

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Lawsuit filed against dean, nurse

Complaint alleges violation of Fourth Amendment

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A lawsuit alleging a violation of Fourth Amendment rights has been filed against two Jay School Corporation employees.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a lawsuit Tuesday in the U.S. District Court Northern Division of Indiana (Fort Wayne) against Jay County Junior-Senior High School assistant principal/dean of students Brad Milleman and nurse Rebecca Hudson alleging that a search conducted in November was invasive and violated her rights against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.

Jay School Corporation is not named in the lawsuit.

"I'm aware of media reports of a press release shared by the Indiana Civil Liberties Union in connection to allegations of search and seizure conducted at Jay County Junior-Senior High," said Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley on Tuesday evening. "As this is a matter of pending litigation, I have no comment until there is opportunity for a review of facts in concert with the district's legal counsel."

He added that he has not received any legal service but will be meeting with school corporation attorneys.

The complaint filed with the court alleges that Milleman removed the student, identified as "K.S." in the document, from class on Nov. 21 and escorted her to Hudson's office.

See **Lawsuit** page 2

First in line



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Doug Horn (right) and Duane Monroe (left) fill out paperwork Wednesday morning to run for the Jay County Commissioner north and south seats, respectively. Filing for this year's election cycle began Wednesday morning and continues through noon Feb. 9. Offices up for election this year include the north and south district commissioner seats, three county council at-large seats and county clerk of courts, treasurer, coroner and surveyor.

Surveyor Brad Daniels will seek eighth term, Horn, Monroe file to run for commissioner seats

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

First through the door to file to run for office Wednesday morning was the longest-serving current elected official in the county.

Right behind him were two candidates who hope to be elected for the first time.

Jay County surveyor Brad Daniels was first to get paperwork Wednesday morning as he filed to run for his eighth consecutive term. Also filing were Jay County Commissioner candidates Doug Horn (north district) and Duane Monroe (south district).

Also filing Wednesday morning were Missy Elliott for county clerk of courts, Jon Eads for county treasurer and several candidates for

precinct committeeman and state convention delegate.

Filing for this year's election began at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and runs until noon Feb. 9. Offices up for election this year include the north and south district commissioner seats, three county council at-large seats and county clerk of courts, treasurer, coroner and surveyor. (Three school board seats will also be on the ballot in November, but filing for those non-partisan roles does not begin until May 21.)

Horn is running for the north district commissioner seat that is currently held by Rex Journay, who has indicated that he does not plan to run for a second term.

See **First** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Brad Daniels reviews paperwork Wednesday morning while filing to run for an eighth term as Jay County surveyor.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Election forum

Jay County Purdue Extension Office and Jay County Clerk's Office hosted a workshop Tuesday for those interested in running for elected office. It included a briefing on available county positions in 2024, presentations on requirements and election-related ethics and a panel discussion with elected officials and political party chairs. Pictured above, Jay School Board president Ron Laux and Jay County Democrat chair Joel Bowers respond to a question from the crowd.

Water park discussed

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Freezing rain and snow have been falling intermittently for the last few days.

The park board is looking ahead to warmer weather.

Portland Park Board spent the bulk of its meeting Tuesday discussing issues related to Portland Water Park.

Brian Ison, president of the park board, provided information that showed the water park had about \$150,000 in expenses in 2023 and brought in almost \$124,000 in admission and concessions. He noted a goal of trying to even out those numbers as much as possible moving forward.

Last year marked the first full season for the facility since 2019. It

opened late in 2020 because of coronavirus pandemic shutdowns, had limited hours because of staffing issues in 2021 and was closed in 2022 for repairs.

"We're not going to be able to balance it out, but can we get close," said Ison.

As part of that discussion, the board looked at 2023 admission prices and employee salaries.

Admission was \$5 before 5 p.m. and \$3 after 5 p.m. last year, with 10-day passes at \$45 apiece and annual

passes ranging from \$75 for an individual to \$200 for a family of six or more. (Special pricing was available for seniors, veterans and children 2 and younger. Pool rentals, which sold out for the year, came at \$75 per hour with a two-hour minimum plus the hourly rate for a minimum of four lifeguards.

Pay rates for pool employees were \$18 per hour for the manager, \$15 for the assistant manager, \$14 for lifeguards and \$13 for concession workers.

See **Park** page 5

Deaths

Richard Fravel, 84, rural Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Tuesday with a trace of rain. The low was 34.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 20s with a chance of snow after midnight. Snow and rain are expected Friday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland City Council's meeting next week will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers at the fire station. City offices will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Results from Friday's Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Finals.



First ...

Continued from page 1
Monroe announced his candidacy for the south district commissioner seat in late November. The position is currently held by Brian McGalliard, who has said he plans to run for a second term.
Horn, 65, is a lifelong Jay County resident and a 1977 Jay County High School graduate. He has worked as a farmer for his entire career.
"For a long time I've wanted to be involved and do things for the community, but I just never thought I had the time to give to it like I should. I'm at a point in my life now where I think I've got the time," said Horn, noting that his farming operation has scaled back. "I hope that the years of watching government work —

I've been involved in politics for a long time — I hope I can use that and just some life experience, business experience to make some good decisions for the county."
This will be his first run for elected office, though he noted that he has worked on a lot of campaigns and been involved with the Republican party for 40 years.
Horn's first wife, Carla, who died in 2021, is a former chair for the Republican Party in Jay County. She was also administrative assistant for the city of Portland under Mayor Bruce Hosier. His daughter, Jenae Blasdel, currently serves as party chair.
Addressing issues that he might deal with if elected, he

focused on county employees, business and agriculture.
"I want you to be able to keep good employees and treat them right," said Horn. "We want to treat the people right that are working here and we want to have a good infrastructure so we can have business ..."
"I'd be the only farmer on the board. Not that farmers are any more important than anybody else, but it's an agricultural county. There's no doubt about it."
Daniels has served as county surveyor since 1993. He won his first general election in November 1992 as former longtime surveyor Dick Davidson stepped away from the job.
"I enjoy the job," said Daniels, adding that he has a good crew of

longtime employees in the surveyor's office. "I enjoy helping the farmers. A lot of people don't realize how important the job is to the farmers. ... The main purpose of my job is to keep the farmers being able to farm and keep their fields dry."
Eads is currently in his second term as county clerk. Elliott serves as first deputy clerk.
Both Eads and current treasurer Paula Miller cannot seek reelection because of term limits.
Filing Wednesday to run for Republican precinct committeeman were Aaron Loy, Robin Alberson, Angela Moeller and Jesse Bivens. Filing for Republican state convention delegate were Jenae Blasdel and Jon Eads.

Obituaries

Richard C. "Dick" Fravel, rural Geneva, Oct. 30, 1939-Jan. 7, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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 1/12 | Saturday 1/13 | Sunday 1/14 | Monday 1/15 | Tuesday 1/16 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | |
| 41/22 | 27/7 | 16/-1 | 9/-3 | 8/4 |
| Rain and snow are expected Friday along with 20 mph winds throughout the day. | Saturday's forecast shows a 50% chance of more snow in the morning. | Another chance of snow Sunday. At night, the temperature may dip below 0 degrees. | Monday's forecast shows a slight chance of snow. Otherwise, mostly cloudy. | Another potential chance for snow under mostly cloudy skies. |

Lotteries

| | |
|--|---|
| Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$60 million | Evening Daily Three: 0-2-4 Daily Four: 3-5-0-0 Quick Draw: 8-12-19-22-23-27-31-34-35-36-40-41-45-46-54-64-65-71-72-80 |
| Mega Millions 12-15-32-33-53 Mega Ball: 24 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$187 million | Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 8-6-7 Pick 4: 7-9-8-2 Pick 5: 1-0-2-6-8 Evening Pick 3: 5-7-8 Pick 4: 1-2-6-7 Pick 5: 9-8-6-3-6 Rolling Cash: 10-16-26-31-35 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000 |
| Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 8-6-5 Daily Four: 8-8-5-2 Quick Draw: 6-15-22-28-34-35-40-42-43-46-47-54-57-58-60-63-66-70-76-77 | |

Markets

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|--|--|
| Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.60 Feb. corn4.60 Wheat5.30 | Jan. beans12.31 Wheat 5.69 |
| POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.58 Feb. corn4.58 March corn4.60 | ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.38 Feb. corn4.42 Beans12.18 Feb. beans12.21 Wheat5.64 |
| The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.45 Feb. corn4.45 Beans12.21 | Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 March corn4.50 Beans11.98 Feb. beans.....12.01 Wheat5.25 |

Today in history

In 347, Roman emperor Theodosius I was born in Mediolanum (now Milan, Italy). He led the eastern Roman empire from 379 to 392 and then led both the east and west for the next three years.
In 1755 (or 1757), the first treasury secretary of the United States was born on the Caribbean island of Nevis. (Hamilton claimed his birth year as 1757 but paperwork recorded after his mother's death indicate it was 1755.)
In 1878, milk was delivered in glass bottles for the first time in New York City.
In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart made the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California — 2,408 miles. The flight took her 17 hours, 7 minutes, as she took off from Honolulu and landed in Oakland.
In 1964, an announce-

ment from U.S. Surgeon General Luther L. Terry indicated that cigarette smoking is linked to lung cancer. A committee appointed by the United Kingdom's Royal College of Physicians had reached the same conclusion almost two years earlier.
In 2013, Kyle Cook was announced as the new executive director of Jay Community Center. Cook is a 2006 graduate of Ball State University who then also worked at (and now co-owns) Cook's Nursery.
In 2022, Raven Myers of Portland was arrested for attempted murder after she allegedly cut her 2-year-old daughter's wrists. Myers pleaded guilty in September 2022 to a Level 3 felony for serious bodily injury and will serve up to nine years in prison. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. | City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. |
| Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland | Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. |

Lawsuit ...

Continued from page 1
It says the student was ordered, in the presence of Milleman and Hudson, to pull up her shirt to expose the waistband of her pants and her midriff and then lift up her sweatshirt and shirt and pull the bottom of her bra away from her body, according to the document.
The lawsuit also says the student was not informed about the reason for the search — there was a report that she had a gun — until after it was completed. It questions why metal detectors kept on hand at the school were not utilized.
"The actions taken by these school officials were taken with reckless or callous indifference to K.S.'s rights," said Ken Falk, legal director at the ACLU of Indiana, in the release. "The Fourth Amendment

applies to school officials and requires them to have reasonable suspicion for any search of a student and requires further that the search be appropriate in its scope."
The student has not returned to the school and does not intend to return, the complaint says. It indicates that she is in counseling following the incident.
"No parent wants to see their child suffer like this," said Nick Stout, the plaintiff's father, in an ACLU press release Tuesday. "My daughter has been involved in multiple school sports teams, but now that she no longer feels safe in school, it breaks my heart to think she may never be able to participate in school activities again. Moving forward, we want to ensure that this never happens to another child again. We want school officials across

this great country to know that they are not above our Constitution or the law."
The complaint requests a jury trial. It asks that the court find that the student's Fourth Amendment rights were violated and that she be awarded nominal, compensatory and punitive damages for the violation as well as "emotional harm, anguish and other related injuries."
Changes to the Jay County Junior-Senior High School handbook approved by Jay School Board in May included an update to the search and seizure policy that modified rules for student searches to ensure that two individuals are present for any search, the search be conducted by someone of the same biological gender as the student and that an administrator or their designee be present.

Felony arrests

Failed to appear
An Ohio woman was arrested Monday for failing to appear in court. Rachel N. Kegerreis, 35, 281 Sixth St., Barberton, failed to appear in Jay Superior Court in July 2022. She's charged with a Level 6 felony for nonsupport of a dependent. She's being held in Jay County Jail without bond.

SERVICES

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|---|
| Today Fravel , Richard: Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva. |
| Friday Schwartz , Daniel: 9 a.m., D.L. Schwartz residence, 6836 E. 900 North, Bryant. Daniels , Freda: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. Mann , Dixie: 6 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva. |
| Saturday Imel , Angela: 10:30 a.m., St. Henry Catholic Church, 272 E. Main St., St. Henry, Ohio. |
| Sunday Williams , Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland. |

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Take new year to focus on self-care

By CHANTEL WILLMANN

The hustle and bustle of the holidays can be at time of stress and anxiety for many people, and frequently more so for women.

The new year is a great time to step back, relax and focus on self-care. Many women have a difficult time taking care of themselves because they are focused on the needs of everyone around them.

It is important for women to focus on their own wellness for overall improvement of their health for years to come.

Your Health Matters



What are some important health tips?

1. Regular exercise is important, not only for women, but everyone. Physical activity can improve overall health, along with sleeping better and boosting mood. Aim for approximately 150 minutes of exercise a

week with a mix of cardio and strength building.

2. Eating healthy is also important. With all the trendy diets that come and go, it is hard to determine the best option. Sticking to the MyPlate plan is a good guide for a healthy diet — six servings of grains (mostly whole grains), three to five servings of vegetables, four to five servings of fruit and two to three servings of dairy each day.

3. Getting a good night's sleep can help boost your mood and allow you to think more

clearly, but it can also reduce the risk of getting sick or developing serious illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Adults are advised to get seven to nine hours of sleep a night. While this can sometimes be difficult, sticking to a bedtime routine and reducing screen time right before bed can help.

4. Visiting a healthcare provider and scheduling regular checkups is also important. Discuss topics such as menstrual cycle, breast health and menopause, along with screenings and exams

that can indicate problems early to make them more treatable.

What are some easy self-care ideas?

Taking care of yourself is important, even if it is taking a few minutes to a day to be alone.

Here are a few quick and easy ways self-care ideas:

1. Read a book
2. Meditate
3. Spend 10 to 15 minutes doing yoga stretches
4. Take an Epsom salt bath
5. Take a stroll outside or do some gardening

6. Practice positive affirmations

7. Cook

8. Color in an adult coloring book

9. Keep a gratitude journal

10. Do something creative such as painting, pottery or wood-working

11. Take a nap or go to bed earlier

12. Take a break from your phone and social media

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Willmann is a family nurse practitioner at IU Health Blackford Physicians in Hartford City.

Taking in parents has been a nightmare

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single parent raising five young kids alone. I own my home, have a good job and have done well financially. Five years ago, after several years of making bad financial decisions, my parents showed up on my doorstep. Their house had been foreclosed on. I had given much advice leading up to it. I have also offered them advice since then to help get them on their feet. Little of it has been taken.

Living with them has triggered issues from my childhood, most of which they contributed to but take no responsibility for. They do pay a little to me in rent, help with housework and sometimes watch my children. But past issues are still evident, and I don't want that example around my kids.

I have made clear for months that they have overstayed their welcome, but they argue with me and take no steps to get on their feet. I have tried having meetings with them and my siblings. These end in shouting matches, and nothing changes. I know if I evict them, it will likely sever the relationship. Is that my only option? — DISGRUNTLED DAUGHTER

Dear Abby



DEAR DAUGHTER: You were kind to take your parents in, but you are being taken advantage of. This is a problem you should discuss with an attorney, because after having camped out in your home for the length of time your parents have, it may indeed take a formal eviction to get them out.

Do not expect to be thanked for the help you have given them all this time and, if I read your letter correctly, do not expect any assistance from your siblings. Do what you must for yourself and your children. You have given your parents enough.

DEAR ABBY: This morning, I found my husband has been chatting on his phone with a much younger woman. Since then, I have been wondering if I should ask him about it. He

just retired, but I'm still working, and my job is in the afternoon and evening. He's an extrovert who loves being around people. Should I be worried he's cheating on me?

We've been married 30 years and have a grown child together. Our sex life isn't good. For many years, we worked opposite shifts, so we didn't go to bed and get up at the same time. Now we do, but he's alone during the afternoon and evening. I don't have any friends I trust enough to ask, and I'm certainly not saying anything to family. Can you help? — SUSPICIOUS IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Because you know her age, I'm guessing you already know quite a bit about this much younger woman. If you ask your husband about this, you will have to disclose that you looked at his phone. Spouses don't usually do that unless they are suspicious something might be going on.

If you think what he's been doing could be a threat to your marriage, you are going to have to come clean and tell him you feel threat-

ened by what you saw. Better to confront than to ignore and hope a problem will go away by itself.

DEAR ABBY: I need advice about people who are dishonest. I have been to several baseball games and wrestling events where people paid for lower-priced seats but then sat in the more expensive seats. I know I shouldn't let it bother me. However, I feel this is unfair.

I want to say something to the staff, but I don't want to be "that" person who causes trouble. When my boyfriend and I buy the cheaper seats, that is where we sit. It's the right thing to do. How do I stop letting the actions of others disturb me? — HONEST IN WISCONSIN

DEAR HONEST: I heard a line in a play years ago that stuck with me. It was written by Voltaire, and it goes, "Cultivate your own gardens." To me, it means concentrate less on what others are doing and more on the standards by which I live my own life.

You have every right to be disgusted when you see peo-

ple cheating. But allowing it to become a preoccupation is a distraction, and it only lessens your own good time. (Cross your fingers and hope the folks who bought those seats show up and embarrass the cheaters.)

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating this girl for eight months. She tells me she and her ex-boyfriend remain good friends, and that he is her best friend. She sees him regularly and says she has gotten over him. I plan to marry her, but she wants to invite him to our wedding. The ex gives my girlfriend money. She says no sex is involved. Should I drop her over this? — ALARMED IN TEXAS

DEAR ALARMED: Probably, because accepting money from her ex-boyfriend indicates she is not independent of him.

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 Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

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.

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

JAY COUNTY TRAILS

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

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.

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 - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Brides

Special Section

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 |

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Deadline for ads is Jan. 17

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

Beware, the legislators are back

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The Indiana General Assembly never left, but they are back.

Their summer study committees have met after detailed study of summer. No results or serious recommendations are expected unless they sustain and extend some existing destructive policy.

Let's cut to the chase. It's time for the Indiana General Assembly to stop dissembling. Those who can arise without assistance need to get out of their recliners and start doing what needs to be done.

1. Release members to act without the discipline of the Caucus. Let's make the bold assumption that our 150 elected legislators are grownups. They

Eye on the Pie



can make their own decisions without the dictates of a repressive party leadership fully inebriated on the power of a supermajority of automatons.

2. Pass into law an independent redistricting process applicable to all levels of government. This would likely rationalize districts such that two adjacent House districts would constitute one Senate district. No House districts would be

divided. Currently the Senate and the House district maps are independent of each other. It affords chaos and cover for the ambitions of individuals who seek lifetime membership in the General Assembly.

3. Adopt the Maine Electoral College allocation rules. Now the winner of the popular vote in Indiana gets all of the electoral votes in a presidential election. Under the system used in Maine, a notoriously left-wing coastal state, the winner of the statewide popular vote gets two electoral votes. The winner of each congressional district gets the one electoral vote of that district. No Constitutional amendment is needed for this move toward a more equitable system. In 2020,

instead of all 11 Indiana electoral votes going to the Repulsive candidate, that person would have received nine electoral votes and two such votes would have gone to the party that is Bidin' its time. (My apologies to those unfamiliar with the Gershwin songbook and who know only Taylor Swift lyrics.)

4. Establish a serious study committee to provide legislation that reduces the number of townships in each county. Have you looked at the size of Kent and Mound Townships in Warren County recently? If not, take a look at stats.indiana.edu/maptools/maps/boundary/townships.

5. Examine the rationale for 92 Indiana counties given con-

temporary technology. Why should Warren, Fountain, Parke and Vermillion not be joined into one or two counties? Perhaps Jasper and Newton counties should be returned to their former singularity. Let's not neglect Blackford with Jay, Ohio with Dearborn or Switzerland. I would miss the detailed data on each separate area, but my fetish is not the concern of the state. Likewise, cost cutting should not be the dominant objective, but rather improving service to citizens in line with the structure of society in the 21st century rather than the 19th century.

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

Stay safe on winter roads

Kokomo Tribune

Tribune News Service

While it hasn't exactly seemed like it until this weekend's snow, winter is here. And with it comes the possibility of hazardous weather, which can cause dangerous driving conditions.

The area may see such a threat in the coming days, and we want you to be prepared, no matter how much experience you have with Indiana winters.

Before bad weather arrives, it's a good idea to check your vehicle's tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts and hoses in an effort to avoid a breakdown in inclement weather.

The Indiana Department of Transportation's motto of "Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!" is the main thing to remember when driving in winter weather.

Among other tips offered by INDOT are to be prepared by knowing the weather and your limits. Remove any snow or ice from your vehicle before taking off, including the windows, lights, brake lights and signals. The goal, according to INDOT, is to make sure you can see and be seen.

Leave plenty of time to reach your destination so you're not rushing.

Keeping a basic winter survival kit in your vehicle is also a good idea. INDOT officials suggest including a flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots and a first-aid kit. In addition, it is suggested you load your vehicle with winter travel gear such as tire chains, an ice scraper and snowbrush, jumper cables and road flares.

Recently in north-west Indiana, in two separate instances, two drivers were forced to wait in their vehicles for days for rescuers to find them after they were involved in accidents. Luckily for the victims, they were able to survive until they were discovered. One man was able to survive on rainwater while he was trapped inside his vehicle. No doubt having access to a first-aid and survival kit would have been beneficial in such a situation.

INDOT officials also remind drivers to take it

Hoosier Editorial

Keeping a basic winter survival kit in your vehicle is also a good idea. INDOT officials suggest including a flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots and a first-aid kit.

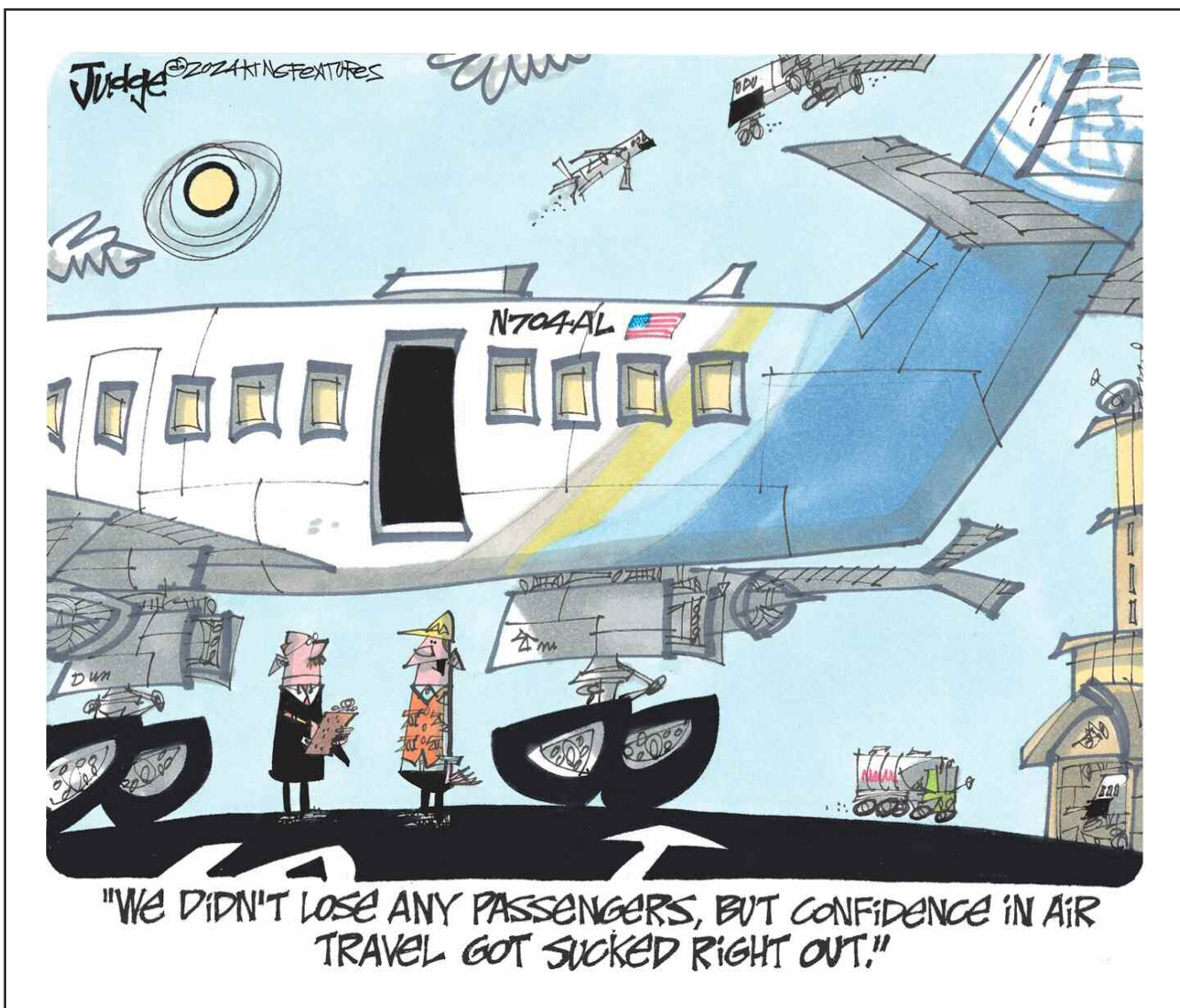
slow when approaching snowplows and keep their distance so drivers have room to work.

"The plows are wide and can cross the center line or shoulder," INDOT officials state on their website. "Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud."

Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit, and a snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. INDOT urges drivers to keep their distance and watch for sudden stops or turns by plows.

Before heading out, download and check out Trafficwise, INDOT's official traffic and traveler information app that provides statewide up-to-date traffic information for interstates, U.S. routes and state highways in Indiana or visit 511in.org for up-to-date traffic information.

Be prepared and stay safe out there this winter.



'Exodus' is not that unusual

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As the filing deadline to run for the Indiana House or Senate nears, expect more announcements from lawmakers not seeking re-election.

Over several months, the list of lawmakers leaving the General Assembly has swelled to eight and almost all are Republicans. But while it might seem like an exodus, it's really just a natural evolution of Hoosiers retiring or moving on to new endeavors.

Thanks to the Capitol & Washington blog's casualty list, you can see that the number of lawmakers opting not to run again has averaged 13 in the past 50-plus years. This covers lawmakers who finish their term and don't seek re-election, but not those who leave early and are replaced.

Indiana's high-water mark was 24 legislators who didn't run for re-election in the 1970-1972 General Assembly. The low was five during the 1978-1980 cycle.

Here is today's current list:
•Rep. Donna Schaibley, R-Carmel, will complete her current two-year term, but won't seek reelection in 2024. She has served House District 24 — parts of Boone and Hamilton counties — since 2014.

•Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, also won't seek re-election. He has served House District 39 since 1996, which covers parts of Carmel and Westfield.

•Rep. Bob Cherry, R-Greenfield, will complete his term and retire. He has served Indiana's House of

Niki Kelly



Representatives for 25 years — since 1998. His district, 53, includes parts of Hancock and Madison counties.

•Rep. Randy Lyness, R-West Harrison, will not seek re-election after serving eight years. He represents House District 68, which includes Ohio, Switzerland and Dearborn counties, and a portion of Jefferson County

•Rep. Denny Zent, R-Angola, will finish his term and not return. He has served House District 51, which includes portions of LaGrange and Steuben counties in northeast Indiana, since 2012.

•Rep. Ryan Hatfield, D-Evansville, is the latest to announce he won't run again. Instead, he will run for judge in Vanderburgh County. Hatfield has served House District 77 since 2016.

•Rep. Chuck Goodrich, R-Noblesville, is running for the 5th District Congressional seat. He has served Indiana House District 29 since 2018.

•Sen. John Crane, R-Avon, is not seeking re-election in Senate District 24, which he has served since 2016.

The deadline to file for the 100 House seats and 25 Senate seats up for election this year is Feb. 9.

With every departure, there is a

loss to the institution. Each member brings expertise, whether it be Torr's experience in the health care and judicial arenas, Cherry's knowledge of agricultural issues, or Zent's awareness of veteran's needs.

Longtime lawmakers have established the key relationships needed to move legislation or help constituents navigate state agencies. As a journalist, I can tell you those with experience understand their bills better, know how the process works and can speak with more authority on a host of items.

But at the same time, having new eyes join the legislature is refreshing. It's sometimes helpful to look beyond how we have always done something and think about how it can be better.

Years ago, far more lawmakers left early, didn't run or were defeated. For instance, in the 1966-1968 cycle, 56 total legislators out of 150 changed for one reason or another. That is 37% of the entire General Assembly.

More recently, those numbers have been more in the 20s. In the 2016-2018 cycle, 26 legislators left early, didn't run or lost — about 17%.

The key is to find a good balance of institutional knowledge and experience versus fresh perspectives and energy.

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Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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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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Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.

Holcomb promises strong finish

Governor notes Lilly grant, lists 2024 goals during address

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Term-limited Gov. Eric Holcomb delivered his eighth and final State of the State to the General Assembly Tuesday, detailing the accomplishments of his administration and previewing milestones yet-to-come.

"A year ago, I promised you that I would work harder than ever, to continue to improve the prospects for every person that calls Indiana home. Today, I renew to you that same promise until the ultimate conclusion of my assigned duty," he said.

Holcomb had one surprise in the 30-minute speech: a \$250 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to address blight and redevelopment around the state in addition to cultivating arts and cultural initiatives. The funds will be granted to regions through the READI program, which is already distributing \$500 million in economic development grants in a second round of funding.

Clay Robbins, the chairman and CEO of the Lilly Endowment, highlighted the multitude of efforts funded by the organization, including United Way, regional initiatives and gifts to all of Indiana's colleges and universities.

"Given the success and momentum of READI and the state's continued investment in READI 2.0., the Endowment considered this grant proposal as a compelling opportunity to build on its efforts to help promote the



Special to Indiana Capital Chronicle/Monroe Bush

Gov. Eric Holcomb pauses during his final State of the State Address Tuesday in the Indiana Statehouse. He is in the final year of his second term in office and is not eligible to run for re-election because of term limits.

prosperity of Indiana communities," Robbins said in a statement.

He called the state's efforts to create generational change "The Indiana Model," saying it was a team effort to move the state forward on various initiatives.

"The Indiana Model seeks excellence, rejecting any notion that a Midwestern 'vowel state' would be content with mediocrity — and instead takes giant leaps, rather than baby steps," Holcomb said.

Examples included the Governor's Public Health Commission, which proved instrumental in the push to increase the state's share of funding at local public health departments, as well as economic

development moves to attract federal partnerships in clean hydrogen, micro-electronics and biotech manufacturing.

Other milestones included the \$28.7 billion in committed capital investment the Indiana Economic Development secured in 2023 — the same amount the state attracted between 2005 and 2016 combined.

"That's called 'Indiana Momentum' and we've got a lot more coming," he said.

Holcomb welcomed guests from the Consul General of Israel and Consul General of Japan, sparing a moment to recognize the recent earthquakes in Japan and ongoing siege in Palestine.

"We continue to pray for the safety and security to all of those who call the Holy Land home, and for the prospect of lasting peace," Holcomb said.

Additional highlights touched on salary increases for both teachers and Indiana State Police personnel as well as Indiana's personal income tax cuts, which dropped to 3.05% and will continue to fall to 2.9% — tied with the lowest personal income tax rates in the country.

Infrastructure, which has long been a focus for his administration, will get its own headlines when I-69 finally connects Indianapolis and Evansville and crews finish building double tracks for the South Shore Line in northern Indiana.

But Holcomb's speech wasn't without its goals, including a list of "musts" for the upcoming year, based largely on his 2024 agenda:

- Improving third grade reading policies
- Requiring computer science classes for high school graduation
- Making college more accessible by creating three-year and associate degree options
- Growing the state's beleaguered child care workforce
- Updating the State Disaster Relief Fund to ease community access and
- Building awareness of current government services, such as One Stop to Start

Holcomb, a U.S. Navy veteran, shared a quote from Grace Hopper, one of the first female admirals in the Navy, saying "A ship in port is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."

"My administration will not be a ship in port," Holcomb promised the assembled lawmakers. "Instead, we will deploy on multiple fronts until my last day and hour as your governor."

Democrats panned portions of Holcomb's speech, with a focus on where the state still fell short.

"A glaring oversight was (the lack of) access to health care in Indiana," said Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington. "The number of

maternity wards that are closing ... rural hospitals that have closed — this is an issue."

She noted that since the state enacted a near-total abortion ban, pregnant people now have to travel to access reproductive health care. Additionally, the state still taxes menstrual products — a prohibitively expensive medical necessity that prevents some girls from attending school — even when it doesn't tax "Twix bars or marshmallow fluff."

The economic development Holcomb boasted about comes with a commitment to create high-wage jobs but the state's average wage continues to lag behind the rest of the nation. With so few Hoosiers completing advanced degrees, Sen. Greg Taylor expressed skepticism that Indiana residents would benefit from the jobs and wondered if it was an attempt to attract skilled out-of-state workers.

The continued Republican focus on the state's AAA credit rating is misleading, Taylor said, adding that other, Democratic-leaning states had achieved that while also investing in government programs that aided their residents.

"They also said, 'We want to make sure that the citizens of our state have a good credit rating (and) we're going to increase wages. And we're going to say that the minimum wage no longer needs to be \$7.25 an hour,'" Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said. "We have yet to do that in Indiana."

Additionally, several of the initiatives touted by Holcomb, Taylor said, were actually federal programs, including broadband and economic development in advanced manufacturing.

Both did highlight some important steps, including moves to make child care more affordable, but said direct state investment was needed to increase access and wages.

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New tool highlights reading data

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As debate heats up among Indiana policymakers over how to address Indiana's literacy "crisis," a new statewide dashboard gives a more detailed look at where additional reading supports are needed most.

The Indiana Department

of Education (IDOE) on Tuesday released its newly-developed data visualization tool — it is available at eddata.doe.in.gov — which allows the public to view IREAD and literacy data at both the state and school levels.

State education officials said the tool will help teachers, parents and policymak-

ers as they undertake new literacy initiatives.

Specific data in the dashboard includes the number of students who:

- Are able to read by the end of third grade
- Aren't able to read by the end of third grade
- Advanced to fourth grade without foundational reading skills

•Earned a "good cause exemption" (GCE), which allow students to move onto fourth grade in certain circumstances — even though they have not passed the IREAD exam

•Are proficient in math (passed ILEARN Math in third grade), but are not proficient in reading (did not pass IREAD-3)

Park ...

Continued from page 1

Board members were asked to consider those rates and whether they should be changed for 2024. Ison suggested looking at other facilities in the area for comparison.

The board also discussed the possibility of extending the water park season in order to allow it to be utilized more. The facility has opened on Memorial Day weekend and closed once Jay School Corporation begins classes in early August. Board members talked about the possibility of being open on weekends only through the rest of August.

Ison also reported to the board that Eliza Bader, who served as the facility's manager in 2023, is interested in returning this year. Board members expressed their support for Bader continuing in the role.

The board also reviewed its overall budget for 2024, which shows an increase of \$56,700 (12.5%) over 2023 for a total of \$509,000.

Board members John McFarland, Jennifer Weitzel and Ison, absent

Shauna Runkle and Michael Brewster, also were made aware of recent vandalism at the Hudson Family Park amphitheater. Portland street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver told them that red spray paint was utilized and that city crews have been unsuccessful in removing it.

He said local painter Bruce Smith will try to remove the graffiti but that otherwise some areas around the amphitheater stage may need to be painted. (He added that Smith suggested using a graffiti prevention coating in the future.)

Shauver noted that cameras installed at the park were used to identify the vandals and that they will be prosecuted.

Also Monday, the board briefly discussed the possibility of creating a park on the city owned property at the southwest corner of Main and Commerce streets where debris from the demolished Bailey Building is currently being removed. Ison noted that various organizations, including Portland Main Street Con-

nect and Portland Redevelopment Commission, have considered options for the space. He asked park board members to think about whether it might make sense to create a downtown park.

In other business, the board: •Approved a request from the Portland Rockets to have fireworks as part of May 18 opening day festivities for their 65th season.

•Re-elected Ison as president and McFarland as vice president. Also elected Jennifer Weitzel as secretary.

•Heard from Ison that he sent a request to Jay School Board for its appointment to the park board. Anyone interested in serving should contact Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley by Jan. 17.

•Tabled discussion of a request from Portland Junior League to split the cost of rehabilitation work for the east and west baseball/softball diamonds at Weiler-Wilson Park estimated at \$28,000.

•Heard from Shauver that he plans to present quotes for mowers for the parks in February.

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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
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.
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

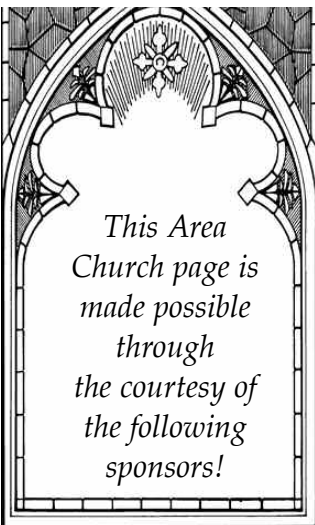
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Killing defense

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 8 4 3
♥ A K Q J 6
♦ 10 2
♣ K 9

WEST
♠ K 9 2
♥ 9 8 5 4 3
♦ K
♣ A J 4 2

EAST
♠ 5
♥ 7 2
♦ A Q J 8 7 4 3
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 7 6
♥ 10
♦ 6 5
♣ Q 10 8 7 5

team won handily. Wolff, East, opened with four diamonds, a preemptive bid aimed mostly at making it difficult for North-South to enter the auction.

After two passes, North bid four hearts. When this rolled around to Hamman, he doubled. South retreated to four spades, which Hamman also doubled and North redoubled. The bidding then ground to a halt, and Hamman led the king of diamonds.

It did not take Wolff long to find the killing defense. He overtook the king of diamonds with the ace, cashed the queen, West discarding a low club, and then led a third diamond, deliberately handing declarer a ruff-and-discard.

This Greek gift did not help South at all. In fact, he now had to go down no matter what he did. If he discarded a club, Hamman would ruff with the nine of spades to guarantee himself a trump trick that would sink the contract.

And if South ruffed the diamond with the ten of spades, which is what he actually did, he would still go down after Hamman discarded a heart on the trick. By discarding, Hamman assured that his K-9-2 of spades would produce a trump trick one way or another, and this trick, together with the ace of clubs, eventually set the contract.

The bidding:
East South West North
4♦ Pass Pass 4♥
Pass Pass Dble Pass
Pass 4♠ Dble Redble
Opening lead — king of diamonds.
Until they split up a couple of decades ago, Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff were generally regarded as one of the best pairs in the world. Together they had a magnificent record in national and world championships, deriving their success from a style that stressed simple bidding and technical perfection.

Here is an example of how well they played together. The deal occurred in the 1978 Reisinger team championship, which their

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Peanuts



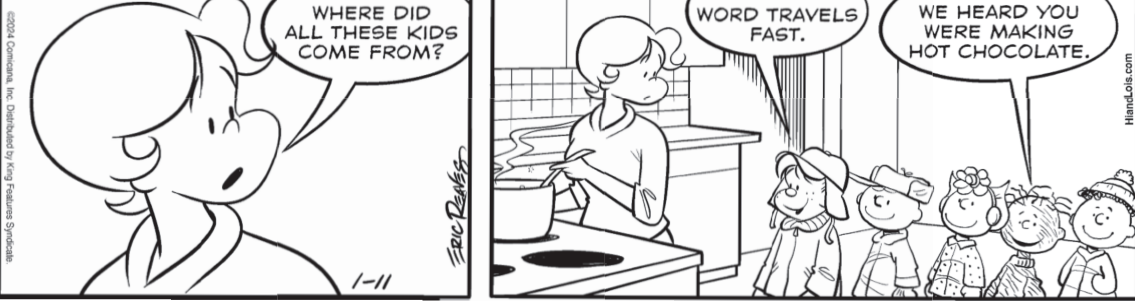
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



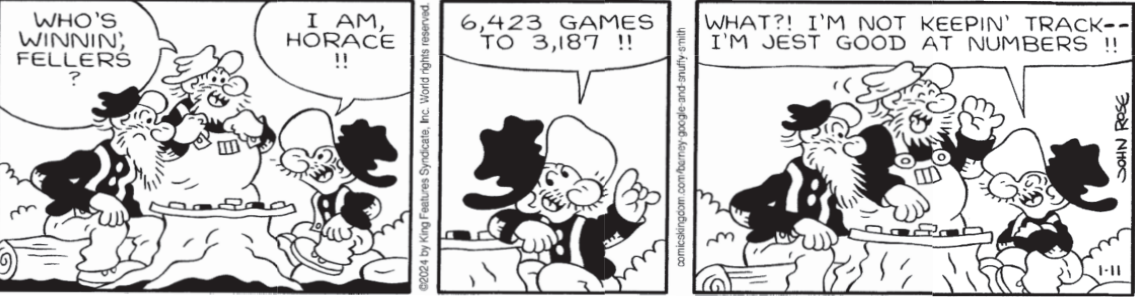
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



1-11 CRYPTOQUIP

ZGC YQOC SCCD VJXRS RJ SQZC
BAZG BGJY ZJ QZZCRS ZGC
QRRXQO VJDCEZ IQZGCDARI,
EJ GC BCRZ EZQI.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IN A CITY INHABITED BY HORSES, I IMAGINE THE ELECTED LEADER MIGHT BE CALLED MAYOR NEIGHER.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Q equals A

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Russian news agency
5 Drench
8 Like one leg of a triathlon
12 Mideast gulf
13 401(k) alter-native
14 Hawaiian city
15 Poi base
16 Erie Canal mule
17 Novelist Rice
18 Sneak attack
20 Caution
22 Up to
23 Avic preceder
24 Symbols of intrigue
27 Waiting periods
32 Pie — mode
33 — Paulo
34 "Mayday!"
35 Issued, as an order

DOWN
19 Yes, to Juan
21 Chowed down
24 Bankroll
25 Quarter-back Manning
26 Publisher's catalog
28 Dundee denial
29 Planning aid
30 Extinct bird
31 Con-corde, e.g.
36 Country singer Mel
37 Year, in San Juan
38 Czech, e.g.
41 You and I
42 Decorate anew
43 Done with
44 Kvetches
46 "— Las Vegas"
47 Paradise
48 Lip
51 Estuary

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | |
|----------|--------|-------|
| BRIM | BED | UNITS |
| LODE | ALE | TIDY |
| USERNAME | TCON | |
| ESSES | PICKLE | |
| LABS | DAN | |
| LUCY | APSE | AMY |
| ISO | OBAMA | MIR |
| DAD | PERU | HENS |
| ENE | ETNA | |
| SENECA | ANWAR | |
| SLAY | FILLEN | NAME |
| TIME | AWE | ACID |
| SEER | ROD | HOSS |

Yesterday's answer 1-11

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | |
| 12 | | | | | 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 | | | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | | | |

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40 NOTICES

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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
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Breaking ...

Continued from page 10
“The balance across the board is huge when you can do that,” Deitsch said. “It translates well into a game like that when you play defense.”

Beyond just Muhlenkamp's scoring, the injury took away another primary ball handler from the Indians, forcing more work on Wendel and Huelskamp. With the Tigers (6-7) liking to run a full-court press, the two guards had their hands full.

The press caused problems for FRHS early in the game as Ansonia forced turnovers early to help develop a 7-5 lead. After a few early turnovers, the Indians started to settle down.

“My teammates know what to do to get through that press without Kennedy,” Wendel said. “We knew this was a team where we could attack and get back into that winning way. We knew they press and how to beat it by getting the ball up and pass ahead. That's what we tried to do and it worked for us tonight.”

The tides turned with 3 minutes, 38 seconds remaining in the first quarter. London Reichert committed Ansonia's fifth team foul on a press break to send Wendel to the line, who split the pair of free throws.

That foul shot was the first point of a 24-0 Fort Recovery run that lasted 7 minutes, 42 seconds. The run was ended at the 3:40 mark of the second quarter when Gabby Leeper hit a 3-pointer on a kick out by Brenna Schmit, but the Indians still boasted a commanding 29-10 lead at that point.

“It was awesome to get up



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Makenna Huelskamp of Fort Recovery High School goes up for a layup while being fouled by Lydia Hahn (3) of Ansonia. The Indians shot 17 free throws in the 51-36 win, connecting on 88.2% of them.

early,” Wendel said. “At the end of the game when we were getting a little lazy, it helped that when they scored we were still up by a lot.”

A major contributor to that run was the Indian's defense.

Without scoring, Ansonia wasn't able to set up its pressure, in turn not get-

ting the opportunity to get a quick steal and put up points off of turnovers, creating a cycle that was hard to get out of.

“Even though we were turning over the ball a little more than we would like to, defensively, being able to sandwich stops anytime we would score was huge,” Deitsch said. “Defensive is a big part of our game. Our defensive average is getting better and better each game. I think we've held just about everybody below their season average.”

Before Tuesday's game, the Tigers averaged 43.4 points per game. Fort Recovery held them to 32 – just over 10 points below Ansonia's season average – before the benches started to empty, giving Ansonia the opportunity to tack on four more.

Two more key stats from the Indians' 24-point run were the six assists being dished out by Wendel and Huelskamp as well as Leuthold, Wendel and Huelskamp combining for 7-for-8 from the charity stripe. The two guards ended up with five assists each, while the team shot a collective 15-for-17 at the line.

Niekamp and Huelskamp both led the way with 14 points. Dietsch had high praise for Niekamp, stating that her height and skillset is something that his team will need to lean on moving forward. He is also happy with her stepping up more as a leader.

“Her post moves she has whenever she gets into the paint, especially when driving on someone or has her back to the basket, are some of the best any player has had of anybody I've ever coached,” Dietsch said. Huelskamp credited her

| Box score | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|------------|
| Fort Recovery Indians vs. Ansonia Tigers | | Score by quarters: Ansonia 7 5 9 15 — 36 Ft. Rec. 17 14 10 10 — 51 | |
| Girls varsity summary | | | |
| | Ansonia (6-7) | FG-FGA | FT-FTA PTS |
| Leeper | 2-6 | 1-1 | 6 |
| Hahn | 0-2 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Moody | 1-1 | 0-0 | 2 |
| Barga | 4-8 | 0-0 | 10 |
| BrSchmit | 0-7 | 0-4 | 0 |
| Creager | 2-9 | 1-4 | 5 |
| Tovar Tejedor | 0-2 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Coldwell | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Schmitmyr | 1-1 | 0-0 | 2 |
| BaSchmit | 1-8 | 1-2 | 3 |
| Reichert | 2-7 | 4-4 | 8 |
| Aultman | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Totals | 13-51 | 7-15 | 36 |
| | .255 | .467 | |
| Def. rebound percentage: .548 | | | |
| | Fort Recovery (3-8) | FG-FGA | FT-FTA PTS |
| Niekamp | 6-12 | 2-2 | 14 |
| Guggenbiller | 0-4 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Wendel | 3-10 | 5-6 | 13 |
| Leuthold | 3-9 | 4-4 | 10 |
| Schoenlein | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Mhlinkmp | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Schmitz | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Huelskamp | 4-10 | 4-5 | 14 |
| Willmann | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Tobe | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Eber | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Totals | 16-47 | 15-17 | 51 |
| | .340 | .882 | |
| Def. rebound percentage: .658 | | | |
| 3-point shooting: Ansonia 1-14 (Leeper 1-2, Hahn 0-1, Barga 0-1, Reichert 0-1, Creager 0-2, BaSchmit 0-3, BrSchmit 0-4), Fort Recovery 4-16 (Huelskamp 2-4, Wendel 2-7, Leuthold 0-1, Niekamp 0-2). | | | |
| Rebounds: Ansonia 30 (BaSchmit 6, Leeper 5, Barga 5, Reichert 5, Creager 3, team 2, Hahn, BrSchmit, Caldwell, Schmitmeyer), Fort Recovery 37 (Niekamp 9, Huelskamp 7, team 7, Wendel 6, Leuthold 6, Muhlenkamp 2). | | | |
| Assists: Ansonia 7 (Leeper 2, Creager 2, Barga, BrSchmit, Reichert), Fort Recovery 11 (Wendel 5, Huelskamp 5, Niekamp). | | | |
| Blocks: Ansonia 3 (Reichert), Fort Recovery 3 (Niekamp, Wendel, Muhlenkamp). | | | |
| Personal fouls: Ansonia 16 (BaSchmit 5, Reichert 3, Hahn 2, Creager 2, Leeper, Barga, BrSchmit, Caldwell), Fort Recovery 12 (Niekamp 4, Guggenbiller 2, Wendel 2, Huelskamp 2, Leuthold, Muhlenkamp). | | | |
| Turnovers: Ansonia 20. Fort Recovery 23. | | | |

success to reading the defense to drive when the Tigers pressured her and shooting as she got the ball on the weak side and the defense sank too far away from her.

One point behind was Wendel with 13 and Leuthold scored 10. All four players grabbed at least six rebounds as well, with Niekamp pulling in the most at nine.

Ansonia was led by Rose Barga, who finished 5-for-10 from the floor for 10 points and ripped away five rebounds.

Fort Recovery resumes Midwest Athletic Conference play today as it hosts the St. John's Bluejays.

Junior varsity

The Fort Recovery jun-

ior varsity fell to Ansonia 27-19 in a two-quarter game.

Sophia Guggenbiller and Brynn Willmann each hit a pair of shots in the opening frame as the Tigers took a 1-point lead.

Baskets were hard to come by in the second quarter, as only Cameron Muhlenkamp and Cadence Eber hit shots from the field. Olivia Schmitmeyer and Sophia Aultman both put in a pair of hoops during the second quarter, as the Tigers outpaced the Indians 15-8.

No one broke double-digits for either team, but four free throws and two baskets pushed Lydia Hahn to a game-high eight points.

Guggenbiller and Willmann both scored six to lead the Indians.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Homestead — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Heritage — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Delphos St. John's — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Delphos St. John's — 5:30 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls wrestling state at Kokomo — 11 a.m.; Girls basketball ACAC tournament vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball ACAC tournament vs. Adams Central — 7:30 p.m. Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Delphos St. John's — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2 p.m. — Super Cup soccer: Osasuna at Barcelona (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Rutgers at Ohio State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: FAU at Tulane (ESPN2); Michigan at Maryland (FS1)
7 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at New York Islanders (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois at Nebraska (BTN)
8 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UCLA at Utah (ESPN2); Michigan State at Illinois (FS1)

9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Gonzaga at Santa Clara (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona State at Washington (FS1); Stanford at Oregon State (ESPN2)

Friday
2 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim at Bayern Munchen (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota at Indiana (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Dayton at Duquesne (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks (Bally Indiana)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Villanova (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wright State at Youngstown State (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Iowa (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Denver Nuggets (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Boise State at Nevada (ESPN2)

Local notes

Tickets for sale
The Jay County High School athletic department will have tickets for the boys and girls Allen County Athletic Conference basketball tournament for sale through Friday, Jan. 12 at 12 p.m. Tickets for all three sessions will cost \$10.

Tickets for a single session will only be sold at the door for \$6.

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@sports@theocr.com.

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90 SALE CALENDAR
PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN Saturday Morning January 13th, 2024 9:30 A.M.
50 YEAR CHEVROLET COLLECTION - GAS & OIL ITEMS:
Gas & oil items to include: Marathon, Quaker State, Kendall, Case, Singer; 1955-1986 Chevrolet radios AM & AM/FM mostly Chevrolet, some Pontiac, Mopar & Ford; Holley, Carter & Q-Jets carburetors; Muncie & Borg Warner 4-speed transmissions; 1961-1969 Chevrolet Impala & Chevelle; Nova oil pan (early V8); Coca-Cola glass face clock; Budweiser double sided sign; Maremont Muffler double sided clock (works); 1965-1966 SS hubcap sets; 67 Corvette drivers door; 2ft 30 inch shears; a few hand tools; and many other items not listed.
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110 HELP WANTED
PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for two full-time Police Officers now until January 21st. Starting salary of \$52,387. Lateral transfer with sign on bonus of \$5,000 paid over a 3-year term for ILEA tier one graduates. Benefits: Paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days. Health and dental benefits offered, Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual clothing allotment, and 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Must be 21 years of age and no older than 40 years of age by date of appointment. Agility tests to be announced for non-members of 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE
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NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Jay Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2309-MF-000021 wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Ruby A. Wickey was a Defendant, required me to make sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 8th day of February, 2024, at the hour of 10 am, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Jay County Courthouse/3rd Floor- Main, Portland, IN 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana.
Beginning at a point Two hundred seventy-two and twenty-five hundredths (272.25) feet east of the northwest corner of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Twelve (12) East; thence South One hundred fifteen and five tenths (115.5) feet to the north line of Lagro Road; thence East Sixty-six (66) feet on said north line; thence North One hundred fifteen and five tenths (115.5) feet; thence West Sixty-six (66) feet to the place of beginning, containing One hundred seventy-five thousands (.175) of an acre and being a part of Out Lot No. 2 in the Original Plat of Camden, now Pennville, Indiana.
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Breaking the press

Stops, scores limit Ansonia's full-court

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians haven't had the strongest offensive team this year. They have only scored more than 40 points once this season.

After losing another upper-classman on an already young team, it was going to be hard to exceed that mark again.

The four remaining starters proved that idea wrong.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team put on its offensive performance of the season in a 51-36 victory over the Ansonia Tigers on Tuesday.

"The way we played tonight is the way we feel like we finally should be," FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch. "Just able to put the ball in the basket tonight, the way that we know that we can. We haven't done that. We haven't scored this many points all season."

"Finally being able to see the ball go through the net, it just carried all the way through everybody. We had confidence in our shots. Being able to hit those was awesome."

This was just the second game for the Indians (3-8) since they lost junior Kennedy Muhlenkamp to a shoulder injury in their game at St. Henry on Dec. 29. The remaining four starters — Karlie Niekamp, Makenna Huelskamp, Cali Wendel and Saige Leuthold — stepped up to score in double figures for the game.

They were the only Fort Recovery players to score, but they still found a way to put up their highest team score of 51. The previous high came in a 43-38 win over Mississinawa Valley on Nov. 28.

See **Breaking** page 8



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS senior Cali Wendel draws contact from Ansonia's Bailey Schmit during the Indians' 51-36 blowout on Tuesday. Wendel hit both free throws as part of a 24-0 Indians run.

JCHS taken out by Tigers

YORKTOWN — The Patriots depth has gotten them through many meets this season, but it wasn't enough to take down the Tigers.

The Jay County High School swim teams

fell to the Yorktown Tigers on Tuesday. A pair of top finishes for the girls team kept it closer, but still fell 174-115, while the boys team was blown away 205-80.

Naroa Zugasti opened the meet with a first-place finish in the 1-meter diving for the Patriots (7-4) as the Tigers didn't have a diver. She scored 99.55 points.

Lauren Fisher captured the only other first-place finish for Jay County. Her time of 1 minute, 20.54 seconds in the 100-yard breaststroke was enough to beat out Lily Kleinschmidt who finished 1:21.25.

The boys (2-9) didn't finish first in any events.

The girls earned five runner-ups, including the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle relay teams. The 200 freestyle relay team of Morgan DeHoff, Fisher, Avery Wentz and Zion Beiswanger missed first place by less than a second. It took 1:54.74 to hit the wall, while Yorktown's team finished in 1:54.10.

They also got individual second-place finishes from Sophia Hoevel and Beiswanger. Hoevel swam a time of 2:41.72 in the 200 individual medley. Beiswanger earned second in the 100 freestyle with a 1:03.21.

The boys only had one second place finish from Brasen Glassford who scored 137.1 in the diving.

David Keen and Joseph Dow were the top point getters for the Jay County boys, as they posted a pair of third-place finishes each. Keen competed in the individual medley and the 100 butterfly while Dow swam the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle.

Junior high splits

MUNCIE — The Jay County Junior High School boys basketball teams split with Northside Middle School on Tuesday.

The seventh grade team pulled off a 43-21 win while the eighth graders got crushed 56-28.

The Patriots (12-2) jumped out to a 13-4 lead in the first quarter. In the second, they outpaced Northside 10-2 to take a commanding 23-6 lead at half, allowing them to coast to victory.

Sam Wiggins led Jay County with 11 points. Brody Collins followed with eight and Rayden Sollars added six.

The other points were spread out between seven Patriots. Henry Dirksen and Paul Dirksen both had four while Andrew Crump, Kellan Kirby, Carter Lloyd, Brady Millspaugh and Jacoby Penrod all had two.

Northside held the eighth grade team (10-4) scoreless as it built a 14-0 lead in the opening period. The Patriots exploded for 13 points in the second quarter, but couldn't put together a full comeback.

Tyler Wasson was the high-scorer with 12 points. Kady Carpenter and Cohen Shimp each scored six points as Brayden Barlow and Nick Snow added two each.

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