

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

County signs pact for aid across state line

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay County Commissioners signed a new agreement for emergency assistance across state lines Monday.

Commissioners approved an agreement for mutual aid with Mercer County, Ohio. The new agreement, which was approved by Mercer County Commissioners in November, takes effect immediately and serves as a formal document to legally allow for emergency personnel to offer mutual aid beyond the Indiana-Ohio state line.

“Because of that state line, there’s a lot of legalities that go into them coming to us and us going to them,” explained Jay County Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel.

“That’s just an on-paper agreement that allows us to travel back and forth,” she later added.

The agreement covers fire departments, emergency medical service workers, EMA employees, hazardous materials removal workers and other public health employees.

Rhodehamel noted that mutual aid and assistance has come from across the state line for emergency calls, typically those on the east side of Jay County. She also pointed to calls that may come from Fort Recovery, with commissioners president Chad Aker — he also serves as a firefighter for Portland Fire Department — recalling the fire at JR Manufacturing in April 2023.

Rhodehamel noted plans are in the works to create a similar agreement with Darke County.

Commissioners also approved a mutual aid agreement Monday with Indiana Department of Homeland Security District 6, which includes Jay, Blackford, Grant, Delaware, Randolph, Tipton, Howard, Union, Madison, Henry, Fayette, Rush and Wayne counties.

See **Aid** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



Holiday tunes

Jay County High School and Fort Recovery Local Schools held Christmas concerts Sunday. Pictured above, from left, Grace Yowell, Kady Allred, Zoe Romine, Inara Sanderson and Logan Doll sing during the choir portion of the JCHS concert. At left, eighth grader Lane Zehringer plays the trumpet during the band Christmas concert at Fort Recovery.

Spending includes millions in no-bid deals

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Included in the Indiana secretary of state’s new budget requests are hundreds of thousands of extra dollars for IT-related needs and expansions. But recent vendor contracts awarded by the agency show millions have already been quietly spent on those services, absent any competitive bidding to find the most cost-effective providers for the projects.

The contracts — provided to the Indiana Capital Chronicle upon request — are not visible in the state’s transparency portal, where agreements entered into by state agencies are typically housed and made public.

Agreements with one Indianapolis-based IT company, CleanSlate Technology Group, amounted to more than \$2.3 million for services provided

Budget request includes hundreds of thousands of extra funding for IT projects

between March 2023 and July 2024.

Online “application support and development services” are also being contracted out to MTX Group, a Texas-based technology consulting firm. Since the 2025 fiscal year began on July 1, the state agency has paid MTX more than \$1.7 million for contractual services. By agreement, the vendor could receive upwards of \$1.8 million for work completed before Dec. 31.

The contract is the third-

largest currently on file with the agency, according to state finance records.

None of the contract work was obtained via requests for proposals, or RFPs, meaning both companies were awarded contracts without having to go through the competitive bid process that is normally required by state law.

Around the time contracts were initially signed, top brass at both CleanSlate Technology and MTX made donations — totaling tens of thousands of

dollars — to Secretary of State Diego Morales’ reelection campaign.

Lindsey Eaton, an office spokesperson, defended the contracts in a written statement to the Capital Chronicle.

“Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-22-6-1, time considerations, and critical business applications where choice of a ‘lowest cost’ bidder would be questionable, the agency opted to pursue vendors with strong track records, and commercially competitive proposals in lieu of public bidding,” Eaton said.

It’s not the first time Morales has faced scrutiny for his office’s spending.

Last year, the Capital Chronicle reported that Morales had given a spot bonus to nearly every employee in his office — including a family member and his former campaign manager — for a total of more than \$308,000.

The secretary of state was

additionally criticized in the months after he took office when it was revealed that he created a new agency position — with a six-figure salary — for his brother-in-law.

The first contract with CleanSlate for a range of IT services was signed March 16, 2023, and included \$66,000 in compensation. The vendor’s work started on March 21 of that year and was originally set to expire Dec. 31.

On Nov. 11, 2023, the agreement was extended to June 30, 2024. The amended contract came with an extra \$1,519,998.

Several weeks later, on Dec. 30, CleanSlate made a \$10,000 donation to the Diego for Indiana election committee, according to the Indiana Election Division. It was the first time the company donated to Morales or any other Hoosier political candidate.

See **Spending** page 2

Deaths

Lloyd Knittle, 80, Portland
Amos Schwartz, 80, Monroe
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 55 degrees Sunday. The low was 39.

Tonight’s low will be in the mid 20s and there is a slight chance of snow showers. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with a chance of snow and a high of 30.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host an ELF Academy from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Children are invited to visit the library to participate in various activities including gift wrapping and decoration, and earn their “elf certification.” Registration is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the Jay County boys wrestling quad meet.

Friday — Details from this week’s Jay County Council meeting.



Obituaries

Lloyd Knittle

Feb. 3, 1944-Dec. 7, 2024
Lloyd Gene Knittle, 80, Portland, passed away, Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, at his home in Portland.
Lloyd was born Feb. 3, 1944, in Decatur, the son of Dale Knittle and Mildred Miller. Lloyd graduated from Adams Central High School in 1962 and served in the United States Air Force.
Lloyd was a member of Westchester Church for over 50 years. He retired from the Portland Forge after 31 years in 1995

and Franklin Electric Bluffton in 2005. Lloyd was an avid collector and known by everyone in the community.
Lloyd married Susan Hartnagel on Oct. 23, 1964.
Survivors include:
His loving wife of 60 years — Susan Knittle, Portland, Indiana
Two sons — Jeff Knittle (wife: Clara), Portland, Indiana, and Brett Knittle (wife: Teresa), Oldenburg, Indiana



Knittle

Five grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren
His loyal companion — Scout Sister — Mary Sheets, Berne, Indiana
He was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter Jane Byard; three brothers, Richard, Jerry and Allen Knittle; and a sister, Emily Hart.
Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at Westchester Church, 4487 E. 400 North,

Portland, with visitation an hour before the service. Burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery west of Bryant. Military rites will be conducted by the Portland American Legion Post 211.
Memorials may be directed to the Jay County Heart Fund, Jay County Cancer Society or Stillwater Hospice.
Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.
Amos G. Schwartz, Monroe, the brother of Geneva residents, died

Sunday at his residence. Services will be held at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Amos G. Schwartz residence, 2866 W. Indiana 124, Monroe.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 12/11	Thursday 12/12	Friday 12/13	Saturday 12/14	Sunday 12/15
32/10	21/14	39/33	46/36	45/35
Wind gusts may reach up to 30 mph Wednesday, when there's a 40% chance of snow.	Sunny skies are expected Thursday, when the wind chill may reach as low as -10 at night.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Friday with a chance of rain or snow at night.	Saturday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of rain.	There's a 20% chance of rain Sunday under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	15-16-17-22-23-27-28-30-38-50-51-55-61-68-73-75-79 Cash 5: 13-23-25-33-34 Estimated jackpot: \$568,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$619 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 9-3-0 Pick 4: 0-4-2-5 Pick 5: 1-9-0-9-9 Evening Pick 3: 6-5-0 Pick 4: 9-2-7-2 Pick 5: 0-5-8-5-0 Rolling Cash 5: 8-28-29-31-35 Estimated jackpot: \$192,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-5-4 Daily Four: 2-8-2-7 Quick Draw: 16-20-22-23-25-27-29-32-34-37-39-41-48-51-60-62-64-68-69-74 Evening Daily Three: 7-5-5 Daily Four: 4-3-6-0 Quick Draw: 2-10-13-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.47 Jan. corn4.45 Feb. corn4.48	Jan. beans9.94 Wheat 5.09
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.48 Jan. corn4.51 Feb. corn4.51	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.35 Jan. corn4.35 Beans.....9.78 Jan. beans9.80 Wheat4.97
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.41 Jan. corn4.41 Beans9.84	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 Jan. corn4.45 Beans.....9.60 Jan. beans9.65 Wheat4.99

Today in history

In 1768, Encyclopedia Britannica published the first part of its first edition in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is the oldest continuously published and revised work in English.
In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The two key ethical considerations in the document are a commitment to the inherent dignity of every human being and a commitment to nondiscrimination.
In 2003, Fort Recovery teachers reached an agreement with the school board that included a 3% pay increase and a new insurance plan.
In 2018, Jay School Board unanimously approved a plan to move all seventh and eighth graders to Jay County High School. Elementary school students would then shift to the middle school buildings, with Judge Haynes (Portland) and Westlawn (Dunkirk) elementary schools closing. General Shanks Elementary School was closed and the building converted to house the corporation's central office, preschool and special programs.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 8 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton. 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Merit Board, training room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:15 p.m. — Fort Recovery Records Commission, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School	

Aid ...

Continued from page 1
The agreement formally allows counties to share resources, such as in the event of a natural disaster, Rhodehamel explained.
In related business, Rhodehamel:
•Talked about recent trainings she has hosted and meetings she has attended, including meetings for the cybersecurity task force created to identify a cybersecurity plan for the county and a meeting that consisted of Indiana and Ohio radio officials discussing interoperability across state lines. (Jay County is looking into joining Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission's statewide radio system in the coming years. Ohio does not utilize the same system.) She shared hopes for establishing an agreement between Ohio and Indiana regarding the issue.
•Noted her department received two annual grants, approximately \$18,300 from Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness and \$29,213.05 from Emergency Management Performance grant programs of Indiana Department of Homeland Security.
Also Monday, highway superin-

tendent Bob Howell asked to look into the process regarding conditional contracts for prospective employees to receive their Commercial Driver's License (CDL). He said there has been interest for open positions from applicants who don't have their CDL. Howell suggested the county could pay for training and hire the prospective employee on the condition they obtain the specialized license within a certain timeframe. He also pointed to a grant available for covering training costs.
Journey suggested the county require such employees to stay on the job for a period of time after receiving their license.
Jay County Personnel Committee will review Howell's request before it goes before Jay County Council — it would require an amendment to the salary ordinance — and back to commissioners for final decision.
In other business, commissioners Brian McGalliard, Journey and Aker:
•Approved the following: a four-year, 5.75% interest loan with The Farmers State Bank of Portland in the amount of \$192,240 for a new

Case front end loader; leasing 293.8 acres of tillable land around Jay County Country Living to Schoenlein Farms at \$376 an acre (\$110,468 total) for three years; tabled decision on leasing the county's 68 acres as farm ground next year, with commissioners noting uncertainty about plans with the housing infrastructure project in the area; paying an additional \$1,320 to Hays + Sons Complete Restoration of Muncie to remove old carpeting in the prosecutor's office and recorder's office at Jay County Courthouse; paid a few other claims, including \$1,286 to Air Xray of Fort Wayne for radon testing associated with the owner-occupied rehabilitation program in Jay County.
•Accepted bids from US Aggregates and IMI Aggregates for stone to be used by Jay County Highway Department in 2025.
•Reappointed doctor Joseph Vormhr to Jay County Health Board.
•OK'd a right-of-way agreement with American Electric Power for work along Red Oak Court between White Oak and Bur Oak streets at Oakwood Manufactured Home Community.

Spending ...

Continued from page 1
Then, on March 27, 2024, CleanSlate made a second donation, in the amount of \$19,000, to Morales' election committee. Another such contribution of \$30,000 was made to the committee on June 24. The business has not made donations to any other Indiana candidate, according to campaign finance records.
Morales, elected in 2022,

was not up for reelection in 2023 or 2024.
Within that same timeframe, CleanSlate's contract was extended again, on April 30, 2024, for as-needed services. Additional payouts were capped at \$759,999.99 — for a total contractual payout of no more than \$2,342,997. Services were supposed to end on July 31 of this year.
A second, separate con-

tract — for "ongoing maintenance" of INBiz applications — was awarded to CleanSlate on April 28, 2023, for \$270,000. Related work under that contract started on May 1, 2023, and was initially set to end three months later on July 31.
The contract was extended on June 15, 2023, however, for another \$270,000. It expired last year on Oct.

Felony arrests

Failed to appear
A Portland woman was arrested Thursday for failing to appear in court.
Dede R. Bisel, 53, 1210 N. Franklin St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime. She failed to appear in court for the following charges: dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony; battery with injury to a public safety officer, a Level 5 felony; battery by bodily waste to a public safety officer, Level 6 felony; maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony; possession of marijuana, a Level 6 felony; and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.
Bisel was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Backing accident
A New York man backed the semi he was driving into a parked truck at the Marathon station in Bryant about 3:40 a.m. Friday.
Gaforov Khudonazar, 29, Brooklyn, was driving a 2020 Volvo truck in the parking lot at 893 E. Indiana 18 when he backed into a 2019 Freightliner Cascadia. Nathaniel J. Baker, 37, Porter, Oklahoma, told police he was parked in a resting area for semi trucks when Khudonazar backed into his vehicle.
Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500. Khudonazar's vehicle is registered to Transkom of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, and Baker's vehicle is registered to OFC Development Corporation of Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

PORTLAND
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
920 S. SHANK ST. PORTLAND, IN 47371
SATURDAY
DEC. 14TH 6:30 PM

SERVICES

Today
Stultz, Brad: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Wednesday
Schwartz, Amos: 8:30 a.m., Amos G. Schwartz residence, 2866 W. Indiana 124, Monroe.

Thursday
Knittle, Lloyd: 11 a.m., Westchester Church, 4487 E. 400 North, Portland.

Friday
Johnson, Elizabeth: 2 p.m., Missisnewa Christian Church, 7708 W. 700 North, Randolph County.

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

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Elks Lodge honors 'Mr. Dunkirk'

By JAMES FULKES
The Commercial Review

Every year, on the first Sunday in December, The Grand Lodge decrees that every Elks Lodge hold a Lodge Of Sorrows Memorial Ceremony.

It's a somber and respectful honoring of all Elks Lodge members who have departed in the past year and been accepted into The Supreme Grand Lodge On High for eternity.

This year, the first Sunday of December fell on the Sunday following Thanksgiving, which, of

**Fulkesy
Mayhem**



course, is not always the case.

It's fitting that we just gave thanks for all of our blessings and then followed it with a ceremony of remembrance for those we are absolutely thankful to have had in our lives.

One such, we remembered this year was a guy known by many as Mr. Dunkirk.

Leo Glogas. In all of my travels, over many years, one thing I could always count on when I returned home was Leo.

This guy was always a warm and welcoming spokesman for our hometown and our local Elks Lodge.

He's one of the primary reasons I joined The Elks in Dunkirk as a Member.

I've encountered many people in my life.

Here's one who held the distinction of being one of those people that you'll never hear one bad thing about, from anyone.

An impeccable man of true character and decency.

As a youth, I admired him.

As an adult, I respected him.

Somewhere along the way, I realized I loved him.

He always took that extra minute to stop, drop what he was doing, genuinely talk to me and thank me for op-ed pieces and letters I've published

in papers over the years. He would sometimes say, "Now I didn't necessarily agree with that one, but I really enjoyed reading it."

He was such a breath of fresh air, a man who actually enjoyed a different opinion and thanked me for writing it.

I'll miss our talks.

I'll miss having his lovely daughter take an article to him, just because I think he'd get a kick out of it.

Most importantly, I'll miss Leo.

He taught me how to

dress impeccably, how a proper suit jacket should fit.

I only regret that I didn't have him teach me the proper way to tie one of my infernal bow ties.

Dunkirk never had a better spokesman.

Goodbye, Leo.

An entire community mourns your loss, especially this feeble writer who you always took the time to thank.

You'll never be forgotten, and always remembered with warmth and love.

Maternal relationship hasn't been positive

DEAR ABBY: I am a 43-year-old woman who has struggled with self-esteem and personal relationships my entire life. My fiancé and I have talked in depth about past trauma, but it wasn't until within the past year that I've realized how much of an impact my mother had on those aspects of my life.

From as far back as I can remember, she always told me that from the moment I was born, she had a hard time connecting with me, and I wasn't loving toward her. How could that have possibly been something I caused? I suspect she may have had postpartum issues, and she is now a fully diagnosed bipolar individual.

I watch her have functional relationships with lots of other people, but still, to this day, we have almost no connection. I feel guilty about the state of our relationship but worse when I witness the way she treats others compared to me. Am I a terrible daughter? — DISCONNECTED IN OHIO

**Dear
Abby**



DEAR DISCONNECTED: If what your mother said is true, remember that for the most part, children react lovingly toward people who are loving to them. You are not responsible for your mother's diagnosed mental illness, which may be why she had so much trouble relating to you. You are not a terrible daughter. If you have any doubts about what I have written, please consult a licensed mental health professional who can help you understand that you have nothing to feel guilty about.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I will soon celebrate our 11th anniversary. We've been

together since we were 19, we're now in our mid-30s with two children.

Abby, I can't seem to shake the feeling my husband is cheating on me. For the past two years all he wants is sex, on his time. If he doesn't get it within his "timeline," he gets angry and has an attitude. If he doesn't get it at all that day, I'll hear about it for days afterward.

I love my husband with all my heart, but he is not a great dad. It kills me to see him brush the kids off when they are so excited to see him, hug him and play. But my husband doesn't play with them, doesn't snuggle with them on random days off or lounge around with them. I get jealous seeing dads playing with their kids and just being goofy for hours.

He works all the time and worries about his work calls. All my life I wanted a husband who would be a great dad. What I'm trying to ask is, if he isn't into our kids, is always stressed, isn't playful in a non-sexual way

with me anymore and only wants sex, is he seeing someone else to fulfill his needs? — HEARTBROKEN WIFE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR WIFE: There are plenty of issues in your marriage that need working on, but I doubt that a man who often wants sex with his wife is cheating. You stated that he doesn't relate well to the children and is always stressed. Once you understand the reasons, things may improve. Marriage counseling might help you achieve that.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 10 years and in a relationship for 20. I just found out that for more than a year he has been lying about working. He pretended he had a part-time contracting job and has been using our savings to pass as income from this fictional job.

Over the past year, we made a lot of financial decisions based

on the assumption that he was employed, which has left us in a tight situation. He initially denied it when I confronted him and even provided fake documents about his "job" before finally coming clean. I'm feeling many emotions because of this betrayal, and I am unsure about how to proceed. Can you guide me? — DUPED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DUPED: Your husband may have been embarrassed about his job loss, which is why he deceived you. What was he doing when he was supposedly working? His (and your) problems may go beyond the financial bind you are now in. Is your husband trying to find another job? Why was he let go?

Contact a CPA or financial adviser and ask what you need to do to get back on firm financial footing. You didn't mention whether you are employed, but if you aren't, it's time to find a job. Once that's done, marriage coun-

Community Calendar

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

Today

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 - BRIANNA'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.

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

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.

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.

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 Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of

alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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1/2-page color ad (including Christmas Greetings) **\$500**

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Four 3x5 ads **\$335** (regular price - \$780)

Ads must run in December.

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

The Commercial Review

Trump's defense nominee is unfit

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Donald Trump's defense secretary nominee Pete Hegseth, already under fire from revelations about his scant qualifications, is facing the heat of an in-depth New Yorker magazine piece detailing his drunken mismanagement of the organization Vets for Freedom and Concerned Veterans for America.

The detailed evidence doesn't just disqualify Hegseth, but disqualify him many times over along various tracks. America cannot have a drunken defense secretary who is incompetent and more interested in chasing women who do not want to be chased.

From the perspective of pure managerial ability over what is by far the government's largest

Guest Editorial

department by budget and headcount, Hegseth is worse than merely unqualified. While some of his fellow cabinet picks simply lack much management experience, Hegseth has some, and it's been dismal.

Not one but both right-wing veterans' organizations — one with a tiny staff of fewer than 10 people — forced him out over the same series of management and financial impropriety concerns, several years apart, with employees giving consistent accounts of

the same types of boorish and devil-may-care approach to management and spending.

If this was the case then, we shudder to imagine the man let loose on a department with close to 3 million employees and a budget exceeding \$800 billion a year.

Then there's the matter of the specifics of this mismanagement and his response to it. It wasn't merely that Hegseth was terrible at organizing events or managing staff. He seems to have actively sought to use these positions for his personal gain, particularly to pursue women, including some who worked for him.

In fact, every sexual assault and harassment allegation that has so far emerged against him involves him being sloshed on the job, sometimes to the point of

totally passing out, when he was supposed to be representing his organization.

In response to the most serious such allegation, that he sexually assaulted a woman after an event at a hotel in late 2017, Hegseth's lawyer told the New Yorker's Jane Mayer that the investigation had not been followed up by local law enforcement because the woman ostensibly had a prior instance making a false claim against someone. When Mayer checked this out, she quickly discovered that it wasn't true.

Even Sen. Lindsey Graham, a loyal Trump doormat if there ever was one, has acknowledged that Hegseth would face a steep confirmation fight in the Senate. Hegseth should avoid himself the additional embarrassment and go the way of Matt Gaetz, who

abandoned his hope of being attorney general.

One good thing to have come out of the bizarreness of some of Trump's nominations thus far is the sense that the incoming president has overplayed his hand and even his own party isn't going to give him carte blanche in the way he seems to have expected. The checks and balances are still here and should protect the Pentagon from a Secretary Hegseth.

If Hegseth chooses to stick it out, we hope that Senate Republicans and their Democratic counterparts prove that they're not a subservient branch by really holding his and Trump's nominees' feet to the fire and engaging in their constitutionally-protected right to say "no thanks," for the good of the country.

Find strength to lift people up

By AKILAH MONIFA
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

The presidential election results were not so much a resounding victory for Donald J. Trump as they were a rejection of Kamala Harris because of her race and gender. At least that's how I see it.

I am a Black woman. Nationally, 92% of Black women voted for Harris, compared to only 78% of Black men, and 44% and 61% of Latinos and Latinas, respectively. The numbers for white men and white women were 39% and 47%.

Beyond that is the fact that only 64% of the folks eligible to vote did so; 89 million people didn't vote. This, as much as anything, determined our fate in the presidential election and the so-called down ticket.

Now the post-election analysis is focusing on our differences. I choose to follow the example of Vice President Kamala "when we fight we win" Harris. After she lost the election, she urged her supporters to "wage this fight in quieter ways. In how you treat one another with kindness and respect, by always using your strength to lift people up, and ensuring everyone has the dignity that they deserve."

And "everyone" includes our new president and vice president-elect. I embrace being a "childless cat lady" with humor, having formed my family through adoption with three children and one grandchild.

I acknowledge that Trump and I have a great deal in common. If I wish to be seen and acknowledged as a human, I must also see and acknowledge his humanness.

I am a Blesbian (Black lesbian) Democrat, born in Manhattan, Kansas, the little apple in a flyover state. I was raised in the heart of Dixie, in Huntsville, Alabama, home of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. George C. Wallace ("Segregation now, segregation forever") was the first governor I was aware of.

Trump is a white man, Republican, born in Queens, New York City, the Big Apple.

We have both been married three times and divorced twice. My first and second marriages were to the same woman. In 2004, then San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom directed the city clerk to issue same-sex marriage

Akilah Monifa



licenses. We got a license and were married. That marriage was voided by the California Supreme Court.

Both Trump and I have worked in the media. I worked for CBS as the director of communications and public affairs. (I also produced three television shows.) He was the producer and star of "The Apprentice" and "The Celebrity Apprentice."

We both declared bankruptcy — me once, he multiple times.

Neither of us have served in the military.

We both have older siblings.

We both went to private schools — in my case because, despite the fact that Brown v. Board of Education was decided in 1954, the schools in Huntsville, Alabama, were not desegregated until 1969.

We both worked for our fathers — he in real estate, me in my father's tax business.

Neither of us are members of SAG-AFTRA. He was permanently banned in 2021 after the January 6 attacks.

Neither of us attended the Biden/Harris inauguration.

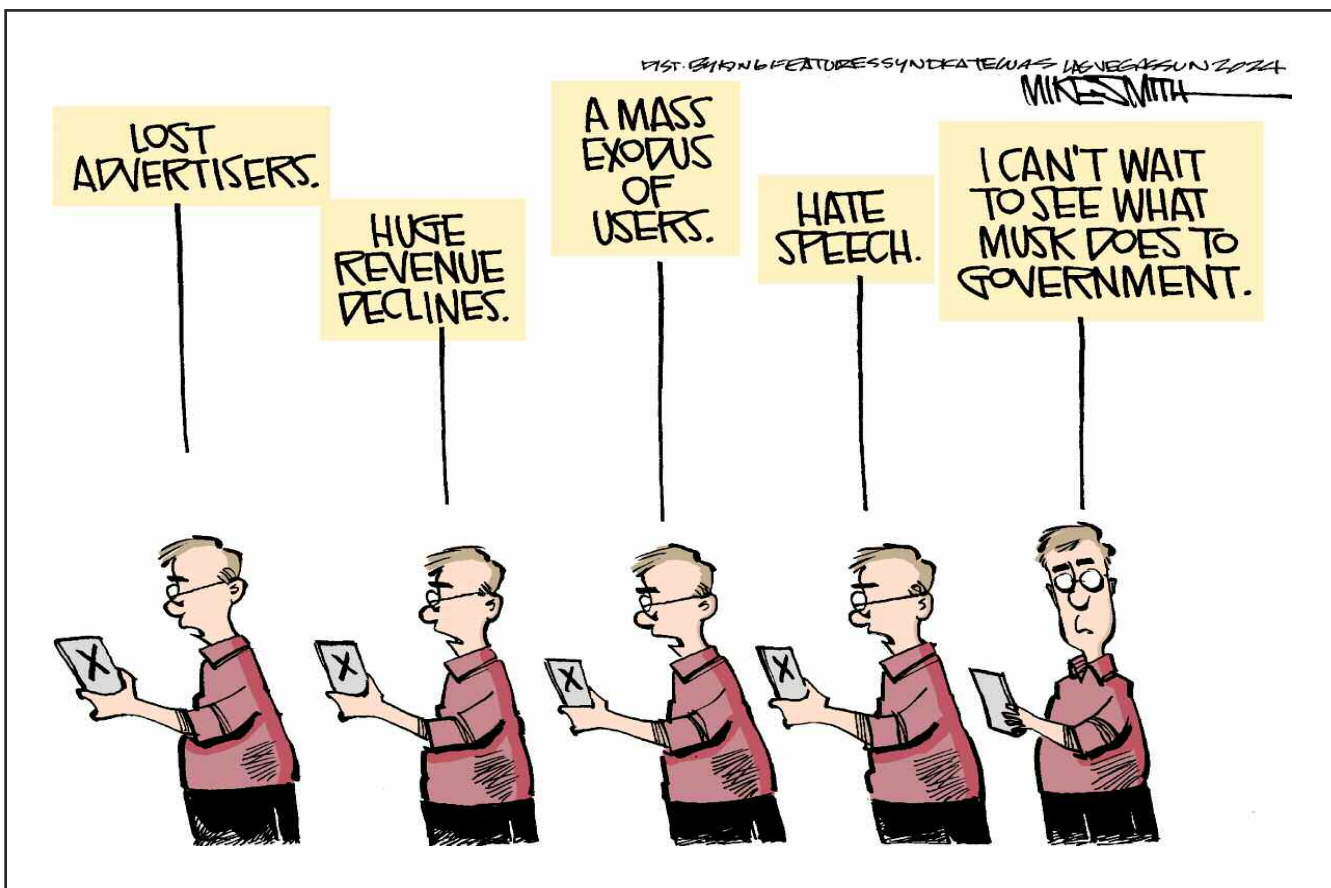
We both are credited with authoring books. Mine are not ghost-written.

We both went to Presbyterian churches — he to First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens, New York, me to Trinity Presbyterian church in Huntsville, Alabama.

We both wear ties. (Yes, I am one of those lesbians who wears a tie.)

Even if we don't agree, I think it's good that we acknowledge our similarities. That's how we can become more united, as citizens of the United States of America. We can learn to fight in quieter ways, treating one another with kindness and respect, always looking for ways to lift people up.

.....
Monifa of Oakland, California, is founder and editor-in-chief of BlackHistoryEveryday.com and developer of the Alexa skill "Black History Everyday."



Give cameras green light

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Sometimes it feels like the Indiana General Assembly is having the same discussions it had 20 years ago. And that's because it is. Case in point: speed and red light cameras.

I sat in committee hearings in 2005 when Warsaw residents banded together to support the proposal. One local woman had been pushing the issue since 1997 after her daughter was killed by a red-light runner.

A former representative who opposed the red light cameras was finally on board after his mayor, chief of police and 70% of his survey responses supported it. But alas, the bill in question — a pilot program in 10 communities — still failed.

Here we are in 2025, ready to have the same discussion over again. That's because Indianapolis Police Chief Chris Bailey is advocating for lawmakers to authorize the cameras.

"Marion County has witnessed a troubling rise in traffic-related incidents," Bailey wrote in an op-ed for the Indianapolis Star. "While our dedicated officers work tirelessly to keep our streets safe, we must acknowledge that traditional enforcement alone is not enough. We need to embrace technology as a crucial ally in our fight for public safety."

Cameras take pictures of the license plate of any vehicle running a red light and a warning or fine is assessed to the owner of the vehicle. Cities or towns that use such cameras would also be required to post signs letting drivers know about the cameras.

I have to admit I simply don't understand the resistance to a simple technology aid that would make streets safer. This isn't a groundbreaking idea. Many states and communities have been using the cameras for decades. Similar technology works efficiently for collecting tolls on highways.

Complaints about privacy and government overreach came from the

GOP-led Legislature on Indiana's first foray into camera traffic enforcement: catching cars for speeding in work zones. It took years to get it across the finish line in the General Assembly.

It's amazing the number of years we have spent haggling over the due process rights of the car owners. What if my son is driving the car and I get the ticket? Teach your son better and make him pay the ticket. What if my car was stolen? File a police report for your stolen car and contest the ticket.

In the best of worlds, there would be enough police officers to adequately cover the city and give tickets for transgressions like this. But there simply aren't. Police forces all around the state and nation are struggling to replace retiring officers.

Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, recently sent a letter to constituents saying that the proposal addresses a pressing issue but also raises critical questions.

"When introducing technology that monitors the public, we must proceed with caution," he wrote. "Who will have access to the video data and information collected? How will it be stored, and what safeguards will be in place to prevent misuse? Transparency and accountability are essential to ensure the community's trust."

Privacy guardrails seem simple to add.

Freeman goes on to discuss the officer shortage. And, of course, recruiting and retaining officers should also be a priority. But why can't we do both at once?

"Before implementing red light



Niki Kelly

and speed cameras, we need a comprehensive study to evaluate their effectiveness in cities with similar challenges," he continued. "Concrete data on cameras' impact on safety, privacy concerns, and cost-effectiveness must guide our decision-making process. Rushing to adopt such measures without thoroughly understanding their implications would be short-sighted."

Rushing to adopt? As I mentioned earlier, this issue has been hanging around for more than 20 years.

And there's already research out there.

One federal study shows red-light cameras provide a modest aggregate crash-cost benefit. It notes that this benefit can be increased through careful site selection, like choosing areas prone to dangerous t-bone crashes.

"I would like to test these to see if we see some change in behavior," Bailey told Fox59. "And I think we can do that in our school zones. I think we can all agree that protecting our children should be at the top of our priority list."

The Indiana Department of Transportation has been testing out speed cameras in a busy Hancock County construction zone since August. The agency is targeting people driving over the speed limit by more than 11 miles per hour.

Fox59 reported early data shows drivers decreased speeds by an average of six miles per hour when signage was up, and the cameras were present.

Let's not wait another 20 years to at least pilot this system to protect Hoosier drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

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Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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VOLUME 151-NUMBER 162
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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

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

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Internet-only: Three days - \$3; Monthly auto-pay - \$10; 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108.
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Lilly to expand manufacturing

Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Company announced Thursday that it is planning a \$3 billion expansion of its manufacturing facility in Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

Plans call for expanding capacity to meet demand for the pharmaceutical firm's diabetes and obesity medicines and other drugs at the site that it purchased earlier this year. The expansion is expected to add 850 jobs at the location.

"Today's announcement represents our single largest U.S. manufacturing investment outside our home state of Indiana and will add to our ability to expand capacity to make both our existing and future pipeline of medicines right here in the Midwest," said Edgardo Hernandez, Lilly executive vice president and president of manufacturing operations, in a press release. "We look forward to bringing high-wage, advanced manufacturing, engineering and science jobs to people in Wisconsin, a state that is becoming a critical geography in our global manufacturing operations."

Partnering with Meta

Invenery announced last week that it has signed contracts with Meta Platforms to provide 760 megawatts of renewable energy.

The company will provide energy to Meta, parent company of Facebook, through Hardin II Solar of Ohio as well as operations in Texas, New Mexico and Arkansas that are expected to become operational in the next few years.

"Energy demand is soaring

Business roundup

ing — and Invenery is excited to work with Meta to deliver long-term, clean energy solutions to support their operations," said Ted Romaine, Invenery executive vice president of origination, in a press release. "As the largest privately held clean energy owner, operator and developer, we're pleased that Invenery's utility-scale solar projects can contribute to meeting Meta's clean energy goals, while also providing good-paying jobs and generating millions in local economic benefits."

Invenery is planning Skycrest Solar in north-west Jay County.

Closing facilities

Tyson recently announced the planned closure of facilities in Kansas and Pennsylvania.

The Kansas Reflector reported Tyson's plan to shut down its meat plant in Emporia, Kansas. It employs more than 800.

It will also close two North Philadelphia plants, resulting in more than 200 employees being laid off.

Open house set

Adams Woodcrest Assisted Living will host a Holiday Open House from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11.

The event will offer tours of the facility and a chance to meet with residents and staff. Refreshments will be available.

The facility is located at 1300 Mercer Avenue, Decatur.

Purchase complete

Last week, Walmart completed its acquisition of VIZIO.

The agreement to purchase the electronics company was announced in February. There was a required waiting period before the transaction could be completed.

"VIZIO offers great products at great prices that customers love. They've always put customers at the center of their business — and that's core to Walmart's values and the omnichannel experiences we're excited to roll out," said Seth Dallaire, Walmart executive vice president and chief growth officer, in a press release. "VIZIO has also expertly changed their business over time, like building and quickly scaling a profitable advertising business. Pairing it with Walmart Connect will be impactful and allow us to invest in our business even further on behalf of our customers."

Training offered

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Additional sessions are scheduled for March 25 and April 29.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of foodborne illnesses.

For more information,

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

Producing hydrogen

Ardagh Glass Packaging — Europe announced last week that it is now using a hydrogen electrolyser at its facility in Limmared, Sweden, to produce "green hydrogen" for melting glass.

The device uses renewable electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The company began testing the electrolyser in October and says it has saved 80 tons of carbon dioxide by doing so.

"The testing phase using the hydrogen energy mix is progressing well, with no impact on the quality of the glass or the furnace," said Daniel Johansson, project manager for Ardagh. "Our target is to replace 20% of the natural gas in the furnace with green hydrogen, which will reduce carbon emissions from our glass packaging produced in Limmared."

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Testing delivery

Dollar General is testing same-day delivery to customers.

Dollar General CEO Todd Vasos said Thursday the company held a soft launch of the service in September. It is being offered through a third party.

According to NBC News, the test is part of an effort to compete with Walmart.

Grants awarded

Indiana University

Health recently announced \$6.1 million in grants to a dozen community organizations.

The grants include \$365,471 for Nextech Org, an organization that provides internships in technology to underserved teens in the Muncie area.

"Evidence-based research and our own experiences demonstrate that economic and social challenges, such as poverty, limited access to healthy food, inadequate housing, and a lack of education options all play a significant role in the long-term health and well-being of local residents," said IU Health CEO Dennis Murphy in a press release. "By investing in organizations that address these critical needs, we can make a positive difference in the lives of Hoosiers and move closer to our vision of making Indiana one of the healthiest states in the nation."

Core shifts

Comcast has moved its 5G wireless core to Amazon Web Services.

The core was previously housed on-site at a Comcast facility but will now be cloud-based. According to reporting from TV Technology, the change will allow Comcast to implement new features and be more efficient.

"AWS's extensive cloud infrastructure, together with their understanding of telco network requirements and ability to support production-grade 5G networks, will help us to continue delivering the highest quality service to our wireless customers,"

said Tom Nagel, executive vice president of wireless strategy at Comcast, in a press release.

Collecting

Pak-a-Sak has launched its five week Paper Kettle Drive at 31 locations in Indiana.

The campaign will benefit The Salvation Army's Christmas assistance and emergency assistance programs. Paper kettles can be purchased for \$1 at Pak-a-Sak stores.

Hosting drive

Menards stores are serving as Toy Drive drop sites this year.

Sites will be near the exits of each Menards store. Shoppers can donate unwrapped gifts for children in need through the end of November.

Menards stores in the region include sites in Muncie, Richmond, Anderson and Celina, Ohio.

Offering boxes

Indiana Grown is offering a 2024 Indiana Grown Holiday Box for purchase as a holiday gift.

The boxes feature items from Indiana Grown members. The initiative seeks to highlight local products.

This year's boxes include a variety of items including travel-sized scented lotions from The Lotion Company of Muncie.

For more information, visit indianagrown.org.

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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.

USDA to test milk for H1N1 nationwide

By SUSANNE RUST
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Nearly a year after a wild bird infected with H5N1 avian flu presumably passed its viral baggage to a dairy cow in the Texas panhandle — which has subsequently led to the infection of more than 700 herds nationwide and sickened at least 32 dairy workers — the nation's agriculture department announced Friday that it will sample the nation's milk supply to test for the virus.

The federal order requires dairy farmers to collect and share raw milk samples for testing — if requested — by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It also lays out a staged testing strategy that will allow the federal agency to track and monitor the disease.

The National Milk Testing

More than 700 dairy herds have been infected in the last year

Strategy, which the new milk testing regimen is called, "is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to protect the health and safety of individuals and communities nationwide," according to a prepared statement from Xavier Becerra, the U.S. secretary of Human and Health Services.

Initially, the order will apply only to six states — California, Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

Steve Lyle, a spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, said the order is incidental, bringing "no changes for California. We are already doing this."

While California, Colorado and Michigan have all reported positive herds, the three others have not. Testing regimens and investigations have already been underway in the infected states — as well as in Pennsyl-

vania, which in late November, began its own "Precautionary Bulk Milk Testing at Processing Plants" program.

While Oregon has not had a H5N1 outbreak in dairy cows, it has reported the disease in commercial poultry, wild birds and, last month, two pigs.

Mississippi has roughly 50 herds statewide, with each farm averaging 149 cows.

The new milking plan is designed as a step-by-step plan, with the end goal of eradicating the disease from the nation's herds — an objective few epidemiologists or virologists think, at this point, is possible.

In the first stage, testing will occur at all dairy processing facilities within a given state, allowing the federal agency to determine if and where the

virus is residing. The next stage will allow the federal agency to drill down deeper by moving the testing to bulk tanks.

If the virus is found, the third stage goes into action, triggering an even more granular investigation by identifying farms and herds that are positive — allowing for "rapid response measures," including biosecurity programs such as movement controls and contact tracing.

If, however, no virus is found in a state, bulk tank testing frequency will progressively decrease — going from weekly to monthly to quarterly, assuming the state's tests remain negative.

Finally, there is the fifth stage, known as "Demonstrating Freedom from H5 in U.S. Dairy Cattle."

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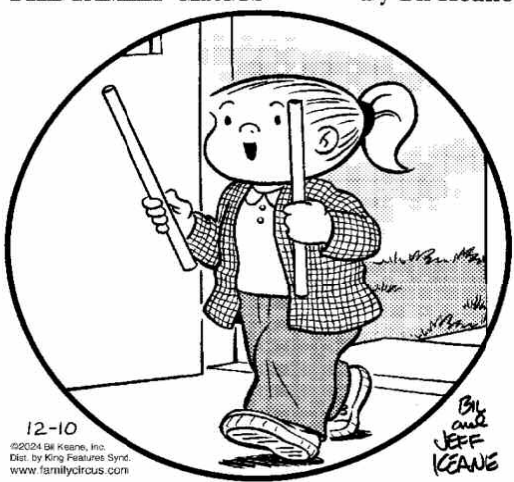
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

When to abandon the percentages

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9 5 2
♥ Q 6
♦ K 4
♣ K J 8 6 2

WEST
♠ 7 6
♥ A K 8 4
♦ A 8 3 2
♣ 7 4 3

EAST
♠ K
♥ J 9 5 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 6 5
♣ 9 5

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 8 4 3
♥ 10 7
♦ Q J
♣ A Q 10

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

acc. What this means is that if you experimented hundreds of times with this combination, the finesse would succeed far more often than the play for the drop.

South was fully familiar with the proper percentage play, but when the moment of truth arrived, he played dummy's ace and felled East's king! However, he had ample reason for rejecting the finesse.

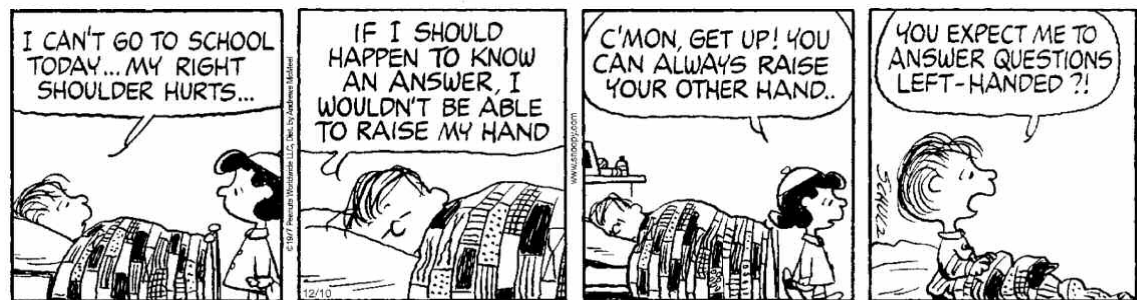
West began by cashing the K-A of hearts and shifted to the deuce of diamonds, hoping his partner had the queen and that declarer would misguess which card to play from dummy. But South played dummy's king, which won the trick. **Then, without bothering** to enter his hand for a finesse, declarer simply played the ace of trump, caught East's singleton king and so made the contract with an overtrick. Had he taken the finesse, he would have gone down one.

Declarer's decision to reject the percentage play was based on the fact that West couldn't have the king of spades after his first three plays revealed he had the A-K of hearts and ace of diamonds. It was inconceivable that he would have passed originally had he held the king of spades also.

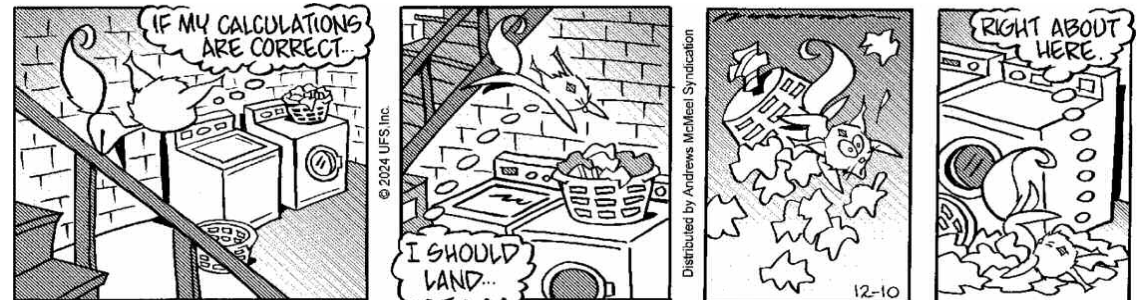
Since East was thus marked with the king of spades, South's only hope was that the monarch was unguarded.

Tomorrow: A switch in time saves nine.
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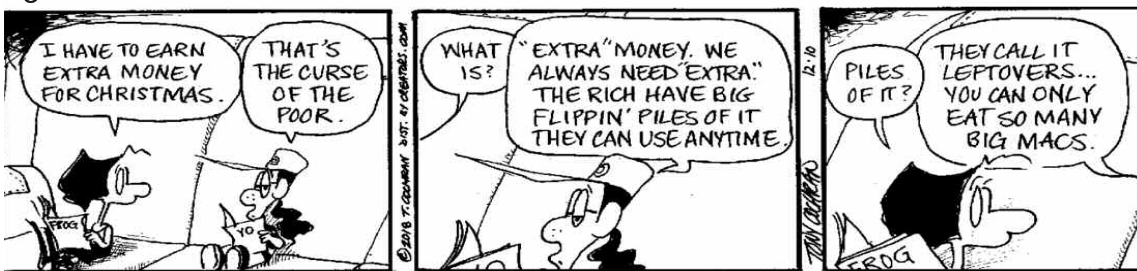
Peanuts



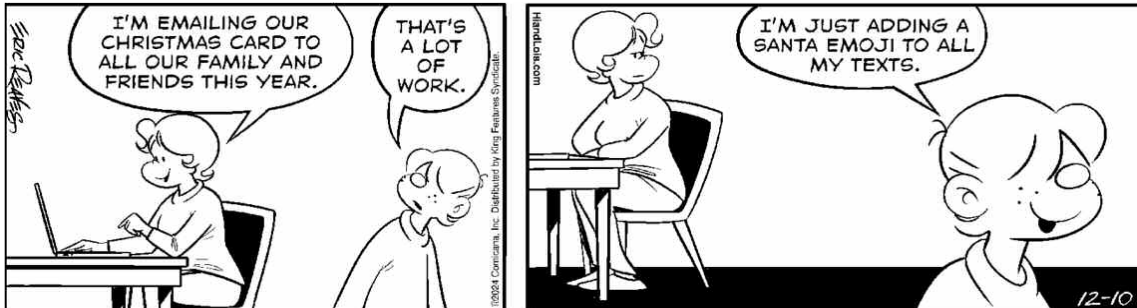
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



12-10 CRYPTOQUIP

B W N U M J C O D M F N O H W R I
D O J T E H O Z W J C O N O T O J Y I
E O X N Z N O P W J C E H O Y I W J O

NORIXJ: "OHIBMFUI XMYP."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DESERT MAMMAL WEARS GARB COLORED TO BLEND IN WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS, IS THAT CAMEL-FLAGE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 iPhone down-loads
5 Pen name
8 Distort
12 Spruced up
13 Spanish gold
14 Opera set in Egypt
15 Strategy
17 Bridal accessory
18 Dig in
19 Whine
21 Quotidian
24 Author Uris
25 Charitable gifts
26 Scramble, for one
30 Cagers' gp.
31 Push rudely
32 Victory
33 When a match starts
35 Hawked
36 Nov. honorees
37 Country store?
38 Party snack

DOWN
1 "Life of Pi" director Lee
2 Soup legume
3 Shriver of tennis
4 Braces (oneself)
5 Piece of hardware
6 Nest egg letters
7 Be frugal with
8 Socking away
9 Chicken
10 Actress Falco
11 Humpty's perch
16 Salary
20 Central point
21 "Phooey!"
22 Jessica of "Dark Angel"

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15				16				17			
		18				19	20				
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25				26				27	28	29	
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38	39	40					41				
42					43	44			45	46	47
48					49				50		
51					52				53		

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Trio leads Jay to runner-up finish

RUSSIAVILLE — A trio of the Patriots' most experienced wrestlers went undefeated Saturday.

It was enough to propel them to a second-place finish.

Jay County High School's boys wrestling team finished 3-2 at the Western Super 6, taking the runner-up spot via a tiebreaker.

The Patriots clobbered Logansport 64-18 and also beat Hamilton Heights 56-21 and Madison-Grant 60-24. Their losses came by scores of 40-35 to the host Class 2A No. Panthers and 48-28 to Lafayette Harrison.

A.J. Heskett was the most dominant athlete for JCHS, win-

Local roundup

ning all of his four contested matches at 138 pounds by pin. Griffin Byrum (113) recorded three pins and a technical fall. Alan Ortiz (285) also finished the day undefeated.

Brice Coy (190) and Jacob Robinson (150) were both 4-1 for the Patriots. Finishing 3-2 for Jay County were Corbin

Lothridge (106) and Jason Landers (144).

Kaup 2nd in two

Joelle Kaup of Fort Recovery led the contingent of local swimmers Saturday as she placed second in a pair of events and added two more top-five efforts during the Waterdawg Sprint Meet hosted by Celina at Jay County High School.

The effort from the senior led the FRHS girls to a fourth-place finish out of a dozen teams while Jay County's girls were ninth. The Patriot boys placed sixth out of 11 with Fort Recovery in 10th.

Kaup was the runner-up in the 50-yard freestyle, trailing Jenna Downey of Bluffton (Ohio) by just 0.16 seconds with her time of 28.52 seconds. She was also second in the 50 backstroke while taking third place in the 50 freestyle and fifth place in the 50 breaststroke.

Freshman Cooper Glentzer highlighted the day for the Jay County boys as he finished fourth in the 50 butterfly and eighth in the 50 backstroke. Brooklyn Byrum, also a freshman, was 10th for the Patriot girls in the 50 butterfly. Caleb Smith led the FRHS

boys with a 12th-place finish in the 50 breaststroke.

Willis second

KENDALLVILLE — Tatiana Willis led the third-ranked Jay County High School girls wrestling team Saturday as it competed at the East Noble Invitational.

Willis, wrestling at 110 pounds, took second place for the short-handed Patriots. Emily Manor (140) and Amara Crawford (190) added third-place efforts.

Also finishing in the top five for JCHS were Lina Lingo (135) in fourth and Brenna Ruble (115) and Maleah Parson (145) in fifth.

Response ...

Continued from page 8 Despite only giving up one field goal — a Griffin 3-pointer — Fort Recovery's comeback came up short due to strong free throw shooting. The Patriots went 16-of-21 at the charity stripe in the fourth quarter to put the game away.

"When you have that lead, what you want to do is get the floor spread, look for the ball to be in the hands of your three guards," Bomholt said. "For us, that's the three guys, over the years, that have been the best free

throw shooters. The three of them collectively hit 15 out of 16. It's not perfect but it's pretty close."

Both teams also got some strong production from a sophomore forward. Jutte put up a solid game for the Indians with a team-high 16 points, while pulling down six rebounds and blocking two shots. Eli Petro provided a little spark for the Patriots, scoring nine points in his first start.

JCHS will have a full week to prepare for its

next game against sectional-rival New Castle, while the Tribe will travel to Fort Loramie later today.

"That's the score we wanted, but we wanted to be on the other end of it," Leverett said. "We'll get back after it on Tuesday and we won't have to face that 1-2-2 with all that length. ... We're just getting our legs under us. We'll go to Fort Loramie on Tuesday. They'll be very physical but they'll play a man defense and I think that will benefit us a little bit more."

Box score table for Jay County Patriots vs. Fort Recovery Indians. Includes individual player statistics for FG-FGA, FT-FTA, PTS, and team totals.

Box score table for Jay County Patriots at Fort Recovery Indians. Includes girls varsity summary and Fort Recovery (2-4) statistics.

Defense ...

Continued from page 8 A couple of late buckets from Schwieterman and Amelia Heath had Jay County back within five at halftime, but the Indians continued to be effective after the break. They pushed to a 13-point advantage at the end of the third quarter and added runs of 7-0 and 9-0 to push ahead by as many as 29 in the fourth.

While Fort Recovery (2-4) relied on its full-court pressure to force turnovers, it turned to Cameron Muhlenkamp to limit Schwieterman in the half court. Cameron Muhlenkamp heavily shaded Schwieterman in an effort to take away any drives to her right and generally limited her opportunities. Schwieterman, who came

into the game averaging 20.3 points, was limited to four in the first half and finished with 13.

"She obviously runs their offense a lot. She's their main scorer," said Cameron Muhlenkamp. "I knew that in order to win this game I was going to have to limit her ... What coach tells us to do is force them left, get a hand in their face, and that's what I did. ..."

"She's obviously a strong player, so she is able to go left and right, but most girls are a lot weaker on their left side, so if I kept her to the left, put a hand in her face, she couldn't take that deep shot and it was a little bit harder for her to take a drive ..."

The other area of dominance for the Indians was the glass. They outrebounded Jay County 49-29 including grabbing 21 offensive boards that led to 18 more field-goal opportunities. Karlie Niekamp had a team-high 13 rebounds, Kennedy Muhlenkamp grabbed a dozen and Makenna Huelkamp finished with 10.

Extra possessions helped the Indians have their best offensive output of the year — their previous scoring high came in a 50-39 win over Indian Lake — with Bridgett Homan (15), Huelkamp (11) and Niekamp (10) joining Kennedy Muhlenkamp in double figures.

"That obviously is huge," said Dietsch. "We had a size advantage. They

had the tallest girl out on the floor, but whenever she had to come off the floor and they went with that smaller group, that was definitely an emphasis for us ... crash the boards, get every second-chance point that we could, and really focus on boxing out and not giving them any second opportunities.

"That was a big focus for us over the last couple days preparing for this game ... More so than our size it was how aggressive and physical we could go after those boards ..."

Schwieterman's 13 points were the team high for the Patriots. Sibray followed with 11, eight of which came in the first half.

Sports on tap

Local schedule Today

Jay County — Boys wrestling quad meet - 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling quad meet - 6 p.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) at Muncie Central - 6:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Elwood - 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Fort Loramie - 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball vs. South Adams - 5 p.m.;

Middle school girls basketball at Marion Local - 5 p.m.

TV sports Today

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Miami at Tennessee (ESPN); North Dakota State at Butler (FS1) 7 p.m. — NBA: Orlando Magic at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT) 7 p.m. — College basketball: Albany at Syracuse (ESPN2)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Providence at DePaul (FS1) 9 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Arkansas (ESPN) 9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Fresno State at USC (BTN) 9:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT) 10 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Vancouver Canucks (FSDN Indiana) 11 p.m. — College basketball: Eastern Washington at Washington (BTN)

Wednesday 6 p.m. — Girls high school basketball: John Marshall vs. Wheeling Park (FOX) 6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Miami at Tennessee (ESPN); North Dakota State at Butler (FS1) 7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Atlanta Hawks at New York Knicks (ESPN) 7 p.m. — NHL Hockey: New York Rangers at Buffalo Sabres (TNT) 7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Albany at Syracuse (ESPN2)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Providence at DePaul (FS1) 9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan at Arkansas (ESPN) 9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Fresno State at USC (BTN) 9:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Golden State Warriors at Houston Rockets (TNT) 11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Eastern Washington at Washington (BTN)

Local notes

Grand re-opening The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame has announced its grand re-opening. The ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. on Dec. 12 at 408 Trojan Lane, New Castle, Indiana. To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Office of Jay County Drainage Board Notice of Hearing Regarding Combining Salamonina River Watershed

Notice is hereby given by the Jay County Drainage Board that a hearing will be held to combine the Little Salamonina Watershed into the Salamonina River Watershed on December 23, 2024 at 9:15am in the Auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, Portland, Indiana, at which time the following will be considered: 1. Combine for purpose of maintenance into the Salamonina River Watershed all legal drains (both open and tile) of the above watershed. 2. All funds in the above watershed will be combined into the Salamonina River Watershed monies to create one fund from which work will be performed. 3. The assessment rate of the above watershed will be adjusted to the Plot (\$20.00) and Acre (\$2.00) rate of the Salamonina River Watershed. 4. That the maintenance report of the Jay County Surveyor and the schedule of assessments made by said Board relating to the above mentioned drain have been filed and are available in the office of the Jay County Surveyor.

Jay County Drainage Board Chad Aker CR 12-10-2024, NS 12-11-2024-HSPANXP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Office of Jay County Drainage Board Notice of Hearing Regarding Combining Salamonina River Watershed

Notice is hereby given by the Jay County Drainage Board that a hearing will be held to combine the Eugene Franks Watershed into the Salamonina River Watershed on December 23, 2024 at 9:15am in the Auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, Portland, Indiana, at which time the following will be considered: 1. Combine for purpose of maintenance into the Salamonina River Watershed all legal drains (both open and tile) of the above watershed. 2. All funds in the above watershed will be combined into the Salamonina River Watershed monies to create one fund from which work will be performed. 3. The assessment rate of the above watershed will be adjusted to the Plot (\$20.00) and Acre (\$2.00) rate of the Salamonina River Watershed. 4. That the maintenance report of the Jay County Surveyor and the schedule of assessments made by said Board relating to the above mentioned drain have been filed and are available in the office of the Jay County Surveyor.

Jay County Drainage Board Chad Aker CR 12-10-2024, NS 12-11-2024-HSPANXP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Redkey, Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year at their regular meeting place at the Redkey Park Cabin, Moody Street Redkey Indiana on December 23, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. FUND NAME: PARK OPERATING FUND 2204 LINE-ITEM NUMBER & TITLE AMOUNT REQUESTED Category 3 - Other Services & Charges \$2,000.00 TOTAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION \$2,000.00 PARK CLEANING FUND 2211 Category 3 - Other Services & Charges \$4,000.00 TOTAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION \$4,000.00 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND 2400 Category L - Personal Services \$201,875.32 TOTAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION \$201,875.32 EDIT FUND 4436 Category 4 - Capital Expenditures \$16,100.00 TOTAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION \$16,100.00

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken. Gloria May Clerk/Treasurer CR 12-10-2024 -HSPANXP

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Strong response

Jay bounces back with win over Indians

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Things couldn't have gone much worse for the Patriots on Friday night.

They couldn't find any offensive rhythm, they got torched by Trey Yoder and when Woodlan did miss a shot, they couldn't pull in the rebound.

The next day was a different story.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team bounced back from its 16-point loss on Friday by beating the Fort Recovery Indians 64-59 on Saturday.

"I thought they responded really well," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "We had a good walk-through this morning. I think they were very attentive."

"It's one game. I want to see this six or seven games in a row. If we see that then we can say we arrived, at least a little bit. Right now, we're not even in the door, but it was a lot better. It was the best performance of the four games, no question."

The win pulled the Patriots' record to an even 2-2 with a win at home against Elwood and losses on the road to Richmond and Woodlan.

On the other hand, the game was the season opener for the Indians. While Fort Recovery couldn't pull off its third consecutive victory against the Patriots, coach Bob Leverette liked what he saw in the opener.

"It was a gritty performance, didn't quit, proud of the kids but just needed to hit some shots down the stretch," Leverette said. "But happy with our effort. ... A big game and going against that 1-2-2 with



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School freshman Eli Petro drives to the rim off of a baseline-out-of-bounds play during Saturday's 64-59 victory over the Fort Recovery Indians. Petro scored nine points and blocked a shot in his first career start.

their length, that's a tough matchup to play your first game in. But I'm really happy with our kids' performance."

The first half was played

close with seven lead changes. Fort Recovery owned the largest lead of the half at eight points after Colson Post hit a three and Grant Fortkamp

scored off of a steal in the backcourt to open the second quarter.

Trailing 21-13, Bomholt called a timeout to try and get

his team back on track. Shortly after, Gradin Swoveland — who finished as the game's leading scorer with 19 points — hit a pull up jumper to start chipping into the lead. On the next play, Swoveland stole the ball away and raced down to the other end of the floor for a dunk that got the crowd involved in the game.

"Everyone gets pumped about a dunk, I mean that's just basketball," said Swoveland, who bounced back after only scoring eight points on three field goals against Woodlan. "With them having the lead, I think that just switched the momentum and it gave us the energy to take the lead back and not give it up."

The Tribe called their first timeout following the slam, but JCHS tied the game at 21 with back-to-back buckets by Aiden Phillips.

A 3-pointer from Braylon Dilworth and a free throw by Breaker Jutte reclaimed the lead for FRHS, but it flipped back to Jay County before the intermission as Tucker Griffin put home a three assisted by Swoveland and scored on a drive.

Jay County established an advantage in the third quarter, outsourcing the Indians 19-11. The Patriots hit 9-of-10 shots in the quarter, including three shots from Cole Forthofer, while only turning the ball over four times.

Fort Recovery started to make a comeback, hitting four threes, five free throws and getting six points inside the paint from Jutte, but they couldn't slow down the Patriots enough.

See Response page 7

Defense, boards

FR girls get turnovers, own glass to defeat Jay County

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Alexis Sibray started out on fire.

Once she cooled off and the Indians were able to implement their defensive strategy, the trajectory of the game flipped.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team forced 21 turnovers with its pressure defense, Cameron Muhlenkamp limited Jay County leading scorer Hallie Schwieterman and the Indians dominated the glass for a 59-32 victory over the Patriots.

"We're playing really well right now," said FRHS coach Tyler Dietsch. "Our last couple games, we made some adjustments and things are really coming together for us. Defensively, we're able to put some pressure on and it leads to easy offensive opportunities for us. Everything just feeds off of that."

After playing well in the opening quarter, Jay County (3-4) gave the ball away eight times in the second. It was 0-for-5 with five turnovers before Schwieterman recorded its first points of the period on free throws.

The Patriots continued to struggle to find consistent offense in the second half, getting outscored 35-13.

"If we could have played four quarters like we played the first two, I think we would have been in a position to possibly win it," said JCHS coach Sherri McIntire, whose team suf-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Kennedy Muhlenkamp of Fort Recovery High School drives past Jay County's Alexis Sibray during the first quarter Saturday afternoon. Sibray scored seven of the Patriots' first dozen points while Muhlenkamp totaled a game-high 16 to lead the Indians to a 59-32 victory.

fered its third consecutive loss. "Two things that are so important to basketball — rebound and turnovers — we're not very good at either one of those right now. ...

"They just pointed out our weaknesses. Obviously they killed us on the boards. ...

"Turnovers too. We're just not being very fundamentally sound right now." Sibray hit a pair of 3-pointers for the Patriots as they built a 12-6 lead, but

the game shifted after Kennedy Muhlenkamp (16 points) hit a pair of free throws with 2:51 remaining in the opening period. Finally able to get into its full-court pressure defense — Fort Recovery sought to force the ball to the sidelines for a trap and then take away the pass back to the middle — the home team closed the quarter on an 8-1 run and then scored the first eight points of the second to take control.

See Defense page 7

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