

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pageant and parade

Winterfest events Saturday including the Little Miss Winterfest Pageant at Fellowship Baptist Church and the Parade of Lights through downtown Portland. Pictured above, Niyah McIver reacts after being announced as the first runner-up in the pageant. She now has a matching sash with her sister Inara Sanderson, who was the runner-up in this year's Miss Jay County Fair Queen Pageant. Below, Parade of Lights participants smile and wave to the crowd gathered at the intersection of Main and Meridian streets. For a photo of Little Miss Winterfest and her court, see page 5.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Buying body cams

Sheriff plans to put devices into use at the start of 2025

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

The sheriff's office will be using vehicle and body cameras starting in January.

Jay County Commissioners approved a \$264,626 agreement Monday with Motorola for new body and vehicle cameras at Jay County Sheriff's Office and Jay County Jail. The cameras will be purchased using American Rescue Plan Act dollars, a decision approved last week by commissioners and Jay County Council.

Plans are to buy 13 police vehicle cameras and 25 officer body cameras. The cameras should be delivered in about three weeks. (Sheriff Ray Newton noted his department may wait until Jan. 1 to begin using the new devices.)

Newton has been pushing for the county to purchase body cameras since he took office in 2023. In February 2023, commissioners signed an application to apply for a matching grant through Small, Rural and Tribal Body-Worn Camera micro grant program in hopes of securing

dollars for body cameras. Commissioners approved a capital improvement project list — it serves as a potential list of projects the county could fund using economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars — in September 2023 that included purchasing new body cameras for law enforcement at \$102,000.

Community coordinator Nate Kimball has also been on the lookout for grants to cover purchasing body and vehicle cameras. In October, commissioners OK'd East Central Indiana Regional Planning District to apply for a United States Department of Justice grant on behalf of Newton for the cameras and video storage space.

Newton advocated for the purchase during the joint session Wednesday between commissioners, council and Jay County Redevelopment Commission.

"This is something that we need due to the fact that it's (a) liability," explained Newton. "Cameras don't lie, and that's what we need."

See Cams page 2

FTC, residents oppose merger

Deal would join Union, TH Regional facilities

By SAMANTHA LISS

KFF Health News
Tribune News Service

Indiana residents and federal officials are urging state health regulators to stop two rival hospitals in Terre Haute from merging. The deal, if approved, would leave residents with a hospital monopoly.

Union Health, a nonprofit whose main hospital is licensed as a 341-bed facility, would buy the county's only other acute care hospital, the 278-bed Terre Haute Regional Hospital, owned by for-profit chain

HCA Healthcare and located 5 miles south across the city's downtown area. Union says the merger to create one larger nonprofit health system would improve the area's poor public health rankings.

The Indiana Department of Health received hundreds of comments on the proposed merger, according to documents KFF Health News obtained through a state public records request. Most people expressed opposition to the deal, citing concerns about longer travel times to get emergency care, higher prices, and fewer choices for Terre Haute's 58,000 residents and those in Vigo County's nearby rural communities.

"Monopoly should be just a board game. Not a healthcare system," a commenter listed as H. Osborne wrote to the state health agency.

See Oppose page 2

Israel, Hezbollah close to ceasefire deal

By DAN WILLIAMS

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel is potentially days away from a cease-fire agreement with Lebanon's Hezbollah, following a new round of shuttle diplomacy by a senior envoy for the outgoing Biden administration.

"We are close to a deal," the Israeli ambassador to the U.S., Michael Herzog, told Israel's Army Radio on Monday, adding that some final points still needed to be addressed. "It could happen within days."

The Israeli security cabinet is expected to meet on Tuesday and may vote on whether to accept a

Israeli cabinet could vote on deal as early as today

truce with Hezbollah, according to an Israeli official familiar with the matter.

The Israeli shekel strengthened 1.5% against the dollar on Monday — its best performance in around a month — and oil prices dropped on optimism a deal would ease tensions in

the Middle East.

Still, there have been similar predictions by other Israeli and U.S. officials in recent weeks about an agreement being imminent and it remains unclear if Hezbollah will accept a deal.

The Iran-backed group has been severely weakened after

two months of increased Israeli sabotage, air strikes and ground incursions in southern Lebanon. But it's still able to fire rockets into Israel on a daily basis and put up some resistance against Israeli ground forces.

On Sunday, Hezbollah fired at least 250 rockets and drones into Israel, wounding several people, and the Israeli air force struck targets in Lebanon.

In Israel, a far-right coalition member, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, came out against the proposed truce. He said it would be a "missed opportunity" to crush Hezbollah, a

militia group is ideologically committed to Israel's destruction. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may still be able to secure cabinet support even without Ben-Gvir's approval.

The two sides have been in conflict since Hezbollah began striking Israeli territory in October last year in solidarity with Hamas. Both Hezbollah and Hamas — which triggered the ongoing war in Gaza with its attack on southern Israel — are designated as terrorist organizations by the U.S. and many other countries.

See Close page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Friday. The low was 43.

The forecast calls for the low to dip into the upper 20s tonight.

Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with a chance of rain in the afternoon and a high in the low 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland. The event is free and open to anyone. Also, volunteers are needed to assist with meal distribution beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday. Call Carol Smith at (260) 726-9049 to sign up.

Coming up

Wednesday — Our Thanksgiving edition includes a photo story about two large evergreen trees being transported to Jay County Fairgrounds.

Friday — Coverage of the Jay County High School boys basketball team's season opener against the Elwood Panthers.



Oppose ...

Continued from page 1
Doctors, health economists, and the Federal Trade Commission called on the Indiana Department of Health to deny Union Hospital's merger application. Such mergers became possible after Indiana enacted a Certificate of Public Advantage law, or COPA, in 2021, shielding the deals from federal antitrust laws.
Two dozen states have had COPA laws on their books at some point, despite FTC warnings that such mergers can become difficult to control and may decrease the overall quality of care. The trend has come amid a broader wave of hospital consolidation, which research shows fuels price hikes and health care spending, driving up costs for families, employers, and taxpayers who foot the bill for Medicare and Medicaid.
Union Health said its pro-

posed deal would improve care and increase access to services while "maintaining cost efficiency" for patients.
"This is not merely a business transaction; it is a strategic effort to improve health-care delivery in our community," Union said in a statement.
John Collett, an executive with Garmon Construction who also serves on the board of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, wrote that the deal would help the region achieve its goal of boosting population and income levels. (Garmon Construction served as construction manager for Union on multiple projects, including one worth hundreds of millions of dollars, according to an online brochure of its past projects.)
"I firmly believe this to be a step in the right direction," Collett wrote.

But the FTC — using italics for emphasis — said the deal is "unlikely to result in improved quality and access" and "would not lead to a healthier workforce or a stronger local economy," according to comments the agency submitted to Indiana regulators.
Zack Cooper, a health economist and associate professor at Yale University, said the merger would probably damage the local economy and squeeze residents' wallets. Cooper's analysis estimates the price of care would rise by at least 10% for area residents and lead to 500 lost jobs, while nurses' pay would drop by at least 7%. His research predicts the deal also would lead to unnecessary deaths from suicide or overdose, stemming from those job losses.
"I firmly believe this merger would harm members of the

public in Terre Haute and Vigo County," Cooper wrote.
As a condition of these types of mergers, state agencies typically agree to monitor hospital quality and prices to make up for the loss of competition. Union said monitoring would hold it accountable, according to its response to the FTC's public comments opposing the deal.
The FTC pushed back, saying the oversight mechanism "would be insufficient to contain costs" and is a "poor substitute" for competition. Even though Union would face limits on raising prices in Vigo County, the FTC said, the system might be able to hike them elsewhere, including at its hospital in neighboring Vermillion County to the north.
Indiana has some of the highest hospital prices in the nation, according to studies by Rand Corp., a research organization.

In Terre Haute, some doctors worry the deal would exacerbate existing problems. Kathleen Stienstra, a physician in private practice, voiced her concerns about Union's management style, saying it has led to an exodus of doctors.
"A monopoly will lead to further deterioration in services," she wrote.
Separately, the FTC referenced KFF Health News' reporting on Tennessee's Ballad Health, a 20-hospital monopoly in Appalachia, as a cautionary tale against such mergers.
COPAs, such as the one that Ballad operates under, "have proven unwieldy," are "difficult to manage," and "have failed to protect local communities from the harmful effects of anticompetitive hospital mergers," the FTC said in its comments on the Union-Regional merger.

CR almanac

Wednesday 11/27	Thursday 11/28	Friday 11/29	Saturday 11/30	Sunday 12/1
43/33 There's a 50% chance of rain Wednesday under cloudy skies.	38/22 Thanksgiving Day looks to be mostly cloudy with a chance of rain and snow all day.	26/12 Mostly sunny on Friday, when the low at night may dip into the low teens.	27/16 Saturday's weather looks like a slight chance of snow under mostly sunny skies.	24/14 There's another chance of snow Sunday, when the high will be in the mid 20s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$184 million	29-31-34-37-38-40-42-47-49-52-65-67-68-72-76-78 Cash 5: 2-15-22-26-28 Estimated jackpot: \$294,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$489 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 9-7-0 Pick 4: 8-8-6-3 Pick 5: 4-8-3-2-7 Evening Pick 3: 2-0-2 Pick 4: 3-4-7-6 Pick 5: 8-5-8-5-3 Rolling Cash 5: 7-21-29-35-39 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-4-3 Daily Four: 6-3-9-8 Quick Draw: 6-20-25-26-30-40-47-48-51-52-54-58-60-64-66-72-75-78-79-80 Evening Daily Three: 9-5-1 Daily Four: 2-3-9-8 Quick Draw: 3-4-9-16-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.39 Dec. corn4.34 Wheat4.32	Dec. beans9.74 Wheat 5.03
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.41 Dec. corn4.41 Jan. corn4.42	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.23 Dec. corn4.23 Beans.....9.71 Dec. beans9.71 Wheat4.81
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.31 Dec. corn4.31 Beans9.74	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.25 Dec. corn4.25 Beans.....9.48 Dec. beans9.55 Wheat4.72

Today in history

In 1942, the movie "Casablanca" featuring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman opened in New York.
In 2015, the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland celebrated its 25th year. The event provides a meal at the church as well as delivery for those who are homebound.
In 2020, Indiana State Department of Agriculture announced \$4 million in grants to 41 meat processing businesses, including \$150,000 to Portland's Fisher Packing, through the Indiana Meat Processing Expansion & Development Grant Program.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	105 N. Washington St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Wednesday 2 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall,	

Cams ...

Continued from page 1
Newton also spoke in favor of purchasing body cameras after the department fired a Jay County Jail correctional officer in February for engaging in sexual acts with an inmate. (John R. Norris in August of Dunkirk pleaded guilty in August to sexual misconduct, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction with two years suspended and one year of home detention.)
A second correctional officer,

William Bentz of Portland, was also arrested and fired in May for sexual misconduct by a service provider with detainee. (He's been charged in Jay Circuit Court with one Level 5 felony and three Level 6 felonies for sexual misconduct, with his final pre-trial hearing set for Feb. 14.)
"I think once we start getting body cameras back there, cameras don't lie, and it's going to tell us everything we need to know," Newton said in February.
Also Monday, commissioners

heard Jay County Jail passed its annual state inspection recently, along with the state fire marshal's annual inspection and boiler inspections. Newton explained the largest suggestion from the state amid inspections had to do with updating jail policies. Consultant Charles Braun is in the midst of reviewing and making changes to the county's policies for the sheriff's office and jail staff. Newton shared hopes for the new standard operating procedures to be finished by February.

Close ...

Continued from page 1
Amos Hochstein, a White House envoy for the Middle East, was in Lebanon and Israel last week to try to clinch a cease-fire before President Joe Biden hands over to Donald Trump in January. Another U.S. envoy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel Shapiro, was in Israel on Sunday and Monday for what local media said were talks on future security arrangements in Lebanon.
According to Army Radio, once Netanyahu's security cabinet signs off on a truce, Washington will take it to Beirut, where government officials have been serving as intermediaries for Hezbollah. Last week, one of Hezbollah's main political allies, Lebanese House Speaker Nabih Berri, said there was progress but there were still "technical details" to resolve.
The U.S.-drafted proposal entails an initial 60-day suspension of hostilities during which Hezbollah fighters would move north of the Litani River, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) away from the Israeli border.
Israel also wants the Lebanese army, which is separate from Hezbollah, to deploy in the south of Lebanon, beefing up a contingent of United Nations peacekeepers and helping to ensure the militant group doesn't operate there.
The Israeli government wants the right to resume strikes in Lebanon in the

event of infractions by Hezbollah. The Lebanese government and Hezbollah have pushed back at that demand.
Around 2,500 people have been killed in Lebanon by Israeli strikes and the ground offensive in the past two months, while 1.2 million — more than a fifth of the population — have been displaced. About 50 Israeli troops have been killed in combat in southern Lebanon.
Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced from both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border. Netanyahu's cabinet has made enabling the return of northern Israelis to their homes a priority, something that can't happen without an end to fighting with Hezbollah.



Thank You
From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to our entire community for the overwhelming love and support you showed during the time of our loss for Kimo Bechtol. Your kind words, thoughtful gestures, and presence at the service meant the world to our family. We are deeply touched by the way you all came together to help us through this difficult time, and we will forever cherish your compassion.

*With love and gratitude,
The Bechtol/Hein families*

SERVICES

Wednesday
Evers, Mary: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.

Dec. 14
Compton, Gail: 2 p.m., Portland Elk's Lodge, 126 W. High St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Photo provided

Optimists donate

Portland Evening Optimist Club recently donated \$2,500 to Jay Community Center for the Boomer Sports program. Pictured, from left, are Portland Evening Optimist Club president Bobby Ruiz and Jay Community Center director Kyle Cook.

Husband makes redecorating hard

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: I've been with my husband for 10 years. For a long time, I didn't decorate our house because I didn't want to spend the money. But for the last few years, I've spent many hours poring over Pinterest. I LOVE interior decorating and know exactly how I want each room of the house to look.

The problem is my husband. I once tried to buy a new shower curtain. It was a huge debacle because he didn't like the one I'd chosen. Abby, I have done my homework.

How do I convince my husband to give me free rein in decorating? I'm afraid every paint color and every piece of furniture is going to be an argument, and I'm so discouraged I don't even try.

We've had the same curtains, bedding and dining room table for years, and our house is very ugly.

Should I just start making changes without consulting him? Should I sit him down and talk to him? Is it fair of me to not take his preferences into account? — FRUSTRATED CREATIVE

DEAR FRUSTRATED: By

all means, discuss this with your husband before making any changes. Under no circumstances should you make any without consulting him. It would be extremely unfair to ignore his opinion.

Some compromises will have to be made. The least contentious way to accomplish this would be with the help of a professional decorator who can take both your preferences into account and help you to blend them.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

— A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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.

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Begin-

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, 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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

Hoover St., Dunkirk.

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

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

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

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

Dec. 3

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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

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Pentagon still can't pass an audit

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy will have no shortage of targets when they burrow into the bureaucracy in an effort to make the federal government more efficient and cost effective. But one quarry stands out: the Pentagon.

Last week, the Department of Defense failed its seventh audit in a row, unable to account for portions of its \$824 billion annual budget. The agency has failed every such review since Congress mandated them beginning in 2018. It is the only federal department to achieve that dubious distinction.

Guest Editorial

Of the 28 entities operating under the Pentagon umbrella, only nine earned a clean audit, according to The Hill. Still, department officials slapped a "glass is half full" spin on the news, pointing out that the most recent results showed improvements over past reviews.

"I do not say we failed, as I said, we have about half clean opin-

ions. We have half that are not clean opinions," Michael McCord, undersecretary of defense comptroller and chief financial officer, told The Hill. "So if someone had a report card that is half good and half not good, I don't know that you call the student or the report card a failure."

Apparently, the nonsensical minimum F movement to dumb down standards has infiltrated the defense department. First of all, nine out of 28 isn't "about half." Second, if a student at West Point or Annapolis scored a consistent 50 percent academically, he or she would soon be a washout.

The department insists it is on schedule for full compliance by 2028. But Pentagon officials have been making similar claims — everything will be in order in just a few more years — for decades now.

"The Pentagon's latest failed audit is a great signal to the incoming administration for where they can start their attempts at slashing government spending," Lindsay Koshgarian, director of the National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, told Common Dreams. "Instead of gutting veterans' benefits or the Department of Education as planned, they should start with the one

major government agency that has never passed an audit, the Pentagon."

Defense spending is vital to America's security and a constitutional imperative. Yet it doesn't do the nation any good if billions of dollars a year are wasted or unaccounted for — on the contrary, it complicates the Pentagon's mission and makes it more difficult for the men and women in uniform to protect our shores.

Any comprehensive review of the nation's fiscal ledger that put the Defense Department in its crosshairs would, in the long run, improve military readiness and make the world a more dangerous place for our enemies.



Pray for strong Constitution, economy

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Faithful readers of this column will recall that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It is uniquely American and focuses on that most simple and important act of gratitude.

When I was a soldier, Thanksgiving was held in special regard. After all, it was in the dark days of the Civil War, in October 1863, when Abraham Lincoln offered a proclamation: "I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer."

When deployed, every effort was made to deliver turkey, dressing, and all the fixings to the field. Thanksgiving 1990 saw me in the Saudi Arabian desert readying myself for an attack into Iraq. The holiday marked my second hot meal in three months. I was especially grateful for the hard work that delivered that meal to me.

When soldiering in the U.S., every effort was made to allow soldiers to take leave or pass. For those of us who remained on post, the meal itself was served by officers in dress blue uniforms. In many units, officers filled wine glasses in mess halls, with captains and colonels waiting on privates.

I'm past that now and instead

Michael J. Hicks



looking forward to welcoming one of my kids home from a challenging year in college, and two from very tough training in the Army and the Air Force. If fortune continues to smile upon me, I'll get to spend some time with some of their close friends who will join us over the holiday weekend, along with extended family. Being in the company of young people committed to serve their country and community is a superb gift, for which I am enormously grateful.

I'll be praying for all the young people with me over the holidays and wish them Godspeed with their duties over the coming year. I'll also take up the wine pouring duties with extra zest, minus the dress uniform.

We Americans are enormously blessed on this Thanksgiving 2024.

In the years since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, our economic recovery has outpaced every other developed nation. We've seen the strongest labor markets in more than 50 years, bringing unusually strong wage growth for the bottom 90% of

American households. Job growth has been robust, with nearly all the growth in full-time jobs. As evidence of this, the number of workers who hold more than one job are now below 2019 levels.

Inflation is now within the Federal Reserve's target of 2% to 2.5%, allowing the Fed to cut interest rates. This means mortgage rates have been in decline for more than a year, as has cost of borrowing for autos, appliances and other consumer items. At the same time, household debt as a share of income is now near record lows.

Inflation-adjusted GDP growth has averaged 3.1% since the COVID vaccines were introduced. That is a full percentage point better than any comparable period of the Trump or Obama presidencies. In fact, we've only had four equal stretches of GDP growth like that since 1970.

Wealth held by the poorest half of Americans, which might be the most salient measure, has grown more since 2001 than it did in the previous two decades. For Americans, particularly poorer Americans, the current economy has never been stronger.

Older and more affluent Americans have just been through the longest and largest increase in equity valuations in American history. Stock market portfolios for the most affluent 60% of Americans who hold stock or mutual funds just exploded in

ways we've not seen before. So, everything from teacher to public safety officer retirement funds to flush 401(K) accounts have boomed like never before. As I write this, the stock exchanges are all at or near record levels.

Of course, abundance is measured in more than economic performance. Life expectancy for Americans in the top 90% of educational attainment continue to rise. The root cause of declining lifespan for the other 10% of Americans — drug overdoses — appear to be lessening substantially. This will be welcomed by families across our blessed nation.

Crime rates, which rose in the summer of 2020, are back to pre-COVID levels, and currently at levels not seen since the mid-1960s. This is true for all types of crimes, violent and nonviolent. Our streets have never been safer.

We have never enjoyed so much freedom. We remain free to express our opinions, marry who we wish, worship where we wish, go to school where we wish and build a family as we wish. Few occupations are restricted from our choice. Of all the times and places to be alive, we are in the best.

All is not perfect, of course. I write often of the many challenges before us, from a huge federal debt, ill-considered economic policy proposals and evil for-

eign enemies who reek of malice. Some in our country do not share in the opportunity that is the broad marker of our Republic. Many are angry that the world is different than before, and uncomfortable with the freedoms others may enjoy. For all of this, I will pray for peace and acceptance.

But, in writing about that, I am thankful for the most important of our gifts.

The American experiment, of which we remain a vital and living part, gives us the tool to remedy those problems. We call that tool our Constitution, the clarion words of our Republic. It codified the God-given right to speak freely, to worship as we wish and assemble. When Lincoln called for Thanksgiving, it was because it was clear to him, only in late 1863, that our Constitution would survive the crises of our Civil War.

On this Thanksgiving, let us pray that the coming years continue to bless us with a strong Constitution and robust economy. Without it, we can expect none of the freedom and little of the prosperity that has so amply blessed us.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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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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Indiana gets loan to improve water

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Office, Bruno Pigott, joined Indiana Finance Authority's Jim McGoff on Friday to announce a \$196 million loan to improve drinking water and wastewater systems statewide. This funding will help address the demands of a growing population.

The State of Indiana intends to use this loan to finance drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects to better serve Indiana communities. This investment will help address aging infrastructure and expand services in communities experiencing growing needs. Projects that will receive funding are located throughout the state and are expected to benefit 134,000 Indiana residents.

EPA's State Infrastructure Financing Authority Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (SWIFIA) program provides loans exclusively to state financing authorities, also known as state revolving fund programs. This SWIFIA loan offers additional low-cost financing to Indiana's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, that will help implement critical water infrastructure projects in the state.

"I want to congratulate the State of Indiana for securing a \$196 million loan from EPA. Through our partnership, we will upgrade water infrastructure across the state to keep residents healthy, protect water resources, and create good-paying jobs while keeping water bills affordable," Pigott said. "The State of Indiana is ahead of the curve in securing EPA financing to advance water infrastructure goals and benefit 134,000 people across the state."

"The IFA is continually searching for alternative funding sources to keep pace with Indiana's increasing water-infrastructure needs," said McGoff. "EPA's SWIFIA program provides that additional source of funding, which will help communities across Indiana invest more than \$400 million in their local water systems."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Little Miss court

Jay County Chamber of Commerce hosted the Little Miss Winterfest Pageant on Saturday at Fellowship Baptist Church in rural Portland. Taylor Lee (center) was crowned Little Miss Winterfest, with Niyah McIver (right) as first runner-up and Kendall Snow (left) as second runner-up.

Data centers flood into Merrillville

By JOSEPH S. PETE

The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service

As people gobble up more and more data via scrolling, streaming and shopping online, developers plan to pour more than \$2 billion into data centers in Merrillville.

Data consumption has been skyrocketing for AI chatbots, digitalized medical records, online banking and cat videos.

Now Newport Beach, California-based Province Group plans to invest up to \$500 million into the 1-million-square-foot Merrillville Technology Park data center campus near Colorado Street and Harms Road in Merrillville that will pay workers up to a projected \$175,000 a year.

Chicago-based Wylie Capital plans to develop a 1.2 million square foot data center at Broadway, 93rd Avenue and Georgia Street in Merrillville that could result in \$600 million in investment and up to 200 mostly six-figure jobs. And Karis Critical eyes up to \$900 million in investment in a data center on 180 acres on 101st Avenue east of Deep River County Park that would bring hundreds of jobs.

"It's a huge boon to the tax base of course once these build-

Developers plan more than \$2 billion in new facilities in northwest Indiana city

ings are totally finished and operational," Town Council President Rick Bella said. "They have to be equipped inside, which is another tax base increase. The neighboring businesses that will come here because there are data centers of this size here is tremendous. We're building Liberty Estates now, a thousand housing units. We need people that are going to buy those houses and move in."

It would pay high salaries to highly educated professionals like network engineers, computer programmers, computer support specialists and database administrators.

"Those are the kind of people who are going to build new homes and bring their families

to Merrillville," he said. "The trickle effect of these types of large businesses. You can't really put a dollar figure on it. It just keeps growing and growing."

Data centers should help modernize Northwest Indiana's economy with high-paying, high-tech jobs, Bella said.

"I think it helps put the Region on the map if we have data centers and more modern businesses," he said. "The steel industry and the oil industry are there and they helped build Lake and Porter counties. They've been there for decades but they're limited. These types of businesses help build a labor force, a smart labor force. These are different types of jobs with large salaries. It's going to build the economy of the Region."

Stephen Muenstermann, the president of Cloudbusters and a Data Center Advisory Board member, said some academic studies would suggest that the \$2 billion in direct investment in data centers in Merrillville could end up having an \$8 billion economic impact in the town.

"What happens is, if you look at things like autonomous vehicles and people doing surgical processes, they can't have any latency in the amount of time when they make the action they're doing remotely on the screen. They have to have precision timing," he said. "In order to do that, you have to have as few hops as possible to get to the source. So the more data centers you have in close proximity, the less jumps you have. If you design your network right and make sure you get a secure path with minimum microsecond wait time behind it, you can draw those types of businesses."

Data centers could draw health care, financial, legal, cybersecurity and other firms.

"They want to be close to data because they need it fast," Bella said. "There's a multitude of different businesses that will be here because of data centers."

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Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Careful manipulation

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

and sometimes because you combine the right amount of luck with the right amount of skill. Here is a case in point. You are in four spades, and West leads a heart. East cashes the K-A and shifts to a club, taken by dummy's queen. It looks as though you must lose a spade and a diamond and go down one. In fact, after you cash the A-K of trump, this outcome appears certain.

The bidding: North East South West 1 4 Pass 1 4 Pass 4 4

Even at the highest levels of the game, there is nothing extraordinary about winding up in a contract that has very little chance of making. But many such contracts can be brought in successfully if you keep your cool and give them your best effort.

Tomorrow: A rare defensive maneuver. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

11-26

CRYPTOQUIP

CFIPJF RSF ZOQT CFYDW VDJXOWY XDJOPNT GNLGZOWT, PWF PI RSFL VJOFQ, "HFR RSF

YPNJQ ROLFT JPHH!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOME MUSICAL BIGHORN SHEEP ARE HITTING REALLY LOW NOTES, WHAT DO THEY PRODUCE? TWO BAAS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Ship's staff, 5 Coffee holder, 8 Play area, 12 Medal recipient, 13 "— you kidding?", 14 Follow orders, 15 "Star Wars" actor, 16 Trifling, 18 Deli sandwich extras, 20 November tally, 21 Listening device, 22 Dress edge, 23 Warning, 26 "Guer-nica" painter, 30 Guitar master Paul, 31 Museum purchase, 32 Cassis cocktail, 33 Hot and spicy, 36 Backbone, 38 Misery. DOWN: 39 Avril follower, 40 Perspire, 43 Park outings, 47 Protested during a strike, 49 Small combo, 50 Initial chip, 51 Goat's plaint, 52 Pianist, 53 Inert gas, 54 Tax-collecting org., 55 Incursion, 4 Jobholder, 5 Prank, 6 "Topaz" author, 7 Chest muscle, 8 Grammy-winning cellist, 9 Border on, 10 Painter, 11 Turns blue?, 17 Opposite of "sans", 19 Back muscle, briefly, 22 Chart-topping song, 23 Jungfrau, for one, 24 Floral necklace, 25 Computer key, 26 Season opener?, 27 Enjoy, 28 Fall from grace, 29 Miner's quest, 31 Consumed, 34 Rouse, 35 Part of a chord, 36 Pouch, 37 Playwright Harold, 39 Gold-loving king, 40 Bridge, 41 Napa Valley product, 42 Outside (Pref.), 43 Bartlett, for one, 44 Cookbook author, 45 103, in old Rome, 46 Hawked, 48 Texter's "No more!"



A 11x11 grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-48 indicating starting points for clues.

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Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Cooper Glentzer made a divisional cut and was a high-point winner. His fifth-place finish (2 minutes, 21.92 seconds) in the 200-meter individual medley was good enough for the divi-

sional cut. He also placed third in the 100 backstroke and seventh in the 50 and 100 freestyles to be the 13-14-year-old boys high point winner.

Other divisional cuts came from Elly Byrum (100 freestyle

and 100 backstroke), Isla Kaiser (100 freestyle), Roz Diller (50 freestyle) and Grant Glentzer (100 freestyle).

Byrum also finished as the 13-14-year-old girls high point winner. Byrum combined her

strong performances in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke with the 100 breaststroke and 50 freestyle to claim the title.

Hayden and Carsyn Guggenbiller were the other two high point winners, claiming the 8-

and-younger and 9-10-year-old girls, respectively. Hayden Guggenbiller finished first in the 50 freestyle, 25 butterfly and 25 backstroke, while Carsyn Guggenbiller claimed a victory in the 50 butterfly.

Thumping ...

Continued from page 8
The first JCHS bucket came on a 3-point shot by Sibray, but all eight of the following points were the direct result of transition basketball.

Schwieterman benefited first from the defensive showing as she hit a transition layup assisted by Elizabeth Brunswick. After Winchester's Alivia McCoy split a pair of free throws, the Patriots had a pair of back-to-back steals for breakaway hoops by Schwieterman and Hummer for a 30-16 advantage. McCoy again split a pair of free throws before a Gabi Petro basket – assisted by Schwieterman – off of a press break. The Golden Falcons finally hit a field goal late in the quarter as Kendall Patterson's post feed to McCoy led to a drop step for the score.

"It definitely was a big stretch because it brings them down," said Hummer. "It was just hard for them to recover from that stretch."

The Golden Falcons kept trying to attack the paint, and despite scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter, they couldn't mount a comeback. While Winchester couldn't beat the Patriots, it did manage to contain Schwieterman.

The sophomore guard came into Saturday averaging 23 points per game through three contests. A box-and-one defensive scheme that had Addy Bogue face guarding Schwieterman kept the Patriots' leading scorer from hitting a single shot in a half-court setting. All 13 of her points came in transition, either via steal or following a rebound that she pushed the pace off.

"That's (Bogue's) forte," said WCHS coach Holly Gutierrez. "She proved tonight that even at the (Class) 3A level she can keep somebody much, much below her average. I

Box score			
Jay County Patriots vs. Winchester Golden Falcons		Score by quarters: Win. 6 9 4 11—30 Jay Co. 12 9 11 10—42	
Girls varsity summary			
Winchester (3-2)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Mayberry	0-2	0-0	0
Bogue	0-1	0-2	0
McCoy	6-14	7-10	19
MHummel	1-9	1-4	3
AHummel	2-7	0-0	4
Patterson	1-10	0-0	2
Nebel	1-5	0-0	2
Totals	11-48	8-16	30
	.229	.500	
Def. rebound percentage: .629			
Jay County (3-1)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Sibray	2-9	0-0	6
Newton	1-3	0-0	3
Schwtrmn	4-10	5-6	13
Hummer	3-9	0-0	7
Petro	1-2	0-0	2
Brunswick	1-6	0-0	2
May	1-2	0-0	3
Heath	3-9	0-0	6
Totals	16-50	5-6	42
	.320	.833	
Def. rebound percentage: .575			
3-point shooting: Winchester 0-7 (MHummel 0-1, Nebel 0-2, Patterson 0-4), Jay County 5-22 (Sibray 2-8, May 1-2, Newton 1-3, Hummer 1-5, Schwieterman 0-2, Brunswick 0-2).			
Rebounds: Winchester 39 (MHummel 11, McCoy 9, AHummel 6, Patterson 5, Team 5, Mayberry, Bogue, Nebel), Jay County 36 (Hummer 7, Brunswick 7, Heath 5, Sibray 4, Schwieterman 4, Petro 3, Newton 2, Team 2, May).			
Assists: Winchester 6 (Patterson 3, Sibray, May), Jay County 9 (Schwieterman 4, Brunswick 4, May).			
Blocks: Winchester 2 (MHummel, AHummel), Jay County 6 (Brunswick 3, Sibray 2, May).			
Personal fouls: Winchester 13 (Mayberry 3, MHummel 3, Patterson 3, AHummel 2, Bogue, McCoy), Jay County 13 (Hummer 3, Petro 3, Schwieterman 2, May 2, Heath 2, Sibray).			
Turnovers: Winchester 26, Jay County 25.			

thought she was fantastic."

While WCHS contained Schwieterman, other Patriots stepped up to fill in the gaps. Hummer, Heath and Sibray picked up some of the offensive load, combining for 19 points. Hummer and Heath each shot 3-of-9, to score seven and six points, respectively, while Sibray hit a pair of three pointers.

Brunswick also provided a strong floor game from Brunswick. While the freshman only had two points off the bench, she led Jay County with three blocks, tied Hummer with a team-high seven rebounds and tied Schwieterman for a game-high four assists. In total, Brunswick accounted for 11 of the Patriots' points.

"I felt like we got into (our roles), which got us going," Brunswick said. "I think their zone was a little easier to pick apart than what Belmont's defense was. I think we really just looked for each other and made sure that

we were getting open and getting them good passes."

Most of the Golden Falcons' points came inside the paint, as 10-of-11 made shots came between the lane lines. McCoy led the way with 19 points on 6-14 from the field.

The Patriots held WCHS scoreless from beyond the arc, as it hoisted up seven missed threes. Jay County went 5-22 from 3-point range, while hitting five extra field goals.

The victory for JCHS came just one day after its largest loss – it fell to Belmont 66-37 – since the 2021-22 season. With Schwieterman as the only returner from last year's rotation, McIntire was uncertain of how the young group would respond but was happy with the result.

"We came in this morning, things were upbeat, we went through a walk-through and talked about things we thought Winchester was going to throw at us," said McIntire. "I feel like they responded well. Mentally, they were ready to go tonight."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Raylah Newton of the Jay County girls basketball team fires up a 3-pointer from the right corner during Saturday's 42-30 victory Saturday. Newton hit the shot, earning her first points of the season.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Elwood — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school girls basketball at Versailles — 5 p.m.
Wednesday
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling at Richmond — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2 p.m. — College basketball: San Diego State vs. Creighton (TBS)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon vs. Texas A&M (TNT)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Wagner at Georgetown (FS1)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Houston vs. Alabama (TBS); USC Upstate at Iowa (BTN)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas vs. Duke (ESPN)
Wednesday
12 p.m. — College basketball: Louisville vs. Indiana (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — College ESPN West Virginia at Gonzaga (ESPN)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon at San Diego State (TNT)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Bucknell at

10 p.m. — College basketball: Southern Utah vs. UCLA (BTN)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Rutgers vs. Notre Dame (TBS)
Wednesday
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4 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon at San Diego State (TNT)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Bucknell at

Maryland (BTN)
5 p.m. — College basketball: Oklahoma vs. Providence (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: South Dakota at Nebraska (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Portland Trail Blazers at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Davidson vs. Arizona (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Tampa Bay Lightning (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at Wisconsin (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Rutgers at Alabama (TBS)
10 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Colorado Avalanche (TNT); Anaheim Ducks at Seattle Kraken (NBC)
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<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday December 7th, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 2119 S US 27 PORTLAND, IN. OPEN HOUSE Sunday Nov. 17th & Sunday Nov. 24th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers. REAL ESTATE 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch home containing 1390 sq. ft. finished living area. Black-top driveway. GFA with Central air. 19' x 25' attached garage, and an 18' x 24' detached garage. Nicely situated on two lots containing 1.65 acres in a prime location. ANTIQUES-HOUSE-HOLD-LAWN AND GARDEN 12' x 10' portable storage building. Oak pie safe, Kitchen cabinet, (2) Childs rockers, Parlor table, Garden plow, Parry Buggies thermometer, (2) 3 cushion sofas, Kenmore upright freezer, Whee horse 520-H riding mower with 48" cut and snowblower, Craftsman 10" table saw, Porch Swing, 3 hole dog box for pickup truck, Garage and shop tools. Several items not</p>	<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>to mention. OWNER: Richard L. Manor Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587</p> <p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p>	<p>190 FARMERS COLUMN</p> <p>AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p> <p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</p>	<p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>PIEDMONT APARTMENTS, 778 W 7th Street, Portland, Indiana, accepting applications for 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments, no application fee. Rent base on 30% of your gross income. Call 260-726-2920, TDD 800-743-3333. This is an Equal Opportunity Housing Complex. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.</p> <p>230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p>WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage</p>	<p>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Public Notice</p> <p>SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT SITTING AT PORTLAND, INDIANA Cause No. 38C01-2411-MF-000022 FIRST FINANCIAL BANK, successor by merger with Mainsource Bank Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JESSIE PAULETTE EVANS AND UNKNOWN OCCUPANT Defendants. PUBLICATION Comes now the Plaintiff, by ANDERSON & ANDERSON, P.C., Attorneys, and files its In Rem Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage herein, together with an Affidavit of a competent person showing that the residence of the Defendants, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JESSIE PAULETTE EVANS, are unknown and all persons and corporations who might assert any interest claim or title in or lien on the real estate described herein, the names of who are unknown to the Plaintiff are to be served by publication, and this action is one to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate to-wit: LOT 222 IN CURRENT'S SECOND ADDITION TO SOUTH PORTLAND, NOW CITY OF PORTLAND IN JAY COUNTY, INDIANA. More commonly known as 910 S. Bridge St., Portland, IN 47371 Tax No. 38-07-29-101-050.000-034 Said Defendants must answer the In Rem Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage in writing, in person, or by attorneys, within thirty (30) days commencing the day after final publication of this notice, or judgment may be entered against the Defendants as demanded in the In Rem Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage in the Courtroom, in said County and State, and said action will be heard and determined in Defendants' absence. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court on CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT AND SUPERIOR COURTS BY Jon Eads Deputy Clerk Michael E. Anderson, #26001-45 Anderson & Anderson, P.C. 9211 Broadway Merrillville, Indiana 46410 Phone: (219) 769-1892 Email: manderson@andersonandersonpc.com Attorney for Plaintiff CR 11-12,19,26-2024-HSPAXLP</p>
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Third quarter thumping

Patriots go on 11-4 run as underclassmen step up to beat Winchester

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

In the first three contests of the season, Hallie Schwieterman has been the game's leading scorer.

The Golden Falcons came out with a plan to prevent that, having Addy Bogue face guard the Patriot sophomore as part of a box-and-one zone. While Schwieterman didn't end as the game's leading scorer, the young team made some halftime adjustments, leading to a dominant third quarter to seal the deal.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team went on an 11-4 run in the fourth quarter to power past the Winchester Community Golden Falcons 42-30 on Saturday.

The Patriots (3-1) developed a 6-point lead in the first quarter on a pair of Amelia Heath baskets, threes from Natalie May and Alexis Sibray and two Schwieterman free throws. That lead didn't grow in the second quarter, but some halftime adjustments were just what Jay County needed to take off.

"We talked at halftime about swarming the post, putting a lot of ball pressure and I felt like our defense turned into offense," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire. "With Hallie, they were running the box-and-one in the first half and we made some adjustment and I felt like that really helped us."

The added focus on doubling the Winchester (3-2) post players and putting heavy ball pressure on the perimeter resulted in the Patriots forcing eight turnovers. (The Golden Falcons ended the game with a total of 26 turnovers, while Schwieterman led Jay County with five steals and Raylin Hummer followed with four.)

See **Thumping** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Elizabeth Brunswick glides inbetween Winchester's Auden Hummel (15) and Kendall Patterson to take a finger roll in the second quarter on Saturday. Brunswick had a team-high seven rebounds, four assists and three blocks in the 42-30 victory.

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Fort Recovery loses at the last second

ARCANUM, Ohio — Makenna Huelskamp didn't play in the Indians' season opener, but she hit a key shot late in the fourth quarter.

With less than two seconds remaining, Alexis Gibbons came in to spoil Huelskamp's season debut.

Despite Huelskamp hitting a go-ahead basket with just 1.1 seconds remaining for the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team, Gibson sank a 15-foot buzzer beater to complete a 34-33 comeback on Saturday.

The Indians (0-2) played a strong first half, led by senior forward Karlie Niekamp, who had all 12 of her points in the first two quarters. Along with Niekamp's strong first-half performance, Huelskamp hit a three, Bridget Homan had a hoop and two free throws and Kennedy Muhlenkamp hit a shot in each quarter to give FRHS a 25-18 lead at the intermission.

Fort Recovery's offense slowed down in the third quarter, with Huelskamp having the only field goal on a 3-pointer. She also split a pair of foul shots, while Muhlenkamp made a pair. Despite only scoring six points, the Tribe saw its advantage grow to eight, as the Trojans (1-0) only managed five points.

The Indians' offensive production came to a halt in the final period, as they surrendered the lead before Huelskamp's shot with 1.1 remaining reclaimed it at 33-32. Gibbons followed the shot with her own game winner that also put her past Niekamp for the game high at 14 points.

Gabrielle Wooten was the only other Trojan with multiple field goals, finishing with two.

Local roundup

Jay opens

WESTFIELD — The Jay County girls swim team opened up Saturday with a third-place finish at the Kristen Rice Women's Invitational hosted by Westfield.

Jay County finished with 392 points, trailing behind Westfield (802) and Yorktown (562) and beating Roncalli (180).

Maddy Snow took home the only victory, as her score of 159.85 in the 1-meter diving beat out Westfield's Alexis Ball by 37.6 points.

The next best finish came from Brooklynn Byrum, Aubrey Millspaugh, Maisey Keller and Sophia Hoevel took fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 4 minutes, 22.62 seconds.

Millspaugh also had the highest individual finish in a race, as her time of 6:13.75 was good for fifth in the 500 freestyle. She also placed sixth (2:37.81) in the 200 individual medley.

Both the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay netted the Patriots 28 points by finishing fifth.

Kenzie Huey had the only other top-six finish, hitting the wall in 1:13.82 during the 100 backstroke.

Tribe dominates

FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery boys bowling team bounced back from its opening loss with a 2,787-1,670 victory over Mississinawa Valley on Saturday at Miracle Lanes.

A.J. Siefing put together a strong day, rolling a 246 in the first individual

game and following it up with a 237. Riley Grieshop and Gabe Acheson also broke 200 in the second game with scores of 247 and 200. In the first game, they shot 193 and 170, respectively.

James Westgerdes and Clint Pottkotter got the nod in the first game, putting up scores of 146 and 144, before Eli Lennartz and Anthony Roessner had 193 and 160 in the second.

During the baker games, the Indians (1-1) averaged 170.2 pins per game with a high of 205 in the first and 150 in the final.

Schoen leads

FORT RECOVERY — Ella Schoen put together the best day for the Fort Recovery girls bowling team as it took down Mississinawa Valley 2,507-1,798 at Miracle Lanes on Saturday.

Schoen finished as the only Indian with an average over 200 in the individual games, as she shot a 218 and 190.

Deanna Brown put up the second-best day for FRHS by rolling a 175 and a 189.

Kayla Heitkamp and Saily DeRoo each bowled in both individual games, totaling 312 and 294 pins, respectively.

Emily Lauber rolled a 137 in the first game, before Lilah Thein replaced her in the second, shooting a 184.

Fort Recovery (1-1) got 808 pins from the five baker games, putting up scores of 121, 158, 156, 186 and 187.

Tankers dominate

CONVERSE — The Jay County Winter Swim Team had five high-point winners and made five divisional cuts at the 2024 Oak Hill Swim Club Eagle Invitational on Saturday. See **Roundup** page 7