as one of the unexpected symptoms of climate change, and its impact on the chickadees is providing an early warning of the disruptions ahead within these coniferous forest ecosystems.

As my legs get colder and wetter in the mountain snow, a charming and chipper "DEE DEE DEE" chimes down from a nearby tree. How is it that a bird weighing barely more than a few sheets of paper is more comfortable in this storm than I am?

The answer comes down to the chickadees' incredible spatial cognitive abilities.

Cognition is how animals acquire, process, store and act on information from their environment. It is critical to many species but often subtle and difficult to measure in nonhuman animals.

Chickadees are food-storing specialists that hide tens of thousands of individual food items throughout the forest under edges of tree bark, or even between pine needles, each fall. To survive, they use their specialized

Guest Opinion

spatial memory to retrieve those food caches in the harsh winter months.

We measure the spatial memory of chickadees by hanging a circular array of eight feeders equipped with radio-frequency identification and filled with seed in several locations across our field site. Birds are tagged with transponder tags in leg bands that contain individual identification numbers and allow them to open the doors of their assigned feeders to get a food reward — if they remember which feeder is theirs.

Over eight years, our findings demonstrate that chickadees with better spatial memory ability are more likely to survive in the high mountains than those with worse memories.

However, chickadees may be facing increasing challenges that will shape their future in the mountains. In 2017, a year with record-breaking snow levels, adult chickadees showed the lowest probability of survival ever measured at our site. This exceptionally extreme winter made it difficult for even the memory-savvy chickadees to forage and survive.

Nevertheless, triumphant populations have persisted in high-elevation mountain environments, but their future is becoming uncertain.

The Sierra Nevada and other mountain ranges in western North America have been experiencing "weather whiplash" — more extreme snow years and drought years, amplified by climate change. In 2023's record winter, over 17 feet of snow covered the landscape that our chickadees were using every day. The intense storms and cold temperatures not only made it difficult for birds to survive the winter; they made it almost impossible for the chickadees to breed the next summer: 46%

of nests at our higher elevation site failed to produce any offspring.

Even in years of tremendous snowfall, chickadees can still use their finely honed spatial memories to recover food. However, severe storms can shorten their survival odds. And if they do survive the winter, their nesting sites — tree cavities — may be buried under feet of snow in the spring.

It doesn't matter how smart you are if you can't reach your nest.

Extreme snow oscillations also affect insects that are critical for feeding chickadee chicks. Limited resources lead to smaller chickadee offspring that are less likely to survive high in the mountains.

Snow cover is good for overwintering insects in most cases, as it provides an insulating blanket that saves them from dying during those freezing months. However, if the snow persists too long into the summer, insects can run out of energy and die before they can emerge, or they emerge after chickadees really need them. Drought years also can drive insect population decline.

These compounded effects mean that in some years chickadees simply don't successfully nest at all. This leads to a decline in chickadee populations in years with worse whiplash — drought followed by high snow on repeat — especially at high elevations. This is especially concerning, as many mountain-dwelling avian species are forecasted to move up in elevation to escape warming temperatures, which may turn out to be hazardous.

Chickadees may be portrayed as radiating tranquil beauty on holiday cards, but realistically, these loud, round ruffians are tough survivors of harsh winter environments in northern latitudes. When the symptoms of climate change reach such extremes that they can't make it, we should all take notice.

Sonnenberg is a Ph.D. candidate in ecology, evolution and conservation biology at University of Nevada, Reno.

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus



The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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.

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher
TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair
BRIAN DODD
Production manager

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
— Thomas Jefferson

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$11; 13 weeks — \$36; six months — \$68; one year — \$122.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$44; six months — \$74; one year — \$140.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

VOLUME 150—NUMBER 155
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

www.thecr.com

This Area Church page is made possible through the courtesy of the following sponsors!



Great Food, No Bull!
1204 W. Votaw Portland
(260) 726-9647



Portland Insurance
Insurance made simple
(260) 726-9345
115 E. Main St. Portland, IN
www.portins.com



Praise & Worship

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home

The Teeter Family

221 N. Meridian St
Portland, IN 47371
(260) 726-7171




Williams Auto Parts
Used Auto and Truck Parts
www.williamsautopartsinc.com

1127 S. Detroit Ave.
Portland, IN 47371
(260) 726-8001

All inventory online



Matt's Garage

205 W. Union St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-8761
Call us today!



Swiss Village, Inc.

Independent Duplex Homes
Independent Living Apartments
Residential & Assisted Living
Short Term Rehabilitation
Healthcare & Dementia Care
Therapy Services
www.swissvillage.org

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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

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

Banner Christian Assembly of God
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Michael Burk
(260) 726-4282
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church of Christ (Southside)
1209 S. Shank St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. 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.

This Area Church page is made possible through the courtesy of the following sponsors!

Williamson, Spencer & Penrod Funeral Homes, Inc.
Todd & Rob Penrod
"Serving As We Would Be Served"
From 2 Convenient Locations
PORTLAND (260) 726-7111
PENNVILLE (260) 731-8811



pak-a-sak
We're your Convenience Store and a whole lot more!

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

Behind every project is a **True Value**.
Portland True Value
Shop Local
Save Time • Save Money
(260) 726-6263
1100 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN

Arm's Auto Body
260.726.7343
Mike Blowers, Owner
801 N. Wayne Street - Portland, IN
Quality Work Since 1969
All Makes & Models
All Insurance Companies



Hours: M-F 8 to 5



Praise & Worship

MAY FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
LIFE • HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
MEDICARE
SUPPLEMENTS
ANNUITIES
JEFF HALL
your hometown agent
for over 30 years
(260) 729-5200
jeff@mayfg.com
111 W. Main Street • Portland, IN



R. DAVIS & SONS
CONCRETE • EXCAVATING
Complete Septic Systems
Backhoe • Dozer
Hauling • Trenching
Drain Cleaning
3042 West 400 North,
Portland
p 260.726.2230

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

ARE YOU CARRYING ANY FOOD, PLANTS OR DANGEROUS IDEAS ABOUT A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

12-28
©2023 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"How do you pronounce this word: RSVP?"

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Do something!

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K 7
♥ 9 2
♦ J 10 9
♣ J 9 7 6 3

WEST
♠ J 10 4
♥ K 10 8 5 3
♦ 7 6 5
♣ 5 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ Q J 6
♦ A 4 2
♣ Q 10 8

SOUTH
♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ A K 4

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — five of hearts.

In many hands, the best approach for the defenders is simply to stand pat and do nothing that might give declarer a trick he is not entitled to. This is called passive defense.

In other hands, the defenders cannot afford to bid their hand, since doing so will ultimately allow declarer to make the contract. In these cases, the defense must attack, even though there may be no absolute certainty of success.

Let's say you're West, defending against three notrump. You lead a

heart to East's jack, which declarer ducks, and East continues with the queen, which South ducks again.

At this point, you should overtake the queen with the king, not just because you have the K-10-8-3 and can afford to, but because it would be futile to allow partner to win and play still another heart. You know you have no entry card to your hearts and that it can't help your side to drive out the ace by continuing the suit.

Instead, you shift to the jack of spades at trick three. This play can't do any harm and might do some good. True, your partner is unlikely to have the queen, considering South's opening notrump bid, but it is certainly possible. The bottom line is that a spade shift offers more promise than a heart continuation.

As it happens, you hit pay dirt. Declarer wins and plays the A-K of clubs, hoping the queen will fall. When it doesn't, he leads another club. East wins with the queen and returns a low spade, and declarer ends up with only seven tricks, losing two hearts, two spades, a club and a diamond.

With a thoughtful heart continuation by East or West at trick three, however, South would make three notrump.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

12-28 CRYPTOQUIP

FCFBY ZP X FNMY JYJCKXFYJ
FZ FEY JYBCIEFO ZP JYBCKCZNO
JYOOYWF PWZOFMIO: "ZP
FEYY CKCMI."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I LIKE HAVING MY FIVE DISPLAYED FLOWER CONTAINERS TILT SOMEWHAT. I CAN'T KEEP A STRAIGHT VASE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 L.A. Sparks org.
5 "Unh-unh"
8 Tennis great Arthur
12 — Grey tea
13 Vitamin stat
14 Raced
15 With (Fr.)
16 Crew tool
17 Old salts
18 Snappy reply
20 "Phooey!"
22 Many a resort patron
26 Fibber's admission
29 Texter's chuckle
30 — de-France
31 Operates
32 Agent
33 Getting — years
34 PC key
35 Standard
36 Sound of Washington
37 One conducting an interview

40 Early TVs
41 Montezuma's people
45 Costa — great
47 "As I see it," in a text
49 "Garfield" dog
50 Fan fave
51 "Platoon" locale
52 Merlot or Chianti
53 — Bear subj.
54 "Nova" Must have

3 Author Harte
4 Niches
5 Campus org. for future ensigns
6 Oklahoma city
7 Convertible alter-native
8 Houston player
19 "Awesome, dude!"
21 Have the flu

23 Bygone Olds
24 Writer Wiesel
25 Land-lord's due
26 Baghdad's land
27 Hum-dinger
28 School sound system
32 Trail mix bits
33 Thornton Wilder drama
35 School org.
36 Dis-pensed candy
38 Milan's La —
39 Model Camp-bell
42 Actress Falco
43 Movie
44 Feeder filler
45 Brink
46 Gilbert and Sullivan princess
48 Buddy

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
					13			14			
15				16				17			
18			19		20	21					
		22			23				24	25	
26	27	28			29				30		
31				32					33		
34				35				36			
37				38			39				
	40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49		
50					51				52		
53					54				55		

Little JJ's Tree Service
Tree Trimming, Removal,
Stump Grinding,
Firewood available
765-509-1956

GABBARD FENCE
FARM • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL • VINYL
"SINCE 1969"
rgfence@yahoo.com
(765) 546-8801

Bricker's Flowers & More
414 N. Meridian St. Portland
Call or text to order 260-703-0304
Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday
9:30-3:00 Saturday

Wendel's
Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning
Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning
For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial
Green Seal Approved
Dave Wendel
Ph. 260-726-4520
Cell 260-729-2797

E and E Construction
Amish Crew
BARN RESTORATION
Specializing in
metal roofs, decks & more
FREE Estimates
260-301-1777

✓ **Out The CR**
Classifieds
www.thecr.com

Dave's Heating & Cooling
Furnace,
Air Conditioner
Geothermal
Sales & Service
260-726-2138
Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

BOOLMAN'S
Auto Sales & Service, Inc.
Highway 67 W,
Portland, Indiana
260-251-9735

SCHWARTZ HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC
All types of construction
✓ New Homes ✓ Garages
✓ Additions ✓ Post Frame Barns
Exterior Finishing
• Roofing
• Siding
• Windows
• Doors
Leave Message
260-301-1805

BAIL BONDS
Travis Weaver
260-726-3189
across street from Jail

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD
in
The Commercial Review
CALL
726-8141

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS
260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
20 Word Minimum
Effective 07/01/2018:
Minimum charge....
\$12.40
1 insertion.....62¢/word
2 insertions.....81¢/word
3 insertions.....96¢/word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/word
12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
Includes
Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch
No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page
Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication. The deadline for Mondays paper is 12:00 p.m. Friday. Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The Jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.
"SEAMSTRESS NAN" HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

GOODHEW'S ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

AMISH CONSTRUCTION CREW Building new & remodeling. Garages, Pole Barns, Roofing, siding, windows, ect. Call 567-279-2591

90 SALE CALENDAR

47TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Saturday February 10, 2024

The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio. For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096
Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800
Machinery consigned by January 17, 2024 can be advertised

✓ **Out The CR**
Classifieds
www.thecr.com

Charity ...

Continued from page 8
“They are a sectional opponent so it’s nice to play how we did.”

Barnes finished with 11 for the Tigers with Olivia Conklin adding 10.

Schwieterman was Jay’s second leading scorer with 15. She had a strong night from the field, hitting 4-of-7 shots.

Yorktown coach Leigh Ann Barga said her team wasn’t expecting Jay County to play as much man-to-man defense, resulting in some of the offensive struggles later in the game. The Tigers scored in double digits the first two quarters, but only had two points in the third — a drive by Lilly Sylvester — and six on a pair of threes in the fourth quarter.

“For the most part, they always play that 1-2-2, so we really worked on that,” Barga said. “I told them the only way to get them out of it is to shoot it. We did that, but when they did go man-to-man, we didn’t drive and kick it out like we should, and we didn’t hit the shot if we did.”

“We played hard but we just couldn’t score in the second half.”

Junior varsity

The Patriots edged out a 3-point victory against Yorktown in three-quarter game 22-19.

Jay County (5-7) had a strong second period where it outscored the Tigers 10-5 to take control of the lead. Raylah Newton had four of her game-high 10 points in the quarter, while Alexis Sibray had four of her seven and Allie McAbee hit her only shot.

Bella Chapman was Yorktown’s leading scorer with five points, while Conklin and Mabrey Wood both had four.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County freshman Hallie Schwieterman lifts off to put in a layup during the Patriots’ 49-37 win against Yorktown on Tuesday. Schwieterman dropped 15 points in the victory, only one behind the game-high 16 by Sophie Saxman.

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Yorktown Tigers

Girls varsity summary

Yorktown (8-6)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Barnes	4-13	0-4	11	
Reece	0-1	0-0	0	
Hazen	1-3	0-0	2	
Conklin	4-7	0-0	10	
Herron	0-1	0-0	0	
Sylvester	3-8	0-0	8	
Fields	2-4	0-0	4	
Garrett	1-1	0-0	2	
Hargreaves	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	15-38	0-4	37	
	.395	.000		
Def. rebound percentage:	.533			

Jay County (12-2)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Muhlenkamp	0-3	0-0	0	
Saxman	3-5	10-12	16	
Schwtrmn	4-7	6-10	15	
MDirksen	2-3	0-0	6	
Denton	4-7	0-0	8	
BDirksen	1-3	0-2	2	
May	1-2	X-X	2	
Totals	15-30	16-24	49	
	.500	.667		
Def. rebound percentage:	.957			

Score by quarters:
Yorktown 15 14 2 6 — 37
Jay Co. 12 19 10 8 — 49

3-point shooting: Yorktown 7-16 (Barnes 3-7, Sylvester 2-3, Conklin 2-4, Herron 0-1, Fields 0-1). Jay County 3-6 (MDirksen 2-3, Schwieterman 1-2, May 0-1).

Rebounds: Yorktown 11 (Fields 3, Team 3, Sylvester 2, Garrett 2, Barnes). Jay County 31 (Saxman 10, Muhlenkamp 6, Schwieterman 5, Denton 3, BDirksen 3, May 2, Team 2).

Assists: Yorktown 11 (Barnes 3, Conklin 3, Reece 2, Hazen, Herron, Garrett). Jay County 9 (Saxman 4, Muhlenkamp 2, Schwieterman, Denton, BDirksen).

Blocks: Yorktown 2 (Hazen, Sylvester). Jay County 3 (Schwieterman 3).

Personal fouls: Yorktown 20 (Garrett 5, Sylvester 4, Conklin 3, Barnes 2, Reece 2, Fields 2, Hazen, Herron). Jay County 9 (BDirksen 4, Muhlenkamp 2, Schwieterman, Denton, May).

Turnovers: Yorktown 10. Jay County 13.

Record ...

Continued from page 8
Ivey found other ways to be effective, specifically defensively. He played the passing lanes well and provided the helpside defense the Pistons needed, finishing with three steals and one block.

It was a quiet first half for Cade Cunningham, as Brooklyn’s defense prevented him from getting any easy buckets. He only had four points in the second half, but exploded for 18 points in the third quarter, shooting 6-for-7 from the field. Cunningham finished with 41 points, nine rebounds, and five assists. The Pistons also received some help from veteran three-point specialist Alec

Burks, who added 15 points off Detroit’s second unit.

Unfortunately for Detroit, Brooklyn’s Cam Thomas was not to be denied. The Nets’ leading scorer finished with 17 points. Cam Johnson led Brooklyn in scoring with 24 points. Mikal Bridges, who scored 29 points against the Pistons on Saturday, had a quiet night as he only had nine points through the first three quarters. He still managed to finish with 21 points.

If the Pistons are unable to win one of their next two games, they will have gone two full months without a single win, losing all games in November and December.

Tops ...

Continued from page 8

The Gophers (6-7) were playing in the game because they had the top Academic Progress Rating score of the five-win teams in FBS, and there was one bowl spot to fill.

“Academics got us eligible,” Fleck said. “... We’re not going to apologize for that.”

Taylor, the former Walled Lake (Mich.) Western High School star, had career highs of 35 carries and 208 yards with a touchdown, setting the tone for a Gophers ground game that amassed 255 yards on 44 attempts in front of an announced crowd of 28,521. He was named the game’s Most Valuable Player.

“It was a great opportunity to just play with my guys again,” said Taylor, who missed the previous five games because of a leg injury. “So, I was willing to do whatever it took to win this game.”

While Taylor set the physical tone, Kramer was solid at the right times. Though his passing stats — 8-for-16 for 26 yards — don’t scream quantity, he threw two touchdown passes and did not make catastrophic mistakes. He also played despite a shin injury.

Kramer originally was done with football on Nov. 25, but when starter Athan Kaliakmanis and third-stringer Drew Viotto entered the transfer portal, the Gophers would have been left with only true freshman walk-on Max Shikenjanski at quarterback.

Soon, Kramer told his fiancée, Katie Miller, that he had one more game to play before their February wedding.

“You talk about being a great husband and a great father,” Fleck said. “One day, he’s gonna be an exceptional one because he’s willing to put his own needs aside for somebody else’s, and it happened to be our team.”

Bowling Green (7-6) took a 7-0 lead on its first drive as quarterback Connor Bazalak (21-for-36, 221 yards, one TD) found wide-open receiver Odieu Hiliare for a 46-yard TD pass on the game’s third play from scrimmage.

The Gophers cut it to 7-6 with 5:56 left in the first on Kramer’s 4-yard TD pass to Elijah Spencer. That capped a 13-play, 75-yard drive in which Taylor had 10 touches for 54 yards.

Minnesota attempted a two-point conversion after that TD, with kicker Dragan Kesich rolling to his left and looking for tight end Nick Kallerup in the end zone. Kesich faked the pass and lunged toward the end zone but came up just short.

The Taylor and Kramer Show took over in the third quarter when the Gophers built a 23-10 lead. First, Kramer scored on a 1-yard sneak. Then the QB, after lining up with a “Brotherly Shove” look, ran a play-action pass on third-and-2 from the Bowling Green 7, connecting with tight end Jameson Geers for a TD with 4:18 left in the quarter.

All the while, Taylor racked up 82 yards on 14 carries in the quarter, keeping the chains moving.

“We planned all week to just run the ball and be physical,” Taylor said. “I just knew it would happen eventually.”

Bowling Green got within 23-17 with 11:10 to play, before Taylor answered with a 17-yard TD run out of the Wildcat formation with 8:03 remaining. The Falcons scored again with 2:33 left, but couldn’t recover the onside kick, ending the game.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball at Pendleton Heights — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Monroe Central — 8:30 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Swim at Holiday Swim Meet at Lima YMCA — 10 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 7:30 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 1 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 9:30 a.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Marion Local — 9:30 a.m.

TV sports

Today
11 a.m. — College football Wasabi Fenway Bowl: SMU vs. Boston College (ESPN)
2:15 p.m. — College football Bad Boy

Mowers Pinstripe Bowl: Rutgers vs. Miami (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)

5:45 p.m. — College football Pop Tarts Bowl: N.C. State vs. Kansas State (ESPN)

7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Coppin State at Maryland (FS1)
8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Chicago Bulls (Bally Indiana)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: New York Jets at Cleveland Browns (FOX)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: USC at Oregon (ESPN2)

9:15 p.m. — College football Valero Alamo Bowl: Arizona vs. Oklahoma (ESPN)

Friday
12 p.m. — College football Taxslayer Gator Bowl: Clemson vs. Kentucky (ESPN)

2 p.m. — College football Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl: Oregon State vs. Notre Dame (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — College football Autozone Liberty Bowl: Memphis vs. Iowa State (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Easter Kentucky at Purdue (BTN)

8 p.m. — College football Goodyear Cotton Bowl: Missouri vs. Ohio State (ESPN)

9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Fairleigh Dickinson at Illinois (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: San Diego State at Gonzaga (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona State at Stanford (ESPN2)

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.

The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days.

To sign up or for more information on the league, visit www.aloo0247.com, call (205) 264-1468 or email 411@aloo0247.com.

To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@theocr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

LIVE/SIMULCAST AUCTION
New Year’s Day Extravaganza
Monday, January 1st, 10:00am
Located: Bricker Auction Gallery
414 N Meridian St., Portland, IN
2 RINGS
RING 1
Antiques, Primitives, Silver Certificates, Vintage Toys, Cast Iron, Furniture, Appliances, Coca-Cola items, costume jewelry, musical instruments.

RING 2
2023 Bad Boy Tractors w/loaders, 2018 Polaris side by side, 2019 Triumph Several firearms, new Home Depot items, pedal tractors, vintage games, and more!

90 SALE CALENDAR

Properties will sell at 12 pm
1st property 1664 w 900 S Ridgeville, IN 1280 sqft home.
2nd property 616 W Race St. 1830 sqft home.
Call for preview of homes.
Auction preview December 29th from 3 to 5pm
Go to bidbricker.com to bid
Bricker Auction Company
Cell: 260-703-0839
Tel: 260-251-4445
Chad Bricker-Auctioneer
AU11600027 260-703-1100

100 JOBS WANTED

AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

110 HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Part Time-15 hours per week Monday-Friday. 9 Hours per week in the summer Monday/Wednesday/Friday. If interested call 260-726-5751

130 MISC. FOR SALE

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

ALUMINUM SHEETS

23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

190 FARMERS COLUMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

WANTED FARMLAND TO RENT 4th Generation Geneva farmers looking for farmland to cash rent near Geneva/Bryant/Berne. You decide payment dates. Don’t wait, last year we filled up. Call Steve at (419) 376-4456

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major

200 FOR RENT

highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT 712 N Main, Dunkirk. Stove/refrigerator furnished. Total electric. \$450 plus deposit. 765-748-2379.

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum’s Salvage

READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

— Our E-MAIL Addresses Are—

NEWS - news@theocr.com
SPORTS - sports@theocr.com
CLASSIFIEDS - classifieds@theocr.com
ADVERTISING - ads@theocr.com
COMMERCIAL PRINTING - print@theocr.com
BUSINESS - business@theocr.com
DELIVERY - delivery@theocr.com

Website: www.theocr.com

Charity work

Saxman knocks down 10 of Jay County's 16 free throws in 12-point victory

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Sophie Saxman struggled mightily from the free throw line in the 2022-23 season.

Those in attendance for her most recent performance never would have guessed that.

Saxman nailed 10-of-12 free throws (83.3%) for the Jay County High School girls basketball team as it took out its sectional rival, the Yorktown Tigers, 49-37 Tuesday.

"I'm just very pleased with our effort," Patriots coach Sherri McIntire said. "We had a lot of kids step up and play well. ... They didn't seem to get shook at all by being down there for a little bit."

Last season, Saxman shot 31-for-98 from the charity stripe (31.6%). This season, she improved that clip by 28.1 percentage points while shooting 43-for-72 (59.7%).

Time and time again Tuesday, the JCHS senior found ways to get to the line, including a post move on which she was hacked, an offensive rebound off of a free throw miss by Hallie Schwieterman, a couple of drives and a handful of bonus free throws. In the second quarter, Saxman hit all eight foul shots. She didn't miss one until early in the fourth quarter.

Ten of Saxman's game-high 16 points came from the charity stripe to wrap

up the performance that displayed tangible improvement from the struggles of 2022-23.

"I was just in my head so much last year because I just kept missing and it kept building up," Saxman said. "I give credit to (assistant coach) Andy Wellman, (assistant coach) Marc Bogenschutz) and my dad because every time they give me something to think about, I'm not like overthinking in my head. They've helped a lot."

She had a double-double with team highs in rebounds (10) and assists (four) as well.

Saxman's efforts didn't only pay off for herself. Her constantly drawing fouls helped other players get to the line through the bonus in both the second and fourth quarters. Twelve of Jay County's 19 second-quarter points came from the foul line.

On the night, Jay County (12-2) went 16-for-24 (66.7%) from the line, with Schwieterman hitting the other six shots.

Another key turning point in the second quarter was the Patriots' switch from their 1-2-2 zone defense to a man-to-man. Yorktown had hit five 3-point shots in the first half before McIntire had her team matchup with the Tigers with two minutes remaining.

Immediately, it created a pair of turnovers, and



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Bella Denton of Jay County High School lays up the ball over Yorktown's Oliva Conklin on Tuesday night. Denton was Jay County's second leading scorer with eight points in the 49-37 win.

held Yorktown quiet from distance as defenders didn't have as far to close out on skip passes. The only other basket of the half for Yorktown came on an

out-of-bounds play in which Alexis Fields caught a lob from Addy Barnes near the hoop and laid it up.

McIntire said she felt

the switch also helped swing the momentum in the Patriots' favor, prompting her to stick with the defense.

Along with slowing

down the Tigers from 3-point range, the switch to man matched up Breanna Dirksen with Barnes, Yorktown's second-leading scorer at 8.4 points per game, and also the focal point of the offense to that point in the game hitting a pair of threes and a two-point pull-up.

After the switch to man, Dirksen only allowed one more shot to fall for Barnes as she shot 1-for-6 from the field in the second half.

"Breanna Dirksen is just a really good defender, and part of her being such a good defender is she just plays with so much heart," McIntire said. "She just doesn't have any quit in her and she's our best defender because of that. She's going to come out and play hard even when she's dog tired."

Along with the strong defensive performance, Dirksen, along with Schwieterman, played a strong second half by taking care of the ball.

After committing seven first-quarter turnovers, the Patriots slowed down the pace. They committed just six turnovers the rest of the way.

"I think we just calmed down," Dirksen said. "In the beginning we came out a little shaky and our offense wasn't working very well and then we started feeling more comfortable in the second half."

See **Charity** page 7



WELDING & STEEL

Fort Recovery, Ohio

3234 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery, OH 45846

419-375-4087 • Fax 419-375-2466

Email: vores@bright.net

Vores Welding & Steel, Inc. is celebrating over 35 years of specialized needs of industrial and commercial clients along with our staff who has over 150 years of combined experience. We Will continue to serve the highest quality standards to fit your needs.

Have a specific question on capabilities?

Call us...We look forward to doing business with you!

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Fabrication (Steel, Aluminum, Stainless Steel) Repairs
- OSHA Guarding
- Storage Bins & Hoppers
- Automotive & Commercial Material
- Handling Racks & Containers
- Weldments
- Short & Long Production Runs

CAPABILITIES:

- On-Site Service
- Press Brake
- Punch Press
- Milling
- CNC Plasma Cutting Service
- Welding-MIG, TIG Spot Shearing
- Production & Sub Assembly
- Steel Sales
- Powder Coating & Galvanizing



Minnesota tops BGSU

By **RANDY JOHNSON**
Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

DETROIT — Darius Taylor was back in his hometown of Detroit, the true freshman running back putting on a show for roughly 100 family members and friends for whom he had to secure tickets.

Cole Kramer was making his one and only collegiate start, the former Eden Prairie prep star coming back for one last game before he moves to Arizona, gets married and embarks on his post-football life.

Together, Taylor and Kramer put their stamp on the Gophers' 30-24 victory over Bowling Green in the Quick Lane Bowl on Tuesday afternoon at Ford

Field. One player gave a glimpse of what Minnesota has in the future, and the other played the role of the quarterback who saved Christmas for the Gophers.

"Just proud of our football team for the resolve and their stick-to-it-iveness to get us to where we are," Gophers coach P.J. Fleck said. "It was good enough to be 1-0 tonight."

Thanks in large part to Taylor and from a big supporting role from Kramer, the Gophers became the first three-time winner of the Quick Lane Bowl, ran their bowl winning streak to seven games and stayed unbeaten in five bowl games under Fleck.

See **Tops** page 7

Pistons set new losing record

By **KORY WOODS**
mlive.com
Tribune News Service

DETROIT — Sound levels in Little Caesars Arena hit 95 decibels and above, as a raucous Detroit Pistons fan base were in attendance to witness either a franchise record losing streak snapped or a horrendous NBA history. Unfortunately for them, the latter happened as the Pistons fell 118-112 to the Brooklyn Nets.

With Tuesday's loss, the Pistons now own the NBA's all-time single season losing streak record at 27 games. The record was previously held by the Cleveland Cavaliers (2010-11) and the Philadelphia 76ers (2013-14).

The Pistons got a big boost to their lineup as center Jalen Duren returned to action after missing the previous eight games with a lower leg injury. He was a catalyst in setting the tone for the Pistons throughout the first two quarters, as he had 10 points and 10 rebounds by halftime. Duren finished the game with 12 points, 15 rebounds, four assists and one block. Duren was not alone in getting Detroit off to a hot start as Bojan Bogdanovic scored 11 of his 23 points in the first quarter.

With Killian Hayes still sidelined with an undisclosed illness, Jaden Ivey started his fourth straight game. He didn't have a great shooting performance, as he was 3-for-12 from the floor.

See **Record** page 7

They're in Good Hands Here

- Vaccines & Preventive Care
- Illness, Injury & Surgical Care
- Flea & Heartworm Prevention
- Allergies & Nutrition



Hours:
Mon - Fri. 8-5 p.m.
call for appt on Saturday

Portland Veterinary Clinic

1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370

<http://www.portlandvet.net> • Christian Bader DVM