

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Leaders changed

Westlake names new heads for police, street departments

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Two of Portland's departments are under new leadership.

Presiding over his first Portland City Council meeting, Mayor Jeff Westlake announced Tuesday that he has made changes in leadership for the city's police and street and parks departments.

Following a comment from council member Matt Goldsworthy about reopening discussion regarding the city's trash collection ordinance, Westlake announced he has named Matt Shauver as the new superintendent of the street and parks department. (The street department handles trash pick-up.) He replaces Tom Leonhard, who had served in that role since 2018.

He added that he has named Dustin Mock as the city's new police chief, with Donnie Miller as assistant chief. They replace Steve Schlechty and Michael Brewster, respectively.

"I just believe that they have different energy," said Westlake after the meeting. "And I believe that, especially Matt Shauver, he's really gung ho. ... I can see his passion ... And that's why I chose him. ..."

"I've known Mock for years," added the mayor, who worked as a dispatcher for the police department. "He's somebody that I trust. He has a rapport with every officer ..."

Goldsworthy's comment about the trash ordinance brought up the department head discussion, with Westlake noting he had made the leadership change and asked Shauver to make sure all trash is picked up. The mayor said he plans to



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake smiles Tuesday while presiding over his first Portland City Council meeting. During the meeting, the new mayor announced that he had made changes in leadership of two city departments, naming Dustin Mock as the new police chief and Matt Shauver as the new superintendent of the street and parks department. They replace Steve Schlechty and Tom Leonhard, respectively.

pursue changes to the ordinance to indicate that change as well as reinstate spring and fall clean-up days.

During the ensuing discussion, Westlake said he wants to keep using the Toters but added that all trash should be picked up. He noted occasions like holidays or events such as family reunions when households might have extra trash that does not fit in the Toters.

Council members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Ron May and Goldsworthy agreed to add discussion of the trash ordinance to the agenda for their Jan. 15 meeting. Goldsworthy cautioned that council should be thorough in considering options, noting that other ordinances — he used the 2022 golf cart ordinance

as an example — have been rushed, resulting in problems and complaints.

Council also agreed to consider implementing an ordinance for recreational vehicles. The topic had been discussed in December as well. City attorney Wes Schemenauer said he will provide council members with the existing zoning ordinance that addresses RVs. McClung suggested looking at other municipalities for examples.

With the changes in department leadership, Leonhard was shifted to fill an open position with the city's wastewater department. He led the street department for almost six years, having been appointed by Mayor Randy Geesaman in early 2018.

Schlechty served as interim chief and chief

for about 14 months, having stepped in when former chief Mitch Sutton resigned because of health problems. He is no longer with the department, having returned as a civilian to serve as assistant chief under Sutton after retiring.

Brewster will shift back to another role within the police department.

"It was not an easy decision," said Westlake. "I'm always a guy that likes to be positive. I'm not one of these guys that like to beat another person down. Today was one of those days that I was that person. I just made those decisions to go ahead and make the change."

Other department heads who remain in place are fire chief Mike Weitzel, water superintendent Doug Jackson

and wastewater superintendent Brad Clayton.

Council members also approved on second reading a \$23.8-million bond for improvements at the city's wastewater treatment plant. The work at the plant includes the installation of a new equalization basin and wet weather pump station. Bids opened Dec. 21 ranged from \$4.57 million to \$5.73 million for the equalization basin. There were no bids for the wet weather pump station, which was estimated at a cost of \$9.3 million early last year. The work is part of the city's agreed order with Indiana Department of Environmental Management to eliminate combined sewer overflows and also calls for the construction of an oxidation ditch.

See **Changed** page 2

JCDC reviews finances, hears support

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation invited the public to a meeting to review its financial information.

Following a presentation of that information and two main questions regarding finances, the conversation shifted mostly to supportive comments for JCDC and a questioning of Jay County Commissioners' handling of the organization.

JCDC executive director Travis Richards explained that about 94% of the organization's funding comes from public sources — predominantly Jay County and the City of Portland — via economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars. He noted that the five-year EDIT plan for 2021-25 set JCDC funding from the county at \$230,000, with the understanding that it would be overfunded in the early years of that plan and that money would be held back to cover expenses in the later years.

Richards noted that JCDC is in contract negotiations with the county and that while Jay County Council approved \$140,000 for the organization — funding was reduced with the Jay County Community Development position removed — a number has not yet been included in the proposed contract. He said commissioners have asked for bank statements, balances, claims and various other information.

He reported that the organization's year-end balance of operational funds has been between \$108,000 and \$117,000 since 2021 (and projected for 2024), with additional funding set aside for projects such as Launch Jay, marketing and Make My Move. He mentioned internal and external controls, including regular financial reports presented to the board, double-signing all checks and annual audits by Bollenbacher and Associates.

See **JCDC** page 2

Focus on education

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Although Indiana lawmakers maintain the 2024 legislative session will be quicker, quieter and "noncontroversial," there's no shortage of critical — even touchy — education-related topics expected to be prioritized in the coming months.

The General Assembly's next reconvening comes amid what some state leaders have called a statewide literacy "crisis." The latest Indiana data indicates that one in five third-graders currently lacks foundational reading skills.

Policymakers said they're also increasingly concerned about high rates of absenteeism in

Legislature is planning to address literacy, absenteeism

Hoosier schools. Nearly 20% of Hoosier students were chronically absent from school last year — meaning that they missed 18 days or more — according to the Indiana State Board of Education.

GOP leadership said those issues are top priorities in 2024. A review — and possible tweaks — to last year's work-based learning legislation are also expected,

in addition to new bills targeting antisemitism on college campuses and cell phone use in K-12 classrooms.

Democrats, on the other hand, said they want to focus policy on early education — like fully funding pre-K and lowering the compulsory age for starting school to five.

See **Education** page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muñoz

Indiana Education Secretary Katie Jenner speaks at the Dentons Legislative Conference on Wednesday.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 30 and 34 degrees Tuesday.

Tonight's low will dip into the teens. Expect partly cloudy skies

Friday with a high in the upper 30s followed by a slight chance of snow in the evening.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

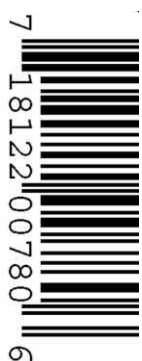
In review

Filing for the 2024 election begins Wednesday in the clerk's office at Jay County Courthouse. Offices up for election this year include two Jay County Commissioner seats, three at-large Jay County Council seats and the county clerk of courts, treasurer, coroner and surveyor positions.

Coming up

Friday — Jay School Corporation unveils new junior-senior high commons.

Saturday — Coverage of the girls wrestling semi-state tournament.



Changed ...

Continued from page 1
Also OK'd Tuesday were development agreements with Wheel & Spoke Antique Mall and Reclaiming Design. The local businesses were approved for loans from economic development income tax (EDIT) funds for roof replacement (\$188,250) and interior renovations (\$75,000), respectively. The loans are both at zero interest and zero payments for three years, followed by a five-year payback with an interest

rate at one percentage point above prime. If the businesses meet criteria for project completion, investment and other stipulations, 50% of the loan amount will be forgiven.
In other business:
•Goldsworthy suggested the city move forward soon with selecting a company to install equipment to allow for the livestreaming of meetings. (By state law, livestreaming and recording will be required

beginning July 1, 2025.) Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips asked if council members had any questions regarding quotes for the equipment. There were none. Portland Board of Works will make the final decision on awarding a contract for the equipment.
•Council approved, contingent on approval from Portland Park Board and Weitzel, a request from the Portland Rockets to have fireworks as part of May 18 opening

day festivities for their 65th season.
•McClung asked why decorative trash cans along River Road have been replaced with Toters. Westlake said he would look into it.
•May asked questions regarding the paved walking trail that has been installed along Blaine Pike. He asked about the stopping points of the trail on each end — short of Bittersweet Lane on the south and Water Street on the

north. He also asked about a concrete area at the intersection with Western Avenue. Schemenaur noted that the north end may have involved issues with crossing the railroad, which sits just south of Water Street.
•Council re-elected McClung as its president.
•Westlake welcomed new council members Hilfiker and May. They take over for Janet Powers and Don Gillespie, both of whom chose not to seek re-election.

CR almanac

Friday 1/5	Saturday 1/6	Sunday 1/7	Monday 1/8	Tuesday 1/9
37/18	37/28	38/28	40/33	45/30
Friday's forecast shows partly sunny skies with a 5 to 10 mph southern wind.	There's a 50% chance of snow. Skies will otherwise be mostly cloudy with a high of 37.	Skies will be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain and snow and a high of 38 degrees.	Expect mostly cloudy skies with a high in the low 40s.	Rain and possibly snow are likely Tuesday under cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Evening Daily Three: 8-3-6 Daily Four: 2-5-6-5 Quick Draw: 9-19-21-22-29-31-36-38-39-45-46-50-55-71-73-74-75-76-77-78
Mega Millions 3-18-27-29-64 Mega Ball: 1 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$140 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 2-0-1 Pick 4: 9-7-1-0 Pick 5: 0-1-4-6-6 Evening Pick 3: 8-6-0 Pick 4: 5-3-5-1 Pick 5: 1-1-8-0-5 Rolling Cash: 12-21-26-29-32 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 1-7-7 Daily Four: 4-9-2-9 Quick Draw: 3-5-9-14-17-24-26-36-38-39-41-42-47-48-57-58-66-68-74-77	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.53 Feb. corn.....4.56 Wheat.....5.22	Jan. beans.....12.64 Wheat.....5.62
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.56 Feb. corn.....4.54 March corn.....4.56	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.37 Feb. corn.....4.38 Beans.....12.50 Feb. beans.....12.54 Wheat.....5.51
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.51 Feb. corn.....4.51 Beans.....12.54	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.41 March corn.....4.48 Beans.....12.31 Feb. beans.....12.34 Wheat.....5.17

Today in history

In 1643, Isaac Newton was born in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, England. Newton became a pioneer in the Enlightenment period, creating the laws of gravity and inventing calculus.
In 1809, Louis Braille was born near Paris, France. He developed the writing system used today by people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired.
In 1853, Soloman Northrup legally obtained his freedom after having been kidnapped and sold into slavery, where he remained for a dozen years. He later wrote about the experience in his 1853 book, "Twelve Years a Slave."
In 1935, professional boxer Floyd Patterson was born in Waco, North Carolina. He held the world heavyweight championship twice, becoming the first person to do so.
In 2013, Jay County boys basketball team rolled to a 76-23 win against the visiting Mississinewa Indians, setting a new record for their margin of victory at 53 points. Leading the Patriots were Brock McFarland and Scott Schwieterman, who scored 24 and 21 points respectively.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
Friday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse,	6 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

JCDC ...

Continued from page 1
Following his about 20-minute presentation, former Jay County Commissioner Mike Leonhard asked "Why do they want to cut your budget? Why do they want to control your money?" in reference to current county commissioners.
Richards said he didn't have an answer to those questions.
"Why are expenses not presented to the board?" asked Jay County Commissioners president Chad Aker.
Richards responded that a financial report is presented monthly. Aker questioned why it does not include every check that is written, saying that is a "red flag."
Aker also referenced Indiana Gateway, a state website that provides access to information about how taxes and other public dollars are budgeted and spent, saying JCDC information on the site does not match what was reported to the board. After a look at the numbers Aker was referencing,

JCDC administrative assistant Jodi Hayes explained that funds for special projects appear in different places in the respective reports.
"That makes a little more sense," said Aker.
Asked later by Duane Monroe, who has announced his candidacy to run for commissioner in the south district, if he was satisfied with the explanation, Aker said the numbers still didn't quite add up but were closer. He also said he still feels all claims should be presented to the JCDC board and signed off on.
Ron Laux and Joe Johnston, two of the longest-serving JCDC board members, pointed out that financial reports are reviewed, open for questions and approved at every meeting and that the same format has been used under several executive directors.
"I think if our commissioners spent more time doing their job and less time trying to push our non-profits down and getting into fights with non-

profits that are trying to help, then you guys would be able to get a lot more done," said JCDC board member Josh Atkinson, adding that the organization has been limited because of the "continuous battle" with commissioners.
Chad Towell, another JCDC board member, echoed similar sentiments later in the meeting.
Towell also referenced numbers presented by Richards that show JCDC brought in \$16.5 million in grants over the last 10 years and helped facilitate \$218 million in capital investment and the addition of 538 new jobs. He noted that the county's contribution to JCDC over that time period was in the neighborhood of \$2 million, indicating a strong return on investment.
Darlesia Lee, a Jay County resident, asked about what JCDC does for small businesses. Richards noted the organization's work to facilitate \$924,000 in loans or grants to 62 small businesses over the last 10 years and its partnership

with Indiana Small Business Development Center.
Sharon McClung, a Portland resident, was critical of commissioner Brian McGalliard for airing issues on Facebook, referring to it as "assassination of character," and questioned commissioners on other issues.
Several times during the meeting, attendees asked, "Where is Brian?" (Aker was the only commissioner among the about 30 in the crowd, which included 14 JCDC board members.)
Jeff Bailey of FCC (Indiana) said JCDC has been an important partner for the company. Rural Jay County resident Dillon Muhlenkamp also expressed support for JCDC and its efforts, and board members Alicia Corwin of Pennville and Mark Leavell of Redkey said being involved in the organization has been key to connecting their communities to the rest of the county. Monroe noted accomplishments over the decades, including attracting companies such as FCC (Indiana) and MSSSL Wiring.

Education ...

Continued from page 1
The state's largest teachers union also wants lawmakers to reopen the state budget to send more dollars to public schools in the second year of the biennium. Republican legislative leaders seem reluctant to do so, however.
Other key agenda items for the

Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA) include better collective bargaining, increased pay for support staff, more say over curriculum, and new social and emotional learning support for students.
Republican House Speaker Todd Huston emphasized that the short session will primarily deal with

"implementation" and "fine-tuning" laws already in effect. "It's get in and get out," Huston said of the session while speaking at a legislative conference in December.
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This story has been edited for length. For the full report, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Capsule Reports

Industrial damage
A Portland woman turned into another Portland resident's truck near the Walmart parking lot about 5:52 p.m. Dec. 27.
Shauna M. Runkle, 54, Portland, told Portland police she was turning her 2018 Volkswagen Tiguan from 950 W. Votaw St. onto Industrial Drive. She didn't see the southbound 2023 Chevrolet Silverado driven by 66-year-old Richard E. Fullenkamp, causing her to crash into Fullenkamp's vehicle.
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Turning crash
A Redkey resident turned in front of oncoming traffic on Votaw Street in Portland, causing an accident about 11:22 p.m. Saturday.
Linda K. Riddlebarger, 72, Redkey, was turning her 2021 Chevrolet Traverse west from Hayes Street onto Votaw Street. She didn't notice the eastbound 2003 Honda Pilot driven by 58-year-old Fort Recovery resident Terrence L. Tebbe, who crashed into Riddlebarger's vehicle.
Tebbe complained of chest pain, according to a Portland police report. Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

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Asleep at wheel
An Upland man fell asleep at the wheel while driving along U.S. 27, causing him to hit a pole about 9:40 a.m. Tuesday.
Saxon C. Malonek, 24, was driving his 2011 Ford Escape west on the highway near county road 600 North and approaching a curve in the road. He told Jay County Sheriff's Office he fell asleep, causing him to drive off the road near Bryant and strike a pole.
His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

SERVICES

Today
Bell, Gladys: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Friday
Dietz, Lois: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday
Daugherty, Eileen: 1 p.m., Swiss Village Chapel, 1350 W. Main St., Berne.

Jan. 14
Williams, Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Essay contest underway

An essay contest opened this week.

The 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest led by the Indiana Association of High School Principals is now open for submissions.

The contest is open to students in grades six through 12. Participants are asked to write an essay based on the following King quote: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Additional details about the contest are available at iasp.org/students/mlk-jr-essay. The deadline to submit essays is Thursday, Feb. 29.

Enroll in 4-H

Enrollment is open for the upcoming 4-H year. Children in third through

Taking Note

12th grades are welcome to join 4-H. Mini 4-H is also offered to kindergartners through second graders.

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

Bee entries open

Indiana Chamber of Com-

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

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.

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 Monday.

For more information, visit indianachamber.com/civicsbee.

Silence hurts dad after divorce

DEAR ABBY: I am the father of four, two boys and two girls, ranging in age from late teens to mid-20s. I was extremely close with all of them until my divorce seven years ago. Most would say they were closer to me than to their mom.

My boys still talk to me, and we have a great relationship, but my two girls stopped talking to me. To this day, I send each of them a check for \$150 on their birthdays and on Christmas. The girls sure do cash their checks, but they never send a text or email a thank you.

My feelings border on deep hurt and anger. Should I send one last check explaining how they have hurt me and tell them goodbye, or continue sending checks, hoping they'll contact me in the future? It isn't easy for me to afford \$150 eight times a year. — DEEPLY HURT DAD IN ARIZONA

DEAR DEEPLY HURT: You have been generous with all of your children in spite of the fact it creates financial stress. Your ex may have turned the girls against you by telling them you had left THEM instead of HER at the time of your divorce.

That you have not heard from them to say, "Thanks, Dad," is a breach of manners. It isn't necessary to send them a letter telling them their shunning you has hurt you. They already know that. When the next gift-giving occasion rolls around, send your daughters a nice card acknowledging the special day and omit the checks. If you do, you may hear from them then.

DEAR ABBY: My co-worker sent "save the date" cards to everyone a year ago, and my husband and I were looking forward to attending her wedding. Apparently, she had a wedding planner or a friend send the wedding invitation itself via email closer to the wedding date. Everyone in the office received theirs, but I did not.

Dear Abby



When I found out, I privately told two other co-workers I hadn't received an invitation and that perhaps the person misspelled my name in the email, thinking they would say something to the bride or someone would follow up on the RSVP. (I didn't want to put the bride on the spot by addressing her directly.) Well, nothing happened.

Now everyone in the office is gushing with the bride about how wonderful her wedding was, and I'm afraid she may think I didn't care to attend and or even bother to RSVP. Was there a polite way to let the bride know I didn't receive an emailed wedding invitation without looking desperate or embarrassing her? Are emailed invitations the "new thing" with weddings? — ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

DEAR OUTSIDE: Some couples do send emailed wedding and shower invitations these days. A way to have handled this would have been for YOU to have been proactive and informed the bride that you had "checked your calendar" and realized that after having received her "save the date" memo, your formal invitation hadn't shown up. That way she could have told you she'd send one immediately, or that because of budgetary considerations, she would be unable to host you after all.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Will ex be an unwanted guest?

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q. I just broke up with my husband of four years. Christmas was rough, but most of my friends stood by me and made it bearable. New Year's Eve is around the corner and I have been invited to a party given by a friend who was my friend first. Her husband has become my ex's best friend and I know my ex will be there. I don't want to see him. Should I call him and tell him not go? What's good ex-etiquette?

A. The situation you describe is the most common question I am asked when it comes to attending parties. Someone has known someone for years, introduces their new partner, and that partner strikes up a friendship with the friend's partner. The couple breaks up and now the friend couple has to pick how they will navigate both sides. What adds a little more drama to your situation is that it is around the holidays, which are already riddled with emotion and tradition. Breaking up is miserable. Breaking up

Jann Blackstone



around the holidays is miserable times 100.

When friends giving a party don't want to take sides, according to good ex-etiquette, I suggest they invite both people. Then as a courtesy, the host informs them both that the other has been invited, with the addition that if they both do attend, they not disrupt the party. If they don't think they can act in a civil manner, they should not attend. You aren't in charge of the guest list. Calling someone and telling them not to attend is not your job.

I understand you probably feel a little betrayed by your friend inviting your ex, but her allegiance is not only to you, but to her husband, as well. He probably

wants to invite your ex because they are now friends. Everyone is between a rock and a hard place here. (Good Ex-etiquette rule No. 7, "Use empathy in problem solving.") So, as bad as you probably feel, I'd find something else to do this year for New Year's Eve — unless you have a guarantee your ex will not attend. However, we all know there's never a guarantee. I can think of about five movies off the top of my head where exes attend the same party.

So, if you really don't want the drama — or don't want to subject your friends to drama — don't go this year. Next year, hopefully, your life will be on a more positive trajectory. Maybe you'll even throw your own party. That's good ex-etiquette.

Blackstone is the author of "Ex-etiquette for Parents: Good Behavior After Divorce or Separation," and the founder of Bonus Families, bonusfamilies.com. Email her at the Ex-Etiquette website ex-etiquette.com at drjann@ex-etiquette.com.

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.

GRIEF SHARE — Meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays from Jan. 4 to March 28 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. Grief Share is a weekly grief support

group for those needing to find hope and healing after the death of a loved one. To register, call (260) 726-8832 or email zion-lutheranportland@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Jan. 5, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

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

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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



Brides
Special Section

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Diversity differs in our counties

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Last week, we looked at Hispanic and racial differences on a state-by-state basis.

In that process, I learned from editors to explain some simple ideas in a more simplified fashion.

Now we'll dig down into the Indiana counties.

We start with a profile of each area's population. The Indiana profile, for example, is the percentage of the population identifying as Hispanic (who can be of any race) 7.5% or Not-Hispanic (NH) 92.5%. This latter group is divided for simplicity into White 77.2%, Black 9.3%, Asian 2.5% and Other races or combinations of races 3.5%.

Profiles help us answer three questions:

1. Which counties have the

Eye on the Pie



highest/lowest percent of a specific population group and what is the rank of each county for that group?

2. Which county is most/least like the state?

3. Which county is the most/least diverse?

1. Highs and lows?
•Lake County has the highest percent of Hispanic population at 20.2%; Ohio County is lowest with a 0%.

•NH White is highest in Franklin County (96.2%) and lowest in Marion County (52.5%).

•NH Black or African American is highest in Marion County (27.9%) and lowest (0.1%) in both Franklin and Warren.

•NH Asian is greatest (8.1%) in Bartholomew County, but none reported in Martin, Parke or Switzerland.

•NH Other races are highest in Clark and Gibson counties (4.8%) while Dubois, Pike and Putnam each record only 1.2% of their populations in this diverse group.

2. Most like/unlike the state?
Here we compare the difference of Indiana's profile with the profiles of each of our 92 counties.

•The county most like the state is LaPorte with a difference of

just 2.25 percentage points. That is the portion of LaPorte County's population that would have to shift from group to group to match the state's profile. Hendricks comes in second at 4.5 percentage points, and Allen and Clark tie in third place.

•Marion and Lake are least like the state at 24.7 percentage-point and at 26.4 percentage-point differences, respectively.

3. Diversity?
Each county's profile can be converted to a diversity index, which is at 100% when perfect equality reigns, that is, when the percentages of persons in each of the five groups are identical; zero means only one group is represented in the county.

•Marion and Lake rank first and second with index values

close to 72. St. Joseph and Allen follow in the mid 50s, Tippecanoe and Elkhart in the upper 40s, and Cass, LaPorte and Bartholomew in the lower 40s.

•Franklin County at 8.5 is least diverse. Close behind are six counties (Washington, Pike, Vermillion, Greene, Owen and Dearborn) with scores of nine to 10.

Some people crave more diversity; others are threatened by it.

Today, diversity is judged mainly by gender, pigmentation and place of origin. Someday there may be more attention given to the choices we make in life rather than our conditions at birth.

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

Court faces a tough tiebreaker

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

In a ruling this week, the Michigan Supreme Court allowed Donald Trump to remain on the Republican primary ballot, rejecting the argument that the 14th Amendment's ban on holding public office for government officials who'd previously engaged in insurrection against the United States disqualified the former president.

While some of the former president's supporters will tout this as a sign of responsible jurists shooting down a politically-motivated effort to remove a legitimate candidate, that's not really what the ruling says. It barely engages with the underlying insurrection ban question, instead pointing out that this is a more relevant question for next year's general election, not the GOP primary. The justices certainly didn't hand Trump a victory on the merits of his argument that he did not trip the constitutional prohibition.

This ruling agrees with a similar one out of Minnesota, but runs counter to a Colorado Supreme Court decision that booted Trump off the ballot. The conflict between the state rulings sets this question up for a U.S. Supreme Court clarification, and while those nine have certainly shown themselves in recent years to be no more apolitical than any other branch of government, it is true that the federal arena is the proper venue for this issue. This is not a reflection of a belief that either the Michigan or Colorado high courts was correct or incorrect, but a marker of the national significance of this question.

Those who've pretended like this is an uncomplicated or cut-and-dry issue are kidding themselves. The law isn't a pure expression of moral preference, whether you think that Trump is a clear and present danger to the country whose name shouldn't so much as grace the ballot for dog catcher or a legitimate candidate whose exclusion is itself an antidemocratic hazard.

There are strong arguments to be made in either case (though not so for the loony perspective that he was in fact cheated out of his rightful second term

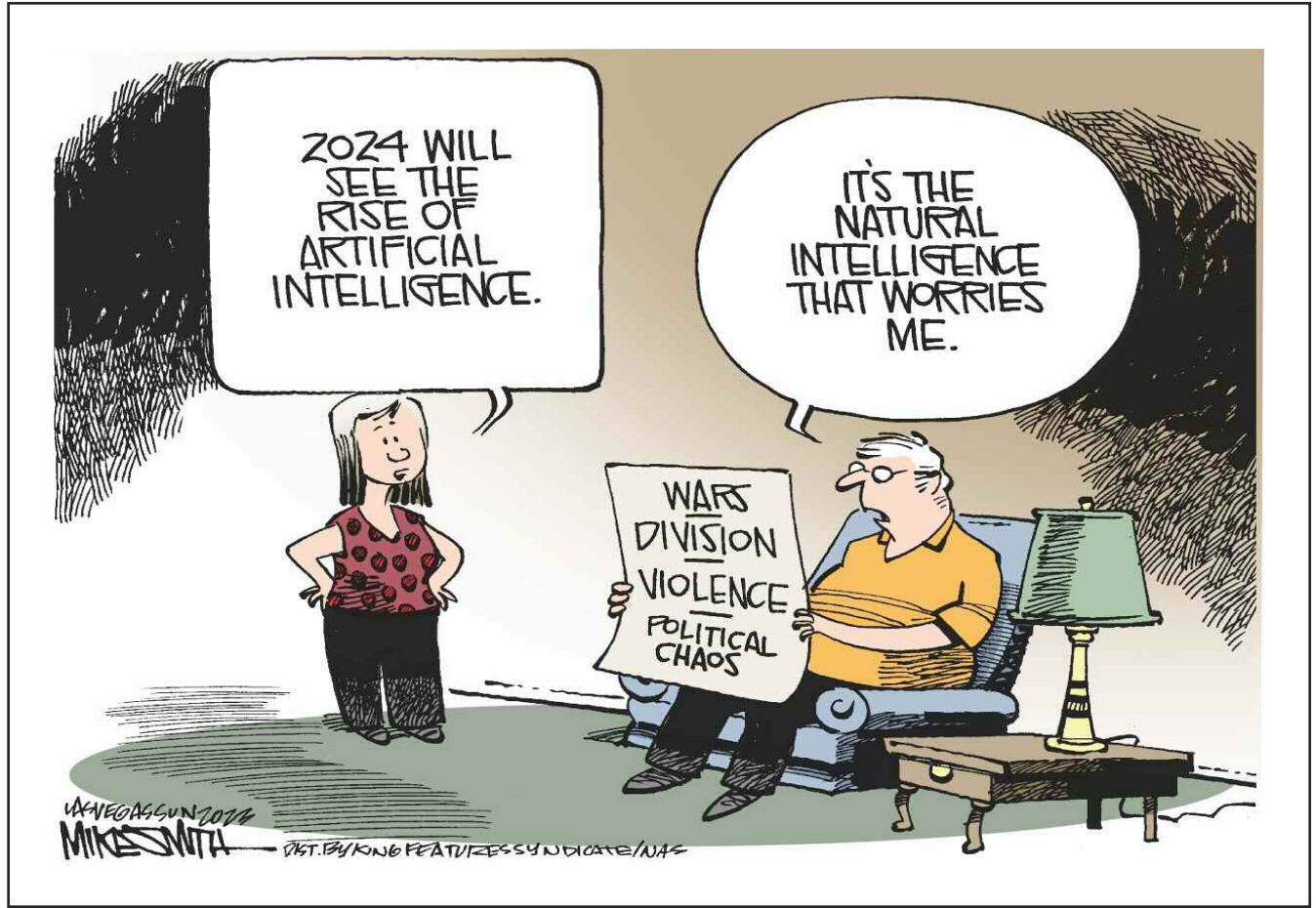
Guest Editorial

Those who've pretended like this is an uncomplicated or cut-and-dry issue are kidding themselves.

by some shadowy cabal). Keeping an otherwise eligible candidate off the ballot through a somewhat subjective decision that he engaged in loosely-defined insurrection is a dead-serious matter no matter how you slice it, and there are very serious implications if that's something that can be done easily, particularly by individual states.

At the same time, it's absurd to suggest that this is some sort of totally manufactured attack on Trump. We all watched as the then-president, having been defeated in an election, tried desperately to subvert American democracy, encouraging fake electors, leaning on state officials like Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and of course eventually whipping up his supporters to march on the Capitol on Jan. 6. Everything that's come out since then has only made clearer that Trump fully intended to negate the results.

Nothing about the Constitution's language suggests that the ballot ban isn't self-executing or requires a criminal conviction, nor that "insurrection" is to be construed narrowly as a formal armed rebellion. Whatever anyone's definition of the term, it's hard to imagine that Trump's conduct plainly doesn't qualify, nor that the amendment's framers did not intend it to apply to the highest office in the land. However the U.S. Supreme Court approaches things, they should know this isn't an easy call.



Curbing marketing can help health

By AARON WEINER and LINDA RICHTER
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Sometimes, it seems that we're doing all we can to sabotage our own efforts to reverse the nation's mental health and addiction crises, which disproportionately affect children, teens and young adults. Particularly here in Illinois, where we're on pace to surpass our current record highs in overdose deaths, and youth suicide lifeline programs are struggling to keep up with overwhelming demand.

There is so much dismal news about young people struggling with mental health problems, suicide, fentanyl, vaping, social media, pornography and online gambling. Yet we continue to overlook one of the most effective and expedient ways to address these problems: regulatory action to curb youth exposure and access to addictive, unhealthy influences purportedly meant for adults only.

Decades of scary commercials about smoking-related lung problems did less to shift the trajectory of youth smoking than enacting smoke-free or "clean air" laws and tax hikes that dissuaded youths from buying cigarettes. Hours of lectures to school kids about the risks of e-cigarettes did less to stabilize the frightening spike in youth vaping than did government bans on certain flavored vapes and reduced access to brands that were most popular with kids at the time.

Protecting addiction-for-profit businesses with our policies has the opposite impact: Current research demonstrates that the marijuana industry systematically advertises to youths and that the more available marijuana is and the more exposure youths have to those advertisements, the more they tend to use "THC" products or view getting high as "normal" teen behavior. The same holds true for nicotine. Vaping companies are using the classic Big Tobacco market-

Guest Opinion

ing playbook, and the more that youths are exposed to vaping ads, the greater their likelihood of vaping. And no matter how much we claim that marijuana or gambling legalization applies only to adults, ubiquitous ads on social media, provocative cannabis billboards on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway, clever marketing and celebrity promotions have made marijuana use and online betting routine activities for teens and emerging adults.

Regardless of the substance or activity, a regulatory agenda dictated primarily by the industries that most stand to profit from loose regulations harms young people. The need to change criminal justice policies that have historically led to disproportionate and inequitable punishments for marginalized and disadvantaged communities must not be conflated with government support for the commercialization and normalization of addictive substances and behaviors.

These policies harm public health and disproportionately harm young people, who are neurologically more vulnerable to addiction than adults. Whereas it's obvious that we need to reform our drug laws in this country and have a less paternalistic and inequitable regulatory system, legalization of addictive products and behaviors in the United States inevitably leads to unbridled commercialization and costly and harmful consequences to the most vulnerable among us, especially kids.

Despite knowing this and repeatedly having to pay the price for forgetting the lessons we should have

learned from allowing industry marketing to speed ahead of sensible regulations, we continually make way for new addictive products and services that are detrimental to them. Whether it's social media, nicotine vaping, online betting, flavored alcohol drinks or high-potency THC edibles, we let for-profit industries normalize their use, reduce perception of their harm and increase youth access in ways that directly and undoubtedly influence children's health and well-being.

None of this is to say that products and services such as these should be banned. But if they are for adults, as the law and common sense say they should be, there must be higher and stronger guardrails in place to ensure they are not available to children and teens. Also, enforceable regulations should be in place to prevent their marketing, sale and appeal to minors.

Many people believe or argue that it's the sole responsibility of parents to safeguard children from products and services that are legal for adults to use. But how difficult we choose to make this task for parents is up to us, and anyone who has raised a child knows that the financial interests aligned against parents in this regard are mighty.

It's time to back up our words with action and stand behind our purported concern for the well-being of youths with effective regulatory actions. We must prevent well-financed, profit-driven enterprises from enticing teens with all manner of child-friendly tactics and instead implement effective and well-enforced guardrails around the marketing and sale of addiction to kids.

Weiner is a licensed clinical psychologist and addiction specialist from Lake Forest. Richter is senior vice president of prevention research and analysis at Partnership to End Addiction, a national nonprofit organization based in New York.

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"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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bryant Wesleyan 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
405 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.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

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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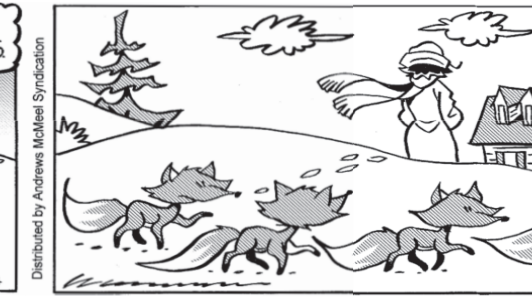
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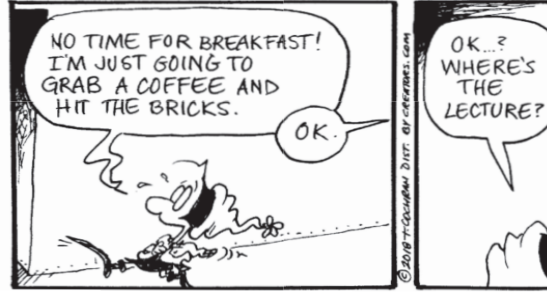
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOPING MY SIBLING COULD PEEL SKIN FROM A SOUR FRUIT, I ASKED, "BROTHER, CAN YOU PARE A LIME?" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals Y

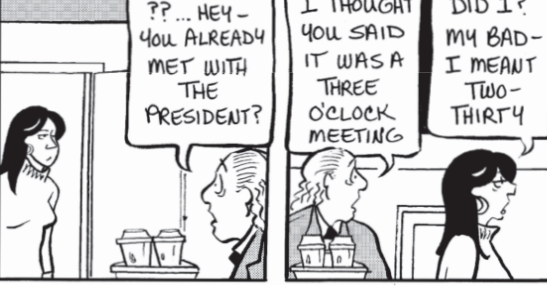
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 44 Milk container 2 Night before 22 Roman 1 Barbie's companion 46 Cake in the shower 23 Veto 4 Smear 3 Recently discovered 29 Conversation starter 8 "Mamma Mia" group 51 Anti-oxidant 4 River formations 30 Tropical tuber 12 "— had it!" berry 5 Yucatan year 31 Algerian port 13 Within (Pref.) condition 6 Japanese noodle 33 Tautness 14 Weaving frame 56 Houston base-baller, briefly 7 Portends 35 Pouch 15 Group of fresh recruits 57 Single 9 Tub toy 8 Fact book 38 — Paulo, Brazil 40 Eliot's Silas 43 Cellist 21 Campaign phrase 60 Poet 11 During 16 Huge 45 "Awesome!" 46 Soak up the sun 21 Swift jets 47 Part of a French play 48 Scarce 49 High school dance 53 Comedian 54 Mound stat 55 Like some humor

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Jay wrestling tops Coldwater

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Patriot girls will be competing in the semi-state on Friday.

Local roundup

The boys will be hosting the team state on Saturday. But for now, both of them got some solid work against an opponent from Ohio.

The Jay County High School wrestling team took down the Coldwater Cavaliers in 53-14 on Tuesday, while the girls picked up a trio of victories as well.

The Patriots (14-2) won 5-of-8 matches that were wrestled. Griffin Byrum and Juaquin Flores both won via pin for Jay County. Byrum pinned Aiden Norris 52 seconds into the 113-pound match while Flores took down Aidan Laux 1 minute, 15 seconds into the 190 contest.

Tony Wood picked up a 19-2 technical fall at 26 seconds into the final round of the 144 match.

Cooper Glassford and Jacob Robinson's wins both came in the form of decisions. Glassford (210) took out Westgerdes 8-7 while Robinson (157) bested Gavin Zibrida 6-3.

For the girls, Katie Rowles, Madison Gage and Tessa Miller all earned wins against Coldwater.

Can't stop Christ
FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery boys basketball team couldn't quiet down Regan Christ as it fell to the Anarcum Trojans 47-34 on Tuesday.

The Trojans' star sophomore dropped 19 points as the Indians' losing streak skid to four games.

Christ opened with seven points in the first quarter on three and four free throws. He topped that with eight in the third as Anarcum (5-6) took control of the game, outsourcing Fort Recovery 17-9 in the period.

Rex Leverette was the Tribe's leading scorer with a pair of 3-point shots, three free throws and one more hoop to add up to 11 points. Outside of Leverette, offense was hard to find as Gavin Faller and Briggs Overman each had six.

Jay tankers split
DECATUR — The Jay

County girls swim team's depth propelled them to a 103-78 victory over the Bellmont Braves while the boys team fell 94-82 on Tuesday.

The girls won four events, but the Patriots (5-3) found enough points from swimmers finishing near the top to walk away with the win.

Lauren Fisher and Avery Wentz claimed the only two individual victories for the girls. Lauren Fisher was the first to hit the wall in the 100-yard butterfly at 1 minute, 17.46 seconds, while Wentz clocked in at 1:16.15 in the 100 backstroke. The 200 and 400 freestyle teams won their respective races.

Joseph Dow put together a strong day for the boys team (1-7), winning the 200 individual medley (2:37.62) and the 500 freestyle (6:10.59).

Matthew Fisher had the only other victory for the boys in the 100 freestyle, clocking in at 1:03.62.

Four dual winners

BERNE — Despite walking away with seven first-place finishes, the Fort Recovery girls swim team split with the South Adams Starfires and the Minster

Wildcats on Thursday.

The Indians mustered up 86.5 points, but were just beat out by South Adams with 87.5 while Minster lagged behind scoring 68.5. The boys team put together 36 points, falling to SAHS (64) and Minster (42).

Joelle Kaup and Teigen Fortkamp put together strong days for the Indians (4-2). Kaup took first place in the 50-yard freestyle (26.72 seconds) and the 500 freestyle (6 minutes, 19.11 seconds) while Fortkamp claimed the 100 butterfly (1:05.43) and 100 breaststroke (1:15.58).

The final individual victory came from Theresa Hipple in the 1-meter diving.

The 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay teams took the top spot as well.

While the boys team (0-6) couldn't put together enough points because of a lack of depth, it did reel in five victories.

Like Kaup, Sage Wendel's victories came in the 50 and 500 freestyle races with times of 24.16 and 5:43.81 respectively.

The 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke were claimed by Caleb Smith in 2:20.61 and 1:08.35.

Jay ...

Continued from page 8

Four of five Jay County players that scored had four or more in the quarter, while four different players dished out assists.

The Patriots hit every shot they took from inside the arc in the first period.

"The chemistry we have with each other is the foundation of all that," Muhlenkamp said. "We get along on and off the floor. We know where each other needs to be when we are on the floor and just have that connection."

Along with an efficient offense, Jay County's 1-2-2 zone and half-court trap defenses were excelling at their jobs of turning the Cadets (6-9) over. Jay County forced six turnovers in the period, resulting in four of its eight field goals.

The only slip up came with 4 minutes, 39 seconds left in the period, when the half-court trap gave up enough of an angle to Alivia Bolinger to get to the rim and score.

Concordia Lutheran started to get its offense running in the second quarter by matching the Patriots pace offensively and relying on Bolinger to score. Full-court pressure slowed down the Patriots at times,

creating a pair of turnovers that resulted in buckets, but at others, it allowed for Jay County to get easy looks at the rim once it was broken.

In all, the Cadets scored 13 points in the second quarter, but 15 from the Patriots allowed them to hold a 21-point lead at the break.

All of the Patriots filled out their roles on the team, resulting in a blanching attack. Six players scored for Jay County, all with five or more points. Saxman, Schwieterman and Muhlenkamp led the way with 17, 11 and 10 respectively. The ball was moving fluidly, as Breanna Dirksen, Denton, Muhlenkamp and Saxman all wracked up four assists.

Five players had five or more rebounds, with Muhlenkamp leading the way at nine boards. Following her were Dirksen and Saxman with seven each and Denton ripping down five.

"It's extremely huge," McIntire said. "It makes us really hard to guard because they can't just key on one player when you have several people that can score."

"This group of girls know their roles. They have accepted their roles and right now we are playing some very good basketball because of it."

Jay County will ride a 12-game winning streak — it also has won 19-straight home games dating back to last season — as it prepares to host the Bluffton Tigers on Friday. Bluffton currently sits atop the Allen County Athletic Conference standings with a 4-0 record in conference, while Jay County is in second at 3-0.

"A lot of people are talking about Bluffton," McIntire said. "Bluffton has had a great season so far, but we want them going home talking about Jay County and how good Jay County is and how Jay County again is going to dominate the ACAC."

"I think we will come ready Friday night to get that accomplished."

Junior varsity

Jay County got a pair of strong offensive performances on Friday as it beat Concordia Lutheran 27-17 in a two-quarter contest.

Natalie Carreno led the way for the Patriots (7-7) with 11 points. She hit three baskets in the opening period, including a 3-point play while adding a bucket and two free throws in the closing quarter.

Alexis Sibray also put together a strong performance with 10 points.

Brackets ...

Continued from page 8
No. 8 seed Heritage Hills against Maconaquah with the winner to meet No. 1 seed Bellmont

Ranked No. 1 heading into last season's team state tournament, the Patriots defeated Rensselaer Central 40-21 and Norwell 46-25 before falling 37-28 to third-ranked Western in the championship match.

Additional first-round semi-state matches for the JCHS girls Friday are:

105 — Sophia Thomas (5-16) vs. Liz Winchester (4-12) of Madison-Grant

115 — Tatianna Willis (10-7) vs. No. 12 Makayla Withrow (18-4) of West Noble

120 — Calie Yates (8-10) vs. Hannah Early (16-12) of North Miami

120 — Ellie Wendel (1-5) vs. Kyra Doran (15-4) of Rochester

125 — Willow Hardy (16-11) vs. Christian

Lewis (6-9) of Prairie Heights

135 — No. 13 Lina Lingo (20-8), a 2023 state qualifier, vs. Alli O'Connor (2-11) of Garrett

145 — No. 14 Maleah Parsons (17-9), a 2023 state qualifier, vs. Gracie Cook (5-5) of Maconaquah

155 — Madison Gage (6-9), who finished as the regional runner-up to Winner, vs. Anna Elliot (5-10) of Huntington North

170 — Tessa Miller (5-16) vs. Anna Maszke (0-1) of Central Noble

190 — Sydney Huftel (0-3) vs. Katelynn Leckrone (13-12) of Manchester

Outside of the Patriots ranked in the top 10, Yates, Hardy and Lingo seem to have the cleanest paths to a possible state berth. Everyone else on the squad would need to knock off a state-ranked wrestler in the first or second round in order to achieve a top-four finish.

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Concordia Lutheran Cadets

Girls varsity summary

Concordia Lutheran (6-9)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
CBolinger	0-3	2-2	2
Rogers	1-1	2-2	4
ABolinger	6-15	0-0	13
Reynolds	0-1	0-0	0
Walker	0-1	1-2	1
Goodman	2-8	1-2	5
Kaiser	3-4	0-1	6
Ortiz	0-4	0-0	0
Dressler	1-6	0-0	2
Blackwell	1-2	2-4	4
Totals	14-45	8-13	37
	.311	.615	
Def. rebound percentage:	.615		

Jay County (14-2)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Mhlnkmp	5-11	0-2	10
Saxman	7-9	3-5	17
Schwtrmn	4-12	3-3	11
MDirksen	0-2	0-0	0
Sibray	0-0	0-0	0
Denton	3-4	0-0	6
BDirksen	3-5	0-0	7
May	3-8	2-2	8
Newton	0-0	0-0	0
Luzzi	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	25-51	8-12	59
	.490	.667	
Def. rebound percentage:	.806		

Score by quarters:
Conc. Lu. 2 13 6 16 — 37
Jay Co. 21 15 15 8 — 59

3-point shooting: Concordia Lutheran 1-13 (ABolinger 1-5, CBolinger 0-1, Goodman 0-3, Ortiz 0-4), Jay County 1-14 (BDirksen 1-2, Muhlenkamp 0-1, MDirksen 0-2, May 0-4, Schwieterman 0-5).

Rebounds: Concordia Lutheran 24 (Goodman 6, ABolinger 5, Blackwell 4, Walker 2, Kaiser 2, Ortiz 2, CBolinger, Rogers, Team), Jay County 39 (Muhlenkamp 9, Saxman 7, BDirksen 7, Denton 5, Schwieterman 4, MDirksen 3, Team 3, May).

Assists: Concordia Lutheran 2 (CBolinger, Rogers), Jay County 15 (Muhlenkamp 4, Saxman 4, Denton 4, BDirksen 1, MDirksen 2, Schwieterman).

Blocks: Concordia Lutheran 3 (ABolinger 2, Blackwell), Jay County 1 (BDirksen).

Personal fouls: Concordia Lutheran 16 (Kaiser 3, Ortiz 3, Blackwell 3, ABolinger 2, Goodman, CBolinger, Rogers, Walker), Jay County 10 (MDirksen 4, Muhlenkamp, Saxman, Schwieterman, Sibray, BDirksen, May).

Turnovers: Concordia Lutheran 17. Jay County 14.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Swim vs. Celina and Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Anderson — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Fort Recovery — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Selma — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Versailles — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Versailles — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Jay County — 5:30 p.m.

Friday

Jay County — Girls wrestling semi-state at Rochester — 4 p.m.; Swim hosts Jay County Invitational diving — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Centerville — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Versailles — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Cleveland

State at Wright State (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan at Indiana (BTN)

7 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at Boston Bruins (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at San Antonio Spurs (TNT)

8 p.m. — NHL: Vancouver Canucks at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Texas at Wichita State (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Nebraska at Wisconsin (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Colorado at Arizona (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Golden State Warriors (TNT)

11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Utah at Arizona State (ESPN2)

Friday
5:30 p.m. — High school basketball: Thornton vs.

Richmond Heights (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa at Rutgers (BTN)

6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Butler (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN2)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Illinois at Purdue (FS1)

10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at San Jose State (FS1)

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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JANUARY 6, 2024

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A Jay kind of day

Patriots get their way with Cadets in blowout win

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

Effort, toughness, togetherness and unselfishness – those were some of the ways that coach Sherri McIntire and Molly Muhlenkamp named off to define Jay County girls basketball.

Many of those qualities were on display as the Patriots picked up their 12th-straight victory and their 19th-straight home win.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team played true to form as it had the Concordia Lutheran Cadets at attention before putting them away 59-37 on Tuesday.

“Our ‘Zorro’ shirt says ‘Grit never quits.’ That defines Jay County basketball,” McIntire said. “We’re a team that wants to get on the floor for loose balls. We want to give 110% everytime we’re out on the floor and never quit until the clock hits zero.”

“That’s how I especially think of this group of seniors. They just work so hard and play so unselfishly. To me, they’re a great example of what Jay County basketball is.”

The Patriots (14-2) played that way from the very tip. They opened up on a 10-0 run over the first four minutes, including four quick baskets from Muhlenkamp (two of the four), Bella Denton, and Sophie Saxman.

They also closed the quarter on an 11-0 run in the final four minutes. Two baskets came from Schwieterman, while Denton, Saxman each had one. Schwieterman, Saxman and Danielle May combined for a perfect 5-for-5 from the free throw line.

See **Jay** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Danielle May fires up a jump shot late in the fourth quarter of a 59-37 win against Concordia Lutheran on Tuesday. The shot was the last made basket for the Patriots, and pushed May to eight points on the game.

Brackets released

Patriots prep for girls semi-state, boys team state

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

The brackets are out. Two-time defending state champion Mallory Winner will face a loaded semi-state bracket as she seeks to put herself in position to stand atop the podium again. And the Jay County High School boys wrestling team will have to overcome a squad it has lost to this season in order to have a shot at its first team state title.

In the girls Rochester semi-state brackets released Tuesday morning, top-ranked Winner is part of a 155-pound bracket that features five of the top six wrestlers in the state. The host Patriot boys are the No. 3 seed Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Class 2A team state tournament — brackets were released Monday — and face a potential rematch with No. 2 seed Delta in the semifinal round.

Winner (18-0) leads a group of 13 JCHS girls who will compete Friday at the Rochester semi-state, from which the top four in each weight class will advance to the state finals. (The team had seven state qualifiers last season.) She will open the competition against Olivia Pender (6-5) of Whitko, with a potential quarterfinal match against fifth-ranked Paloma Shull (13-2) of Wabash. In the semifinal round, she could meet New Haven’s No. 4. Kaily Bussard (24-2) of Tri-Central’s No. 12 Samara Clowers-Mires (27-8). The other half of the loaded bracket includes Eastside’s No. 2 Rhaigyn Trenary (20-1) and Rochester’s No. 6 Grace Hiroms (18-3), who Winner beat in the 2023

state championship match at 160.

No. 7 Katie Rowles, a state-qualifier last season, gets a by through the opening round before the tough assignment of facing sixth-ranked Angelina Clay (18-4) of Lakeland in the quarterfinal. She would face an unranked wrestler in the semifinal, with No. 5 Kyleigh Honaker (13-6) of East Noble heavily favored to come out of the other side of the bracket.

The 10th-ranked Manor (20-1), who placed fifth in the state at 132 last season, will also bye through the opening round and take on the winner of a match between Alexis Haughs (12-8) of Rochester and Viola Putnam (0-2) of Peru in the quarterfinal. Potential semifinal opponents are No. 11 Naomi Leffers (16-6) of Central Noble and No. 16 April Laggner (16-3) of New Haven. The other half of the bracket includes No. 12 Kahmya Bell (13-1) of East Noble and No. 13 Lindsey Dill (17-4) of Northfield.

Thanks to being seeded in the top four, the Jay County boys will get a bye through Saturday’s first round. (The tournament begins at 9 a.m. at JCHS.) The Patriots will start their day in the quarterfinals against the winner of an opening-round match between No. 6 see Oak Hill and Wawasee.

Other opening-round matches are as follows:

No. 5 seed Rensselaer Central against Monrovia with the winner to meet No. 4 seed Western in the quarterfinals

No. 7 seed Hamilton Heights against New Prairie with the winner to meet No. 2 seed Delta

See **Brackets** page 7

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