

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Wendel wins

Megan Wendel speaks Sunday during the Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce awards banquet at Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School. Wendel was named as the 2023 Citizen of the Year for her active community presence both as a leader of various organizations and in her volunteer efforts.

Clerk's office plans a new website

Commissioners approved application for grant to fund project

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The clerk's office plans to establish a new website for voters.

Jay County Commissioners OK'd a \$20,000 grant application and approved a contract with website developer An Island on Monday to create a site for election data.

The funding would come from Indiana's portion of the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grants program. County clerk Jon Eads noted the Indiana Secretary of State's office recently reached out to him about the opportunity.

"We've had several voters request something like this," said Eads.

Jay County's new cloud-based website will provide an election update system for results as they come in as well as information about candidates, such as their autobiographies. It will be accessible via smart devices or computers and allow users to sign up for text message notifications to be alerted as results are filed.

Eads anticipates the website could be ready to use by the May primary.

An Island, a Tell City-based developer, will design the site. (Formed in 2007, the privately owned business started as Enterprise Consulting Company.) It is currently working with the Association of the Clerks of Circuit Courts of Indiana to create its new website.

The website will cost the county about \$7,000 annually to maintain.

See Website page 2

Residents get property tax primer

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Fort Recovery property owners recently noticed changes to their real estate tax bills.

Village representatives decided to host a public meeting to learn more about how tax amounts are determined.

Fort Recovery residents, Mercer County officials and others joined Saturday for a town hall meeting to discuss real estate taxes.

Fort Recovery Mayor Dave Kaup explained he received his real estate tax bill for the 18 parcels of land he owns about six weeks ago. Changes to his bill varied anywhere from decreasing 4% to

Town hall provided details to Fort Recovery residents

increasing 30%, depending on the parcel.

He noted concerns about getting village levies to pass in the future, such as renewal levies for water or wastewater amenities.

"I'm concerned about that, you know, obviously that's what keeps

the town going," he said. "I just felt like we were getting taxed to the point where people were getting fed up."

Mercer County auditor Randy Grapner explained property assessment and taxes are intertwined.

"The Department of Taxation gives us the rules," he said. "The rules are created by the state legislature. They come down to us. We appraise the properties, and then that goes out to the assessment process."

The county has contracted with Findlay's Vision Government Solutions, which works with more than 40 counties in Ohio since the early 1990s. It aids the county with crunching the numbers.

Grapner also pointed out his department recently completed a revaluation of the real estate and real property in Mercer County.

See Tax page 2

Ceasefire talks slow

By MARISSA NEWMAN,
GWEN ACKERMAN
and FARES AKRAM
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. President Joe Biden warned Israel against an invasion of the city of Rafah as cease-fire talks between Israel and Hamas appeared deadlocked, hours before the start of Islam's holy month of Ramadan.

The U.S. had been hoping for a breakthrough in the negotiations before Ramadan, which is expected to begin after sundown on Sunday. The deal as envisioned would see a six-week pause in fighting and the release of dozens of Israeli hostages in return for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

Negotiations appeared at an impasse, however, with Israel accusing Hamas of stalling in a bid to inflame violence across the region during Islam's holy month, and Hamas saying more Israeli hostages have died in captivity than earlier believed.

Israel has threatened to invade Rafah, the last bastion of Hamas in Gaza, where more than a million Palestinians are sheltering, if the talks fail. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has said Israel won't stop its cam-

U.S. warning against Israeli invasion of Rafa

paign until the Iran-backed militant group is destroyed, with its main leaders killed, captured or exiled.

In an interview with MSNBC on Saturday, Biden expressed hope that a cease-fire agreement may still be reached and warned that an Israeli invasion of Rafah would represent a "red line."

His comments came as U.S. Central Command began sending supplies to Gaza to build a temporary dock to deliver large quantities of humanitarian aid by sea. Ships will carry food, water, medicine and other supplies to the coastal enclave.

The U.S. has been pushing for increased aid for Palestinians in Gaza, where a hunger crisis has developed during the five-month war, and sought to rein in Israeli's military activity.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Wool work

Nola Katinsky of Fort Wayne chats while working on spinning wool Friday during the Jay County Fiber Arts Festival hosted by Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau at Jay Community Center. Katinsky was at the event with Teasel Hill Angoras Farm.

Deaths

Marjorie Simon, 89, Berne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Sunday. The low was 32.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 40s with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high in the mid 60s and a chance of afternoon rain.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Correction

Because of an error by The Commercial Review, an ad in Saturday's edition incorrectly listed that there is no school Wednesday. Jay Schools will be in session all week. The elementary school lunch menu for Wednesday features pepperoni pizza with a side of peas and carrots. Alternate options include popcorn chicken salad.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from the Jay County junior high swim meet at Blackford.

Thursday — Coverage of Thursday's Portland Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.



Website ...

Continued from page 1
Eads explained to commissioners Monday he had not initially applied for the grant, pointing out the county updated all of its election supplies recently. Last year, the county purchased 30 voter verifiable paper audit trail machines and 50 voting machines from Microvote Corporation for about \$140,000. (Its previous machines dated back to 2004.) The state — it required all polls to have the voter verifiable paper audit trail machines by 2024 — had already purchased 20 of those devices for Jay County and contributed an

additional \$76,750 toward the 2023 purchase.
Created in 2018, the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grants aim to provide “states with additional resources to improve the administration of elections for federal office, including to enhance technology and make certain election security improvements,” according to its website.
Approximately \$2 million of the program’s funding is being administered through the Indiana Secretary of State’s Office for Indiana counties, according to an August press release from the department.

The office’s goal is to use the dollars for local election improvement efforts, the press release says.
“Since I took office, I’ve made a commitment to county clerks and election administrators to provide them with the tools and resources they need,” said Morales in the press release. “This is an effort to deliver on that promise. We are looking forward to innovative proposals from county officials to help improve elections at the local level and make the Hoosier state stronger.”
Projects eligible for grant dollars included voter education and outreach, poll worker recruitment and

training, cybersecurity efforts, accessibility for disabled voters, and other election administration or voting initiatives.
Morales’ office contacted Eads about leftover funding from the program and offered to award Jay County \$20,000 to build a website for election information, explained Eads.
Four other counties — Perry, Dubois, Putnam and Spencer counties — also received funding from the grant to launch similar websites with the grant dollars.
For additional commissioners’ news, see Wednesday’s paper.

Obituaries

Marjorie Joan Simon, rural Berne, a Geneva High School graduate, March 6, 1935-March 10, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at West Missionary Church, 4295 W. Indiana 218, Berne.

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

Wednesday 3/13	Thursday 3/14	Friday 3/15	Saturday 3/16	Sunday 3/17
65/50	65/46	52/35	55/37	49/30
There's a chance of rain on Wednesday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high of 65.	Rain is expected Thursday, with thunderstorms also possible. The chance is 60%.	More showers and thunderstorms are on the horizon for Friday with a 50% chance of rain.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be in the mid 50s.	Another chance of rain on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$532 million	56-59-72-76-79 Cash 5: 2-19-31-33-44 Estimated jackpot: \$85,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$735 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-6-1 Pick 4: 1-5-7-2 Pick 5: 3-3-6-3-1 Evening Pick 3: 6-6-0 Pick 4: 9-9-7-0 Pick 5: 9-0-7-3-1 Rolling Cash 5: 2-17-23-25-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 0-9-2 Daily Four: 8-7-8-5 Evening Daily Three: 4-7-9 Daily Four: 4-6-7-4 Quick Draw: 2-3-5-6-7-10-14-17-24-29-30-42-44-52-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.36 April corn4.39 Wheat4.30	April beans11.66 Wheat 5.23
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.39 April corn4.42 May corn4.44	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.17 April corn4.21 Beans11.62 April beans11.67 Wheat5.09
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.24 April corn4.27 Beans11.63	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.32 April corn4.32 Beans11.44 April beans11.49 Wheat4.80

Today in history

In 1894, a candy store in Vicksburg, Mississippi, sold the first bottles of Coca Cola.
In 1901, industrialist Andre Carnegie offered \$5.2 million to the city of New York for constructing 65 branch libraries. A Scottish immigrant who made a fortune before the age of 30, his money later established more libraries and charities.
In 1918, Vladimir Lenin shifted Russia’s capital from Petrograd (St. Petersburg) to Moscow. The city still stands today as the country’s capital, sitting as the largest city in the country.
In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi started his 200 mile protest march against the British salt tax. Gandhi also led the Quit India movement in 1942, serving as a nationwide resistance movement leader.
In 1947, United States president Harry Truman shared the Truman Doctrine, asking Congress to appropriate aid for Greece and Turkey amid communist threats.
In 1948, James Taylor was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Taylor has won six Grammys and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000. His works include “Fire and Rain” and “Carolina in My Mind.”
— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Tuesday 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff’s Merit Board, training room, sheriff’s office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Zoning Appeals,	Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. Wednesday 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. Thursday 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
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Capsule Reports

Patriot fourth

Jay County High School’s Patriot Edition show choir finished fourth Saturday at the Columbia City Cup.
The school’s co-ed group placed fourth in the finals, trailing Huntington North’s Varsity Singers, Northridge’s Northern Lights and Homestead’s Class Royale. JCHS won the award for best crew.
Jay County’s Just Treble was third in the preliminaries of Treble Division – Tier II.

JCHS sixth in division

The Jay County High

School winter guard

closed its season by placing sixth in its division Saturday in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association Regional A State Finals at Franklin Central.
JCHS scored 74.24 points for sixth in the Hagen Division. (Centerville won with 83.88.) It finished 26th overall.
Winning division state championships were Anderson, Westfield, Greenwood, Brownsburg, Centerville and Carroll. Brownsburg posted the highest score of 86.36.

Off road

Damage was estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Dunkirk man lost control of the vehicle he was driving and went off Industrial Park Drive in Portland about 7:06 p.m. Sunday.
Normal Moles, 53, was driving a 2016 Jeep Cherokee when he experienced a medical emergency, according to a Portland police report. The vehicle left the west side of the road and continued into a ditch.
Moles complained of chest pain. The vehicle he was driving was towed.

Felony arrests

Identity deception

A Kokomo woman was arrested Friday for identity deception.
Laken R. Robbins, 34, 209 N. Webster

St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony.
She was being held on a \$6,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Tax ...

Continued from page 1
New values are set every six years per Ohio law, with updates set for every three years in between revaluations.
Kaup asked where Fort Recovery’s real estate tax rates rank in cost to property owners as compared to taxing districts across Ohio.
According to the Ohio Department of Taxation’s website, real estate taxes are paid on the assessed value, which is 35% of the property’s appraised or market value. The assessed value of the property multiplied by the effective tax rate of voted levies equals the amount owed. (That’s prior to taking out tax deductions, such as non-business property, owner-occupied homes or homestead reductions.)
Mercer County has 46 taxing districts, with Fort Recovery’s districts located in Gibson, Granville, Recovery and Washington townships.
“The effective rate in each of those areas could be different,” noted Mercer County treasurer Dave Wolters.
Pointing to variances across the county’s taxing districts, he said it would be difficult to compare with other taxing districts in Ohio. He pointed to demographic differences — rural, farm ground compared to residential or corporation areas — as other influential factors.
Grapner assured community members that funds from increases to property tax bills stay within the county.
Tax dollars are divided between taxing entities, noted Wolters. Fort Recovery Local Schools receives approximately 57% of those dollars.
Tony Stahl, superintendent of Fort Recovery schools, explained the school district has five levies, with three dating back to as far as the late 1970s and early ‘80s. (One of those levies is set to expire in 2032.)
Fort Recovery Local Schools receives the lowest percentage of real estate taxes in the county. According to Wolters, other school districts receive the following percentages: Parkway – 65.69%; St. Henry – 67.75%; Coldwater – 70.74%; Marion Local – 71.9%; and Celina – 76.73%.
Wolters noted that as the community grows, tax valuations may increase and subsequently millage rates — \$1 of tax for every \$1,000

of assessed value — for schools would decrease. However, per Ohio law, tax reduction factors cannot cause a school district’s effective current expense millage rate to fall below 20 mills.
Answering a question from a community member, Wolters explained property taxes for 2023 to be paid in 2024 are projected to come in at \$65 million, a \$13 million increase from the previous year for Mercer County. Taking the 20-mill floor for schools into account, Wolters said, that would come out to roughly \$8 million more for schools in 2024.
Other factors, such as inflation and rising costs of housing, property and land, have also impacted real estate taxes. Community member Jared Ebbing noted a housing shortage in Fort Recovery.
“The market value is being driven up, not just inflation, but artificially, because people want to live in this little slice of normal we call Mercer County,” he said. “That’s good that people want to come back to the area ... but with the housing shortage that we have in every single community, how’s a young person going to come back here to buy a house or build a house?”
Echoing Kaup’s thoughts from earlier in the meeting, local resident Matt Minor also noted potential future levies considering property tax rates.
“God help you on anything that hits the ballot that could further improve this village because I’m here to tell you, nobody’s voting for it,” he said.
Mercer County Commissioner Dave Buschur, Wolters and Grapner all advocated for reaching out to state senators, representatives and other officials to see changes with tax rates.
Various data related to property tax bills for Mercer County residents, including valuations and a breakdown of how much each levy accounts for in each property owner’s bills, is available by visiting auditor.mercercounty-ohio.gov. The website can be used to search for properties by address, parcel or name of property owner.
For those with disputes about the county’s valuations for their property, complaint forms are available on the website. There is no charge for an appeal, but it must be submitted to the auditor’s office before March 31.



Swiss Village

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Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org



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Columnist treasured time on the sea

By JAMES FULKS
The Commercial Review

It arrived on a chilly December day in a heavy box.

The box contained an official certificate of authenticity and was, ironically, wrapped in layers of bubble wrap, a virtually indestructible chunk of cold, hard steel.

The steel measures 3 inches tall by 5 inches wide by 1.37 inches thick and weighs 8 pounds.

On the face, the following is engraved:

**Fulksy
Mayhem**



USS KITTY HAWK
CV-63
04-230-2

I'll never forget the first time I saw her.

I reported for U.S. Navy basic training in summer 1984, and after training I was assigned to the USS

Kitty Hawk. On a beautiful day in December 1984, I drove up to a long warehouse and turned the corner and there she was. This massive ship, moored to a pier that literally dwarfed the huge warehouse next to the pier.

I was just amazed that something bigger than a factory in Portland could even float.

But float she certainly did.

She took this rural Indiana farm kid on wild

adventures to the farthest reaches of the globe.

Aboard her, I learned a lot about life and this little blue marble in the cosmos that we call home.

I saw the absolutely most beautiful sunrises, sunsets and starlit nights that I have ever seen on the planet.

I entered The Ancient Order of the Deep and was found worthy by King Neptune as we crossed the equator, earned an Order of Mag-

ellan Global Circumnavigation World Cruise Certification, an Order of the Ditch Suez Canal transit certificate and a Rock of Gibraltar certificate.

All heady stuff for a landlubber from east central Indiana.

Today, my former noble gray lady is being cut up for scrap in Brownsville, Texas, and watching the progress via remote drone flyover photography fills me with emotions I cannot adequately

express. She truly was a beautiful warrior of the high seas, from 1961 to 2009.

So, today, in a prominent place in my Humble Hoosier Heartland Homestead farmhouse, a chunk of her flight deck, purchased from the scrapping company, will be all I have left of her, at least physically.

But, I'll treasure the memories of our travels, adventures and the life long impact of her on my life until my dying day.

Threats lead to change in family dynamic

DEAR ABBY: While I was visiting my father-in-law, a heated conversation turned violent. My husband, "Rob," was helping his dad and a neighbor with a house project. When Rob's dad became upset at him, he lifted the power saw he was holding, turned it on and motioned toward Rob saying, "You're lucky I don't slit your throat." He said some other unkind things and we left. He has not reached out to my husband since, and Rob has deleted his phone number.

His dad sent me a text taking no responsibility for his actions and blaming Rob, which is why we have decided to cut ties for now. We have a teen daughter, and my father-in-law has also texted her. We do not want her around him, and Rob wants to instruct her not to respond. The

**Dear
Abby**



However, she should ALSO be made aware that, in a moment of anger, her grandfather threatened to KILL her father, which is why you have decided it is safer to keep your distance. At the least, "dear old Dad" owes his son an apology.

DEAR ABBY: Is it acceptable to put someone on speakerphone without informing them? I recently had a conversation with my younger sister about our mother's health issues. In the background, I heard someone make a comment to her about something I had said about our parents. When I asked, "Who is that?", she said it was her live-in boyfriend (of two years) and that I had been on speakerphone the entire

time. I immediately ended the conversation.

Please understand that no one in our family has met or spoken to this man other than my sister. To me, he's a stranger. I felt it was inappropriate for him to listen in on our conversation whether it was a personal family issue or not. I'm not sure if "violated" is the right description for how I felt after hanging up, but it didn't sit well with me even though nothing derogatory had been said.

Am I behind the times, or did my sister make an error in judgment? I have not discussed my displeasure with her, but I plan to. My wife agrees with me but says I should drop it and be mindful of my sister's actions going forward. —OVERHEARD IN FLORIDA

DEAR OVERHEARD: The rule of etiquette is that the

person you call should ask before putting someone on speaker if someone else is present. That said, Sissy and her boyfriend have been living together for two years. I doubt she keeps secrets from him. What she hears she shares with him. The next time you want to discuss some "family business" with her, open the conversation by telling her you would like her to please not put you on speaker. Then cross your fingers and hope she complies.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

A BETTER LIFE - BR-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

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.

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

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

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut 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.

A BETTER LIFE - BR-ANNA'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 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.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland. All auxiliary post members welcome.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Pizza Hut in Portland.

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

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

Friday

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

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.

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

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of

the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BR-ANNA'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 Restau-

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Immigrants power our economy

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Simple question: Are you happy that inflation has stabilized? The economic indicators don't and can't capture everyone's circumstances, but real wages have gone up and costs have held steady. We're certainly much better situated than the recession that many economists had predicted would be engulfing the nation by now. The soft landing that had seemed like a significant reach has come to pass without even a blip of economic strife.

To some extent, we can thank the Federal Reserve's needle-threading on rate hikes and the pro-labor and pro-industrial policy stances of the Biden administration. But what really stuck the landing is what's been the United States' economic secret sauce for two centuries: immigration.

Guest Editorial

Recent economic analyses by the Economic Policy Institute, the Congressional Research Service and others shows that the labor force has grown enormously in large part on the back of rebounding immigration, which had fallen during the pandemic. This helped plug labor force problems that were in large part leading to inflation, as well as kept consumer demand high and money flowing around the economy.

Here we can hear critics jumping in to roll out the persistent

myth that these foreign-born workers are "taking" jobs from the native born; that would pack some more punch if unemployment weren't at historic lows across the board, or wages rising especially for lower-income populations, immigrant and native born alike.

To the extent that there are negative economic circumstances, such as rising child poverty rates following the expiration of pandemic-era child care and other assistance programs, these are areas where immigration can be a significant boon.

Birthrates have dropped below replacement levels in the United States, and a big chunk of the child care, nursing and general health care workforce now is drawing from immigrants, who will ensure against the demographic crash.

Unfortunately, you won't hear much about this from political leaders, from Joe Biden to Donald Trump, who are competing for who can appear tougher on immigrants rather than touting the substantial benefits of continuing to be a global destination for talent and culture.

Mayor Eric Adams last week upped the ante on his public frustrations with immigrants, suggesting that New York should essentially reverse its sanctuary policies and begin cooperating with ICE just when an immigrant is suspected of a crime, not convicted, suggesting that they "should be held accountable."

The mayor apparently forgot that the criminal justice system that he was a part of for decades as a police officer is already the entity responsible for holding accountable people suspected of

crimes. There are specific and in fact constitutional reasons why people who are suspected of criminal activity — regardless of what activity that is — are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and not sentenced until that guilt is legally established.

Deportation is a very harsh fate, yet the mayor is suggesting we effectively presume guilt for immigrants arrested for crimes and send them packing.

It's not right and it's not in keeping with New York values. Rather than threatening heavy-handed enforcement, Adams should focus on cutting down on the massive waste happening in migrant services contracts and continuing to push the Biden administration to assist arriving migrants itself instead of foisting it all on municipalities and states.

Public media needs its own Marshall Plan

By CHRIS MILLS RODRIGO
OtherWords

America's media institutions have had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad start to 2024.

The Messenger, a well-funded, high-profile news site, dissolved after less than a year. Big newspapers from the Los Angeles Times to the IndyStar saw major layoffs. And Sports Illustrated fell into licensing limbo while sites like BuzzFeed, Vice News and Complex found themselves at best on life support.

The over 500 media jobs eliminated so far this year reflect a broader, worrying trend. By this year's end, according to one recent estimate, America will have lost one third of all its newspapers — and two-thirds of all its newspaper staff — since 2005.

The losses have been particularly acute in poor and rural communities, leaving ever expanding news deserts all across the nation.

The collapse of news outlets, especially local papers, is robbing our communities of indispensable watch dogs. The disappearance of reporters from city council meetings and public safety hearings is creating oversight vacuums that leave citizens in the dark and enable shady dealings that let the wealthy exercise undue — and undetected — influence.

How did a country once chock-full of influential newspapers morph into a land of news deserts?

One major factor, says University of Pennsylvania media studies scholar Victor Pickard, has been the disintegration of the advertising model. In short, search engines and social media sites are eating up revenue that once went to local papers.

Subscriptions haven't been enough to replace ad funding in most cases — especially for larger publications or those that serve less wealthy audiences.

Other outlets have counted on the benevolence of billionaire buyers. But that creates real concerns about the influence of exorbitantly wealthy owners — who have been increasingly unwilling to foot the bill for quality journalism.

The Washington Post — owned by Jeff Bezos, who recently became the richest man alive again — offered buyouts to 240 employees this past fall. And Los Angeles Times owner Patrick Soon-Shiong's net worth of nearly \$6 billion didn't save the jobs of the

Chris Mills Rodrigo



115 workers the paper laid off in January.

Is there an alternative to for-profit journalism? To be sure, we've seen some exciting developments in nonprofit and worker-owned journalism. But these proposals remain limited in scope.

Given all this, some experts are calling for a fundamental rethinking of how we value journalism.

"The information produced by journalism should always be — and should have always been — treated as a public good," Pickard told me. "And that, by its very nature, is not something that's easily monetized."

Good reporting simply takes more resources to produce than it can easily recoup in digital ad dollars or fundraising. The answer? A real commitment to public media funding.

The United States does, of course, invest some money in public media.

Last year Congress allocated \$535 million to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the private nonprofit corporation tasked with investing in public radio and television. And some promising experiments are taking place at the state level, with California, New Mexico and Washington.

But that funding is a drop in the bucket compared to what's needed.

A 2022 study comparing funding globally found the U.S. spends just \$3.16 per capita on public media, compared to \$142.42 per person in Germany and \$110.73 in Norway. Spending as much on journalism as the United Kingdom does on the BBC would mean \$35 billion a year going to sustaining coverage.

We need, as The Nation's John Nichols recently argued, a "Marshall Plan" for journalism — a robust new era of public funding. Our democracy deserves better than to rely on ad dollars that are rapidly drying up.

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Rodrigo is the managing editor of Inequality.org at the Institute for Policy Studies.

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Bill fails on process, policy

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's public records law opens like this:

"A fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of representative government is that government is the servant of the people and not their master. Accordingly, it is the public policy of the state that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and employees."

And it's clear that the GOP-led General Assembly doesn't believe that. If lawmakers did, they would want to empower Indiana's public access counselor — not defang it.

Indiana's already weak public records and access laws took a body blow this week as lawmakers pulled a fast one to reduce what little power the state's public access counselor has. Changing the role's four-year term to at-will employment strips protections from politics and places the elected above the everyman.

The irony behind gutting the position is that it came with no transparency and on the eve of a national recognition of the importance of transparency in a functioning democracy. Happy Sunshine Week to journalists and citizens alike who dare to want to know what their government is up to!

Procedure often bugs me more than the policy, but this is one of those rare cases that is a two-fer.

There were no bills filed on the topic. There were no specific hearings vetting whether Public Access Counselor Luke Britt is or isn't doing his job. So, there was no real chance for the public to attend a hearing and have their say. After all, the underlying bill was about meeting decorum and trespass issues — not transparency.

Niki Kelly



The language was inserted with 11 days left in a two-month session.

A few people were there to testify on the underlying bill and when asked about the new provisions didn't have an opinion because they had just seen it. The Hoosier State Press Association wasn't there to weigh in.

This simply isn't how laws should be made.

So, let's talk about the actual changes to the statute.

To begin with, Indiana's public access counselor is who citizens go to when they are denied a record or access to their government. The office issues advisory opinions as to whether, for instance, a document is a public record or whether a local government inappropriately made a decision in private instead of in public.

For instance, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office recently tried to hide a nonemergency call from disclosure. It used an investigatory records exemption but the counselor ruled there was no crime being investigated so that exemption was not allowed. The counselor also found the Marion County Prosecutor's Office had to provide a copy of a deleted social media post.

The counselor can't issue fines. The opinions are advisory. If you win and the entity still doesn't follow the law, you have to sue.

Looking through some of the opinions, the counselor denies most of the complaints. I have certainly lost more than I have won.

For instance, Hoosiers regularly

lose requests that don't follow "reasonable particularity" — i.e., a request can't be a vague fishing expedition. And the counselor recently found that a working group inside the East Noble School Corporation that is vetting library books doesn't qualify as a public body.

But the counselor is an independent arbiter of the law who isn't bound to either side. The role is an invaluable resource.

Right now, he or she serves a fixed four-year term and can only be fired "for cause." House Bill 1338 says the counselor serves at the pleasure of the governor and can be removed the first time he or she issues a ruling someone powerful doesn't like.

The next change is that the counselor now can only use the public access law itself and court rulings to issue opinions. Not even a dictionary!

Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, added the language because of several rulings that he thinks have been too liberal.

The use of the word liberal is interesting since the public access law itself says in black and white it must be "liberally construed." So, the counselor role is getting neutered because Britt was following the law.

The House concurred on the Senate bill Wednesday in a 58-36 vote. My last hope is that Gov. Eric Holcomb has the courage to stand up and veto the bill.

He has a procedural argument, that the language was unvetted and the public left out of the process. And he would be in the right to always err on the side of the public's right to know — just like the law says.

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Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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

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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Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

Barnum-Brown is agency of the year

A local insurance agency won a statewide award.

Barnum-Brown Insurance of Dunkirk was named Indiana Farmers Insurance Agency of the Year on Wednesday at the company's Cooper Club celebration.

The company was honored at the event that recognizes top independent insurance agencies throughout the Midwest.

"Aaron Walter and the team at Barnum-Brown are representative of so many of our agents who operate in smaller communities across Indiana, Illinois and Ohio," said Indiana Farmers Insurance vice president of sales Scott Miller in a press release. "They are deeply embedded in Dunkirk and greet their customers every day at the market, at local restaurants or at high school events. ... Through these deep relationships they have maintained a profitable and growing book of business consistent with our company."

Barnum-Brown has been in operation since 1931.

Walter leads a staff that also includes Michelle Back, Gabe Faulkner, Shirley Karn and Stephanie Walter.

"I can not be more proud of our staff," he said. "We continue to work diligently with Indiana Farmers Insurance to meet our customer needs and expectations on a daily basis."

Training scheduled

ServSafe training will be held monthly at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland through June.

Training sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays March 26, April 23, May 21 and June 18. The certification course is open to all food service

Business roundup

employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Donated for fair

Mercer County Fair announced last week that Mercer Health has donated first aid kits that will be stationed in barns at the fairgrounds during this year's fair.

The first aid kits include bandages, compression packs, masks and gloves. Mercer Health will restock them as needed.

"We are excited to partner with Mercer County Fair to provide crucial medical supplies for fair participants, particularly 4-H members who work tirelessly with their animals during the event," said Mindy Kremer, vice president of development, marketing and communications at Mercer Health, in a press release. "Ensuring access to first aid resources aligns with our mission of serving and supporting the community's health needs."

Hosting drive

Bluffton Regional Medical Center is hosting a Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive through March 25.

Collection bins will be at the hospital's main entrance. Donations will go to Wells County Food Bank.

"We recognize the impact hunger has on an

individual's health and wellbeing, and we want to help those in our community who are struggling with food insecurity," said Julie Thompson of Bluffton Regional Medical Center in a press release. "An estimated 95,000 people are facing food insecurity in Northeast Indiana. The Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive is a great way to partner with community members to reduce hunger in our area."

Partnering

Indiana University Health on Thursday announced a partnership with Indiana Joint Replacement Institute.

The partnership is intended to expand orthopedic joint replacement services. Indiana Joint Replacement Institute currently has locations in Fort Wayne (7230 Engle Road) and Terre Haute, and plans to add one in Indianapolis next year.

"Through this partnership, we aim to elevate the standard of joint replacement services and increase access for all patients in the region, ensuring our patients receive the highest quality of care and experience unparalleled outcomes," IU Health northeast region president Brian Bauer said in a press release.

Program launched

Indiana Economic Development Corporation last week announced the launch of the Legend Fund, a loan program targeted at providing funding for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Through the State Small Business Credit Initiative, Indiana will have \$29 million to distribute to local lenders to increase oppor-

tunities for small businesses.

"Indiana is leading the nation in providing the ideal environment to help small businesses start, grow and innovate," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg in a press release. "With even more funding and new programs like the Legend Fund, we're taking our support of the entrepreneurial ecosystem even further, ensuring all small businesses have equitable access to the tools, resources and capital needed to succeed."

For more information, visit connectind.com.

Chamber hosting

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its Indiana HR Conference and Expo April 30 through May 2 at Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis.

The event offers a variety of workshops and sessions for HR professionals. Cara Silletto of Magnet Culture will be the keynote speaker on May 1.

"Human resources departments are at the heart of most employers' operations," said Indiana Chamber president and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders in a press release. "We're pleased to partner with so many brilliant speakers and effective organizations to help Indiana's HR staffers be the best they can be. As we continue to focus on how we can support talent attraction and retention efforts for businesses across Indiana, we hope this conference provides needed resources and best practices for those who attend."

Scholarships offered

Edge Dairy Farmer

Cooperative is offering \$10,000 in scholarships.

Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors preparing to enter college or a technical program and two \$2,000 scholarships will go to students already pursuing a two- or four-year degree.

Recipients will be selected based on academic achievement, leadership, participation in school and community activities, academic honors, goals and aspirations, recommendations and work experience.

"Our scholarship program is an excellent way for us to give back to our members, invest in the future of the next generation and affirm our support for continuing education," Edge CEO Tim Trotter said in a press release. "Edge is committed to supporting our membership, empowering our youth and fostering growth within our communities."

To apply, visit voiceofmilk.com. The deadline is April 1.

For more information, email llaubscher@voiceofmilk.com or call (715) 584-7117.

Adding flights

Indianapolis International Airport last week announced several new non-stop flights that will begin this year.

On Monday, Delta Air Lines reinstated its non-stop flights from Indianapolis to Salt Lake City.

Other plans for this year include adding non-stop flights to San Francisco as well as seasonal non-stop flights to Minneapolis, Dallas, Philadelphia and New Orleans through various carriers.

"Some of the nonstop flights flying soon are new

routes, some are resumptions and others are key schedule changes," said Mario Rodriguez, executive director of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, in a press release. "But all are proof-positive that our airline partners are listening to Hoosiers and bringing them opportunities to connect with their preferred business and leisure destinations."

Joined network

Family Dollar announced last week that it has joined the Ibotta Performance Network.

Ibotta is a digital network that delivers promotions over various platforms. The collaboration is intended to enhance Family Dollar's digital engagement.

"Helping our customers do more and save more is core to who we are, and now we can help even more with the IPN improved customer experience," said Family Dollar chief marketing officer Emily Turner in a press release. "With this new platform, our customers should be able to get to even more offers from the brands they know and love, elevating their shopping and savings experience with our Smart Coupons program."

Customers will be able to get at-home delivery from Walmart beginning at 6 a.m.

Walmart on Thursday announced that it is introducing Express On-Demand Early Morning Delivery.

Expanding service

Walmart on Thursday announced that it is introducing Express On-Demand Early Morning Delivery.

Customers will be able to get at-home delivery from Walmart beginning at 6 a.m.

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Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

Technologies could enhance line capacity

By ALEX BROWN

Stalene

If the thousands of proposed solar, wind and battery energy projects got built, they would more than double the amount of electricity that is currently produced nationwide and get the U.S. much closer to its clean energy targets.

But there's one big problem: America's power lines can't carry that much juice.

The country's limited transmission infrastructure is causing a huge backlog: Wait times for regulators to approve grid connections now last about five years on average, a figure that stood at less than two years in 2008.

"We have a ton of resources sitting in [backlogs] that can't

get connected to the system," said Byron Corum, technical adviser to Commissioner Allison Clements, who serves on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. "One of the big reasons is we're running out of space on the transmission grid."

Building new transmission lines to snoop across the nation's landscape can cost billions of dollars and require decades of permitting and construction. As that work continues, some policymakers are pushing an interim solution: squeezing more capacity out of existing power lines.

Grid-enhancing technologies, or GETs, are low-cost, quick-to-deploy devices that can help existing infrastruc-

ture carry up to 40% more electricity. Backers say these upgrades could bring a surge of clean energy projects online, even as future transmission lines remain under construction.

Congestion on the grid cost consumers more than \$20 billion in 2022, one analysis found, a massive spike from just a few years before. Some lawmakers think technology upgrades could significantly lower utility bills in addition to their climate benefits.

"They are very cheap in terms of how much money they save for the grid when compared to creating new lines, which can be billions of dollars," said Ava Gallo, climate and energy program man-

ager with the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators.

But many utilities have been slow to deploy GETs. In most states, utilities can charge higher rates based on investments they've made to improve infrastructure. That means expensive projects — such as building new power lines — deliver a much higher profit return than low-cost upgrades.

"Utilities are definitely biased toward building big, expensive projects where they get a solid return and make a bunch of money," said Utah state Sen. Nate Blouin, a Democrat. "That's not what GETs is."

In eight states, legislators have put forward bills that would force utilities to evaluate grid-enhancing technologies in

the planning documents they are required to submit to state regulators. Backers believe those reports will demonstrate that GETs can meet capacity needs at the lowest cost to ratepayers, which would force utilities to adopt them under their regulatory mandates.

Some proponents believe further changes to utilities' incentive structure may be needed to ensure widespread use.

While GETs-related bills have not drawn specific pushback along partisan lines or from industry groups, backers acknowledge that challenges remain.

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This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit stalene.org.



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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Luck is not the only factor

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A J 5
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ A 9 8 7 3
 ♣ 8 6

WEST
 ♠ 8 4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q 10 6 4 2
 ♣ K 9 5 3 2

EAST
 ♠ 7 6 3
 ♥ A K J 9 4
 ♦ K J
 ♣ 10 7 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 10 9 2
 ♥ Q 10 8 3
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A Q J

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

Opening lead — five of hearts.
 Assume you're in four spades and West leads a heart. East takes the A-K and returns the nine. West ruffing your ten and returning a low diamond. You go up with the ace and must take the rest of the tricks. At this point, it might seem that the outcome depends entirely on a successful club finesse.
 However, there is a good rule to follow in situations of this sort.

When the success of a contract appears to depend upon a finesse — essentially a 50-50 proposition — your first obligation is to look for another method of play that will raise your chances to perhaps 60%, 70% or even 100%.

If you study the present case carefully, it becomes apparent that you can improve your prospects to well beyond 50% by allowing for the possibility that West originally held only one or two trumps.

Accordingly, after taking the diamond ace at trick four, you lead a trump to your king and play the queen of hearts. As it happens, West has no more trumps, which allows you to discard a club from dummy.

The rest of the play is easy enough. You cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club in dummy, ruff a diamond and then ruff your last club in dummy to bring home the contract.

Note that if, when you lead the queen of hearts, West produces a trump — having been dealt three or more of them — you can overruff in dummy and still have the club finesse to fall back on. It doesn't cost anything at all to play the hand this way.

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

3-12

CRYPTOQUIP

YI VADZZ, IUHVORL QDGR L
 FHHLV DUR YM VKDERV
 URVRAQZYM F TJOR WHJMF

LHFV, DUR OKRW EJE-TDGRV?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: QUITE SUPERIOR TYPE OF DRINK MADE FOR TAILLESS AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS: QUALITY KOALA TEA.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Author — Neale Hurston
 5 Educ. group
 8 Tide variety
 12 "Peek—"
 13 Web address
 14 Hoops legend Monroe
 15 Krypton, for one
 17 "Simpsons" bus driver
 18 "You bet!"
 19 Gym unit
 20 Start
 21 Part of NIMBY
 22 Assoc.
 23 Inventor Howe
 26 Book-lined room
 30 Lake bird
 31 The Cow-boys, on a score-board
 32 Buffalo's county

DOWN

2 Bas- soon's kin
 3 Rips off
 4 ISP giant
 5 Wash- ington Sound
 6 Snare
 7 Roker and Michaels
 8 Bright running shoe color
 9 Diner grub
 10 Prado display
 11 Con- spiracy
 16 Love god
 20 Sphere
 21 Barnyard beast
 22 Sesame product
 23 Santa's helper
 24 Bath- room, to a Brit
 25 Debtor's letters
 26 Young fellow
 27 Onassis nickname
 28 Pre- determine
 29 Longing
 31 Morning moisture
 34 Female hare
 35 Kismet
 37 Itty-bitty
 38 Baby horse
 39 Incite
 40 "Wild" actress Laura
 41 Kristen of "Brides- maids"
 42 Kirkuk native
 43 Literary Jane
 44 Profes- sional gp.
 46 Scot's denial
 47 "Gosh!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

U	S	O		P	E	C		F	R	A	T
F	O	R	K	A	R	A		R	A	M	A
O	M	E	N	M	I	R		E	D	A	M
S	A	M	O	A							
				T	H			L	E	S	T
B	A	S	S	I	S	T		S	T	O	L
R	O	I	L		L	E	G		A	N	O
A	U	R	A	S				D	I	G	N
S	T	I	N	T	S			N	O	D	
				D	U	O	S		T	I	T
B	A	L	I		R	A			N	U	D
O	V	E	N		R	T	E		G	L	O
B	A	N	G		Y	E	T		L	S	T

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Fans needed amputations

By JAMI GANZ

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Several fans at a Kansas City Chiefs' playoff game in January have since lost extremities as a result of frostbite suffered during the wild-card matchup, which took place on a day so cold it nearly made history.

Employees at Missouri's Research Medical Center confirmed to The Associated Press Friday that they've already had to perform amputations on 12 of the dozens affected during the roughly two-week period of frigid weather. The majority of those amputations have involved fingers and toes.

The hospital says it anticipates additional surgeries within the next month as those "injuries evolve."

Some of those needing amputations were in attendance when the Chiefs beat the Miami Dolphins on Jan. 13, supporting the teams in minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit, with wind gusts that made for a chill of minus 27 degrees.

While it wasn't the coldest-ever game in the history of the league — that honor remains minus 13 degrees during the 1967 NFL "Ice Bowl" championship between the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys — it was the coldest at the

Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium.

Prior to Jan. 13, two games at Arrowhead tied for the coldest-ever played at the stadium at minus 1 degree F — the first against the Denver Broncos in 1983 and the second in 2016 against the Tennessee Titans.

The National Weather Service had issued an alert regarding the "dangerously cold" windchill on Jan. 13, but that didn't deter the Chiefs and Dolphins from playing as scheduled. In Upstate New York, road conditions caused by a blizzard in Buffalo that same day forced the Bills and Pittsburgh Steelers to delay their game until the following day.

Scheffler ...

Continued from page 8

Like iced tea and lemonade, Palmer's world-famous concoction, Scheffler and Bay Hill appear to a perfect pairing because of his superlative ball-striking and steady demeanor.

"Scottie should win almost every year here," Clark said.

Scheffler does it his own way, with an unorthodox swing and a golf game in continuous attack mode — qualities that made Palmer a fan favorite. But the steady and aw-shucks Scheffler's winning performance also came at a tournament named for a golfer who oozed charisma.

The understated Scheffler didn't interact with the crowd at the King or perform one of Palmer's

'It's really special. Mr. Palmer meant a lot to me, meant a lot of us as professional golfers and the game of golf, and so it's very special to be able to sit here and wear his red sweater.'

— Scottie Scheffler

infamous Sunday charges.

He didn't have a chance to do so.

Scheffler spent his day in the fairways rather than near the ropes holding back spectators. Birdies on Nos. 10 and 11 stretched his lead to 5 shots and allowed him to cruise to a long-awaited

seventh victory on Tour and second at Bay Hill to earn him the trademark red cardigan.

"It's really special," he said. "Mr. Palmer meant a lot to me, meant a lot to us as professional golfers and the game of golf, and so it's very special to be able to sit here and wear his red sweater."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Softball scrimmage at Botkins — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: New Hampshire vs. Vermont (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Houston Dynamo at Columbus Crew (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at New York Knicks (TNT)
8 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Oklahoma City Thunder (Bally Indiana)
9:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Philadelphia Union at Pachuca (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Los Angeles Clippers (TNT)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Sky

Conference Tournament (ESPN2)

Wednesday
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big 12 Conference tournament (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier vs. Butler (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown vs. Providence (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana); Denver Nuggets at Miami Heat (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: A10 Conference Tournament (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at St. Louis Blues (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul vs. Villanova (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Sacramento Kings (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)

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 it 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.

Challenge set

The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County.

The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award.

Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well.

To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.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 T66 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

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John Deere 997 zero turn diesel lawn mower with 72 inch deck, Hard-ee tree sprayer, Live-stock 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
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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 viewing 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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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.

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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.
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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.
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PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

is now accepting applications for one full-time Police Officer now until March 22nd. Starting salary of \$52,387. Will also be accepting applications for reserve officers. Lateral transfer with sign on bonus of \$5,000 paid over a 3-year term for ILEA tier one graduates. Benefits: Paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days. Health and dental benefits offered, Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual clothing allotment, and 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Must be 21 years of age and no older than 40 years of age by date of appointment. Ability tests to be announced for non-members of 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department.

HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND

will be accepting applications for the position of Water Department Distribution and Maintenance Person. Minimum job requirements are high school diploma or its equivalent and a CDL B license or greater or able to obtain such license. General outline of duties: Repair water mains, services and hydrant leaks. Install and main-

110 HELP WANTED

tains all types and sizes of pipes, mains, services, fittings, hydrants, valves and meter pits, locate water lines, and thaw frozen pipes and meters. Applicant must be on call 24/7 one week out of the month. Heavy Equipment will be used. Employee is regularly exposed to outdoor weather conditions and is generally wet and dirty. A full job description can be seen in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at City Hall. The duties will vary as deemed necessary by the Water Superintendent and / or the mayor. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday until March 15. Application deadline is March 15, 2024. No applications will be accepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

ORDINANCE 2024-Water
AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 2023-Water RELATING TO THE WATER & SEWAGE RATES AND GALLON USAGE

THE TOWN OF PENNVILLE DOES HEREBY AMEND THE ORDINANCE 2023-Water SECTION 10F WATER RATES IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) Consumption per Month Rate Per 1,000 Gallons
Next 5,000 \$16.26
Next 15,000 \$13.52
Next 30,000 \$15.05
Next 50,000 \$8.10
Over 50,000 \$5.42

(B) Minimum Charge
Each User shall pay a minimum charge in accordance with the size of the meter installed, for which the user will be entitled to the quantity of water set in the metered schedule of rates. This charge will be for up to 3,000 gallons usage.

Size of Meter
5/8 - 3/4 inch meter \$45.27 up to 3,000 gallons
1 inch meter \$81.28
1 1/4 inch meter \$149.17
1 1/2 inch meter \$217.06
2 inch meter \$379.91

(C) Flat Rate
The minimum flat rate charge per month shall be based on the size of meter service that you have. There is no charge to have your service turned off.

Per Month
\$45.27 5/8-3/4" meter up to 3,000 gallons
\$81.28 1" meter
\$149.17 1 1/4" meter
\$217.06 1 1/2" meter
\$379.91 2" meter

(D) Fire Hydrant Rental
Public and private hydrant rental shall be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per year

(E) Tap Charges
A tap charge shall be collected from each customer, prior to connection to the water system, in an amount sufficient to reimburse the Town for the labor and material necessary for tapping the main and installation of service from the main to the curb stop and the cost of furnishing and installing a suitable water meter. The charge for the 5/8" - 3/4" installation shall be in the amount of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00). The charge for a 1" or larger service shall be labor and material cost incurred.

(F) Water Deposit
A water deposit in the amount of One Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$175.00) shall be collected from each customer prior to service of the water. Your service starts from the day it is turned on, be it one day or 30 for the month you will be charged a minimum bill. A property owners deposit shall be reimbursed after one year of no delinquent payments. For renters the Deposit Shall be returned to the renter upon payment of all bills and after moving. After 30 days the deposit shall be applied to any balance due.

(G) Collection and Deferred Payment Charges
All bills shall be due and payable monthly, and bills unpaid more than 10 days following the date of billing shall include a collection charge of 10% on the balance of unpaid water billing. An additional charge of Seventy Five Dollars (\$75.00) shall be collected for turning off or turning on thereafter any water service that is delinquent in payment.

(H) Real Estate Owner Liability
That the owners of all real estate located in the Town of Pennville, Jay County, Indiana, be liable and responsible for the payment of all water services furnished by the Town of Pennville to the Owners of said real estate.

SECTION 2
All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed; provided, however, that the existing schedule of water rates and charges shall remain in full force and effect until the schedule of rates and charges fixed by this ordinance shall be approved by the Pennville Town Council.

SECTION 3
This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Pennville Town Council.

SECTION 3 OF SEWAGE RATES IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS
(A) The quantity of water used per month by all user classes shall be as follows

Quantity of Water Used	Rate Per User	Month Per Debit	Month Per Service	1,000 Gallon Total
By All User Classed	\$5.96	\$3.22	\$3.22	\$14.61
Next 5,000 gallons	\$5.96	\$2.18	\$2.18	\$13.56
Next 15,000 gallons	\$5.96	\$1.17	\$1.17	\$12.54
Next 30,000 gallons	\$5.96	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$11.52

Domestic users who do not have a metered municipal supply of water shall be charged a Flat Rate of \$41.83 per month.

(B) The minimum charge for any service where the user is a metered water customer shall be based on the size of such water meter and shall be as follows

Size of Meter	Per Month
5/8 - 3/4 inch meter	\$30.24
1 inch meter	\$58.28
1 1/4 inch meter	\$83.27
1 1/2 inch meter	\$124.86
2 inch meter	\$228.81
3 inch meter	\$374.37
4 inch meter	\$727.96
6 inch meter	\$1,455.86

(C) Tap Charge
A tap charge shall be collected from each customer, prior to connection to the sewage system, in an amount sufficient to reimburse the town for labor and material necessary for tapping the sewer main to the property line and the cost of furnishing and installing a suitable sewage system. The charge shall be in the amount of Six Hundred Dollars \$600.00.

In all other respects said ordinance shall remain in full force and effect March 1, 2024. Passed and adopted by the Pennville Town Council, Pennville, Indiana, on the 6th day of February, 2024.

Alicia Corwin
Town Council President
Attest:
Brandia Manns, Town Council Member
Krista M. Scholer, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Pennville
Josh Miller, Town Council Member
CR 3-12-2024 - HSPAYLP

Pacers overcome deficit to beat Magic

By **JASON BEEDE**
Orlando Sentinel
Tribune News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — Missing two key members of their backcourt against the Pacers when they returned to Kia Center after a three-game trip, the Magic fell at home Sunday in a fast-paced and physical contest. Orlando guards Jalen Suggs (right thigh contusion) and Markelle Fultz (left knee strain) both missed a critical matchup vs. Indiana, who sat two games back of Jamahl Mosley's squad entering the game between the No. 5 and No. 8 teams in the East standings.

The Pacers (36-29), who trailed by as many as 15 points in the first half, completely flipped the script on the Magic (37-28) in the third quarter by outscoring them 39-21 in the frame.

Orlando, who was led by Paolo Banchero's 19 points, was able to cut into the deficit early in the fourth but couldn't complete the comeback late in the 111-97 loss, marking just their ninth at home this year.

Led by Tyrese Haliburton (20 points) and Pascal Siakam (20), six different Pacers finished in double figures as Indiana pushed the tempo and scored 27 fastbreak points compared to Orlando's zero.

It was only the seventh game Suggs has missed this season but marked the second in a row. He missed Friday's loss at New York after suffering the leg injury late in the game Wednesday at Washington.

For Fultz, Sunday's game was the 38th contest that he's missed this year due to injury. The Magic point

guard, who has come off the bench in all six games he's appeared in since the NBA All-Star Break after opening the year in the starting lineup, played less than nine minutes at New York on Friday.

Early in the fourth quarter against the Knicks, Fultz slipped in the paint chasing after Donte DiVincenzo and grabbed his left knee while on the ground before exiting the game and not returning.

The left knee, which is the same one that Fultz had surgery on to repair a torn ACL eight games into the 2020-21 season, has been bothering him all season.

He previously missed 27 games due to left knee tendinitis and Orlando has been cautious with him since his return to the court in early January. The Magic guard has yet to play in both games of a back-to-back following the long absence.

In place of Suggs, Mosley inserted second-year guard Caleb Houstain into Orlando's starting lineup alongside guard Gary Harris, forwards Franz Wagner and Paolo Banchero and center Wendell Carter Jr.

It was a change from Friday's game at New York when rookie Anthony Black started for Suggs matching him up against Knicks' guard Jalen Brunson.

Orlando had already clinched the regular-season series over Indiana — having won the first two meetings of the season — but the sides hadn't faced each other since late-December.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Playing catch

Kaysen Farr plays catch at the Jay County Baseball Club's new facility The Clubhouse on Friday. Phase one is nearing an end and the facility is preparing to open within the next couple of months. For more on the facility, see Thursday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Mende breaks record

FORT WAYNE — Matilda Mende started her high school athletics career on a strong note.

In her second meet, it only got stronger.

One week after breaking the 60-meter dash school record for the Jay County High School indoor track team, she repeated Saturday at the Bulldog Invitational held at Indiana Tech, hosted by New Haven.

The girls team finished fourth by scoring 57 points, while Wawasee took the top spot with 89. The boys fell to 13th with only 11 points. Warsaw won the meet for the boys with 97 points.

Mende ran a time of 8.2 seconds on March 1, and cut that time down to 8.11 seconds to take first place in the event.

The Patriots also had six other top-five finishes. Adam Alig's third-place finish in the high jump was the only top-five finish for the boys. He reached the 5 feet, 8 inches mark for the score, and also placed eighth in the 60 hurdles.

Molly Muhlenkamp and Jenna Dues earned the runner-up and third spot in the girls high jump. Muhlenkamp reached 4 feet, 10 inches, while Dues got to 4 feet, 8 inches.

Morgan DeHoff logged the other individual top-five placement. Her time of 10.69 seconds netted her fifth place.

Both the 4x200 relay (1 minute, 55.22 seconds) and distance medley relay teams (15:11.17) placed fourth.

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Scheffler cruises

By **EDGAR THOMPSON**

Orlando Sentinel
Tribune News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — Scottie Scheffler's Sunday stroll at the Arnold Palmer Invitational ended a nearly year-long drought, secured his spot atop the world rankings and validated a recent putter change.

Scheffler's 5-shot victory also turned an event known for final-round fireworks into a dud.

A closing 6-under-par 66 was the day's low score — the only bogey-free round — and served notice entering the heat of the PGA Tour season. Scheffler's 2022 win at Bay Hill began a four-week run with three victories, culminating with the Masters and moving him to No. 1 for the first time.

The 27-year-old now rides a wave of momentum into this week's Player Championship, the PGA Tour's showcase event and site of Scheffler's last official win.

"This one's pretty special," he said. "It had been awhile since I won. There had been a lot of chatter about my game and the state of where it was at, and so it was nice to kind of come in here with a good mental attitude and to perform well under pressure."

"Today's round was really special for me going forward."

Scheffler ended the week at Bay Hill 15-under par 273 total, the lowest score since Rory McIlroy's 2018 win.

Reigning U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark finished second. Shane Lowry, the co-leader after each of the first three rounds, righted the ship after a bogey-bogey start to card an even-par 72 and finish third after getting into the event on a sponsor's exemption.

"I was just disappointed I didn't put any pressure on him early," Lowry said. "I was a little bit shaken after those early bogeys."

Meanwhile, Scheffler was in total control of his game on a day when just three other players shot in the 60s and the scoring average was 73.155, the highest of the week.

With 14 top-10s during his previous 19 starts, Scheffler had come maddeningly close to the winner's circle on many occasions. On Sunday, though, no one could keep up, leaving his competition in awe.

"He's the best player in the world right now, and that's what the best players in the world do," Clark said.

"Sixty-six is going and getting it," Will Zalatoris marveled after an even-par 72 left him tied for fourth with Rus-

World's No. golfer earns 5-stroke win at Bay Hill

sell Henley. "What are you going to do? That's stellar playing."

Lowry added, "He showed today why he's world No. 1."

A day earlier, Zalatoris was 11-under, with a 5-shot lead and seemingly in command before a pair of double-bogeys during the final four holes derailed him.

Scheffler reached the turn Sunday at 11-under and the only player in the final seven pairings who was under par on the opening nine holes. World No. 2 Rory McIlroy shot a 5-over par 41 en route to a 76.

From there, Scheffler turned on the afterburners.

A 35-footer for a 3 on the par-4 15th — the first hole Zalatoris double-bogeyed on Saturday and the second-toughest of the week — effectively left everyone vying for second place.

The birdie also put an exclamation point on a breakout week on the greens following a putter switch. Scheffler arrived in Orlando with a TaylorMade Spider Tour X mallet in the bag rather than a blade model putter.

Scheffler finished the week fifth in strokes gained putting and led the field in strokes gained off the tee and around the greens — a winning trifecta worth a \$4 million payday Sunday.

"It has a lot to do with ... keeping the mind as quiet as possible," he said. "Part of the problem is just trying too hard. It's frustrating to not have the best of myself."

"I've just gone through a stretch where it's been tough."

If Scheffler can remain hot with the flat stick, the rest of the Tour quite often could be left to play for second place.

"It would be borderline unfair if he starts putting really good," said Clark, who finished fourth in strokes gained on the greens.

At the API, Scheffler already has quite an advantage.

See **Scheffler** page 7