

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

From FR to Oz



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Joscie LeFevre (right) as Dorothy Gale gives a concerned look as Professor Marvel, played by Grace Lochtefeld, consults a crystal ball during Tuesday's rehearsal for Fort Recovery Drama Club's production of "The Wizard of Oz." Shows are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday as well as 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, which will be available at the door, are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults, with children 5 and younger admitted free.

High school drama club is off to see the wizard with production that opens Friday

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

This weekend, the yellow brick road leads to Fort Recovery.

The Fort Recovery High School Drama Club production of "The Wizard of Oz" opens at 7 p.m. Friday night with additional shows at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Director Reid Knuth chose the show in part because it is a well-known classic that is beloved by generations. It tells the tale of Dorothy Gale, played by senior Joscie LeFevre, being swept away

from her Kansas farm home by a tornado to Oz.

In her quest to find a way home, she meets up with a scarecrow (Trevor Heitkamp), tin man (Zach Schoenlein) and lion (Ella Kremer), all of which are in search of a brain, heart and courage, respectively. They join her in her journey along the Yellow Brick Road to find the Wizard of Oz, who is purportedly able to grant them the things they are missing.

Knuth added that he felt the show would be a good one to feature the students involved. "I thought we had a good cast

for it," he said. "The Wizard of Oz' has a whole bunch of leads. It's not just one lead role, there's about eight of them. We had a strong enough cast that I thought we could cast all eight lead roles and supporting roles really well and execute it."

In addition to Dorothy and her newfound friends, who also double as farmhands, the cast also includes Olivia Smith as the Wicked Witch of the West/Miss Gulch, Leah Wuebker as Glinda the Good Witch/Auntie Em, Grace Lochtefeld as the Wizard/Professor Marvel and Caden Mar-

chal as Guard/Uncle Henry. (Kremer's dog Boone plays Dorothy's best canine friend Toto.)

LeFevre leads the cast, starting with her performances of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and singing just about every song in the show.

"Joscie is unbelievable," said Knuth of the senior who played Else in last year's production of "Frozen Jr." among her many school roles and has been involved with several area theatre organizations. "I can't say enough good things about her." See Oz page 2

'Public official' subject of ISP probe

Investigation involves allegation of identity deception

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A public official in Jay County is the subject of a state police investigation.

Indiana State Police confirmed Wednesday morning that it is investigating a complaint against a public official in the county regarding identity deception.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur said Wednesday morning that the investigation stemmed from a resident's complaint that was brought to Jay County Sheriff's Office. It then went through his office and a state police investigation was requested.

The state police investigation into "identity deception related activity" began Feb. 1.

Schemenaur said the investigation is regarding a county employee. He noted that he requested a special prosecutor for the case but that he does not know who has been appointed to that role.

He and state police declined to provide any further detail because the investigation is ongoing.

"As this is an active criminal investigation, for which criminal charges have not yet been determined or filed, there is no further information to be released at this time," said state police District 22 public information officer Brian K. Walker.

When the investigation is complete, details will be turned over to the special prosecutor for review to determine if criminal charges will be filed.

See Probe page 2

Funds OK'd for truck

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Funding has been OK'd for another trash truck.

Portland City Council for the second consecutive meeting on Tuesday approved funding for the purchase of a new trash truck, though the actual transaction is still a couple of years down the road.

Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver explained to the council again that his goal is to put the city's trash trucks in a rotation. (The current trucks were purchased within a few months of each other in 2017 and '18.)

At its last meeting, council approved \$183,820.98 in funding for a trash truck. (Portland Board of Works OK'd the purchase at its Feb. 1 meeting.) Delivery of the truck is expected in August.

Shauver explained to

Second new trash vehicle will be delivered in 2026

city council that he talked with Best Equipment of Indianapolis regarding the purchase of a second truck. (Most such trucks are on back-order by about two years.) The second truck would come at a cost of \$247,563.50, minus \$45,000 for trading in an existing truck. Payment and delivery would be in 2026.

"It's the responsible thing to do," said Shauver of locking in the price now. "We know we're going to have to get another truck."

Council members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy,

Dave Golden, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker and Ron May approved funding for the purchase. The board of works will vote on approval of the purchase contract at its Feb. 29 meeting.

Also Tuesday, council heard a request from rural Portland resident Missy Puterbaugh to allow non-city residents who pay for city sewer service the option to utilize city trash pick-up as well. She suggested giving those residents the option to add on a service fee for trash pick-up. (City residents currently pay \$5.50 per month.) See Council page 2

Flocking to FFA

Garrett Bennett, a sophomore at Jay County High School, cheers in celebration of his classmates Tony Wood and Cody Rowles, who were being recognized during halftime of the JCHS boys basketball game Tuesday for medaling at the state wrestling tournament. Bennett was dressed as a chicken as Jay County FFA had various activities during the game as part of its celebration of National FFA Week.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Deaths

Margaret Davis, 82, rural Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Tuesday. The low was 28.

Expect a low in the lower 30s tonight with a 30% chance of rain. Skies will be partly cloudy Friday with a high in the lower 40s and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Sharlette's Fudgery & Candies will hold an open house from noon to 5 p.m. Friday as owners Sharlette and Ron Cole celebrate their retirement. They have sold the business, located at 112 S. Meridian St., Portland, to Jane and Steve Prescott. The open house will include fudge, cookies and coffee.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team's game at Bellmont.



Obituaries

Margaret Davis

March 26, 1941-Feb. 18, 2024
Margaret "Maggie" Ann Davis, 82, of rural Bryant, Indiana, passed away at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, at her granddaughter's home in Portland, Indiana.

She was born on Wednesday, March 26, 1941, in Geneva, Indiana. She married Richard P. Davis on Thursday, July 4, 1957, in Gas City, Indiana. Maggie attended Geneva High School. She was a

long time resident of Bryant, Indiana. She worked for CTS as a lead person for over 30 years.

Maggie attended the Sugar Grove Church of the Nazarene. She had babysat several children throughout the years who would still come to visit and call. Maggie enjoyed going to garage sales and above all spending time with her



Davis

sons, grandkids, great-grandkids and great-great-grandkids.

She will be sadly missed by her sons Clint (Connie) Davis, Portland, Indiana, Dave (Mandy) Davis, Pennville, Indiana, Mark (Tammy) Davis, Pennville, Indiana; seven grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and sister Marcella Daugherty, Geneva, Indiana.

She was preceded in death by husband Richard P. Davis; father Ivan "Pat" Hough, mother Wilma

(Roe) Hough; and siblings Charles Hough, Freddie Hough, Betty Huey, Ene Mann, Rose Davis and Donna Hough; and daughter-in-law Rinada Davis.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home located at 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, from 2 to 8 p.m. and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024.

A service to celebrate her life

will be at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, with Pastor Steve Rogers officiating. Interment will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery.

Preferred memorials can be sent to Sugar Grove Church of the Nazarene, 5475 W. 400 North, Portland, IN 47371.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Condolences may be made at glancyfuneralhomes.com.

CR almanac

Friday 2/23	Saturday 2/24	Sunday 2/25	Monday 2/26	Tuesday 2/27
43/21 Mostly cloudy skies on Friday, when wind gusts will reach up to 20 mph.	34/27 Saturday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high in the low to mid 30s.	54/40 Another day of mostly sunny skies is expected Sunday, when the low will be around 40.	60/52 More mostly sunny skies on Monday. The high may reach up to 60 degrees.	65/53 Temperatures may continue to climb Tuesday into the mid 60s. Rain is also possible.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The cast of Fort Recovery High School Drama Club's production of "The Wizard of Oz" performs during rehearsal Monday.

Probe ...

Continued from page 1
In Indiana Code, identity deception is committed by an individual who "with intent to harm or defraud another person, knowingly or intentionally obtains, possesses, transfers, or uses identifying information to profess to be another person." It is typically a Level 6 felony, but can be bumped up to a Level 5 felony based on various factors.

A Level 6 felony carries a sentence of six months to 2.5 years — the advisory sentence is one year — and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$348 million

Mega Millions

5-45-55-58-68
Mega Ball: 7
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$525 million

Hoosier

Tuesday
Midday
Daily Three: 3-9-0
Daily Four: 9-5-3-8
Quick Draw: 2-26-28-34-38-39-42-43-46-47-50-51-55-57-60-63-67-76-77-78

Evening

Daily Three: 3-0-6
Daily Four: 7-0-9-3
Quick Draw: 2-10-14-23-24-26-32-33-40-43-44-47-55-56-59-68-71-75-76-77

Ohio

Tuesday
Midday
Pick 3: 7-9-3
Pick 4: 9-6-4-5
Pick 5: 1-4-2-0-2
Evening
Pick 3: 3-7-6
Pick 4: 9-1-6-5
Pick 5: 4-1-8-6-9
Rolling Cash: 2-5-9-12-26
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.22
March corn.....4.22
Wheat.....4.53

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....4.22
March corn.....4.24
April corn.....4.27

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn.....4.11
March corn.....4.11
Beans.....11.64

March beans11.64
Wheat 5.43

ADM Montpelier

Corn.....4.04
March corn.....4.06
Beans11.66
March beans11.69
Wheat5.42

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....4.19
March corn.....4.33
Beans11.45
March beans10.98
Wheat5.13

Today in history

In 1868, President Andrew Johnson was impeached by the United States House of Representatives for his reconstruction policies of the South following the Civil War.

In 1905, Rotary Club was first founded by Chicago attorney Paul Harris.

In 1934, George Lee "Sparky" Anderson was born in Bridgewater, South Dakota. Anderson played, coached and managed in Major League Baseball, helping the National League's Cincinnati Reds to the 1975 and '76 championships as well as the Detroit Tigers in the American League in 1984.

In 1945, six United States Marines raised the American flag over Mount Suribachi during World War II. The moment captured in photography became an iconic war picture.

In 1959, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) hosted the

first Daytona 500. Lee Petty took home first place in the competition.

In 1962, Steve Irwin was born in Upper Fernree Gully, Australia. A zookeeper, Irwin became known for his wildlife documentary series, "The Crocodile Hunter." He died in 2006 from a stingray barb while filming for another documentary.

In 2012, Jay County High School boys basketball team lost to Norwell, 46-38.

In 2016, The Portland Foundation announced it had approved more than \$285,000 in grants for 25 projects submitted to its winter grant cycle. The largest grant, \$65,000, went to Jay Community Center for its planned addition of the senior citizens' center. (The overall project estimated at more than half a million dollars included constructing exercise rooms, restrooms, storage, a lobby and a coffee bar.)

—The CR

Oz ...

Continued from page 1
The show has also unveiled some previously unseen talent.

"I continue to be amazed when I see new people that can sing and I didn't know they could sing or that can act and I didn't know they could act," Knuth added. "Tin Man, Zach, had never done a singing role in anything before and he's got a great voice. That's just one example."

To help set the various scenes, including the tornado, the drama club is utilizing projection for the first time in Knuth's tenure. It supplements the set pieces, which were designed, created and painted by the students.

They also handled choreography and costumes for the show.

"It definitely has been a little bit more difficult than other years, but at the same time I think you feel more proud of the show in general because of all of the hard work and thought that has gone into every single part," said LeFevre. "Plus, we get to work together more, which helps bring us closer together. ..."

"We've taken the initiative to go to other theaters and people around town and used

all of our resources to bring the show to life."

Tickets will be available at the door for the show in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditoria. They are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. Children 5 and younger are admitted for free.

"It's gonna be a great show," said Knuth. "It's a lot like the movie but it's not exactly the same as the movie. It's live theatre, so if you know 'The Wizard of Oz' you come to watch this and you get 'The Wizard of Oz' plus some twists that you weren't expecting because it's live theatre. "The kids have been putting in a lot of time and they're ready to put on a great show this weekend."

The story is fun with the magical characters including munchkins, the Lollipop Guild and jitterbugs. But LeFevre also pointed out that the message of the show should resonate with audiences of all ages.

"It has a lot more personal meaning," she said. "I think a lot of people can relate to trying to find your home or find what matters to you and realizing that it's in your friends and family."

Council ...

Continued from page 1

McClung, who serves as council president, noted that the \$5.50 only covers some costs, with most being paid for by city property taxes. He said if the city considered the request it would need to calculate the actual per-customer cost in order to set a fee for non-city residents. However, he added, he is not interested in providing city services outside of city limits, expressing concern that it could then extend to snow plowing, police protection and other services.

Golden added that safety could be an issue. No other council members made comments on the request.

In other business: Council approved amendments to its ordinance regarding sewers

in order to bring it in compliance with Indiana Department of Environmental Management regulations. The changes add to the list of hazardous materials and clarify that the department's superintendent has the authority to halt any discharge that threatens the health and welfare of the public.

Golden reminded residents that the city's spring clean-up week will be March 18 through 22.

Aker thanked the city's street department for its work removing snow and ice that fell Friday and Saturday.

May donated \$100 to Jay County Special Olympics, saying he will donate \$100 of his council salary any time he misses a meeting. (He was absent from the Feb. 5 meeting.)



Swiss Village

NEW QMA POSITIONS CREATED FOR RESIDENTIAL/ASSISTED LIVING!! COME JOIN OUR TEAM!!

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking Qualified Medication Aides (QMAs) to work in Residential/Assisted Living! Opportunities available include:

- Full-time, night shift; 36 hours/week, 6pm-6am with every other weekend and holiday required.
- Part-time, night shift; 24 hours/week, 6pm-6am with every other weekend and holiday required.

These positions will assist residents in the Assisted Residential, Residential Living, and Independent Living areas of Swiss Village with Activities of Daily Living and medication administration. Candidates must have an active Indiana Qualified Medication Aide license and must exhibit a cooperative and positive attitude towards co-workers and residents.

Full-time position eligible for benefits, including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) Retirement Plan participation. Part-time positions eligible for benefits, including dental and vision insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) Retirement Plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org

or send resume to:

Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711

Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

SERVICES

Today

Miller, Carla: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Sunday

Davis, Margaret: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

March 2

Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn's Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by

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Commercial Kitchen

To see the building, call Rob Weaver at (260) 251-1863

Citizen's calendar

Today

5:30 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building and Planning Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Friday

8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

60th anniversary

Jim and Judy Alig



Jim and Judy Alig

Judy and Jim Alig are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary today.

Jim Alig and Judy Reinhart wed Feb. 22, 1964. Judy Alig retired from Jay School Corporation after 25 years, and Jim Alig retired from John Cheeseman Trucking after 32 years.

The long-time Bryant residents are the parents of Ron Alig, Julie Fortkamp, Larry Alig of Bryant, Greg Alig of Geneva, and Mike and Randy Alig of Trinity. They have 17 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

The Aligs plan to celebrate Saturday with a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Bryant and a family celebration to follow.

Training sessions begin next month

Jay County's Purdue Extension office is partnering with local fire departments to offer emergency preparedness for rural families training sessions in March.

Dunkirk Fire Department will host a farm emergency management program March 5. A first aid session will follow March 7.

Portland Fire Department will host a fire protection program March 12. A HAZMAT session will follow March 14. All sessions will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Accepting comment
Indiana Department of Natural Resources is accepting comments on the

Taking Note

federally funded Historic Preservation Fund grant application. To review the grant guidelines and priorities, visit dnr.IN.gov/historic/financial-assistance/grants. Comments should be sent in writing by April 8 to Steve Kennedy at skennedy@dnr.IN.gov or mailed to DHPA Grants Staff, 402 W. Washington St., Room W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Mother's contradicting behavior never ends

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married three years, and we generally trade off spending holidays with each of our families. Because neither set of our parents is willing to travel to us, we go to them.

My mother-in-law takes great pride in hosting and sets a beautiful table. She'll spend an entire day in the kitchen, forgoing visiting with guests and wearing herself out to present an amazing dinner. If this brought her pleasure, there wouldn't be a problem. But, Abby, she complains bitterly about how tired she is, how much her feet hurt, how much work it is to have people in her home and how she resents it.

The thing is, she won't let us help. I've offered each time to help her cook, bring dishes made ahead of time or take a turn so she can sit down. Each time I have been sternly rebuffed, as if I've asked something embarrassing. When I tried leading the cleanup crew, her response was a hard no. I even suggested I come a day early and help with prep work, also no. I'm pretty sure she tells her friends she has lazy kids. Suggestions? — **BAFFLED IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR BAFFLED: Your mother-in-law appears to love

Dear Abby



to suffer. She is a martyr; so PLEASE stop attempting to deprive her of her pleasure. Try as you will (and have), you can't change her. Of course, you and her son could offer to take her and Dad OUT for a lovely dinner. If you haven't already experienced enough rejection from the woman, you could give it a try. But don't be surprised if she refuses the offer or takes this personally. What she may say to her friends should not affect you.

DEAR ABBY: I'd like your opinion regarding the financial help I give my sister. When her husband passed 18 months ago, it was clear she needed some help each month. I've been sending her \$200, which I can afford for now. (My husband and I are on Social Security.) Eight months ago, she took in an old acquaintance for the purpose of collecting room

rent. Turns out he can't or won't work, and she is supporting him now as well as sharing her bed. Also, their past relationship was disastrous. Both of them were alcoholics at the time. She has now resumed drinking with him, after having quit a few years ago.

Abby, I don't want my dislike for her lifestyle to impact my financial help, but on the other hand, I feel I'm being taken advantage of. Should I keep sending her money? — **SOUR SISTER IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR SISTER: Have a talk with Sissy. Tell her you have been sending her money because you felt she needed it after the death of her husband. Then remind her that she has a new partner in her home, her life and her bed, and HE should be contributing — which is why you will no longer be sending her money. She needs to hear it.

DEAR ABBY: I have one sister I love. Our parents passed away 12 years ago. We don't have a good relationship, although I try. Recently, we have been texting again.

Her son is being married in a few months. I have three children. My 26-year-old has been in

trouble a lot and caused my sister's family hurt. He's not going to the wedding. My other boys are younger, 18 and 21. They have never been in trouble.

I have maintained somewhat of a relationship with my nephew. He has only three cousins on his mom's side. There are at least 17 cousins on his dad's side. Many of them have spouses, and they are all invited. My younger sons are not. Because I am deeply hurt, I have decided not to attend. My nephew's excuse for not inviting my sons was that "attendance is tight." Am I wrong for not going? I can't help but think my sister and (all but one) of her kids don't want a relationship with my family. Should I let it go or continue pursuing a relationship when it seems obvious the feeling is not reciprocated? — **DEEPLY HURT IN TEXAS**

DEAR DEEPLY HURT: It's a shame that your two law-abiding sons are being tarred with the same brush as the one who is a black sheep. They do not deserve it. However, I caution you against boycotting the wedding. If you attend, it will give you an opportunity to tighten family ties and to talk about how proud you are of your two younger sons, who

are on the straight and narrow.

DEAR ABBY: What's the best way to deal with an "overgifter"? My friend of 10 years is one, often giving gifts beyond holidays and birthdays. Every time we hang out, she gives me something, either food or small trinkets. I asked her three years ago to tone it down. Two years ago, I sent her a letter saying I value our friendship and, for me, the best gift is quality time. She stopped for a while, but six months ago, she started up again. Abby, I throw away all her gifts. They are usually stale or expired foodstuffs or trinkets I don't have the space to store. I'm trying to find a way to make my boundaries clear. But I don't want to hurt her feelings. — **TOO MUCH IN WASHINGTON**

DEAR TOO MUCH: Because your friend may have forgotten, remind her that you do not want her giving these gifts and that the most treasured gift she can give you is time with her. Explain that her continuing to do it is making you UNCOMFORTABLE. Then cross your fingers and hope she gets the message. If she doesn't, you will have to remind her yet again.

Community Calendar

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

Today
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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 Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday
CELEBRATE RECOV-

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

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

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.



Instant Classic: Barbershop Quartet

Thursday, March 21, 2024
7:00 pm | Jay County Campus
131 E Walnut St, Portland, IN

Refreshments served: 6:00 pm

Adult Ticket: \$12.00
Student Ticket: \$5.00

Purchase tickets by visiting myartsplace.org, calling 260-726-4809, or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org



Thank you sponsors for your support of the Eric R. Rogers Performing Arts Series!

Compass Wealth Solutions, Community Foundation of Randolph County, The Portland Foundation, Dennis & Marianne Horn, F&M Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission, and Bollenbacher & Associates, LLC

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

JAY-RANDOLPH DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.



Building Brighter Futures

JRDS is a private, nonprofit organization that provides residential, community and center based services for people with special needs.



Tax elimination talk is foolishness

By MORTON J. MARCUS

"What are you doing here? There are 2 inches of snow on that deck railing," I said. Faye of the Forest flashed her impish smile.

"What are you doing?" she asked. "And it's 4 inches of snow, not that you would notice."

"I'm trying to figure out what all this business about eliminating the state income tax means," I said. "And you're not dressed for this weather."

"It's very clear," she responded. "Some foolish folks think we should be like Texas and Florida, Tennessee and Nevada, without taxation on income, and then we'd have a booming economy. And I'm like the trees, I can wear snow and still look beautiful."

Eye on the Pie



I didn't comment on her appearance. It's ill-advised to flirt with a Sprite.

"Look, the Indiana Department of Revenue reported individual income tax revenues in the last fiscal year were \$11.7 billion," I said. "That's 42.5% of the state's \$27.5 billion tax revenues."

"Hold on, buster," Faye flagged me down. "Does that include or exclude the so-called 'local option' income tax?"

"Includes," I said. "About 35% (\$4.1 billion) of the total individual income tax is raised at the county level."

"So if we just get rid of our flat-rate state income tax, how do we cover for the lost revenue," Faye flicked some recently fallen snow off her shoulders.

"Without growth in the economy, we'd have to raise remaining taxes by \$7.6 billion. If that were done proportionately over all taxes, the revenues from each would have to rise by 38% and the sales tax rate would jump from 7% to 9.7%," I announced.

"Oh, yeah," Faye frowned. "I can just see the State Chamber of Commerce endorsing that."

"It would be worse if we also canceled the local income tax imposed by the legislature by arm-twisting the localities to

qualify for certain state largesse," I said.

"Go ahead," Faye fumed. "What would be the consequences of totally eliminating all of Indiana's personal income taxes?"

"Well," I gave a Ronald Reagan pause for piling on, "If Indiana totally eliminated the income tax (state and local) there would be an \$11.7 billion shortfall that would require raising other taxes by 74%, including a move from the 7% sales and use tax rate to 12%."

"Never happen," Faye forecast. "With a sales tax that high, there'd be lots of Hoosiers shopping in our four neighboring states. Danville, Illinois, would see more retail sales than just for marijuana. Louisville, Owensboro and Henderson in Kentucky

and Cincinnati would be beneficiaries."

"Yes," I agreed. "At 7%, Indiana already has the highest state sales tax rate in the nation."

"What about considering a sales tax on services," Faye phrased the question delicately.

"You mean putting a tax on labor?" I shot back. "The barbers, plumbers and psychoanalysts might object. Think how the lawyers would become advocates for civil disobedience."

"Who started all this silliness?" Faye asked as she faded away.

"Thoughtless candidates," I said to the birds now on the railing, waiting their turns at the suet.

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

Bills pass with universal support

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

People are often surprised when I tell them that the vast majority of bills that pass the Indiana General Assembly have overwhelming support from both Republicans and Democrats.

The first half of session showed just that.

In the House, 446 bills were introduced and 112 passed; 97% of bills received bipartisan support and 55% received unanimous support.

In the Senate, 297 bills were introduced and 110 passed; 88% of bills received bipartisan support and 58% received unanimous support.

I often forget that citizens don't regularly see the proposals that move through smoothly versus larger bills that draw opposition and controversy.

But there are many smaller measures that address topics or problems that aren't in dispute.

Just like this year's bills helping Indiana veterans.

•Senate Bill 15, authored by Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, requires state agencies to create a veteran's benefits and services poster. Businesses with more than 50 employees must place a poster in a conspicuous place. Eleven other states have done it. The bill also requires the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs to make the posters available for business, nonprofit or government agencies that want to post them. It passed the Senate unanimously and is now in the House.

•Senate Bill 49, authored by Sen. Susan Glick, R-LaGrange, creates a catastrophically disabled hunting season for veterans paired with the youth hunting weekend. Supporters said when hunters need a guide or special equipment in the woods, they often give up the activity they love. This bill would enable such disabled veterans to keep enjoying the sport during a time when other hunters are not in the woods. The youth hunting season already requires the youth to have a guide. The bill passed the Senate unanimously and is now in the House.

•House Bill 1021,

Niki Kelly



authored by Rep. Mitch Gore, D-Indianapolis, creates a green alert for veterans in crisis and defines a veteran in crisis. This gives advocates and law enforcement another tool to help a missing veteran by activating the green alert. This is similar to an Amber Alert for missing children and Silver Alert for missing senior citizens. The bill passed the House unanimously and is now in the Senate.

•House Bill 1120, authored by Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, is an omnibus property tax bill that includes a provision raising the value of the home a disabled veteran can use a property tax deduction. Currently, there is no benefit if the home is valued above \$200,000. This bill raises the limit to \$240,000. This bill passed the House 73-21 and is now in the Senate.

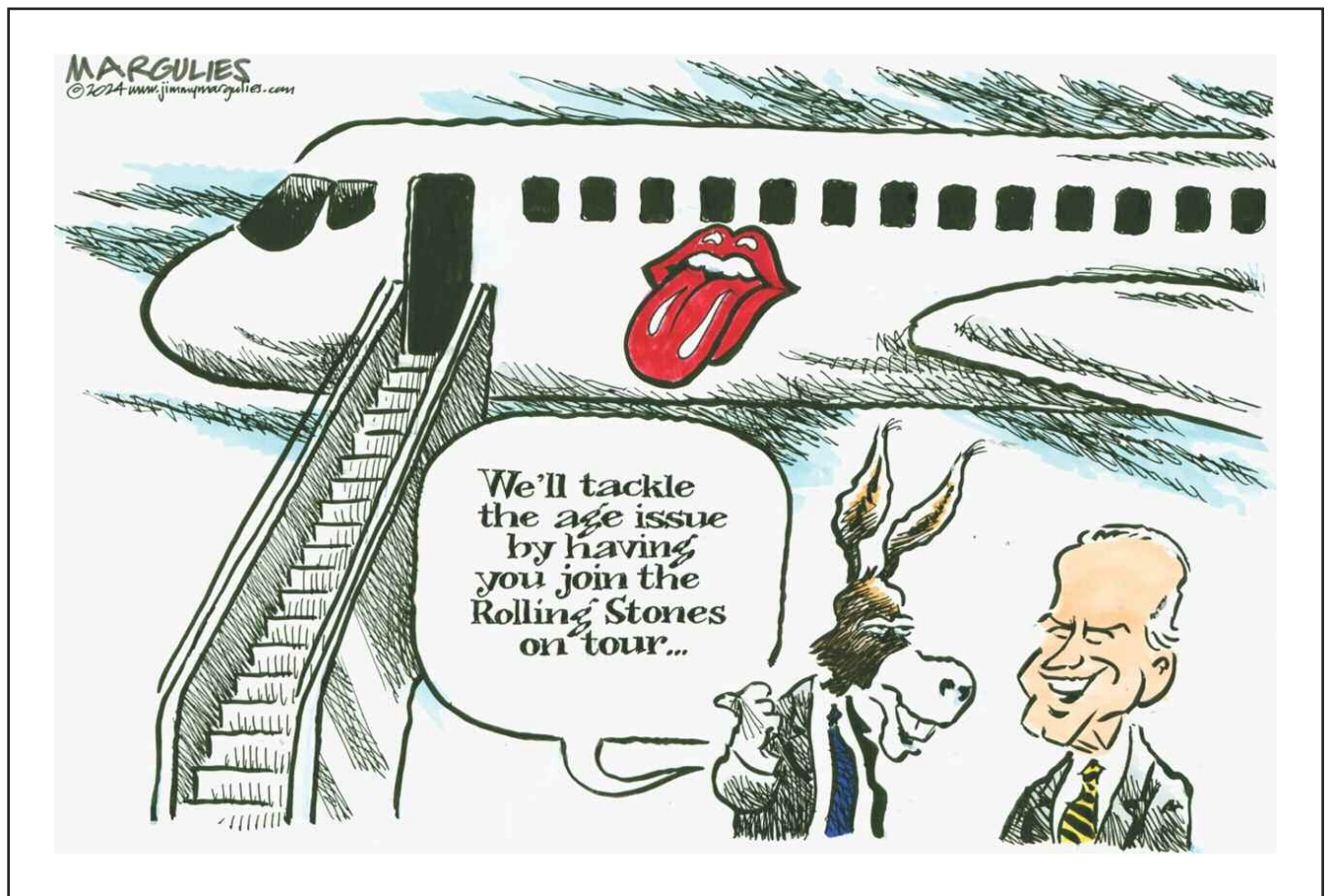
•House Bill 1202, authored by Rep. Stephen Bartels, R-Eckerty, raises the amount of an award that can be given from the Military Family Relief Fund from \$2,500 to \$3,500. It also establishes an annual increase in the award amount in the future. The fund is stable at over \$11 million and takes in more than it pays out annually. The bill passed the House unanimously and now is in the Senate.

"For a short session, we are getting some things done for veterans and their families!" said veterans advocate Lisa Wilken. "The catastrophically disabled hunting season has been a three-year effort. I am very pleased to see the property tax issue addressed in a non-budget year."

Indiana has more than 325,000 veterans living here and they should be aware of the efforts being made to help them.

Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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



Don't write off fake meat

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

At Alef Sausage in north suburban Mundelein, owner Marina Mikhaylova makes cold cuts the old-fashioned Ukrainian way, using traditional ingredients like beef and pork. As for vegetarian options, she says, "We don't do anything plant based. People stopped buying it."

The boom in meat alternatives has fizzled, for multiple reasons. For starters, the marketing efforts behind some prominent brands backfired by scolding the carnivores among us, who far outnumber the vegans.

At the same time, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and other red-meat-loving conservatives have joined with big cattle producers alarmed about the environmental advantages of lab-grown products to bash them as "fake meat," and push for new, anti-competitive laws banning them.

The long list of ingredients like pea protein and potato starch on some of the plant-based meat labels hasn't helped, either. Health-conscious consumers are steering clear of anything ultra-processed these days.

Perhaps most importantly, the sausages that got so much attention a few years ago just didn't taste that good.

The result has been a steep market correction. The stock price of Beyond Meat, which traded in the triple digits as recently as 2021, has cratered to a little over \$6 per share. Impossible Foods, which isn't publicly traded, recently got into a scrap with Bloomberg News over a thumbs-down story about the industry.

In Chicago last month, Archer Daniels Midland warned investors of accounting irregularities centered on its unit providing soy protein and other ingredients to plant-based meat makers. Alarmed shareholders rushed for the exits.

No question, the movement to replace meat with substitutes has run into headwinds. But stay tuned:

Guest Editorial

We see better times ahead for an industry still in its infancy.

Consumers should keep an open mind as innovative new options appear in restaurants and supermarkets. Meat 2.0 is coming, and next-generation products have the potential to win over the same crowd that tried Meat 1.0 and then, understandably, went back to ordering Big Macs.

As for politicians like DeSantis looking for easy targets to rile up constituents, give it a rest. States have no business outlawing healthy products declared safe by federal watchdogs, and that includes the lab-grown meats that have barely started to reach consumers. Politicians need to let the competitive marketplace determine winners and losers.

Despite leading a state that produces more meat than Florida, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has taken a smarter approach than DeSantis. His administration actively recruited Upside Foods to north suburban Glenview, congratulating it for being the first company to sell "cultivated meat" in the U.S. — a brief foray presumably aimed more at gauging public reaction than making money. "Their pioneering leadership makes them a perfect fit for the region," Pritzker declared.

The new, 187,000-square-foot Upside Foods factory is indeed pioneering. It is expected to produce millions of pounds of ground chicken each year by growing meat directly from animal cells. The product is not vegetarian, and has similar qualities to any other ground chicken, but no birds are raised and slaughtered to produce it.

Ideally, the Food and Drug Administration and Agriculture Depart-

ment would work together to advance this new industry. More likely, the incumbent meat industry will continue to fight tooth and nail against the upstarts over labeling and other issues, playing one regulator against another, which could slow growth.

Food-industry experts such as David Lockwood of Lockwood Consulting describe the development of meat alternatives as an inexorable global trend. Even as sales of conventional meat are expected to grow by double digits over the next decade, there will be demand for alternatives, Lockwood said. "The next few years are not looking great, but the market is still growing. Small organizations are creating new things."

At last month's Fancy Food Show in Las Vegas, where Mundelein's Alef Foods doled out sausage samples, Dominique Leach of Lexington Betty Smokehouse was handing out samples of her Chicago company's line of Wagyu beef hot dogs. While her South Side barbecue restaurant serves meat, meat and more meat, its menu also offers a vegetarian option, she noted. "Chicago seems to be embracing the plant-based scene. You don't want to turn people away."

As Leach was grilling her hot dogs, Prime Roots was sampling out plant-based cold cuts with a surprisingly similar texture to the savory products of Alef Foods and Lexington Betty. This 7-year-old business uses koji, an environmentally friendly ingredient akin to mushrooms, instead of the more commonplace soy or wheat gluten. Last year, it received an additional \$30 million in venture funding to expand into restaurants and deli counters nationwide.

"A lot of me-too products haven't prioritized nutrition and taste," explained Kimberlie Le, Prime Roots' co-founder. "There is a new wave of plant-based products."

The wave has hit a trough for now. But if federal regulators do their job and hostile politicians stay out of the way, this promising industry should be back on the upswing shortly.

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—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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church of 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 Sharpshurg 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 Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

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 Kruchkow
(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

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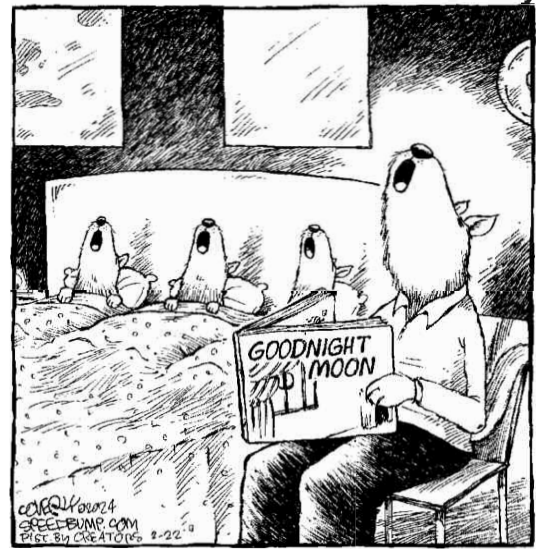
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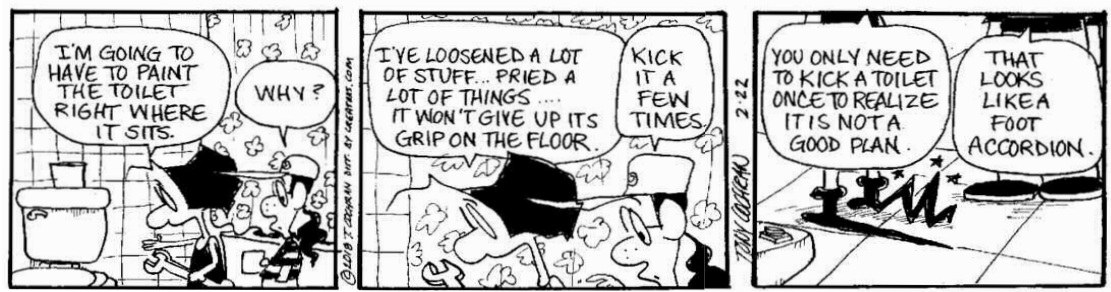
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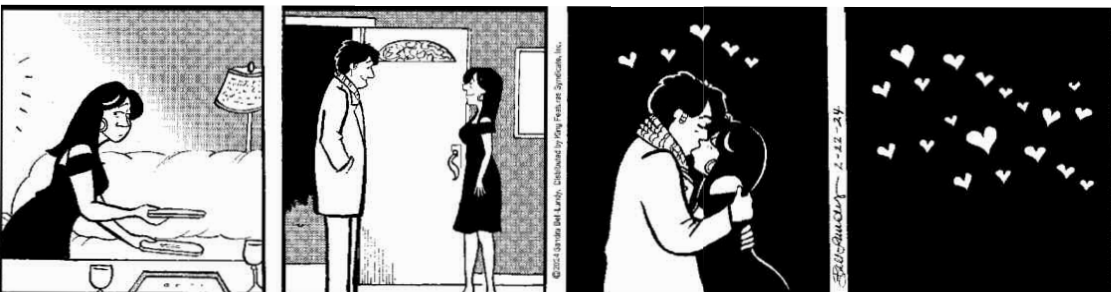
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Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



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Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Good card-reading pays off

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 2
♥ Q 8 5 3
♦ 10 6 2
♣ K J 7

EAST
♠ 10 5 4 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 10 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 8
♥ K J 10 7 2
♦ 5 3
♣ A Q 6

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

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The "backward" finesse is a relatively rare play, but it can prove very effective when the setting is right.

Consider this deal where West leads three rounds of diamonds against your four-heart contract. You ruff and play the jack of trump. East taking the ace and returning a club. After winning the club and drawing trump, you are faced with the problem of avoiding a spade loser.

Ordinarily, you'd lead a low spade to the king, return a spade and finesse the jack. This line of play would succeed about half the time, but it fails in the present case because West has the queen instead of East.

However, you should know from the bidding that playing the spades normally is sure to fail. After East turns up with the ace of hearts, West becomes marked with the queen of spades because he needs it for his opening bid, and also because East would not have passed one diamond with an ace and a queen in his hand.

Under these circumstances, your best chance is to resort to a backward finesse. You begin by leading the jack of spades — not the eight — from your hand, planning to finesse if West follows low. If West covers with the queen, you win with dummy's king, return a spade and finesse the eight. In the actual deal, the contract is made because East has the ten.

Mathematically, the backward finesse is a poor play, because West will have the queen and East the ten only one deal out of four, whereas the simple finesse succeeds in one deal out of two. But when West is known to have the queen, the backward finesse offers the only realistic hope of making the contract.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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2-22

CRYPTOQUIP

VMSG UPWMG XIB ESCC S
HJPLY USLPJBCSGIO VMI
JOSEGPYH PL YWXJG 'H

ESJPGSC? S ESPOI EMPOI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY TWO CLOSE BUDDIES ALWAYS SEEM TO JUST LOUNGE ABOUT THROUGHOUT THE DAY MAKING CRONY JOKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals C

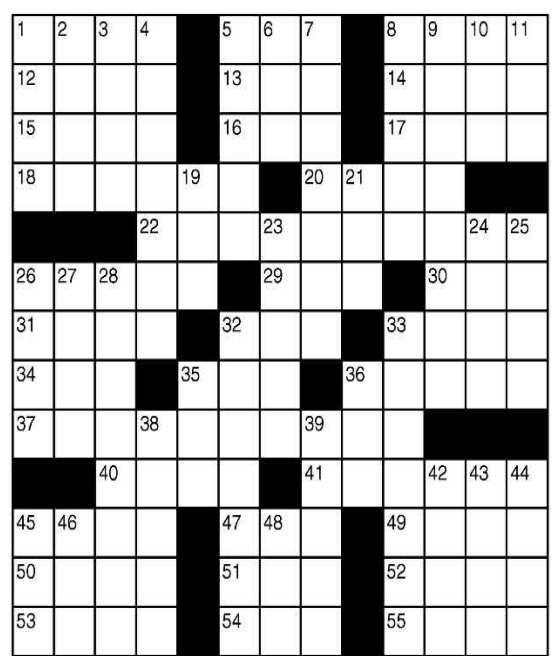
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Curved line, in music
 - 5 Play segment
 - 8 Classic Fords
 - 12 Sped
 - 13 Expected
 - 14 Singer India.—
 - 15 Hot dog holder
 - 16 1040 org.
 - 17 Jekyll's bad side
 - 18 Dis-counted
 - 20 "See ya!"
 - 22 "No argument here!"
 - 26 Jobs
 - 29 Scrap
 - 30 Nay under
 - 31 Make — dash for
 - 32 Six-pack muscles
 - 33 Gladys Knight's backup
 - 34 Hostel
 - 35 Boxer Laila
 - 36 Speeding penalties
- DOWN**
- 2 Lake bird
 - 3 Web addresses
 - 4 Handed off
 - 5 Farewell
 - 6 Mangy mutt
 - 7 Perfume samplers
 - 8 Christine of "Chicago Hope"
 - 9 Make another attempt
 - 10 Carried out
 - 11 "Didn't I tell you?"
 - 19 Part of UCLA
 - 21 Gallery display

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-22



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Finish ...

Continued from page 8
The Jay County guard got Grayden Moyer on his hip, allowing him to probe further into the paint. That's when Carter Frazee — Phillips' defender — stepped up to try and help stop Nichols.

The senior shuffled the ball to the ducking in Phillips, who hit the game-winning layup before Frazee could recover.

"We were just trying to push the ball up and get an easy one before they could set up on us," Nichols said. "To be honest, I wasn't thinking too hard. I just got the ball and knew there wasn't a lot of time left. I just tried to make a play and Aiden was there."

"It was intense," Phillips said. "Parker had a nice drive and kicked it off to me to finish it."

"It felt amazing. I can't thank my teammate much more for putting me in that position."

With only two seconds left, Winchester (12-11) attempted a prayer from three-quarters court that fell short to end the game.

Even before the dramatic ending, the fourth quarter was tight and tied for most of the final three minutes at 42-42.

Jay County had the ball with just under a minute remaining. After running a play, its first option wasn't there, resulting in Crouch holding the ball with his back to the basket. Swoveland found some space in the corner and Crouch kicked the ball out so the sophomore could hit a three that ignited the crowd, gave JCHS a three-point lead and forced Winchester to call a timeout with 26.3 seconds left.

Swoveland ended with game highs in both points and rebounds. He shot 7-of-17 from the field to total 16 points while pulling down eight defensive rebounds.

"Gradin is probably our best offensive player," Bomholt said. "He gives us outside presence, inside presence and a great rebounder on defense."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Wesley Bihn (left) and Levi Muhlenkamp cheer from Jay County's bench after Gradin Swoveland hit a 3-pointer with less than 30 seconds left to take the lead against Winchester on Tuesday.

Now we've got him going on the offensive part of it."

Coming out of Winchester's timeout, Jay County deflected the ball out of bounds. The following inbound play featured Hummel coming off of a staggered screen to get a wide-open look on the right wing. He drained the triple to tie the game.

Hummel ended as the Golden Falcons' leading scorer with 13 points on 35.7% (5-of-14) from the floor.

"Caleb is a really good

shooter and he's hit some big shots for us," Winchester coach Jake Turner said. "He doesn't worry about the fact if he missed the last shot or the last five shots. He's got the confidence to shoot the next one and that's what we want. ..."

"It was good execution by our guys and it was huge to hit that. If we had a timeout, we would have loved to foul because we had a couple to give. But unfortunately, it was so loud in here that the guys couldn't hear it."

Turner mentioned that he felt defensive rotations like the one on the final play were what cost Winchester the game. A lot of the Patriots' offense came off drives into the paint that either resulted in a decent look for the ball handler, or an open layup after a defender stepped up, in turn leaving their man open.

"I would say we probably lost this game due to our defensive rotations," Turner said. "There were too many times we got beat baseline and when we

Box score			
Jay County Patriots vs. Winchester Golden Falcons		Score by quarters:	
		Win. 9 16 10 10—45	
		Jay Co. 11 11 14 11—47	
Boys varsity summary			
Winchester (12-11)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Hummel	5-14	0-0	13
Overton	1-1	0-0	3
Price	0-0	2-4	2
Baldwin	0-2	0-0	0
Moyer	2-6	0-0	6
Fraze	4-9	0-0	9
Tarter	1-1	2-2	4
Moore	3-9	2-2	8
McFarland	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	16-42	6-8	45
	.381	.750	
Def. rebound percentage: .615			
Jay County (8-12)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Comer	2-6	0-0	5
Nichols	0-1	0-0	0
Mhinkmp	0-0	0-0	0
Garringer	5-8	2-2	12
Dunnington	0-0	0-0	0
Crouch	1-4	0-1	2
Dirksen	0-0	1-2	1
Phillips	5-6	1-2	11
Bihn	0-2	0-0	0
Swoveland	7-17	1-3	16
Totals	20-44	5-10	47
	.455	.500	
Def. rebound percentage: .739			
3-point shooting: Winchester 7-23 (Hummel 3-9, Moyer 2-6, Overton 1-1, Fraze 1-3, Baldwin 0-2, Moore 0-2). Jay County 2-8 (Swoveland 1-2, Comer 1-3, Nichols 0-1, Garringer 0-2).			
Rebounds: Winchester 22 (Price 5, Fraze 4, Moore 4, Hummel 2, Baldwin 2, Moyer 2, Tarter 2, team). Jay County 27 (Swoveland 8, Phillips 6, Crouch 5, Garringer 3, team 2, Comer, Dunnington, Bihn).			
Assists: Winchester 13 (Baldwin 4, Moyer 3, Price 2, Moore 2, Hummel, Overton). Jay County 6 (Comer, Nichols, Garringer, Dunnington, Crouch, Swoveland).			
Blocks: Winchester 1 (Moore). Jay County 3 (Dunnington, Bihn, Swoveland).			
Personal fouls: Winchester 11 (Tarter 3, Hummel 2, Price 2, Moore 2, Baldwin, Fraze). Jay County 12 (Nichols 3, Crouch 3, Swoveland 2, Comer, Dirksen, Phillips, Bihn).			
Turnovers: Winchester 15. Jay County 14.			

did rotate over to keep the ball out of the paint, we didn't help the helper enough. We've got to do a better job of cleaning up those defensive rotations.

"The effort was there, but if we make some of those rotations, maybe it doesn't come down to that last minute."

Phillips took advantage of similar situations in the first quarter, cleaning up the offensive rebound after his defender left to help for easy put-backs.

In the second quarter, Swoveland started finding ways to score off of drives while multiple Patriots made their way to the foul line.

Liam Garringer dominated the third quarter, scoring 10 of his 12 points by getting downhill to the cup.

Bomholt said a big key for Jay County's success was never giving up a big run, also noting that Winchester's biggest lead in the game was only five points near the end of the second period.

"We just never let them have that run that would have put the game away, and that's happened to us a couple of times in other games," Bomholt said.

"Fortunately for us, we were able to keep the lead shrunk enough that we could answer it. The kids did a really good job of that."

Junior varsity

The Patriots had total control in their 71-18 win over Winchester, never allowing more than seven points in a quarter.

Jay County (13-6) held the Golden Falcons to five points in the first period, three in the second and two in the fourth. Winchester's best frame came in the second, as Carter Campbell hit a shot and split two pairs of free throws for four points and Foster Kratoska added a three.

Campbell was the only player to hit multiple shots, ending with 10 points.

Conversely, the second period was the worst for the Patriots, yet they still scored 13. Cole Forthofer scored six of his 11 to power the period.

Sean Bailey had the most points for JCHS with 16, 11 of which came in the third. Brock Wasson added 13, while Drew Schemenaur and Boston Barnett matched Forthofer with 11.

Format ...

Continued from page 8
"This is a very logical adjustment for the College Football Playoff based on the evolution of our conference structures since the board first adopted this new format in September 2022," Dr. Mark Keenum, chair

of the CFP board of managers, said of Tuesday's agreement.

"I know this change will also be well received by student-athletes, coaches and fans. We all will be pleased to see this new format come to life on the field this postseason."

Expanding to 12 teams marks the biggest change to the NCAA's postseason format since it introduced a four-team playoff in 2014. Under that model, the committee tasked with selecting the four schools often faced criticism, including after

the 2023 season, when injury-plagued Florida State wasn't chosen for the playoff despite going 13-0 and winning the ACC.

Tuesday's vote followed months of holdouts by the Pac-12 as a result of 10 of its 12 schools preparing to officially

leave this August. Those departing the conference include USC, Washington, Oregon and UCLA, which are joining the Big Ten; Arizona, Arizona State, Utah and Colorado, which are joining the Big 12; and Stanford and Cal, which are joining the ACC.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high wrestling vs. Woodlan — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming state prelims at McKinley in Canton — 5 p.m.; Girls basketball sectional opener at Wayne Trace — 7 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshman) at Belmont — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming state finals at McKinley in Canton — 5 p.m.; Boys basketball at New Bremen — 6 p.m.

3:10 p.m. — MLB spring training: Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego Padres (ESPN)
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio State at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Purdue (FS1); SMU at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Minnesota (BTN); St. Thomas at North Dakota State (ABC)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington at Arizona State (ESPN2); Michigan at Northwestern (FS1)

9:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Utah at UCLA (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (TNT)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington State at Arizona (FS1); Oregon at Stanford (ESPN2)

Friday
3 p.m. — MLB spring training: San Diego Padres at Los Angeles Dodgers (ESPN)
4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: F8 208 (FS1)
4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Raptor King of tough 250 (FS1)
7 p.m. — College gymnastics: LSU at Florida (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)

8 p.m. — College hockey: Notre Dame at Michigan (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duquesne at Fordham (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Minnesota Timberwolves (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nevada at San Jose State (FS1)

Local notes
Tournament scheduled
The Fort Recovery High School volleyball program is holding its annual alumni volleyball tournament on Friday, March 22.
Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery, and don't need to be from the same graduating class.

Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all proceeds going to the FRHS volleyball team.
For more information, contact Travis Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbiller@fortrecoveryhschools.org

Midwest Walleye Challenge
Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament.
The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring device.
Participants can enter for free for the chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25

fee to be eligible for biweekly cash prizes.
Those interested in participating can register by visiting AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on.IN.gov/walleye.

Registration open
Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed softball league is now open.
The league will start on April 7, and will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a payout of \$400 and \$200 respectively.
To register, call Brock Farmer at (765) 209-4289.
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

TV sports

Today

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY MARCH 23rd, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 7136 N 650 E. BRYANT, IN. OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, March 10TH from 1-3 pm, or for private showing phone auctioneers. REAL ESTATE 80 Acres in Section 7, Wabash Township. To be offered in tracts and combinations. Tract 1: 2.5 Acres with 3 bed, 2 bath brick ranch style home containing 1792 sq ft finished living area. Attached 2 car garage, central air, lofted barn, detached garage/grainery. Tract 2: 66 Acres Practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E. Tract 3: 2.4 Acres practically all tillable with

90 SALE CALENDAR

frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E. Tract 4: 7 Acres Wooded with access on CR 650 E. TRACTOR - ANTIQUES - MISC Farmall A Tractor with cycle bar mower, belly mower and blade. 5 gallon milk can. CC saw. Chicken crate. Old gates. Walking plows. Old toys. Tinker toys and games. Hand painted lamp globe. OWNER: Laux Trust-Thomas J. Laux Trustee SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 Check AuctionZip for more photos.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY MARCH 9th, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W. RED-KEY, IN. REAL ESTATE Tract 1: 25 Acres in Section 5, Jefferson Township with 23 acres tillable, balance being non-tillable and road frontage. Tract 2: 9.6 Acres in Section 6, Jefferson Township. Practically all tillable. For more information phone auctioneers. Land will be sold at 4023 S 800 W, Red-key IN. TRUCK - TRACTOR - FARM EQUIPMENT - MISC Bambauer hog manure hyd. hose reel, PTO driven on transport. PTO hog manure pump. Wilson 45' hopper bottom grain trailer. 1000-500-

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Sports

Phillips' finish

Sophomore hits go-ahead layup for Patriots in 47-45 win

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Just as Gradin Swoveland breathed some life into the crowd, Caleb Hummel quieted the Patriot faithful.

The game was set up for overtime.

Parker Nichols and Aiden Phillips wouldn't have it.

Nichols and Phillips connected with seconds left to score the winning bucket for the Jay County High School basketball team in its 47-45 victory over the Winchester Golden Falcons on Tuesday.

"I told them at halftime, 'If we have heart, and if you really believe in what we're trying to do, we'll win this game,'" JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt said. "The play at the end, we weren't going to call time out and the kids know that. They know to push it, take it as far as you can, if you've got the shot, take the shot and if not look for somebody open. Parker did a great job of finding Phillips for a layup.

"We hadn't done a great job of that when we've called things before."

With the game tied and only 10 seconds left, the Patriots (8-12) had to act quickly to avoid overtime. Nichols received the inbound pass and immediately pushed up the court.

See **Finish** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Aiden Phillips, a Jay County High School sophomore, puts up the winning layup for the Patriots as they downed Winchester 47-45 on Tuesday. Phillips ducked in to receive a pass from Parker Nichols with less than 5 seconds left to put the Patriots on top.

CFP board settles on format

By **PETER SBLENDORIO**

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Discussions for how to structure the NCAA's expanded College Football Playoff have begun.

Effective next season, the 12-team playoff will include the five highest-ranked conference champions and seven at-large selections, the CFP's board of managers announced Tuesday in a unanimous agreement.

Billed as the "5+7" format, the new model will see the four highest-ranked conference winners receive first-

round byes, with the No. 5 seed opening against No. 12, No. 6 facing No. 11, and so on.

The decision marks a revision to an earlier model that would have granted playoff spots to the six highest-ranked conference winners and six at-large selections.

Tuesday's development comes amid sweeping changes within the NCAA's traditional power conferences, including Texas and Oklahoma going from the Big 12 to the SEC in 2024 and nearly every Pac-12 school leaving for another conference.

See **Format** page 7

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