

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Portland man charged with rape

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A Portland man is accused of committing rape and related crimes.

Life T. Farley, 20, 118 W. 2nd St., has been charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 1 felony for rape when compelled by force or imminent threat of force resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 3 felony for criminal confinement resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 felony for domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury and a Level 6 felony for

Farley faces the Level 1 felony, other counts stemming from incident in early February

domestic battery committed in the presence of a child younger than 16 years old.

According to information filed in connection with the case, Farley allegedly “did

knowingly or intentionally have sexual intercourse or other sexual conduct” with a woman on or about Feb. 9.

Court documents say Farley “punched, slapped and kicked”

the woman all over her body and that he confined her without her consent.

A no-contact order regarding the woman was issued to Farley on Feb. 29.

Farley was arrested Feb. 16 and preliminarily charged with domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. The rape, criminal confinement and second domestic battery charges were added to his case when it was filed in court Feb. 26.

He’s being held on a \$75,000 bond in Jay County Jail. Farley is scheduled to appear in circuit court for a pretrial conference at 1 p.m. May 6.

In Indiana, a Level 1 felony carries a 20- to 40-year sentence, with an advisory sentence of 30 years.

Rates are set, heater proposal tabled

Board to seek more info on heating pool at the water park

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Schedule, prices and pay are in place for the coming season at the water park.

A decision on adding a heater to the pool will wait.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday set opening day prices and pay rates for staff for Portland Water Park but tabled a discussion of adding a heater to the pool in order to gather more information about long-term costs.

Rural Portland resident and Jay County Summer Swim Team coach Bev Arnold visited the park board late last year to advocate for installing a heater to the pool at Portland Water Park. She committed to raising the funds to cover the estimated \$40,000 to \$60,000 cost.

Park board members Brian Ison, John McFarland, Shauna Runkle, Michael Brewster and Jennifer Weitzel reviewed a couple of options — one from JRT Pools at a total cost of \$47,724 for a unit with an expected lifespan of three to five years and another from SPEAR Corporation for \$67,808 with a projected lifespan of seven to 10 years — during Tuesday’s meeting.

Rob Weaver, who would also be involved in the fundraising process, asked what it would take to make the project a reality.

“If you just tell us what you need, we’ll find it for you,” he said, adding later that having water at a comfortable temperature throughout the season would likely increase attendance and thus admission fees collected. (Water temperatures were regularly in the 60s last year for the first half of the water park’s season.)

Park board members expressed concern about the uncertainty of the additional costs that would be incurred to operate the heater. (Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver said he received a rough estimate of between \$15 and \$30 per hour.)

See Heater page 2

Seasonal savor

Registered dietician Malarie Krieg measures ingredients for a microwavable stir fry recipe Tuesday during the first session of the new adult healthy cooking mini series at Jay County Public Library. Krieg walked attendees through tips for eating healthy and shared healthy food preparation ideas, including samples and recipes for egg cups, energy balls and the stir fry pictured above.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Snow choir

Junior Maddy Snow performs Monday during the Just Treble’s Barbie-themed show during the Jay County High School Show Choir Showcase. Just Treble placed sixth Saturday in the Treble Division at the Bishop Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational. The group will be back in action this weekend at the Columbia City Cup. For more photos, visit thecr.com.

Annual report shared

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation worked on more tax abatements for more than \$22.5 million in investments, assisted small businesses with almost \$400,000 in grants and loans, helped with various grants and handled other projects last year.

Travis Richards, executive director of JCDC, shared details about the organization’s work as he presented the 2023 annual report during its meeting Tuesday.

He referred to the organization’s mission statement — to enhance the quality of life in Jay County by assisting in the creation, retention and reinvestment of wealth and increasing the number and quality of employment opportunities — while noting work in the areas of attracting and growing industries and small businesses, applying for and managing grants, assisting with workforce development, advising local government and supporting planning efforts.

Simplified, he referred to JCDC’s role as being the “grease between the gears” of business, gov-

Richards shares details of JCDC activities in 2023

ernment and communities.

Richards noted tax abatements that helped spur investments by FCC (Indiana), Pioneer Warehousing, Pioneer Leasing, Minnich Poultry, Pennville Custom Cabinetry, Fort Recovery Industries, Joyce/Dayton and Sonoco. The investments totaled \$22.64 million and created 53 new jobs.

“That business investment is really big for Jay County,” he said. “And I want to add that I could not be prouder of our industries for this. We’ve come through COVID, we’ve come through supply chain disruptions, we’ve come through workforce issues and yet they continue to invest here in Jay County.”

He also told the JCDC board about grants and loans for small business projects through Portland’s facade program, economic development income tax funds and

Portland Redevelopment Commission that totaled \$396,000 and led to \$693,250 in investment.

“You put a little bit in the pot and you induce them to put more in the pot,” said Richards. “So you’re driving that cycle.”

He referenced various other activities and initiatives JCDC was involved in last year including the third Launch Jay! business pitch competition, Manufacturing Day for Jay County Junior-Senior High school students, grant work that included \$750,000 secured for supporting childcare, funding for the Meridian Street storm sewer project in Portland and planning for the town of Redkey, the regional application for the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) and support for Portland Main Street Connect.

See Report page 2

Deaths

Janice Hampshire, 86, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 66 degrees Tuesday. The low was 54.

Tonight’s low will be in the lower 40s. Expect cloudy skies Friday with rain likely and a high in the upper 50s. More rain is in the forecast for Friday night.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County Fiber Arts Festival is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Jay Community Center. Bee Wings and Fuzzy Things will be on hand in addition to classes, artists, vendors and demonstrations of the fiber arts. Admission is free. For more information, go to fiberarts.visitjaycounty.com.

Coming up

Friday — An update on legislation as Indiana’s 2024 session nears its end.

Saturday — Results from the ACAC junior high swimming and wrestling meetings.



Heater ...

Continued from page 1
Doing some rough math, Runkle noted that if the heater was running 24 hours a day for a month, the cost would come out to \$18,000.
Weaver again asked for a fundraising number that would make the park board comfortable, offering to try to bring in additional funding to help cover the cost of operating the heater.
Runkle said she would love to have the pool heated, but being able to cover operational costs is the main issue.
“We’re spending taxpayers’ money,” she said. “I know you’re going to fund it but in the long run we have to fund the rest of it. ... There’s utilities and stuff that we have to look at. ... It’s not that we don’t want to do it, it’s how do we do it and make sure it’s taken care of.”

Park board members agreed to research the issue further, with Shauver and parks manager Ronnie Reynolds planning to visit other heated pools in the area.
The board also approved water park admission fees for 2024 as follows:
•Daily admission — \$5 before 5 p.m. and \$3 after 5 p.m.; \$3 for senior citizens (62 and older) and veterans; \$2 for children 2 and younger
•10-day pass — \$50
•Annual passes — \$75 for one person with a \$50 increase for each person in the same family up to \$325 for a family of six or more. (Prices in 2023 started at \$75 and ranged up to \$200 for a family of six or more.)
•Pool rentals — \$125 per hour (up from \$75 per hour last year) plus the cost of lifeguards.
It also set hourly pay rates at

\$13 for concession workers and \$14 for guards, with increases of 25 cents for each year of consecutive service. Manager pay was set at \$18.50 per hour for the second year of service, with assistant manager pay at \$15 per hour.
The board scheduled opening day for Saturday, May 25. It will set a closing day based on the availability of staff.
Also Tuesday, the board OK’d the installation of a fence around the new pickleball courts at Milton Miller Park for \$14,740. The city will put in a sidewalk connecting the courts to the parking lot and a former concession stand that will be utilized for storage. The concessions stand building will also get a new roof and other repairs for \$1,900.
In other business, the board:
•Heard from Shauver that plans are to begin opening park

restrooms beginning with Weiler-Wilson Park and Hudson Family Park during the last week of June.
•Approved Jay County Law Enforcement Camp to utilize Portland Water Park from 7 to 9 p.m. June 18. The board will cover the cost of rental and lifeguards.
•Approved the following: purchase of two mowers from K&L Tractor of Fort Recovery for \$15,780; the installation of several new security cameras at Hudson Family Park by NuWave Technology of Coldwater, Ohio, for \$9,903; and putting two new cornhole courts in place of existing horseshoe pits at Haynes Park.
•Heard new parks manager Ronnie Reynolds has completed his commercial driver’s license training.

Obituaries

Janice Hampshire
Janice Hampshire, 86, Portland, died Tuesday at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center.
Services are pending at Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
.....
The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 3/8	Saturday 3/9	Sunday 3/10	Monday 3/11	Tuesday 3/12
59/44	53/29	41/28	51/33	60/44
There's a 60% chance of showers on Friday, when the high will be in the upper 50s.	Saturday has a 70% chance of rain, with temperatures dipping to the 20s at night.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny with a low at night in the upper 20s.	Sunny skies are on the horizon Monday with a high in the low 50s during the day.	Another day of sun is in the forecast for Tuesday, when the high will be 60.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$485 million	Evening Daily Three: 5-7-0 Daily Four: 7-1-1-7 Quick Draw: 4-11-18-20-21-27-28-33-39-43-44-45-53-57-65-70-75-76-78-79
Mega Millions 2-49-50-61-70 Mega Ball: 14 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$687 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 3-6-0 Pick 4: 9-0-0-4 Pick 5: 5-8-4-2-5 Evening Pick 3: 9-7-1 Pick 4: 5-0-1-4 Pick 5: 5-6-1-0-6 Rolling Cash: 10-18-32-33-38 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 2-7-0 Daily Four: 2-4-5-3 Quick Draw: 2-5-10-23-26-31-32-39-50-51-57-58-61-62-63-69-71-72-73-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.21 April corn4.20 Wheat4.12	April beans11.30 Wheat 4.82
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.20 April corn4.20 May corn.....4.25	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.01 April corn4.05 Beans11.25 April beans11.31 Wheat4.91
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.08 April corn4.11 Beans11.23	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.11 April corn4.16 Beans11.04 April beans.....11.08 Wheat4.62

Today in history

In 161, Marcus Aurelius became emperor of Rome.
In 1644, the first bicameral legislature in North America was established in Massachusetts.
In 1850, U.S. Sen. Daniel Webster delivered his famous “Seventh of March” speech in which he urged a compromise regarding slavery. His push helped lead to the Compromise of 1850 that dictated how the issues of slavery would be handled in California, Utah and New Mexico.
In 2022, Portland City Council held off on approving updates to the city’s garbage collection ordinance, raising a variety of questions about the policies for the new Toters. Council members planned to send suggestions for changes to the proposed updates, which they ultimately approved.
—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County	Tuesday 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Crooning quintet
Matthew Marchal, Josh Evers, Isaac Brockman, Trevor Heitkamp and Caden Marchal perform “Peace is Flowing Like a River” during the Fort Recovery Local Schools Cabaret 2024 on Sunday evening. For more photos, visit thecr.com.

Report ...

Continued from page 1
In other business, JCDC’s board:
•Heard reminders that the Jay County Fiber Arts Festival is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Jay Community Center, Jay County Fairgrounds will be hosting camping for the April 8 solar eclipse and Dunkirk’s Webster Depot Park will be hosting an event to celebrate the occurrence, Glad Tidings Church will host an Easter event March 16 at West Jay Community Center and Jay County Cancer Society will host its Dueling Pianos fundraiser at 7:30 p.m. April 6 at Jay County Fairgrounds.
•Learned from Jay County Commissioner Rex Journey that Jay County Solid Waste District is looking for a site to build a new office.

Events are planned for solar eclipse

Capsule Reports

Lost control
A Portland woman lost control of her vehicle while driving on county road 400 South, causing an accident about 9 p.m. Tuesday.
Christian M. Scott, 23, was driving her 2002 Honda Accord east on the road just west of county road 1000 West. Scott told police she lost control of her vehicle when she went off the south side of the road. She attempted to

overcorrect and slid sideways off the north side of the road, causing her to crash into a utility pole.
Scott complained of pain in her left hip and had some bruising in the area, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report. She refused medical treatment on the scene.
Her vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

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Felony arrests

Unlawful possession
A Muncie woman was arrested Wednesday on drug charges.
Erin S. Robbins, 33, 1209 W. 17th St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, along with two Level 6 felonies for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine. She is being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Today

Osborne, Charles: 2 p.m., Portland First Church of the Nazarene, 920 S. Shank St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Photos provided

FFA awards

Fort Recovery FFA awarded two sophomores for winning its truck and tractor drives during National FFA Week. Pictured at top right is FFA member Reece Wendel with his oldest 1959 Chevy truck, and at bottom right is FFA member Russell Pohlman with his best restored Farmall M tractor.

Open marriage befuddles mom

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and her husband have been together for 10 years, married for three of them. They have a 1-year-old daughter. I have just learned they may be getting a divorce. My son-in-law is very controlling as well as verbally and emotionally abusive. He yells, swears and slams doors over the littlest things. It has been going on for the past couple of years.

My daughter deserves to be happy, and she doesn't want to raise my granddaughter in that environment. However, she just confided to me that they have been in an open marriage for the last three months. Both have other people in their lives.

I'm having a hard time processing this. I come from the generation where that kind of thing is morally wrong, and I'm heartbroken about the whole thing. I love my daughter and want to support her, but if I don't, I risk losing her and my granddaughter forever. How can I cope? — COMPLETELY THROWN IN OHIO

DEAR THROWN: Your daughter and son-in-law's open marriage will soon be over. (Hallelujah!) While you may not approve of your daughter's sexual activity, she's an adult and has a right to live her life as she sees fit. (She may have been pressured into trying it.)

The Bible says, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." I strongly recommend you try to remember and follow that dictate if you want to continue to have a relationship with your daughter and grandchild. She may need all of the emotional support she can get.

DEAR ABBY: I have four sisters. I have felt like the "odd one out" my entire

Dear Abby



life, and they know it. They gossip about me and my children at every opportunity. They are all financially well off. I am not. They take trips and get together frequently, but don't include me because they think I can't afford it. When I have made my feelings known, they say I'm "too sensitive" and a "drama queen."

I told them they don't have the right to look down on me and judge. How can I get them to stop being so superior and accept me and my children? I have been a widow for five years after a long and abusive marriage. They accuse me of exaggerating the mental and emotional abuse I experienced. How can I make them understand? — EXCLUDED SIS IN NEBRASKA

DEAR SIS: You wrote that you have felt like the odd one out your entire life, and your sisters know it. You also stated that they travel together without including you because they think you can't afford it. If that's true, do you think they should have paid your fare? If you do, it's presumptuous.

After a long and abusive marriage you must feel like you have been let out of jail. For your sisters to dismiss what you experienced as exaggeration is insensitive and cruel. Because you aren't going to change them, eliminate them from your life. They may be unwilling or unable to give you the inclusion and acceptance you seek from them.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERV-

ICES — 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 - BRIGANNA'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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E Walnut St, Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay

Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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We're raising a journalism army

By RAY COONEY

The Graphic Printing Company

I've made a habit of saying the Jay County's wrestling program has an "army" of assistant coaches.

Anyone who has been to a Jay County High School wrestling match or tournament will understand what I'm talking about. If you're chatting with one coach and turn around, you'll see a few more. Another pair will be on the mat shouting instructions to a wrestler. A few more will be spread across the gym.

Usually, even more are spread across the state (or multiple states) guiding other athletes in various elementary school, middle school or club tournaments.

It's a pretty impressive and extensive operation.

I describe all of that to say this:

It's time for The Graphic Printing Company to start an "army" of its own.

When we purchased The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and Red Ball (a weekly advertising circular) in May, we knew it would take some time to evaluate how everything worked in our new reality and then to make

Rays of Insight



decisions about how to move forward. Now we're ready.

Here are our plans to create our army:

1) We're looking to hire an additional full-time reporter. This has been in the works for a while. The new position will be focused on coverage of Randolph County but, like our existing staff, will rotate through all of our properties in order to provide the necessary coverage.

2) Develop a crew of freelancers. That term can be confusing, so let's clear it up. A freelancer doesn't work for free. A freelancer is someone who gets paid on a per-job or per-task basis. For us, that would be a per-story or per-photo assignment basis. This is an opportunity to get more coverage across all of our newspapers. With a relatively small staff, it can be difficult to attend all of the meetings and

events we would like to include in the newspaper, but we also don't necessarily need more full-time help. If we're able to cultivate a group of freelancers, it will allow us to reach beyond what we're currently capable of covering. I've already started to reach out to some who I feel might fit these roles well, particularly in the area of photography.

3) Launch a high school journalist training program. This is moving forward via a pilot run with one student this month. The idea is to offer local students the opportunity to learn about journalism — what we do here, Associated Press style, online training and mentoring through the story-writing (or photography) process — with a goal of developing freelancers, interns and potential future employees.

When we purchased the additional newspapers last year, I thought about what else might be possible in the future. Expansion into northeast Delaware County seemed like a possible next step. It was a long-term option, possibly part of a five-year plan.

But things change. There is currently a coverage gap in Delaware County. We're going to try to fill at least some of

it and, in fact, have already started to do so.

At the wrestling state finals a few weeks back, I did some light coverage (photos only) of Delta athletes when I had down time between our Jay County and Union City competitors. Andrew Balko did the same at the boys swimming sectional.

We opened it up further last week with coverage of the Eagles' run to a second consecutive boys basketball sectional championship.

So far, it has been online-only coverage. That will change Saturday with regional boys basketball.

We're going to add coverage of northeast Delaware County to The News Times beginning March 13. We're also going to do a test-run of adding Wapahani coverage to The News-Gazette. (Southeast Delaware County was in the even longer-term plans, but the fact that the Raiders and Delta play at the same regional site opened the door to do this pretty easily for at least one week-end.)

In some ways, we may be moving too fast. This type of move being part of a five-year plan would have allowed for more

preparation and logistical evaluation.

But sometimes when opportunity presents itself you have to decide whether you're going to reach out and grab it or let it pass you by. We're attempting to seize the day.

The expansion will be gradual. We can't do everything at once. It takes time to raise an army. And there will certainly be challenges.

But The Graphic Printing Company is committed.

So, if you like to write and want to try your hand at reporting on local government, covering a sporting event or putting together a feature story, let me know. If you enjoy photography and are interested in making a little extra money on the side, let me know. (Training in all areas will be provided.) You can stop in at our headquarters (309 W. Main St., Portland), call (260) 726-8141 or email news@thecr.com.

We hope to build out our army over the course of the next few weeks and months, with continued growth beyond.

At some point we want to be just like that Jay County wrestling coaching staff — every time you turn around, you see one of us there.

Distant owners aren't interested in our local news

By JIM HIGHTOWER

OtherWords

I no longer receive my local newspaper, the Austin-American Statesman.

Oh, the paper still comes, but it's just paper, minus the news part — news that our community once counted on to keep up with local government doings, corporate shenanigans, citizen actions, and other critical features of our city's democratic life.

What happened? Wall Street profiteers swept in a few years ago to conglomeratize, homogenize, and financialize the Statesman.

It's now a money cog in the Gannett/USA Today chain of some 200 major dailies that the syndicate seized. Indeed, Gannett itself is wholly owned by SoftBank, a Japanese hedge fund. Those distant bankers are not interested in local news, but in slashing news staffs to fatten their profits. In Austin alone, Softbank has cut two-thirds of the paper's journalists since taking over — and coverage of local stories has also plunged by two-thirds.

Interestingly, the Statesman recently ran a front-page piece about a local union protest by flight attendants demanding fair wages. On that same day, the paper also reported that Uber and Lyft drivers were striking in Austin.

But at the same time, the Statesman journalists were picketing right in front of the paper's office, protesting the greed of SoftBank/Gannett and the demise of local news. Curiously, Statesman editors did not consider this local news about our newspaper to be news, so they cravenly kept this important information from the people.

Austin was not alone in this news blackout by the chain's managers. Journalists at a dozen other

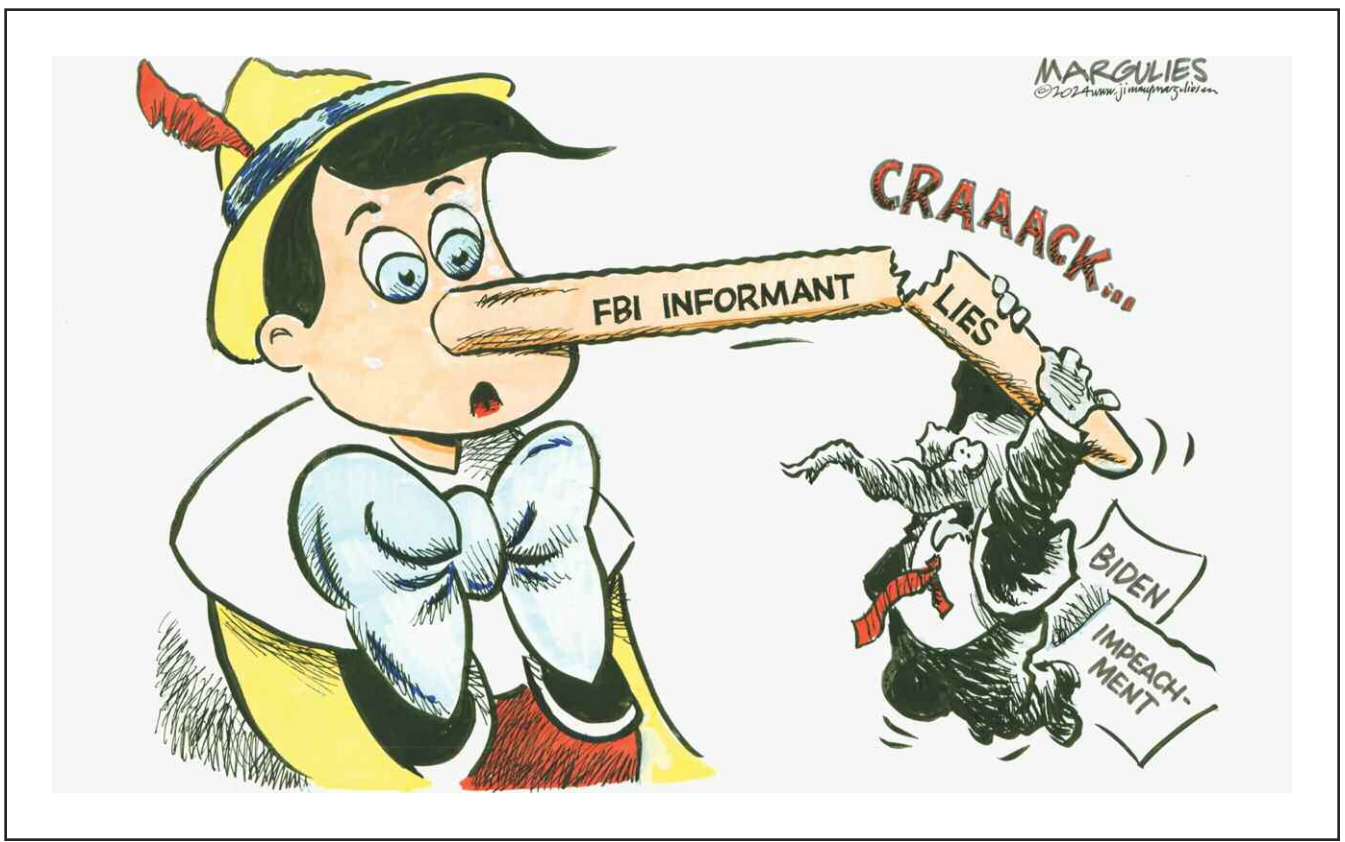
Wall Street profiteers swept in a few years ago to conglomeratize, homogenize, and financialize the Statesman. It's now a money cog in the Gannett/USA Today chain of some 200 major dailies that the syndicate seized.

Gannett papers — from Akron, Ohio to South Bend, Indiana — were picketing, yet, none of those papers ran a peep about their journalists' defense of local news. Nor did Gannett's flagship paper, USA Today, mention this nationwide union rebellion by its own journalists.

To support journalists and real journalism, go to newsguild.org.



Jim Hightower



Congress has an obligation

By KEVIN FRAZIER

The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

The Post Office Act of 1792 is the most important piece of legislation you've never heard of. This single act turned the postal network into a marketplace of ideas rather than a means for generating revenue. Today, our primary channels for the spread of ideas — social media platforms — are steered by profit rather than the public's interest.

If that status quo persists, you can expect our democracy to continue to deteriorate. That's why we've got to study and learn from the Post Office Act, Congress's postal power and the expectations of the founders. A quick historical review suggests that the government not only has the authority to intervene in the marketplace of ideas but actually has an affirmative duty to do so.

You don't need a PhD in political science to know that our democracy will fail if people don't have access to timely, accurate and actionable news. The Founders acted on that simple fact by establishing and expanding a postal network. Thanks to the Post Office Act, the 69 post offices that existed in 1788 became 13,000 by 1840. What's more, the law subsidized the spread of democratic information by lowering the postage rate for newspapers and eliminating postage for the exchange of news between printers. It follows that over the course of a few decades, Congress made sure that Americans in every nook and cranny of the country could read about current affairs in quality newspapers.

It appears as though Congress has forgotten its obligation to maintain a

Kevin Frazier



primary channel for the distribution of democratic knowledge. That obligation is baked into Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution, which grants Congress the power to "establish post offices and post roads." Given that there were no alternative channels for mass communication when the Constitution was written, this clause can and should be interpreted as a grant of authority to develop a robust marketplace of ideas.

Today, the postal network is no longer the primary channel for the distribution of news. Yet, in the same way our postal network used to be perceived solely as a money-maker, we have been lured into accepting a narrow conception of social media platforms as economic entities rather than essential and irreplaceable channels of communication.

The Post Office Act, viewed in the political and technological context of the times, should serve as a reminder that the Founders would have vigorously contested the primary channels of communication being exclusively operated by private entities and, for all intents and purposes, solely in the interest of profit. Again, don't take my word for it.

Thomas Jefferson noted that the success of a democracy hinges on

the people having "full information of their affairs through the channel of the public papers." That's why he called for a communications network that ensured "those papers ... penetrate the whole mass of the people." In case there was any doubt about Jefferson's belief in the need for a functioning marketplace of ideas, he went so far as to say, "were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." George Washington likewise stressed the "importance of facilitating the circulation of political intelligence and information."

Jefferson and Washington could not be more clear: A democracy requires a primary channel for distributing news about current affairs. If that channel had been in the hands of a few merchants with insufficient concern about our collective democratic health, do you think these revolutionaries would have just accepted that untenable status quo?

I think "no" is the only rational answer. So, let's learn from our Founders and dare to demand a reconception of our information ecosystem that serves people rather than profit. In particular, scholars, policymakers and the like should explore a new interpretation of Congress's postal power — this new research could unleash a long overdue reconfiguration of our marketplace of ideas.

Frazier is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University.

The Commercial Review



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

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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

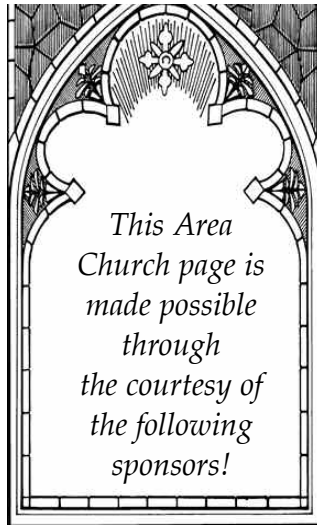
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruchkow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Tender loving care

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ J 8 4, ♥ —, ♦ K 7 3, ♣ A K 9 8 6 5 2. WEST: ♠ K 6 5 3, ♥ J 8 5 2, ♦ Q J 10 8, ♣ J. EAST: ♠ A Q 10 9 7 2, ♥ 6 3, ♦ —, ♣ 5 4. SOUTH: ♠ —, ♥ A K Q 10 9 7 4, ♦ A 9 6 2, ♣ 7 3.

on the third round, you learn that West has a trump trick coming. All your thoughts should now turn to avoiding a diamond loser, which can be done if you establish dummy's clubs. If the missing clubs are already good and will take care of your diamond losers. But if the clubs are divided 3-1, you will first have to ruff a club to establish the suit. However, the clubs should be approached very cautiously. Thus, if you were to carelessly play the A-K of clubs at this point, you would go down two after West ruffed the second club and returned the jack of diamonds to dummy's king. To guard against this possibility, you must handle the clubs more delicately. At trick five, you should lead a club to the king, then ruff a spade and lead another club toward dummy. If West ruffs, dummy's remaining clubs become good, and you can claim the rest. If West does not ruff, you win with dummy's ace and ruff a club. If West overruffs, you have 12 tricks; if he does not overruff, you lead a trump and again have 12 tricks. The slam is certain to make as long as you give the hand the tender, loving care it deserves.

The bidding: North East South West 1♠ 1♣ 3♥ 3♣ 4♠ Pass 4♥ Pass 5♣ Pass 6♥. Opening lead—diamond queen. Assume you've reached six hearts on the bidding shown and West leads the queen of diamonds. It seems likely you'll make the slam, but at the same time, you're aware that the contract might fail if the missing cards are badly stacked against you. The king of diamonds might eventually be needed as an entry to dummy, so you take the opening diamond lead with the ace and play the A-K-Q of trump, hoping the jack will fall. When East shows out

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



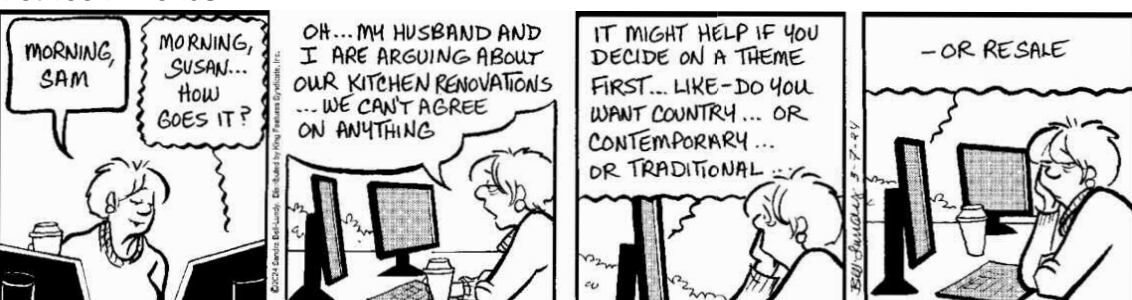
Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

BZM'V VCI VRDZHRJI SZNZ MR ZCM VRDZMQXKW BBAZ C LBRLA RN C SCMLQ. SRTBJ XM HZ MXDZ-LRKVTDXXK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WORKERS IN DELIS ARE MAKING HERO SANDWICHES, I IMAGINE THEY REALLY MUST BE SUB-CONSCIOUS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Actor Connery, 5 Wilde-beest, 8 Pre-weekend, 12 Fashion magazine, 13 Recede, 14 Russo of "Ransom", 15 "Not so fast!", 16 Menlo Park, 20 Musket accessory, 22 "Humb-bug!", 23 Sturgeon product, 24 Jittery, 27 Type of foam mattress, 32 Astronaut Jimison. DOWN: 19 Egyptian sun god, 21 Curved line, 24 Moody rock genre, 25 Dapper fellow, 26 Don Adams TV show, 28 Day—paint, 29 Fare, 30 Low digit, 31 German river, 36 Gap, 37 Chang's brother, 38 Seethed, 41 Opposite of nyet, 42 Ante-lope's playmate, 43 Not pizzicato, 44 Grand tale, 46 Valley, 47 — Bator, 48 Buddies, 51 Japanese "yes". Solution time: 24 mins.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-58 indicating starting positions for words.

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Title ...

Continued from page 8
Purdue immediately called a timeout, muted the crowd of 15,544 and sent some fans headed toward the exits before the Boilermakers finished off their 77-71 victory.

An opportunity lost for Illinois in the final minutes of another game. Not making enough plays — the right plays — cost the Illini a Quad I win that would have been their biggest résumé booster of the season and their slim chance at splitting the Big Ten regular season title with Purdue.

That both of those were

within Illinois' grasp only made Tuesday's loss sting that much more.

"I think we're at a point where we're fully aware we're capable of beating anybody," Illinois forward Coleman Hawkins said. "I think we're right there. It's literally two minutes of game that impacts us. We don't fall apart, but the plays are just so impactful it's hard to overcome."

"I think we're right there. Come March, we'll really be able to focus on ourselves and man up and get stops down the line and grab loose balls and be on the other end

of those impactful plays." Underwood would argue — and did — that it's not two minutes that can make a difference. It's simply two or three possessions. Like Loyer's offensive rebound that led to Smith's three-point shot that closed out Purdue's road win.

"You get a stop and you can't get a rebound — twice," Underwood said. The roles were reversed for the Boilermakers on the second, with Smith's offensive rebound leading to a pair of Loyer free throws with 1:27 to play.

"You can't not go make those plays," the Illinois

coach continued. "We've got to get them to understand the urgency of the end, the abruptness of the end. If you don't do it, you go home."

Those moments hurt more because of the context. Illinois had done enough defensively to get a stop — no small matter against a Purdue team that ranks even higher than the Illini offensively — and then that effort was wiped out in an instant.

"When stuff like that happens, your defense isn't set up anymore and teams can capitalize off that," Illinois guard Mar-

cus Domask said. "They won the rebounding battle, and rebounding has to be a staple for us. We can't let that slip."

"I look at the defensive side of the floor. A lot of times, those runs come on the offensive rebounds we don't get. Controllables like that. We've got to be more physical on our block outs and come up with more loose balls."

It's a point Underwood said he hammered home in the locker room after Tuesday's loss. A point he'll emphasize again when Illinois returns to practice Thursday after a day off and preparation

for Sunday's season finale at Iowa begins.

"I beat it up in the locker room, to be very honest," Underwood said. "Beat those points up because if we don't understand we're really, really good and can be a Final Four team — I'm just telling you now I believe that — but you've got to make those plays. You have to make those plays. Make big plays to stay alive."

"Make a point about it right now so that we can learn from that and we don't do that again. Next time it has a lot more consequences."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high wrestling ACAC tournament at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Junior high swimming hosts ACAC meet — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1 p.m. — MLB spring training: Atlanta Braves at Boston Red Sox (ESPN)

7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at New Jersey Devils (ESPN)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UAB at Temple (ESPN2); Rutgers at Wisconsin (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington at Washington State (FS1); Colorado at Oregon (ESPN2)

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

11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Cal at

Stanford (ESPN2); Arizona State at USC (FS1)

Friday
8:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)

12 p.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)

12:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)

1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)

3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)

3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Mis-

souri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)

5 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Shriners Children's 500 (FS1)

6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: VCU at Dayton (ESPN2); Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)

8 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Phoenix (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wichita

State at Tulane (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri Valley Conference tournament (Bally Indiana)

10 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

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

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS

Consignment Auction Sale Location - Chickasaw, Landmark St. Rt. 274 - Chickasaw, Ohio

Directions: Go 4 miles East of 127, or 6 miles West of New Bremen to Chickasaw

SATURDAY, MARCH 16th 10 A.M.

TRACTORS- TRUCKS- CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

2012 John Deere 4720 tractor with cab - 354 hours, 2021 766 Bobcat Skid Steer 2 speed with enclosed heat/ac cab - 735 hours.

DRILLS, PLANTERS, PLOWS, DISK, TILLAGE, AUGERS Brillion 28 ft field cultivator with harrow, John Deere 5 shank disk chisel, plow, Brillion 5 ft lawn seeder with 3 point attachment, J&M 6 inch hydraulic unload auger for gravity wagon.

WAGONS, MANURE EQUIPMENT, AND HAY EQUIPMENT

New Idea 484 4x5 round baler, Two 18 ft Bale Queen wagons, trailer, 8 ft PTO driven tedder/rake combo.

MISCELLANEOUS John Deere 997 zero turn diesel lawn mower with 72 inch deck, Hard-ee tree sprayer, Livestock trailers, 375 board feet of cherry wood lumber, Anvils, mowers, Elevators, Gates, Duals, Tires.

This is only a partial listing of equipment that will be at the Auction.

We are still accepting equipment on Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th; 9am till 8pm No Saturday Consignments

Any Questions or to consign items call Brad Rindler 419-584-6356

COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE

Auctioneers bonded in favor and licensed by the State of Ohio

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Women's Building and Farmers 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN

Friday Evening March 8th, 2024 5:00 P.M..

HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS

Lighted curio cabinet; sofa; loveseat; china hutch; tea cart; doll house; cane bottom chairs; cedar chest; Heywood Wakefield basket; hanging lamp; small kitchen appliances; Longaberger baskets; Coke tray; glass ice bucket; wood shutters; doll house; fiberglass step ladder; bicycle; several boxes of small collectibles that have been boxed and not sorted as of the time of the listing; and many other items not listed.

MAXWELL FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

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 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 Trustee 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.

PUBLIC AUCTION
Auction to be held at 8341 N 400 E (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana

Monday MARCH 25, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

REAL ESTATE - 1675 W ST. RT. 18 BRYANT, IN.

PARCEL #1: Approximately 4 acres of bare ground with frontage on State Road 18. Possession at time of closing.

Parcel #2: Approximately 80 acres with approximately 65 acres of slightly rolling tillable ground, 9 1/2 acres of wooded and 4.94 acres of ditch. Farm is rented for 2024 crop year. Buyer to receive cash rent payment of \$200.00 per acre. Possession after harvest of 2024 crops.

Parcel #3: Combination of Parcel #1 and Parcel #2 containing 84.923 total acres.

Owner confirmation day of sale. For more information

contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.

JOHN LEWIS, DECEASED Loy Auction

90 SALE CALENDAR

AC#31600027 Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

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. 1000-500-300 gallon fuel tanks. Work benches.

ANTIQUES - HOUSEHOLD Plastic Marathon sign. Garden plows. Garden planter. Oil cans. Maytag washer and dryer. Gladiator refrigerator. Full line of household furnishings and furniture.

OWNER: Anita Orr, Wade Weesner POA SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE

AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229

Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

Check AuctionZip & Auctionsoft for more photos.

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

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES

Property owners, rate payers and other interested parties in, served by or to be served by the City of Portland Municipal Sewage Works are hereby notified that Ordinance No. 2024-3, establishing rates and charges for services to be rendered by the Sewage Works, was introduced at a meeting of the City Council held on March 4, 2024. At a meeting of the City Council to be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 18, 2024 in the Council Chambers, 1616 North Franklin Street, Portland, IN 47371, there will be a public hearing on the matter of the rates and charges, and consideration of adoption of said Ordinance No. 2024-3, which provides in part as follows:

a. RATES AND CHARGES			
Class I (Inside):			
Treatment Rate per 1,000 gallons of use	\$11.48		
Base Rate (per month)			
Meter Size:			
5/8 Inch meter	\$37.48		
3/4 Inch meter	\$48.77		
1 Inch meter	\$80.14		
1 1/4 Inch meter	\$122.65		
1 1/2 Inch meter	\$173.71		
2 Inch meter	\$292.90		
3 Inch meter	\$663.44		
4 Inch meter	\$1,172.90		
6 Inch meter	\$2,620.73		
Class II (Outside):			
Treatment Rate per 1,000 gallons of use	\$11.48		
Base Rate (per month)			
Meter Size:			
5/8 Inch meter	\$51.15		
3/4 Inch meter	\$66.56		
1 Inch meter	\$109.39		
1 1/4 Inch meter	\$167.42		
1 1/2 Inch meter	\$237.11		
2 Inch meter	\$399.81		
3 Inch meter	\$905.60		
4 Inch meter	\$1,601.00		
6 Inch meter	\$3,577.30		
b. UNMETERED USERS. For users of the Sewage Works that are unmetered water users or if accurate meter readings are not available, the monthly charge shall be based upon 5,000 gallons of water usage and determined by applying the following monthly rate:			
Class I (Inside City Limits)	\$94.88		
Class II (Outside City Limits)*	\$108.55		
*Class II base rates include a 36.5% surcharge above the Class I base rates.			
To the equivalency formula as shown below:			
Monthly Rate Equivalency Factor			
	Equivalent Factor	Class I	Class II
Residential:			
Single-family residence, including mobile homes/unit	1.00	\$94.88	\$108.55
Apartments, condominiums & townhouses/unit	0.75	71.16	81.41
Duplexes/unit	0.75	71.16	81.41
Commercial:			
Barber or beauty shop:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Retail establishments:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Laundromats & washeries/washer	0.75	71.16	81.41
Grain elevator:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Motel, rooming houses, bed & breakfast and similar establishments:			
First rental room	1.50	142.32	162.83
Each additional rental room	0.50	47.44	54.28
Restaurants, drive-ins, bars & organizations with eating and/or drinking facilities:			
First 2 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Professional offices:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Service stations/auto repair without car wash:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
With car wash:			
Per car wash bay	2.50	237.20	271.38
Shop or office in residence	1.00	94.88	108.55
Veterinarian:			
First 2 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.33	31.31	35.82
Recreational Areas:			
Campground (per campsite)	0.60	56.93	65.13
Institutions:			
Schools per pupil enrolled (5-day school week)	0.10	9.49	10.86
Churches and other religious organizations:			
Without eating facilities (for each 200 members or fraction thereof)	1.00	94.88	108.55
With eating facilities (for each member)	0.02	1.90	2.17
Group Home:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Each resident	0.33	31.31	35.82
Governmental:			
Offices:			
First 3 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Fire Department:	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each truck bay	2.50	237.20	271.38
Industrial:			
Manufacturing:			
First 2 employees	1.00	94.88	108.55
Each additional employee	0.25	23.72	27.14
Manufacturers who discharge industrial wastes into the sanitary sewage system of the City shall install, operate, and maintain, at the user's expense, a measuring device satisfactory to the City for the measurement of the volume of flow discharged for sanitary sewers and shall be charged for the quantity of flow.)			
Following the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-3, users located outside the City's corporate boundaries may be entitled to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission under Indiana Code 8-1.5-3-8.3 to review and adjust the rates and charges imposed on the users if a petition under Indiana Code 8-1.5-3-8.2 or Indiana Code 36-9-23-26.1 with respect to the Rate Ordinance has not been filed.			
At such hearing and prior to final adoption of said Ordinance, all interested parties may appear and be heard. A copy of Ordinance No. 2024-3 may be examined at City Hall.			
Dated this 7th day of March, 2024.			
Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer			

Sports

Haines signs

Jay County High School senior Brenna Haines is pictured with family after signing her national letter of intent to play volleyball at Saint Francis University in Fort Wayne on Tuesday.



Photo provided

Famed ESPN reporter dies at 72

By GEOFF HERBERT
syracuse.com

Tribune News Service
Famed ESPN reporter and NFL analyst Chris Mortensen is dead at 72, the sports network announced Sunday.

Mortensen, also known as "Mort," died Sunday morning. A cause of death was not immediately given. "Mort was widely respected as an industry pioneer and universally beloved as a supportive, hardworking teammate," ESPN president Jimmy Pitaro said in a statement. "He covered the NFL with extraordinary skill and passion, and was at the top of his field for decades. He will truly be missed by colleagues and fans, and our hearts and thoughts are with his loved ones."

Mortensen worked at ESPN for more than three decades, including as a senior analyst for the NFL Draft, appearing on "Sunday NFL Countdown," and as a contributor on "SportsCenter." CNN reports he joined ESPN as a football insider in 1991 after transitioning from a newspaper career that included covering the Atlanta Braves and the Atlanta Falcons for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where he wrote the award-winning piece "Ignoring the Rules" about amateur sports and college athletes.

The New York Post reports Mortensen is credited with breaking some of football's biggest stories, including quarterback Peyton Manning's retirement in 2016.

"We lost a true legend," Manning said on Instagram. "Mort was the best in the business and I cherished our friendship. I trusted him with my announcement to sign with the Broncos and with the news of my retirement. I will miss him dearly and my thoughts and prayers are with Micki & his family. Rest in peace, Mort."

He was also a key figure in the "deflategate" controversy in 2015 when he erroneously reported on Twitter that 11 of 12 footballs used by the New England Patriots in the AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts were under-inflated by two pounds of pressure per square inch. He deleted the tweet six months later and later admitted it was a mistake after an NFL investigation confirmed it was false.

Mortensen briefly left ESPN in 2016 after announcing he was diagnosed with Stage 4 throat cancer, and returned after announcing his treatments were successful. He retired last year after the NFL Draft to "focus on my health, family and faith."

Mortensen was a California native who attended El Camino College and served two years in the Army before launching a journalism career. He received the Dick McCann Award (now known as the Bill Nunn Jr. Award) from the Professional Football Writers of America in 2016, during the Pro Football Hall of Fame ceremonies.

"I admired how hard Chris worked to become one of the most influential and revered reporters in sports. He earned our respect and that of many others with his relentless pursuit of news but also with the kindness he extended to everyone he met," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "He will be greatly missed by many of us in the league who were fortunate to know him well beyond the stories he broke each Sunday."

Patriots outshine Starfires

BERNE — The Patriots have been dominant so far this year, and Tuesday's performance didn't change the narrative.

The Jay County Junior High School swim team performed a clean sweep of the South Adams Starfires on Tuesday, winning every single event.

The girls team choked out the Starfires in a 144-37 victory, while the boys stopped South Adams 119-44.

For the second night in a row, Raif Beiswanger, Elly Byrum, Brooklynn Byrum, Cooper Glentzer and Maria Laux all brought home a pair of wins in individual events. Grady Warvel also added his name to that list, with first-place finishes in the 400-yard freestyle and 100 breast-

Swim roundup

stroke. Beiswanger topped the field in the 100 individual medley and the 50 butterfly to be the first Patriot to claim a double victory.

Glentzer, the other boy who took home a pair of wins, took care of the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke for Jay County.

Both of Laux's victories came in freestyle events, as she competed in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

Elly Bryum handled the 50

freestyle and 100 backstroke for the Patriots, while Brooklynn Byrum won the 100 individual medley and 100 breaststroke.

Four new cuts

FISHERS — Three Patriots made state cuts over the weekend when the Jay County Winter Swim team competed in the Divisional meet at Fishers high school.

Cooper Glentzer made his only state cut in the meet, as he shaved off 49.71 seconds from his 1,650-yard freestyle to finish second in 18 minutes, 44.12 seconds in the 13-14-year-old group.

Addisyn Champ and Carsyn Guggenbiller also made time to compete at the state meet at IUPUI from March 15-17.

Champ earned a spot in her

fifth event as she swam a 2:50.29 in the 10-and-younger 200 individual medley. She also earned the district championship in the event, as well as 50 breaststroke.

Guggenbiller passed in two events to total six that she will swim at state. Times of 1:28.97 and 37.98 in the 10-and-younger 100 butterfly and 50 butterfly cleared the state cut. Guggenbiller's 50 butterfly time earned the divisional championship.

The trio will also be joined by Sophie Warvel (four events) and Ellie Wiggins (two events).

Warvel claimed the other two divisional championships at the meet, with a 1:10.7 in the 10-and-younger 100 freestyle and a 1:34.48 in the 100 breaststroke.

Purdue claims Big Ten title

By SCOTT RICHEY
The News-Gazette (Champaign-Urbana, Ill.)
Tribune News Service

CHAMPAIGN — The Orange Krush-filled line that formed outside State Farm Center on Tuesday morning signaled the level of anticipation for that night's game between the top two teams in the Big Ten.

That didn't wane as a sellout crowd poured into the building. Brad Underwood hyped up the Krush when he returned to the court just before tipoff. It was unnecessary. They were ready.

No gameday environment at State Farm Center was louder than Tuesday night's. Fans stayed on their feet longer. Yelled louder. Videoboard cut-aways to well-known Illini generated even more noise.

Three-time Super Bowl champion Nick Allegretti got the State Farm Center crowd on its feet.

Meyers Leonard got the biggest cheers after chugging two beers in the first half. Then two more in the second.

PGA Tour professional Nick Hardy, NFL rookie Sydney Brown and country music artist Brett Eldredge were just as popular.

The atmosphere was charged all night long. Until it abruptly wasn't.

Purdue guard Fletcher Loyer corralled a loose ball offensive rebound with 29 seconds on the clock. Braden Smith drilled the second-chance three-pointer 10 seconds later, following up his make with a "put them to sleep" celebration.

See Title page 7

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