

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## All-Star celebration

Athletics director Steve Boozier high-fives Daisy Muhlenkamp, who won a game of knockout during halftime of Friday's Jay County High School boys basketball game. For winning, Muhlenkamp will get the opportunity to play knockout at the NBA All-Star game on Feb. 18 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

## Bills move in Senate, House

*Local legislators all have measures advancing*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — Five pieces of legislation authored by legislators who represent Jay County cleared their respective chambers this week.

State Sen. Travis Holdman had three bills clear the Senate on Monday and Tuesday while State Reps. J.D. Prescott and Matt Lehman each had one pass on third reading in the House.

Two of Holdman's bills — Senate Bill 4 and Senate Bill 20 — passed the Senate unanimously Tuesday on 48-0 votes. He represents all of Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties as well as part of Allen County.

Senate Bill 4, authored along with State Sens. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka) and Sen. Chris Garten (R-Charlestown), addresses various fiscal issues, including a review every two years to identify dedicated funds that have not been used. Among other procedural changes, it would allow the Legislative Service Agency to adopt interim rules for "a reduction, a full or partial waiver, or an elimination of a fee, fine, or civil penalty." It also lays out a procedure for developing new templates for creating funds and drafting appropriations to be considered by the code revision commission and possible new legislation in 2026.

Senate Bill 20, on which Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington) has been added as a second author, would expand the option of establishing riverfront districts.

See Bills page 2

## Russia: Ukraine shot down plane

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Russia accused Ukraine of shooting down a military plane it said was carrying 65 Ukrainian prisoners for an exchange.

The IL-76 aircraft crashed in Russia's Belgorod region on Wednesday, killing everyone on board, including six crew and three Russian soldiers, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said in a statement. Russian radar systems tracked the launch of two surface-to-air missiles from the nearby Ukrainian region of Kharkiv, it said.

Ukraine's armed forces said Russia was using the Belgorod airfield to intensify attacks on the nearby Kharkiv region and vowed to "continue to take measures to destroy the means of delivery and control the airspace." Officials didn't comment directly on whether its troops downed the plane.

Earlier, the Ukrainianskaya Pravda news website reported that the military believed the Russian plane was carrying a consignment of S-300 air-defense missiles.

A senior Russian lawmaker, Andrey Kartoplov, head of the defense committee, earlier told the

lower house of parliament that Ukraine shot down the plane using either U.S. Patriot or German-made IRIS-T missiles. A second IL-76 plane with another 80 Ukrainian prisoners on board turned around and escaped attack, he said.

An investigation team was sent to the crash site, the state-run news service Tass reported, citing the Russian Defense Ministry.

A prisoner swap on the Ukrainian-Russian border was planned for Wednesday, and the Ukrainian side knew the prisoners would be brought by military aircraft to Bel-

gorod's airport, the ministry said. Ukrainian officials confirmed a prisoner exchange had been scheduled to take place that day.

Ukraine's Coordinating Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said on Facebook that it's "gathering and analyzing all necessary information." Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian ombudsman, urged against "pre-mature assumptions" in a statement on Telegram.

Ukraine and Russia exchanged almost 500 prisoners earlier this month, the largest swap since the February 2022 invasion began.

## Alexander files for council

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A third candidate has added his name to the list of those hoping to join Jay County Council.

Bryan Alexander filed Friday to run for a Republican nomination for a Jay County Council at-large seat in the May primary.

The only other recent new filing was by Republican Lenny Muhlenkamp for Wabash precinct committeeman.

A Portland resident, Alexander joins incumbent Matt Minnich and Ryan Wellman in running for the GOP nomination for three at-large seats on Jay County Council. (Other incumbents are Jeanne Houchins and Dave Haines.)

Alexander previously served two terms on Jay School Board. He lost to Chad Aker in the 2022 Republican primary for the nomination for county commissioner in the middle district.

Contested races so far for the May primary are all on the GOP side of the ballot:

•Doug Horn versus Mike Leonhard for the north district commissioner nomination

### Former school board member joins Minnich and Wellman on GOP ballot

•Jon Eads against Jonelle Foreman for county treasurer  
•Incumbent J.D. Prescott against Greg LeMaster for state representative in District 33.

Blake Watson is currently the only Democrat to have filed to run for county office as he seeks the party's nomination for commissioner in the south district.

Republicans who are currently unopposed are Missy Elliott (clerk), Brayden Fields (coroner), Brad Daniels (surveyor), Brian Hutchison (Jay Circuit Court Judge) and Duane Monroe (commissioner - south district).

For state representative Republican Matt Lehman (District 79) and Democrat John Bartlett (District 33) are also currently without opposition.

Running for GOP precinct committeeman are Aaron Loy (Wayne 2), Robin Alberson (Pike), Angela Moeller (Jefferson), Jesse Bivens (Dunkirk 3), Rebecca Thornburg (Greene), Randy Stephen (Wayne 4) and Muhlenkamp.

Jenae Blasdel, Muhlenkamp and Eads have filed to run for Republican state convention delegate.

Filing for this year's election cycle continues until noon Feb. 9. Positions up for election this year include Jay County Commissioner - north and south districts, three at-large seats on Jay County Council, Jay County Circuit Court Judge, and county clerk of courts, treasurer, coroner and surveyor.



Tribune News Service/Miami Herald/Matias J. Ocner

## Casting ballot

A man leaves a voting box after filling his ballot in the New Hampshire Presidential primaries at a polling site inside Christ the King Parish Hall on Tuesday in Concord, New Hampshire. With 96% of precincts reporting, former president Donald Trump leads the balloting with 54.4% of the vote ahead of Nikki Haley at 43.3%.

### Deaths

Judy McBeth, 76, Albany  
Lois Christian, 75,  
Dunkirk  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature Tuesday in Jay County was 41 degrees. The low was 34. There was about a quarter inch of rain.

More rain is expected tonight with a low in the upper 30s. Expect cloudy skies Friday with a high in the mid 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

The Portland Foundation is accepting nominations for the Jack Cole Award for Volunteerism. Nominations should include a letter of recommendation with the nominee's name, address and a brief background regarding why they deserve the award. Send nominations to 107 S. Meridian St., Portland. The deadline is March 15.

### Coming up

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's community forum regarding a proposed sober living facility.

**Saturday** — Results from the Jay County High School boys basketball team's game against Bluffton.



# Proposed exemption could impact child care

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana lawmakers are looking at new property tax breaks as a way to alleviate the state's child care deserts and help working Hoosiers find more affordable options.

Senate Bill 147 seeks to make for-profit child care providers tax exempt, and provides a partial property-tax exemption for businesses that offer onsite child care for employees.

Expanded access to affordable child care is high among the

Republican majority's priorities in this year's session. Gov. Eric Holcomb additionally laid out a plan to increase the number of child care and early education providers across Indiana in his 2024 legislative agenda.

"Not only is it important in the Statehouse, it is important to every single employer and parent who really wants to enter the workforce. There is no silver bullet that is going to fix the problem and we have to look at multiple ways to address the issue," said Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, one of three GOP

authors on the bill. "This legislation needs to move forward and provide one more tool to increase affordable child care and learning opportunities for families."

The bill was discussed Tuesday in the Senate tax committee but has not yet moved. Committee chairman Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, said amendments and a vote on the bill are expected next week.

Already, child care centers in schools, nonprofits and churches are tax exempt.

Current Indiana law also

allows for-profit early childhood education providers to be exempt from property taxes — but only those servicing children between the ages of four and six.

For-profit providers additionally have to meet other requirements to qualify for any existing tax breaks. The provider must be the property owner, and services offered must primarily be educational. Certain state standards of quality need to be met, too, and participation in the state's early education evaluation program is mandatory.

Senate Bill 147 would relax those requirements, though.

Rogers said many Hoosier parents who want to work have children of all ages, but "many" child care providers "are not willing to accept infants and toddlers."

She emphasized that her legislation would increase the opportunity for parents to find reliable care, including for younger kids, and encourage for-profit facilities — which the senator said are currently at a "disadvantage" — to charge lower fees.

## CR almanac

Friday 1/26	Saturday 1/27	Sunday 1/28	Monday 1/29	Tuesday 1/30
<b>45/36</b>	<b>42/33</b>	<b>38/30</b>	<b>37/29</b>	<b>41/33</b>

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$145 million	Evening Daily Three: 7-2-5 Daily Four: 7-2-2-4 Quick Draw: 4-6-9-10-16-24-30-37-44-45-46-53-54-55-64-68-71-76-78-79
<b>Mega Millions</b> 21-28-58-69-70 Mega Ball: 20 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$285 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 0-4-6 Pick 4: 6-1-4-3 Pick 5: 7-4-8-1-9 Evening Pick 3: 0-0-7 Pick 4: 4-0-1-9 Pick 5: 6-3-4-2-5 Rolling Cash: 2-15-21-22-39 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 6-4-8 Daily Four: 4-3-7-4 Quick Draw: 3-4-7-8-10-11-18-33-42-46-48-52-55-56-60-63-64-66-69-75	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.58 Feb. corn .....4.56 Wheat .....5.27	Jan. beans .....12.29 Wheat ..... 5.67
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.56 Feb. corn .....4.51 March corn .....4.51	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.31 Feb. corn .....4.33 Beans .....12.22 Feb. beans .....12.24 Wheat .....5.62
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.41 Feb. corn .....4.36 Beans .....12.19	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.47 March corn .....4.44 Beans .....12.07 Feb. beans.....12.07 Wheat .....5.27

## Today in history

In 41, Claudius I became emperor of Rome. He ascended to the leadership role a day after his nephew, Caligula, was murdered. He would eventually make Britain a province of the Roman Empire.

In 1533, King Henry VIII of England married Anne Boleyn, the second of his six wives.

In 1890, Nellie completed her 72-day, 6-hour, 11-minute, 14-second journey around the world when she stepped off a train in New York. The journalist had set out to challenge the fictional record set in Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days."

In 1961, Disney released the animated film "One Hundred and One Dalmatians" in the United States.

In 1972, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American to seek a major party's nomination for president when she announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination at Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York.

In 2005, Portland Mayor Bruce Hosier laid out goals for economic growth while Jay County Commissioners president Milo Miller Jr. focused on clean-up following a devastating ice storm from just a few weeks earlier during their State of the City and State of the County addresses.

In 2021, Jay County's animal control task force shared its reasoning behind a recommendation for a new facility with a price tag north of \$1 million. The project eventually moved forward with a facility planned for the former Fastenal building on the west side of Portland. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Today**  
6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

**Friday**  
8 a.m. — Portland

Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

**Feb. 1**  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

## Obituaries

### Judy McBeth

Oct. 11, 1947-Jan. 22, 2024  
Judy Lynn (Smiley) McBeth, age 76, Albany, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Born in Coldwater, Ohio, on Oct. 11, 1947, she grew up in Redkey and was a 1965 graduate of Redkey High School. Judy retired in 2013 from Ferrell Gas, Albany, after working there for 47½ years. She enjoyed reading, shopping, being outdoors and spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include a son, Skylan McBeth (wife: Jill), Troy, Michigan, and daughter, Brooke McBeth (partner: John Mock Jr.), Alexandria; sister Ronda Moreno, Muncie; and

grandchildren Joseph McBeth (wife: Chelsea), Winchester, Nicklaus McBeth, Troy, Michigan, and Lauren McBeth, Troy, Michigan.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Michael D. McBeth, who died in 2022; her parents; and a sister, Linda Miller.

Services will be 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at Meacham Funeral Service. Entombment will take place at Gardens of Memory Cemetery.

Visiting hours are Friday from 3 until 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Cancer Services of



McBeth

East Central Indiana (Little Red Door).

Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com.

**Lois Ann Christian**, Dunkirk, Jan. 21, 1949-Jan. 23, 2024. Services will be at 4 p.m. Sunday at MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city 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.

## Bills ...

Continued from page 1  
The districts, which allow communities to provide additional liquor licenses at a lower cost in order to help drive economic development, are currently only available to cities. The bill would allow towns to establish the districts as well.

Those bills now head to the house with State Reps. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton) and Lehman (R-Berne) as sponsors, respectively.

Senate Bill 234, which was also authored by State Sens. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis) and Garten, passed the Senate on a 38-10 vote mostly along party lines. The bill indicates that a state of disaster emergency declared by the governor would expire after 30 days. It prohibits the governor from calling a new state of disaster emergency unless it is "wholly unrelated" to the previous disaster but allows renewal of a disaster emergency solely for the purpose of receiving federal funds.

Sen. Greg Walker (R-Columbus) joined nine Democrats in voting against the bill, which moves to the house with Lehman as its sponsor.

Prescott's House Bill 1338 passed the house 79-17 Monday. It creates a structure for local units of government — school boards are excluded because they are already addressed in

another section of Indiana Code — to establish rules for public comment during meetings, including restrictions on time. It sets up a "three strike" procedure — two verbal warnings followed by removal — for enforcing those rules and clarifies that law enforcement officers can't be held liable for removing individuals from those meetings. The bill also would clarify what areas of government property are open to the public. Off limits would be areas marked as restricted, designated as employee or authorized personnel only, locked or otherwise not accessible to the public.

During Monday's House session, Reps. John Bartlett (D-Indianapolis) and Bruce Borders (R-Jasonville) expressed concern that elected officials could attempt to use the legislation to avoid difficult questions from their constituents.

"This bill kind of scares me from that perspective," said Bartlett.

Prescott (R-Union City), who represents all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties as well as part of Delaware and Henry counties, reiterated that the bill is not intended to silence anyone but rather to make sure government units can conduct business in an orderly fashion. He said the goal is to have civil, open discussions.

The bill now moves to the Senate with Sens. Scott Alexander (R-Muncie) and Jeff Raatz (R-Richmond) as sponsors.

House Bill 1158 from Lehman (R-Berne), who represents northern Jay County as well as Adams and Wells counties, lays out procedures for county elected officials to enter into contracts. It sets out steps for proposed contracts to be submitted to the county auditor, forwarded to the president of the executive branch (county commissioners) for review within 15 days and then either approved or returned to the elected official with a written explanation regarding what needs to be changed. It also details that commissioners would be able to specify language that contracts must include.

The bill passed the House 94-0 and now heads to the Senate with Holdman and Garten as sponsors.

Also this week, Holdman's Senate Bill passed out of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee. It would exempt specialty or gourmet markets with a restaurant permit from income requirements to sell carry-out alcohol. It had previously passed out of the Senate Public Policy Committee. It is scheduled for second reading in the Senate today.

### SERVICES

**Friday**  
**McBeth, Judy:** 5 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

**Sunday**  
**Liechty, Tab:** 2:30 p.m. Bridge Community Church South Campus, 406 E. Parr Road.  
**Christian, Lois:** 4 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
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Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

## Capsule Reports

### Bryant gets grant

Bryant Volunteer Fire Department was among the more than 100 rural and volunteer fire departments announced Wednesday as recipients of Volunteer Fire Assistance grants from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The DNR grants in total came to more than \$454,000. Bryant was awarded \$5,000 to help pay for water handling equipment and training.

Grants were available to fund training or purchase necessary firefighting equipment and gear to combat wildland fires.

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# CARS

• SPECIAL SECTION •

Our **CARS 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)

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.  
Deadline for ads is Jan. 31

full-page color – \$550 (only one available)  
1/2-page color – \$475  
1/2-page B&W – \$275  
1/4-page B&W – \$225  
Big business card (3x3.5) – \$100  
Business card (2x2) – \$60

**GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS**

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

# Entries are open for photo contest

It's time to share your favorite photos of the Hoosier state.

## Taking Note

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology annual photo contest is underway.

The contest is for photos of structures in Indiana that are at least 50 years old, though this year's theme is Indiana's historic scholastic gymnasiums. It is open to photographers of any age and skill level.

Photographers can enter up to three images. For complete rules and

the required entry form, visit [on.IN.gov/preservation-month](http://on.IN.gov/preservation-month). Images must be emailed with the entry form to [DHPAConnect@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DHPAConnect@dnr.IN.gov).

The deadline to enter is April 5.

## Donate blood

The American Red Cross is in an emergency blood shortage.

In response, the Red Cross and the National Football League are partnering on a program to encourage donations. Those who donate blood in January will be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to the Super Bowl in Las Vegas.

Blood drives scheduled this month include:

- Randolph County — 1 to 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at Farmland Friends Church, 8311 W. Indiana 32, Farmland

- Delaware County — noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at Riverview Church of the Nazarene, 2600 E. Willard St., Muncie; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 31 at Delta High

School, 3400 E. Indiana 28, Muncie

## Asking for essays

The 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest led by the Indiana Association of High School Principals is 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](http://iasp.org/students/mlk-jr-essay). The deadline to submit essays is Feb. 29.

## Requesting feedback

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is asking for feedback regarding how the state should spend federal grant funds to improve Indiana's air quality.

IDEM received a \$3 million initial grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and develop a plan, and may be eligible to apply for addi-

tional funding to implement strategies.

At [on.IN.gov/cprg](http://on.IN.gov/cprg), Hoosiers can find an overview of the grant and other details as well as a link to a survey regarding how the funds should be spent.

## Program available

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District is partnering with Northstar for the Digital Literacy Program.

The program is free through the end of the year.

To access the Digital Literacy Program for free, visit [bit.ly/JayCoDLP](http://bit.ly/JayCoDLP) and click "sign up as a learner."

# Son's girlfriend may miss out on tradition

DEAR ABBY: My son, who is in his senior year of high school, is dating a beautiful, sweet girl I'll call "Amanda." I'm very fond of her. This is an exciting year for them both because soon she will be shopping for her graduation gown. Amanda told me her mom has said she will have to wear her older sister's dress. (Her sister graduated seven years ago.) Finances are tight for their family. I asked Amanda how she feels about it, and she isn't happy.

I would love to buy her a gown. I remember being in high school and how exciting it was to be able to buy a new gown. My daughter is two years older and says that soon the girls in school will be talking about shopping for their new gowns. I really want this experience for Amanda.

## Dear Abby



a caring, thoughtful, generous woman. However, the subject of Amanda's family's finances is sure to be a delicate one. Do not discuss this with Amanda yet. Consider reaching out "mother-to-mother" and explaining that Amanda mentioned she might be wearing her sister's dress for graduation.

Explain to Mom that you care about Amanda, and suggest that IF SHE WOULD ALLOW IT, you would love to take them both to lunch and to shop for a dress she might like. Tell her you would like that to be your graduation gift to Amanda or, if this is something she'd prefer to be just between the two of you adults, you would reimburse her for the expense. Then cross your

fingers. You are a sweetheart.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: My oldest daughter, "Teri's," mother-in-law snooped into Teri's text messages and found a cartoon I had sent of two early Colonials at a bar, one saying to the other, "I've been in the doghouse ever since I tried to get my mother-in-law hanged as a witch." An argument ensued over her looking at the texts without permission. Shortly after, I received a text from her mother-in-law with a middle finger emoji.

I live in the same city the mother-in-law lives in. Teri lives far away. Sooner or later, our paths will cross, and I'm not sure what I should say or do. My text was meant as a joke — though I must admit the mother-in-law is not an easy

person to get along with. I did not respond to her emoji. Actually, I blocked her number on my phone. What should I do? No one has ever given me the finger before! — HUMOROUS DAD IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DAD: There's always a first time. Tell the woman you are sorry "if her feelings were hurt" and explain that the cartoon was a joke, rather than a judgment of her personally — or, when you see her, laugh about the emoji, which was probably also meant as a joke.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://DearAbby.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@theccr.com](mailto:news@theccr.com).

Today  
LAWYERS IN

LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics includ-

ing divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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](mailto:zion-lutheranportland@gmail.com).

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

Friday  
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

## Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

## Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - 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. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

## Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome.

For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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

BREAD OF LIFE COM-

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

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Wednesday's Solution

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

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The News Times	ONE 4x4 ad
The News and Sun	ONE 4x4 ad

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# Reader expresses concern for Redkey

To the editor:  
This letter is in response to the Jan. 16, 2024, editorial submitted by the residents of the Town of Redkey addressing Mr. Cooney's editorial in The CR on Dec. 26, 2023, as it relates to the proposed sober living facility in their community.

## Letters to the Editor

- No easy access to mental health resources or quick hospital access
- No form of public transportation
- No stable police force with a strong police presence

They thanked the county commissioners for addressing their opposition to the proposed sober living facility, but failed to petition them for any assistance in correcting their community's deficiencies they listed in their editorial.

William "Nick" Miller  
Portland

I am extremely concerned for the welfare and viability of the community members of Redkey after the numerous deficiencies and lack of resources necessary to sustain human existence as enumerated in their letter:

- No employment opportunities
- No ready access to a grocery store or restaurants
- No recreational spaces



# Districts are a key tool

By **STEPHANIE WELLS**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The House Ways and Means committee last week heard hours of testimony about eliminating a financing mechanism intended to pay for critical services in the Indianapolis Mile Square.

This area, which houses the seats of state and local governments, as well as marquee sporting and entertainment venues has seen better times. In 2023, Indianapolis was able to secure a provision in the state's budget that would allow for Indianapolis to institute a fee on property owners in the heart of downtown, to pay for needed services.

Now that this fee has been locally approved, powerful interests at the Statehouse are pushing legislators to invalidate the financing tool.

The funding mechanism at risk, known as an Economic Enhancement District, would pay for public safety enhancements, increased cleaning, and services to reduce homelessness. The total budget for the Economic Enhancement District will be \$5.5 million per year.

First, let us look at the reality of downtown Indy.

A 2023 report indicated that Indianapolis had over 1,600 homeless individuals, with several hundred being unsheltered.

While overall homelessness is down slightly in Indy, there has been a significant increase in unsheltered residents — particularly among Black individuals and families.

Downtown Indy sees most of these unsheltered individuals, and the homeless service providers are located near the center of the city.

These individuals require significant help as they move towards permanent and safe housing.

After considerable discussion and study, the General Assembly and Indianapolis are investing a combined \$32 million to build an emergency shelter downtown, with comprehensive services that is open 24/7 to serve these individuals and families as they work towards permanent housing.

While empirically, crime is down in Mile Square and greater Indianapolis, perceptions from many vary.

In fact, the General Assembly is currently looking to expand handgun carrying permissions for legislators and staff due to many of our state's leaders feel

*Stephanie Wells*



ing unsafe in our state Capitol complex and environs.

The Economic Enhancement District legislation in the budget allowed Indianapolis to pass an ordinance to assess a fee (not to be confused with a property tax increase, which this is not) to pay for enhanced services to meet the needs of property owners.

Homeowners will pay a flat \$250 per year, with other property owners paying 0.168% of their property's gross assessed value.

There are over 2,000 of these types of districts within the United States, which started popping up in the 1970s. They go by different names but are sometimes referred to collectively as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

While each BID operates slightly differently, they are all public-private partnerships created by a local ordinance and overseen by a board of directors.

Administration is overseen by a nonprofit, in this case Downtown Indy, Inc.

Since 1988, Indiana has had an enabling statute to create a BID (known in the original law as an Economic Improvement District), and many localities took the state up on the offer — Evansville, Fort Wayne, Northwest Indiana, and even Woodruff Place and Fletcher Place in Indianapolis have such districts. However, when Indianapolis began the process to create a downtown district in 2018, the General Assembly passed legislation to make it nearly impossible for local governments to obtain the large number of petitions that would be needed to create such a district. The Economic Enhancement District legislation passed last year made it easier for Indianapolis to create such a district.

The opponents who are driving this effort to repeal the Economic Enhancement District state that Indianapolis can either raise general taxes to pay for these services, or should depend on philanthropy for the funds. Not so — it is not realistic to depend on philanthropy to provide long-term operational

support for these types of activities. Raising taxes might push Indianapolis towards debt caps that would limit bonding or borrowing. The district, and others like it, provides a unique and straightforward economic and community development tool for municipalities, developers, and property owners because it allows targeted control, financing, and development of projects without creating an additional financing burden on the City.

Opponents, which include some apartment owners and out-of-state interest groups, concede that downtown Indy needs assistance, but posit no realistic funding alternative.

Proponents include area residents, developers, apartment owners, employers, and community leaders. It is important to note that the conversation around the need for the Economic Enhancement District has been going on for over a decade, and is a solution to drive sustainable, dedicated resources toward issues of public safety, homelessness, and cleanliness in the heart of the capital city. The conversation ramped up, as the pandemic increased the urgency around this need, but this is certainly not a new policy discussion.

While the enabling provision was indeed placed in the state budget and was not heard as a standalone bill in 2023, this is not that unusual in Indiana (and was not the only "surprise" provision included in the 2023 budget — can we talk about pay increases for state elected officials?). Using this as a reason to repeal this tool is disingenuous.

This tool to create an Economic Enhancement District was provided by the Indiana General Assembly to the City of Indianapolis.

This tool is one that businesses and residents can be engaged with to drive their own destiny.

.....  
*Wells is President of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute. She is the Founder of Wells Strategy + Solutions, which provides clients with assistance on workforce development, economic development, policy solutions, research, and data analysis, along with logic and data modeling. Previously she was vice president of workforce development for the Indiana Manufacturers Association.*

*Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.*

# Slight increase is not enough

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

It is fashionable to label income disparities as income inequalities or worse ... inequities.

Whatever name is attached to them, they do exist and the reasons for them are many.

There's data from the Census Bureau or the Bureau of Labor Statistics on disparities by race, gender, occupation, industry, families and individuals. Income figures may include just earnings (wages and salaries), or have interest, dividends, rent, Social Security, Medicare, pensions and retirement accounts thrown in.

Now, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has personal income data by household. New fodder for political battles and academic disputes. Let's dive right in.

In Indiana, in 2012, the median household personal income was \$75,702 (31st among the 50 states). After adjustment for inflation (that is, in 2012 dollars), that figure rose in 2019 to \$84,026 (32nd in the nation). It was an 11% increase, 29th highest in the U.S. (More recent data were distorted by the coronavirus epidemic.)

In 2012, the highest median personal income for households was \$106,370 (Alaska) and the lowest \$66,041 (Florida). In 2019, the highest median was \$113,499 (Alaska) and the lowest \$75,904 (Kentucky). The spread between the highest and the lowest declined from 61% to 50%. Hence, with this metric, we can say income disparities among the states decreased.

But no one gets into a lather about income disparities among the states. We just make excuses why our state's income isn't higher. The favorite Hoosier rationale is our "lower cost of living" and the ease of living in paradise.

From 2012 to 2019, 29 states experienced a decline in the share of personal income going to the top 10% of households. Within Indiana, in 2012, the top 10% of households had 35.1% of the state's personal income (20th highest in the nation), a figure which improved to 33.4% in 2019 (32nd highest).

In that same period, 36 states saw the bottom 10% of households in the nation

*Eye on the Pie*



*Our slightly improved economic situation may have decreased just slightly ... and not enough to strike up the band even for the most bumptious bandmasters in our state.*

increase their shares of personal income. For Indiana, where the bottom 10% had a mere 1.9% share (tied for the 12th highest state) we improved to 2.2% (tied for the sixth highest slot).

What? No bells tolling the good news? No headlines in the ghost newspapers? "Hoosier income disparities decreasing!"

Last week we asked: "Is it possible that our increasing earnings per job and per capita are related to income disparities in Indiana?"

The answer seems to be yes.

Our slightly improved economic situation may have decreased just slightly Indiana's income disparities. Slightly and not enough to strike up the band even for the most bumptious bandmasters in our state.

It could be increased federal assistance to the poor and more income for retired workers together had a larger positive effect than the earnings increases identified last week. Rising tides don't lift boats with heavy anchors and short chains.

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

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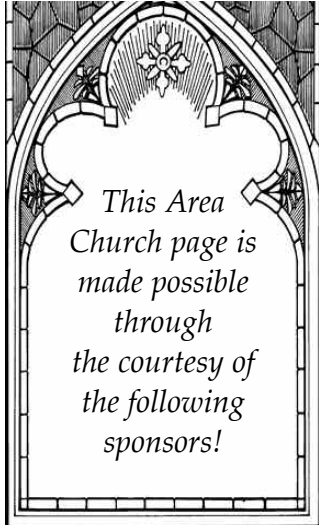
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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto:letters@thecr.com). They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

*"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**  
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) 223-2961  
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

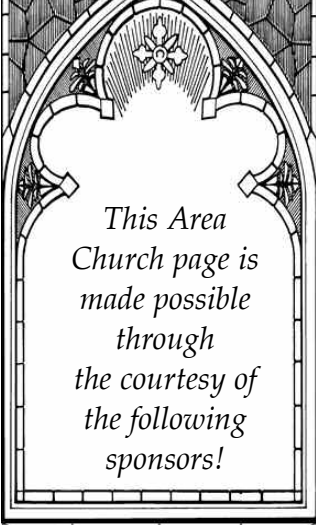
**Union Chapel**  
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant  
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow  
(260) 849-0687  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

**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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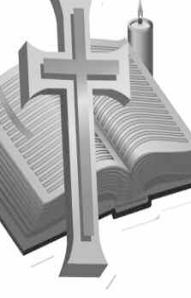
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A case for the defense

East dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: A 4 2, J 7 2, 10 8 7 5 2, 10 7. WEST: 5 3, K Q 10 6 3, J 6, K J 4 2. EAST: K 9 8 6, A 9 8 4, 3, 9 6 5 3. SOUTH: Q J 10 7, 5, A K Q 9 4, A Q 8. The bidding: East 1, South 1, West 1, North 2. Pass 3, 3, Pass 4. Pass 5. Opening lead — king of hearts.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



East should count on the ace of hearts and king of spades as two tricks for the defense and should conclude that his side's best chance for a third trick lies in clubs. Once this conclusion is reached, it is clear that clubs should be attacked at trick two, and, obviously, that it must be better for the club lead to come from East.

1-25 CRYPTOQUIP MRPRUURJ ORT PNO MNSF PF MR NXO UFIMNTUNXM MYNM ORT'H KDSF. JYFUF ORT KFNH, D JDKK IJNKKRJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VARIOUS GRAINS PLANTED AND HARVESTED ALONG AMERICAN OCEAN SHORES: UNITED STATES MARINE CROPS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Roman god of love, 5 Curved line, 8 Unpaid TV ads (Abbr.), 12 Exceptional degree, 13 To — money, 14 Italian soup, 15 Scrambled wd., 16 Formerly called, 17 Stumble, 18 Story credit, 20 Virgil or Wyatt, 22 Ankle-length garments, 26 "Speed-the-Plow" playwright, 29 Actress Arthur, 30 Chit, 31 Persia, today, 32 That guy's, 33 Capri, for one. DOWN: 1 Speedy steed, 2 Oodles, 3 Spoken plan, 4 Exercise, 5 Wing, 6 Numbered rd., 7 Pizza toppings, 8 — dish, 9 Startle hero, 10 "Exodus" (up), 11 Soak (up), 19 Rebellion leader, 21 Alias abbr., 23 Spanish resort site, 24 Bridge charge, 25 Litigates, 26 Fine spray, 27 La Scala melody, 28 Followers of philosopher Karl, 32 Difficult position, 33 Refuses to yield, 35 Merit-badge org., 36 Peculiar, 38 O., Henry's specialty, 39 Puma alternatives, 42 Track shape, 43 Simple, 44 Winter fall, 45 Avril follower, 46 Hairy Addams cousin, 48 Peyton's brother.

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## Right ...

Continued from page 8  
“Morgan came out and had a best time in her 50 freestyle, she needed that confidence booster. She hadn't swung backstroke in a little while so it's good to see her come out and swim good with that. She looked really good tonight.”

The Jay County girls took the top spot in seven other events as well:

•100 freestyle — Aubrey Millsbaugh in 1:03.46

•200 freestyle — Zion Beiswanger in 2:27.91

•200 individual medley — Lauren Fisher in 2:40.33

•500 freestyle — Ariel Beiswanger in 6:29.95

•200 freestyle relay — DeHoff, Fisher, Hoevel and Zion Beiswanger in 1:55.4

•200 medley relay — Avery Wentz, DeHoff, Fisher and Zion Beiswanger in 2:07.68

•400 freestyle relay — Maisey Keller, Ariel Beiswanger, Millsbaugh and Hoevel in 4:28.9

“I think it's good for us to see so many victories going into sectionals,” Zion Beiswanger said. “Just a good feeling of

accomplishment. “Everyone's had a lot of time drops. Everyone's worked really hard in practice — we've had a different strategy for practice (since winter break) and I think that's worked really well.”

Jolin Fang of Muncie Burris snuck away with the 100 butterfly (1:16.77) to steal the only individual victory that didn't go to the Patriots, as Kenzie Clayton of Jay County finished second.

The Owls ran away with first place in eight of the 12 boys events as Blackford and Jay County (3-10) each had two.

The first Jay County victory came from Brason Glassford in the diving. After setting a career-best score of 148.15 points at the ACAC meet, the sophomore smashed that number with a 167-point performance on Tuesday.

“(Assistant coach Sawyer Weitzel) has got him to believe in himself a little bit more,” Slavik said. “He's strengthened his (degree of difficulty) a little bit and scoring higher. We'll hope to have everything cleaned up by

the time we get to sectionals for him.

“He's definitely moving in the right direction.”

After starting with a victory, Jay County ended the meet with a win in the 400 freestyle relay as Lincoln Clamme, Hugo Gutierrez, Matthew Fisher and Joseph Dow put together a time of 4:24.31.

JCHS took second in three of the 10 remaining events. Its depth powered it past Muncie Burris, but Slavik took blame for the loss to Blackford, saying that with some lineup adjustments he believes they could have pulled out the win.

Despite the loss, he was pleased with the day that the boys and girls had as the regular season winds down.

“I'm proud of this team and where they've come,” Slavik said. “They've been a fun team to coach and are very coachable. Trying to compare this team to teams in the past, you've got to compare as far as the attitudes of the kids and willingness to put the effort in and this team does a great job with that.”



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Kenzie Huey swims the backstroke leg of the 200 medley relay team on Tuesday. The team that also included Maddy Snow, Kenzie Clayton and Emma Ransom took second, falling to the other JCHS team.

## HOF ...

Continued from page 8  
Beltre, 44, played in parts of 21 big-league seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox, and Texas Rangers. He ranks ninth in at-bats (11,068), 11th in doubles (636), 15th in total bases (5,309), 15th in extra-base hits (1,151), 18th in hits (3,166), 25th in runs batted in (1,707) and 31st in home runs (477).

Beltre was originally signed out of the Dominican Republic by legendary Dodgers scout Ralph Avila, father of longtime Tigers executive Al Avila and grandfather of former Tigers catcher Alex Avila. (The Dodgers would later be penalized for illegally signing Beltre before his 16th birthday).

Helton, 50, is a native of Knoxville who played at the Universi-

ty of Tennessee. He spent his entire 17-year career with the Rockies. He won the batting title with a .372 average in 2000. He finished his career with 2,519 hits and had more walks (1,335) than strikeouts (1,175).

Mauer, 40, played in 15 big-league seasons, all with the Twins. He won American League batting titles in 2006, 2008 and 2009, the most by a catcher.

## Roundup ...

Continued from page 8  
The girls earned 80 points, while St. Henry's 61 took second place and Greenville trailed with 23.

Caleb Smith had a career day for the Indians (1-9) with wins in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100 breaststroke. His breaststroke time of 1 minute, 10.83 seconds broke the school record previously held by teammate Sage Wendel. Smith beat two competitors in the sprint freestyle with a time of 26.6 seconds.

Carson Fullenkamp swam uncontested in the 100 butterfly, but his 1:15.34 freestyle earned first in the 100 backstroke. Wendel picked up victories in the 200 individual medley (2:17.87) and the 100 freestyle (57.28).

Five swimmers on the girls team (7-3)

picked up individual wins and two relays took first as well.

Joelle Kaup and Allison Knapke earned a pair of victories for FRHS. Kaup handled the 200 freestyle (2:16.01) and 500 freestyle (6:08.86), while Knapke's wins came in the 100 butterfly (1:20.57) and 100 backstroke (1:19.97).

The other three individual winners were Teigen Fortkamp (200 individual medley), Paige Guggenbiller (50 freestyle) and Theresa Hipple (1-meter diving).

Fortkamp, Guggenbiller, Makenna Huelskamp and Aubrey Shuttlesworth made up the first-place 200 freestyle relay team (1:55.55). Kaup replaced Shuttlesworth on the freestyle relay team (4:13.14) that decimated the field by nearly a full minute.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Swimming vs. Marion — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball ACAC tournament at winner of Adams Central and South Adams — 5:30p.m.; Junior high girls basketball ACAC tournament at home — 6p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Jay County — Boys basketball (including

freshmen) at Bluffton — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Marion Local — 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SMU at North Texas (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Miami Heat (TNT)  
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at LSU (ESPN); Penn State at

Northwestern (BTN)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: San Francisco at Gonzaga (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Golden State Warriors (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)

### Friday

5 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at New York Rangers (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan State at Wisconsin (FS1)  
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Saint Joseph's at St. Bonaventure (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Stanford at Cal (ESPN2)

### Local notes

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

Mojo-Up Sports indoor Complex in Noblesville on Jan. 30.

Anyone 19-years-old or older that is looking for the opportunity to continue playing baseball can try out.

The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days. To sign up or for more information on the league, visit [www.aloo0247.com](http://www.aloo0247.com), call (205) 264-1468 or email [411@aloo0247.com](mailto:411@aloo0247.com).

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to [sports@thecr.com](mailto:sports@thecr.com).

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TIME 4:30 P.M.  
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being road frontage. Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland Township, Jay County all tillable.

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### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

City of Portland  
2023-2 CCMG Portland Project Sealed Bids for the 2023-2 CCMG Portland Project will be received by the City of Portland at the Jay County Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian Street, Suite D, Portland, Indiana 47371, until Friday, February 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work: The crack sealing of various streets within the City of Portland. Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found and downloaded at the following website: [choiceoneengineering.com/projects-out-for-bid](http://choiceoneengineering.com/projects-out-for-bid). All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office of Choice One.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. Owner: City of Portland By: Jeff Westlake Title: Mayor CR 1-18.25-2024-HSPAXLP

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

### SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF SUIT  
STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY SUPERIOR COURT 1  
CAUSE NO. 38D01-2312-MF-000028

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC FKA QUICKEN LOANS LLC, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JERIC COONS, DECEASED AND OCCUPANT(S) OF 11232 W 800 S, REDKEY, IN 47373, Defendants.

The State of Indiana to the Defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned: You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a Complaint on Note and for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described real estate:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 28 Township 22 North, Range 12 East, Richland Township, Jay County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 28, Township 22 North, Range 12 East, Richland Township, Jay County, Indiana; thence West 1137 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 187 feet to a stake; thence West 122 feet to a stake; thence South 187 feet to a stake; thence East 122 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 0.50 acres more or less. And Commonly known as: 11232 W 800 S, Redkey, IN 47373

This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are known to me: OCCUPANT(S) OF 11232 W 800 S, REDKEY, IN 47373

This Summons by Publication is also specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are unknown to me:

The Unknown Heirs at Law of Jeric Coons, Deceased  
In addition to the above named Defendants being served by this Summons, there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit.

If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 2 day of March, 2024 (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.

### ATTEST:

Jon Eads  
Clerk of the Jay County Superior Court 1  
S. Brent Potter (10900-49)  
Tina M. Caylor (30994-49)  
Alan W. McEwan (24051-49)  
Nathan A. Dewan (35006-82)  
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Fax: 317-264-5400

CR 1-18.25.2-1-2024-HSPAXLP

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

### 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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Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

Larry R. Newton, Jr., Sheriff  
MATTHEW S. LOVE,  
Plaintiff Attorney  
Attorney # 18762-29  
FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.  
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CR 1-11,18,25-2024-HSPAXLP

Jay girls basketball dominates Heritage, see story below

FRHS girls basketball hosts rematch with Flyers, see Sports on tap

# Sports

## Three voted into HOF

**Adrian Beltre, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer elected by Baseball Writers Association of America**

By EVAN WOODBERY  
mlive.com

Former Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland will have company on the stage in Cooperstown, N.Y., this summer.

Adrian Beltre, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer were elected to the Hall of Fame by eligible members of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Beltre, a five-time Gold Glove winner who is considered one of the best third basemen to play the game, received 95.1 percent of the votes in his first time on the BBWAA ballot.

Helton, who spent his entire career as first baseman for the Colorado Rockies, was named on 79.7 percent of the ballots. Mauer, a St. Paul native who became the face of the Twins' franchise as an elite catcher and later first baseman, received 76.1 percent of the votes in his first appearance on the ballot.

Players are elected if they receive 75 percent of the 385 ballots cast.

The three players will be honored during Induction Weekend on July 19-22, along with Leyland, who was elected by the Contemporary Baseball Era Committee last month.

Reliever Billy Wagner fell just five votes short of election (73.8 percent) in his ninth time on the ballot. That should give him momentum to be a favorite for selection next year in his 10th and final time on the ballot.

Outfielder Gary Sheffield, who played for the Tigers in 2007-2008, received 63.9 percent of the votes in his final appearance on the ballot.

His case for Cooperstown will now shift to the Hall's committee system. He could be considered by the Contemporary Baseball Era Players Committee for the class of 2026.

It was his 10th and final season on the BBWAA ballot for Sheffield. His case will revert to the BBWAA's Historical Overview Committee in December 2025, which crafts the ballots for consideration on the Contemporary Baseball Era Players Committee for the Class of 2026.

Reliever Francisco Rodriguez, who pitched for the Tigers from 2016-2017, received 7.8 percent of the votes, while outfielder Torii Hunter, who played for the Tigers in 2013-2014, received 7.3 percent. Both will remain on the ballot next year.

Victor Martinez, who played for the Tigers from 2011-2018, received only six votes (1.6 percent) in his first year of eligibility. He will fall off the ballot.

See HOF page 7

## Girls get back right

**Jay County girls win 11-of-12 events in sweep of Blackford, Muncie Burris**

By ANDREW BALKO  
The Commercial Review

On Friday, the Patriots only boasted one individual victory at the Allen County Athletic Conference meet.

By Tuesday, they flipped that as they took the top spot in all but one event in a double dual.

The Jay County High School girls swim team claimed first place in 11 out of 12 events as it took down the Blackford Bruins and the Muncie Burris Owls in a double dual on Tuesday, while the boys team split.

The Patriots girls scored the same amount of points against both teams to take down the Bruins 167-87 and the Owls 167-39. The boys claimed two individual victories as they beat Muncie Burris by over 20 points (128-103), while falling in a close competition with Blackford 130-124.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County junior Aubrey Millspaugh swims the 100-yard freestyle during Tuesday's sweep of Blackford and Muncie Burris. Millspaugh's time of 1 minute, 3.46 seconds won the event to make her one of the 10 Patriot girls to win an event.

Most of the Jay County lineup was mixed up to give the swimmers a break from their typical events with the sectional nine days away.

"The lineups at the end of the night was lined up to do some different things and build some confidence as we get into it and give them a break from their normal events," JCHS coach Matt Slavik said. "They just needed a break to just go out and compete. They

did and they all came through with flying colors. Competing in their off events we had some great time drops which helps me change up relays a little bit I think and to set us up to be as successful as possible in a couple weeks."

Maddy Snow and Morgan DeHoff won multiple events for the Patriots (9-4). Snow opened the meet with a victory in the 1-meter diving by scoring 181.45 points. Second

place went to Karlie Pitts of Blackford with 131 points. Later, she swam a 1 minute, 26.91 second, 100-yard breaststroke to capture the top spot over teammate Sophia Hoevel (1:32.08).

DeHoff's first victory came in the 50 freestyle, in which she posted a career-best time of 28.1 seconds. Slavik noted that DeHoff swimming in the sprint freestyle may be one of the only positions that stays from this meet

for the sectional. DeHoff claimed her other first-place finish in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:19.57, 4.08 seconds faster than Blackford's Catalina Velasquez.

"It was great for Maddy to come out and be able to swim 100 breaststroke and capitalize on that as well as her diving," Slavik said. "She had a really good night and trying to see where she's gonna fit in next week."

See Right page 7

## Patriots claim ACAC outright

MONROEVILLE — The Patriots clinched at least a share of the Allen County Athletic Conference title in a blowout win on Saturday.

Three days later, they finished the job.

The Jay County High School girls basketball team stands alone atop the ACAC standings after blowing out the Heritage Patriots 51-17 in the regular season finale Tuesday.

Jay County (20-2, 6-0 ACAC) took firm control of the game with a dominant first quarter. It didn't give up a single point the entire period as they tallied 20 of its own.

JCHS coasted from there, never allowing Heritage (1-18, 0-6) to hit 20 points as it scored 7, 3 and 7.

Molly Muhlenkamp led the way in scoring with 16 points. Sophie Saxman and Bella Denton reached double figures as well with 12 and 11 respectively.

Muhlenkamp also recorded the most rebounds with nine.

Dishing out the most assists was Breanna Dirk-

### Local roundup

sen, while Saxman and Hallie Schwieterman each gained five extra possessions with steals.

Jay County will ride an 18-game winning streak that began on Nov. 18 as it heads into the postseason, when it plays host Yorktown on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

### Boys get first win

BERNE — The Fort Recovery boys swim team picked up its first win on Tuesday as it split with Greenville and St. Henry in a meet at South Adams. The girls team swept both opponents by winning nine of the 12 events.

All three Fort Recovery boys won their events to tally 36 points to beat St. Henry (12) and fall to the depth of Greenville (58).

See Roundup page 7

**Portland's Largest Selection of FRESH CUT QUALITY MEAT**



**AWARD WINNING MEATS**

**While supplies last, no rain checks**

**Fisher Gift Cards available for purchase! They can be used at either Portland or Muncie locations and never expire.**

10 lb. case of frozen, 1 lb tubed 80/20 <b>Ground Beef</b> \$2.99/lb	Pinwheel <b>Steaks</b> \$9.99/lb
<b>Quarterloin Pork Chops</b> \$2.69/lb (sold on sheets of 6)	<b>Round Steaks</b> \$5.99/lb
<b>Country Style Sausage Patties</b> \$3.49/lb frozen 1 lb. pkg, 4 pappies to a lb.	Beef <b>Stew Meat</b> \$5.99/lb
	<b>X-Lean sausage</b> \$2.99/lb (salt & pepper)

**Baby Swiss** ..... \$6.39/lb

**Colw Slaw** ..... \$2.89/lb

**From Fisher's Smokehouse**

<b>Macaroni &amp; Cheese Loaf</b> \$5.99/lb	<b>Roast Beef (whole muscle)</b> \$9.99/lb	<b>Cracker Bologna</b> \$3.39/ea. 11 oz. chub
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**\*while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

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