

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Former president dies at age 100

By **SCOTT KRAFT**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer and little-known Georgia governor who became the 39th president of the United States, promising “honest and decent” government to Watergate-weary Americans, and later returned to the world stage as an influential human rights advocate and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has died.

He was 100.  
When his turbulent presidency ended after a stinging reelection loss in 1980, Carter retreated to Plains, his political career over. Over the four decades that followed, though, he forged a legacy of public service, building homes for the needy, monitoring elections around the globe and emerging as a fearless and sometimes controversial critic of governments that mistreated their citizens.

### *Carter forged career of public service after his time in office*

He lived longer than any U.S. president in history and was still regularly teaching Bible classes at his hometown Maranatha Baptist Church well into his 90s. During his post-presidency, he also wrote more than 30 books, including fiction, poetry, deeply personal reflections on his faith, and commentaries on Middle East strife.

Though slowed by battles with brain and liver cancer and a series of falls and hip replacement in recent years, he returned again and again to his charity

work and continued to offer occasional political commentary, including in support of mail-in voting ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

Carter was in his first term as Georgia governor when he launched his campaign to unseat President Gerald Ford in the 1976 election. At the time, the nation was still shaken by President Richard Nixon’s resignation in the Watergate scandal and by the messy end of the Vietnam War.

See **President** page 2



Tribune News Service/The Atlanta Journal-Constitution/Bob Andres

Former President Jimmy Carter discusses his cancer diagnosis in 2015 at the Carter Center in Atlanta. Carter, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, died Sunday at age 100.

# Top 10

Jay County Junior-Senior High School was severely damaged during a tornado on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 22. Pictured above, a piece of metal debris is intertwined with a snapped tree in front of the junior-senior high. All Jay Schools were closed the next day, with the junior-senior high shuttered for a full week. Students were then shifted from the damaged section of the building to underutilized spaces before moving to mobile classrooms on Dec. 2. The Commercial Review’s staff selected the tornado and the extensive damage to the school as its top local news story of 2024.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Tornado leads news in '24

By **RAY COONEY**  
and **BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

There are ties that bind small communities together:

- Longtime businesses that are passed on from generation to generation.
- Events that residents look forward to every year.
- Individuals who forge progress by their lifetime of commitment.

It can be argued, though, that small communities are centered around their schools. They are not only the places entrusted with educating our youth, but they serve as hubs for activities

in athletics, the arts and a wide variety of other areas.

So when something big happens with schools, its impact is wide-ranging.

For that reason, The Commercial Review has chosen the Sept. 22 tornado that hit Jay County Junior-Senior High School as its top local news story of 2024.

This marks the second year in a row that a storm or storms have topped the list, as in 2023 our top story was the combination of multiple wind storms — two confirmed tornadoes in April and a damaging derecho in July.

The remainder of our top 10

stories — it’s important to note that we compile the list not so much for the purpose of ranking importance, but of providing a look back at the year that was — for 2024 are as follows:

2. Opening of two early learning facilities
3. Ongoing U.S. 27 project in Portland
4. Commissioners controversy and conflict with JCDC
5. Jail officers and former deputy charged
6. Solar eclipse passes over Jay County
7. Lawsuits filed against dean, teacher arrested

8. Redkey Town Council infighting

9. Portland City Council, mayor turmoil

10. Driving, dealing result in prison sentences

### 1. School struck

A tornado that hit just before 8 p.m. on a Sunday evening caused major damage to the junior high/IMC (library) wing of the junior-senior high school. (Its other most significant damage was to a house across Indiana 67 from the school and to the second floor of the American Legion post in Portland.)

See **Top** page 5

## Holcomb to give bonus, but no increase

By **NIKI KELLY**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Gov. Eric Holcomb is giving a one-time bonus to all state employees, but no pay raises this year after a modest revenue forecast.

“It is important to recognize your efforts to improve the lives of Hoosiers but also in a way that our current state biennial budget, which ends June 20, 2025, will support,” he said in a letter sent to state employees Monday morning.

“In most years, we have been able to provide employees with a base-building salary adjustment; this time, full-time employees of the executive branch employed on or before Dec. 20, 2024, will receive a one-time, non-base building stipend of \$1,250 in their Jan. 15, 2025, paycheck. Part-time and intermittent employees will receive \$650.”

That stipend will cost state coffers between \$20 million and \$22 million, according to budget officials.

Indiana has about 32,000 full-time state employees — the highest in recent memory. The number has grown steadily except for a dip around the pandemic.

Last year, state employees received a performance-based bonus between \$500 and \$1,500 as well as a 3% cost-of-living adjustment or pay raise.

To address low pay, Holcomb previously implemented a \$1,300 salary increase, followed by a 2.5% salary increase for all state employees in January 2022; this salary adjustment resulted in an average increase of 5% for employees and was the first general salary increase in Indiana since 2008.

The move to deny pay raises comes as statewide elected officials will receive substantial hikes starting in January. Lawmakers included the increases in the current budget.

See **Bonus** page 2

### Deaths

**Robert Van Skyock**, 87, Winchester  
**Scott Townsend**, 59, rural Montpelier  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature in Jay County climbed to 59 degrees Sunday. The low was 39.  
Tonight’s low will be in the upper 20s with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour and a 50% chance of rain and snow. The New Year’s Day high will be in the lower 30s.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Public Library will host “Remember When” Trivia for participants 55 and older at 10 a.m. Thursday. Registration is required by visiting the library at 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

### Coming up

- Thursday** — A look at our top 10 local photos from 2024.
- Friday** — A review of the top 10 local sports stories from 2024.
- Saturday** — Results from the FRHS boys basketball game at Lincolnview.





## Capsule Reports

### Drunk driving

A Muncie man was arrested after allegedly drunk driving, causing him to crash his truck along Indiana 67 in Jay County on Christmas Day.

Scott L. Bennett, 61, 4501 W. Petty Road, was driving his 2011 Chevrolet Silverado southwest on the highway near county road 500 South when he drove off the road, flipping the truck onto its side.

Police received a call about a pickup truck driving erratically

on the highway about 15 minutes prior to the accident, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.

Bennett was trapped inside the truck. He was administered a blood alcohol level test with results pending. He was also treated for minor injuries, the report says.

Bennett was preliminarily charged with a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He was being held on a \$1,000 bond in Jay

County Jail.

His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

### Failed to yield

An Oklahoma man drove in front of oncoming traffic on Meridian Street in Portland, causing a collision about 1:22 p.m. Thursday.

Kylen D. Sills, 20, Tuttle, was driving his 2016 Ford Focus on Main Street and began crossing the intersection with Meridian

Street. At the same time, Thomas Clutter, 78, Portland, was driving his 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt south on Meridian Street. Sills drove in front of Clutter, and Clutter's vehicle crashed into Sills' car.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

### Turning accident

A Portland woman crashed her car into another Portland woman's car at the intersection

of Ben Hawkins Avenue and Votaw Street about 7:40 a.m. Friday.

Chasity D. Chapman, 47, was driving a 2005 Ford F-150 on Votaw Street when she turned north onto Ben Hawkins Avenue. She struck the side of a 2019 Chevrolet Malibu driven by 47-year-old Suzanne E. Arnold, who was stopped on the road waiting to turn onto Votaw Street.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

## CR almanac

Wednesday 1/1	Thursday 1/2	Friday 1/3	Saturday 1/4	Sunday 1/5
<b>32/22</b>	<b>32/25</b>	<b>29/15</b>	<b>23/17</b>	<b>24/15</b>
New Year's Day looks to be mostly cloudy with wind gusts up to 25 mph.	Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the low 30s.	Mostly sunny on Friday, when the low at night may reach down to 10 degrees.	Saturday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the 20s.	There's a 50% chance of snow on Sunday, when the high may hit the upper 20s.

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
Estimated jackpot: \$163 million

21-22-31-32-36-37-38-39-40-41-51-53-64-68-69-71  
Cash 5: 1-4-20-22-34  
Estimated jackpot: \$158,000

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

**Hoosier**  
Sunday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 2-5-4  
Daily Four: 2-6-4-9  
Quick Draw: 5-8-9-12-13-20-23-27-31-33-35-50-52-60-61-62-66-67-68-75  
Evening  
Daily Three: 2-2-2  
Daily Four: 6-4-3-1  
Quick Draw: 1-2-5-14

**Ohio**  
Sunday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 7-0-1  
Pick 4: 9-2-5-0  
Pick 5: 5-6-7-6-6  
Evening  
Pick 3: 9-8-2  
Pick 4: 0-9-9-6  
Pick 5: 1-1-3-9-3  
Rolling Cash 5: 4-10-11-20-23  
Estimated jackpot: \$192,000

## Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....4.55  
Feb. corn .....4.57  
March corn .....4.59

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....4.53  
Jan. corn .....4.53  
Feb. corn .....4.56

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn .....4.48  
Jan. corn .....4.48  
Beans .....9.82

Jan. beans .....9.82  
Wheat .....4.98

**ADM Montpelier**  
Corn.....4.44  
Jan. corn .....4.44  
Beans.....9.74  
Jan. beans .....9.74  
Wheat .....4.93

**Heartland St. Anthony**  
Corn.....4.55  
Feb. corn .....4.55  
Beans.....9.57  
Jan. beans .....9.57  
Wheat .....4.88

## Today in history

In 1600, the East India Company was incorporated by English royal charter. It was formed for trade with East and Southeast Asia and India. It would later become involved in politics, acting as an agent of British imperialism.

In 1775, American troops led by Gen. Richard Montgomery and Col. Benedict Arnold lost to the British in the Battle of Quebec. Montgomery was killed during the attack on the British stronghold.

In 1857, Queen Victoria of England named Ottawa, a city in Ontario where the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau rivers meet, as the capital of Canada.

In 1937, actor Antho-

ny Hopkins was born Philip Anthony Hopkins in Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, Wales. He won an Academy Award for his role as Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs" and has received several other nominations.

In 1972, Roberto Clemente of the Pittsburgh Pirates died in a plane crash on a trip to provide relief supplies to earthquake survivors in Nicaragua. Clemente finished his Major League Baseball career with exactly 3,000 hits.

In 2013, the Rev. Ruth Funk took over as pastor of Hopewell of Life Ministries a day after the retirement of the Rev. Herb Hummel.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Thursday**  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.  
5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

**Monday**  
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.  
7:30 p.m. — Fort

Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

**Jan. 7**  
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.  
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.

7 p.m. — Salamoniam Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

## Obituaries

### Robert Van Skyock

July 5, 1937-Dec. 28, 2024

Robert "Bob" Van Skyock Sr., age 87, a resident of Winchester, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, at Water Edge Nursing Home in Muncie. He was a former Portland resident.

Bob was born July 5, 1937, in Portland, Indiana, the son of William and Edith (Reid) Van Skyock. He worked for Jay School Corporation for over 25 years as a custodian at Jay County High School. Bob married Patricia Maloy on April 23, 1960.

Survivors include: His wife of 64 years — Patricia Van Skyock, Winchester, Indiana Children — Robert "Bob" Van Skyock, Jr. (wife: Sheila), Winches-

ter, Indiana, Debra Van Skyock, Yorktown, Indiana, and Ivan Van Skyock (wife: Julie), Yorktown, Indiana

Several grandchildren and great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Jason and Chad Van Skyock; four brothers, James Ogan, Russell Ogan, Jim Van Skyock and Gerald Van Skyock; two sisters, Genieve Bajcer and Delee Pogue; and great-great grandchild Waylon Baylee Dennis.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Green Park Cemetery in Portland. Pastor Phil Jellison will officiate.



Van Skyock

Arrangements are entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

**Scott DeWayne Townsend**, rural Montpelier, April 26, 1965-Dec. 26, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. today at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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.

## President ...

Continued from page 1

As a moderate Southern Democrat, a standard-bearer of what was then regarded as a more racially tolerant "new South," Carter promised a government "as good and honest and decent and competent and compassionate and as filled with love as are the American people."

But some of the traits that had helped get Carter elected — his willingness to take on the Washington establishment and his preference for practicality over ideology — didn't serve him as well in the White House. He showed a deep understanding of policy, and a modesty and disregard for the ceremonial trappings of the office, but he was unable to make legislative deals.

Even though his Democratic Party had a majority in Congress through-

out his presidency, he was impatient with the legislative give-and-take and struggled to mobilize party leaders behind his policy initiatives. His presidency also was buffeted by domestic crises — rampant inflation and high unemployment, as well as interminable lines at gas stations triggered by a decline in the global oil supply exacerbated by Iran's Islamic Revolution.

"Looking back, I am struck by how many unpopular objectives we pursued," Carter acknowledged in his 2010 book, "White House Diary."

"I was sometimes accused of 'micromanaging' the affairs of government and being excessively autocratic," he continued, "and I must admit that my critics probably had a valid point."

Carter's signature achievements as

president were primarily on the international front, and included personally brokering the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel, which have endured for more than 40 years.

But it was another international crisis — the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Iranian revolutionaries and the government's inability to win the release of 52 Americans taken hostage — that would cast a long shadow on his presidency and his bid for reelection.

Carter authorized a secret military mission to rescue the hostages in April 1980, but it was aborted at the desert staging area; during the withdrawal, eight servicemen were killed when a helicopter crashed into a transport aircraft.

See President page 5

## Bonus ...

Continued from page 1

In the letter to employees, Holcomb praised the significant contributions state employees made to improve the lives of Hoosiers.

"It was my great honor to cut the ribbon on the final leg of I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis this summer, opening even greater opportunities for us from border to border. The Department of Health is finishing the first year of Health First Indiana, bringing more resources to local communities to improve the health of their residents. And I've traveled across the state to see the progress we're making on capital projects that will impact Hoosiers in a variety of ways, from the Indiana Archives building in downtown Indianapolis to the new lodge at Potato Creek State Park and a state-of-the-art facility for the Department of Correction at Westville that will be known as the Northwest Indiana Correctional Facility. I'm so

proud of these efforts and so many more that you are working to execute each and every day."

### SERVICES

Today

**Day, Larry:** 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

**Townsend, Scott:** 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Thursday

**Burk, Joslyn:** noon, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

**Van Skyock, Robert:** 2 p.m., Green Park Cemetery, Portland.

Service listings provided by

**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

## Musty Basement? WE CAN HELP!

- ✓ Basement Waterproofing
- ✓ Indoor Air Quality
- ✓ Foundation Repair
- ✓ Crawl Space Service



**ERIEHOME** **\$750 OFF** Plus FREE Home Air Quality Test (\$399 value)

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE  
**1-866-642-5916**

New orders only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

# GREAT SELECTION

of newspaper roll ends

## FOR SALE!

Stop by our office or call TODAY!

# GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

Publishers of

**The Commercial Review**  
Portland, Indiana  
**The News and Sun**  
Dunkirk, Indiana

**The News-Gazette**  
Winchester, Indiana  
**The News Times**  
Hartford City, Indiana

309 West Main Street  
Portland, IN 47371

## 260-726-8141

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm



# It's an absolutely wonderful life

By JAMES FULKES  
The Commercial Review

I'm sitting here in an old 1866-built humble Hoosier heartland homestead farmhouse on Christmas Day evening, reflecting.

Yes, gifts were indeed exchanged. But, for me, each passing year seems to drive the point home more and more, that it's just not about that.

I've accumulated a lifetime of stuff.

I could build closets and

## Fulksy Mayhem



additional storage buildings to stockpile it and would need to build more. The fridge and freezers are full.

There are three cars in the driveway.

All of this is truly wonderful.

However, none of it is what makes a truly wonderful life.

What has made this year truly wondrous for me has been the relatively recent reconnection with some of my old U.S. Navy colleagues through the magic of social media.

And the ability to see four grandsons all making their own way in life and all four being fine young men who fill me

with pride and wonder at what and who they've become in their lives. They are lives that I have been both honored and privileged to be a part of since the day each was born.

The youngest is a teenager and the oldest turns 31 here in mere weeks. Where did the time go?

Then, there's the added blessing of holding a precious little great granddaughter on Saturday

and being with her three brothers. Yep, I have four great-grandkids already.

I just watched the original "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" on NBC this evening, followed by the classic year-2000 version with Jim Carrey.

Of course, we all know at the end he grows a heart three sizes bigger and does the right thing.

This evening, in a now-quiet house, I have a heart that's overflowing with blessings and plenty.

I'm a better man for it.

And if I, like the Grinch, could steal all of your Christmases and then redeem myself in the end, by returning them, I would happily bless all with a tenfold blessing, were it within my ability to do so.

Officially, Christmas is over.

It's time to move on.

It's cliché to say it, but, for me, it's an absolutely wonderful life.

A wonderful life indeed.

# Electrician shares unreciprocated feelings

DEAR ABBY: I am a widow of two decades who has raised a family in an old historic home in a small island town. In the course of renovating and maintaining the home, a father-and-son electrician team have been like family.

During the past year or so, the dad, who is in his late 70s (older than I am) has started making unwanted romantic overtures in the form of suggestive or lovey-dovey texts, emails, phone calls, invitations to lunch or cocktails and professions of having harbored "secret fantasies" while working for me throughout the years. What's even worse is that his romantic partner of decades is in a mid-range stage of dementia.

I find this annoying and insulting, and I have politely discouraged or tried to deflect his overtures with humor. Fortunately, he does not live on the island, but if he sees my car in town, he begs me to meet up for a "quick hug."

Electricians of his caliber are rare, and I really can't afford to lose him. His moonlighting rates have always been a "friends and family" deal. His

## Dear Abby



son has taken a job with a big outfit and is rarely available. How do I pull the plug on the dad's amorous advances, without him blowing a fuse? — EXTINGUISHED IN MAINE

DEAR EXTINGUISHED: Tell this man in plain English that you think he is a terrific friend, but you are morally opposed to involving yourself romantically with anyone whose partner is ill. He needs to hear it.

DEAR ABBY: My mom and two sisters constantly complain about their physical ailments. None of them has been evaluated or diagnosed by a physician. They have tried repeatedly to treat themselves with outdated advice and cure-alls that aren't backed by scientific information.

I have tried to express to

them the importance of proper nutrition and resistance training, since building and keeping muscle is so important as we age. Abby, I'm no expert, but I have transformed my body and my life with those simple rules. My mom and sisters are so defensive and dismissive of my advice, I've all but given up trying to talk to them.

If they won't at least try something new to feel better, how can I deal with their constant complaining? Do I keep suggesting the same things to them? Do I ignore their complaints? — FAMILY HELPER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HELPER: Because trying to guide your mother and your sisters toward a healthier lifestyle hasn't worked and has become a source of frustration for you, stop trying to help. They have tuned you out, and your efforts are wasted. A step in the right direction would be to ignore their complaints and change the subject rather than give them advice they won't follow.

DEAR ABBY: My close friend "Janine" complains to me

about the horrible way her daughter speaks to her and always brings up the past. Janine has asked her daughter to forgive her for anything done in her childhood that has caused her grief. She has apologized hundreds of times, but her daughter won't drop it.

Janine's counselor told her to quit allowing her daughter to treat her disrespectfully, so she has stayed away with no contact. Now her daughter has reached out saying she really wants a relationship with her, but they would have to agree to disagree because she wasn't going to change and knew her mom wasn't going to, either.

Janine found religion years ago and she has changed. I told her she needs to establish boundaries for herself and not allow anyone to cross them. She is not really sure how to handle this situation and feels guilty about the whole thing. What's your opinion on this matter? — PAINED FRIEND IN VIRGINIA

DEAR FRIEND: Not knowing how abusive your friend Janine may have been to her daughter when she was young, I hesitate to render

an opinion. I do, however, think it would be in everyone's best interest if Janine would accept her daughter's olive branch ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY SCHEDULE SOME SESSIONS WITH JANINE'S COUNSELOR TO MEDIATE. If they do this, it may be more enlightening and less painful for both of them, and it may open a healthy line of communication.

DEAR READERS: Oh, how quickly the past year has flown! I wish you all a happy, healthy and successful 2025. I join you tonight in toasting a New Year that will be filled with hope for all of us. If you are celebrating tonight, please take measures to protect not only your own health but also the safety of others. Happy New Year, everyone! — LOVE, ABBY

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

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

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.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

## 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.

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

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

Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

## Friday

PAST RECOVERY 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.

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

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

## 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.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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.



BATH REMODEL

**Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.**

CALL NOW 866.937.1159

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**Waiving All Installation Costs!**

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 3/30/25.



**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!**

Before



After



**LIMITED TIME OFFER! SAVE!**

UP TO **50% OFF** INSTALLATION



**FREE ESTIMATE**

**1.866.781.6023**

MADE IN THE U.S.A.  
Expires 4/30/2025

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erie-licenses/

Here Comes the **Bridal Season!**



BRIDAL SECTION ADVERTISING SPECIALS

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is Monday, Jan. 20

Our brides special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester) and The News Times (Hartford City)



full-page color — \$625

full-page B&W — \$525

1/2-page color — \$425

1/2-page B&W — \$325

1/4-page color — \$275

1/4-page B&W — \$225

Big business card (3x3.5) — \$105

Business card (2x2) — \$52

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





# Take time to remember, wonder

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Dec. 31, 2014. Folks will celebrate this evening in a variety of ways. Some will spend it with family. Some will gather with friends. Some may choose for a quiet night at home and maybe even be in bed before the clock strikes midnight. No matter how you spend the evening, take a moment to contemplate the year past and to consider the possibility of what could happen in the year to come.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Right now, there is no plan. That's not unusual at this point. As I write this, New Year's Eve is nearly a week away, we're still digesting Christmas, the last of the houseguests haven't yet caught their flight home, and — let's face it — the notion of staying up until midnight is a little daunting.

## Back in the Saddle



But just the same, we'd like to go into the last holiday of the year with some sort of plan.

We could, if we were feeling ambitious, host a party on the big night.

But as I said, the last of the houseguests haven't yet left. We're looking forward to a few post-Christmas days of quiet, and hosting a New Year's Eve party sounds like way, way too much work.

Besides, if I dozed off at 9:15 p.m., it would be impolite to ask folks to go home so I could go to bed.

We could, with a little less

ambition, try some version of a night on the town. And that's still an option, but at the moment I suspect inertia will prevail. Unless something cataclysmic happens, unless some lightning bolt of an idea pops into our heads, the two of us are likely to end up dozing together on the sofa as the ball prepares to drop in Times Square.

It wasn't always that way. One memorable — if slightly fuzzy in the recollection — New Year's Eve we attended three great parties in a single night.

The first was in Portland at the home of Quentin and Libby Imel on West North Street. Both Quentin and Libby worked at the newspaper, and Connie and I always felt a special fondness for the two of them.

We hit that party first. I suspect that's because once we were out of the way co-workers could let their hair down in true New Year's Eve fashion.

The second party was in Redkey, and it was a little more rollicking. It was at the home of another youngish couple we'd become acquainted with and enjoyed.

The third was in Dunkirk in a house that had once been a funeral home and is now a funeral home again. I still remember Dunkirk attendees to the party coming into the living room and remembering how Uncle Somebody had looked when decked out in his coffin. As I recall, most of the party and conversation took place in the kitchen, perhaps for the reason cited above.

Looking back, that seems incredibly irresponsible on our part.

We had no children at the time, but we could have put others at risk.

Imbibing and driving were accepted behavior back in the 1970s; not anymore.

So chances are, we'll be sedentary on Dec. 31.

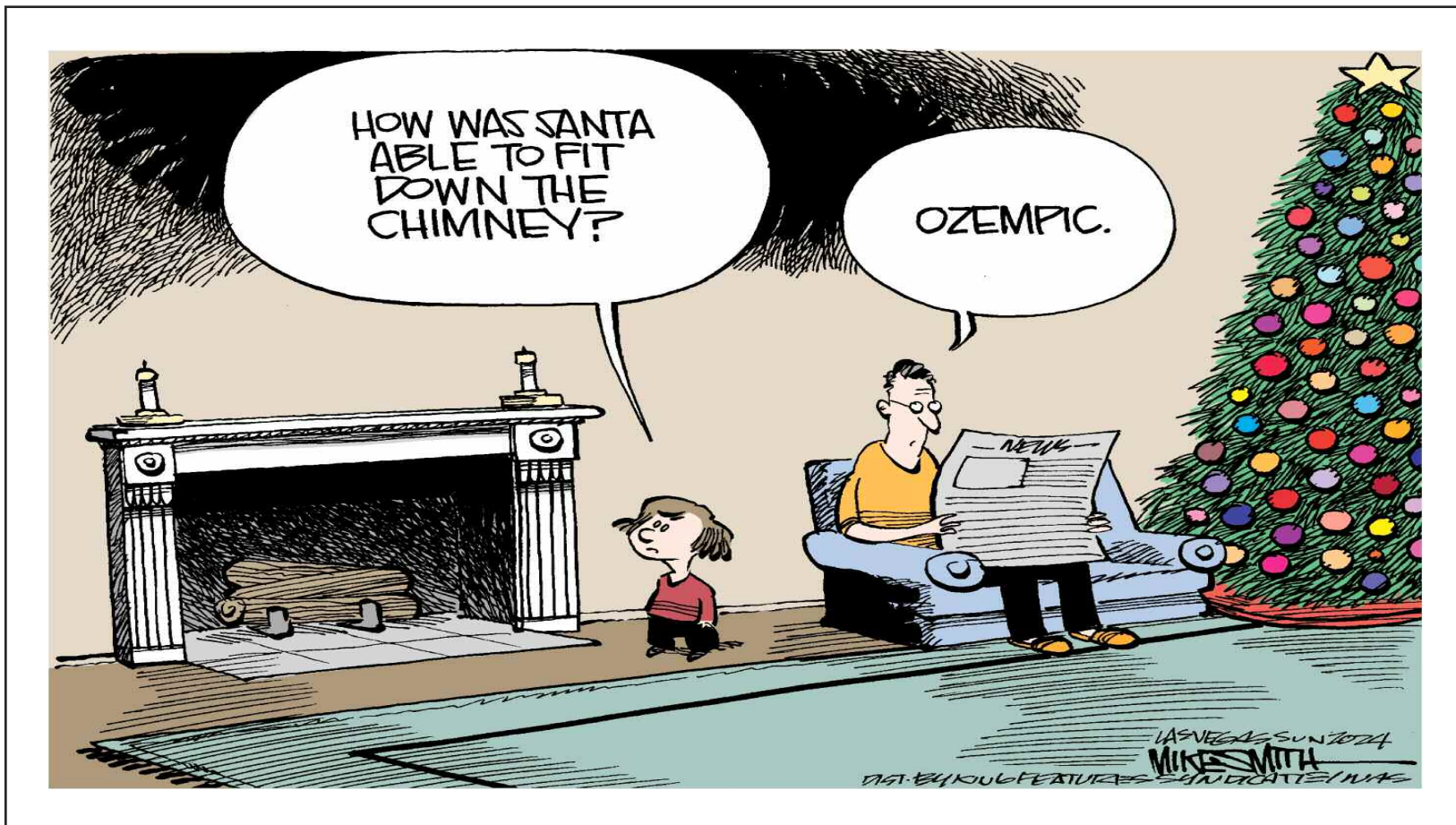
Nothing wrong with that. Sure, there's something to be said for party hats and noise-makers.

But there's something to be said for the absence of same as well.

We'll use the night to reflect on the 12 months just past, how fortunate we've been, what wonderful friendships we've enjoyed, how we've been tested by the challenges that befell us, the folks we've lost.

Then we'll wonder about the challenges ahead, the opportunities, the new people we'll meet, the sunsets and sunrises, the wind in the trees, the smell of mud after a spring rain, the sweat from shoveling snow, grandchildren growing up and all that awaits us in 2015.

So maybe there is a plan after all.



# Americans are tuning out political news

By ARASH JAVANBAKHT  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

"I am definitely not following the news anymore," one patient told me when I asked about her political news consumption in the weeks before the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

This conversation happened around the time I talked with a local TV channel about why we saw fewer political yard signs during this year's election season, compared with past ones.

I am a psychiatrist who studies and treats fear and anxiety. One of my main mental health recommendations to my patients during the 2016 and 2020 election cycles was to reduce their political news consumption. I also tried to convince them that the five hours a day they spent watching cable news was only leaving them helpless and terrified.

Over the past couple of years, though, I have noticed a change: Many of my patients say they either have tuned out or are too exhausted to do more than a brief read of political news or watch one hour of their favorite political show.

Research supports my clinical experience: A Pew research study from 2020 showed that 66% of Americans were worn out by

Arash Javanbakht



political stress. Interestingly, those who are not following the news feel that same news fatigue at an even higher percentage of 73%. In 2023, 8 out of 10 Americans described U.S. politics with negative words like "divisive," "corrupt," "messy" and "polarized."

### The politics of fear

In my 2023 book, "AFRAID: Understanding the Purpose of Fear, and Harnessing the Power of Anxiety," I discuss how American politicians and major news media have found an ally in fear: a very strong emotion that can be used to grab our attention, keeping us in the tribal dividing lines and making us follow, click, tap, watch and donate.

Over the past few decades, many people have felt a strong push for tribalism, an "us vs. them" way of seeing the world, turning Americans against one another. This has led to a point where we are not just in disagreement with each other. We hate, cancel,

block and attack those who disagree with us.

### Information bubbles

It can feel like Fox News and MSNBC commentators are talking about Americas from two different planets. The same is true when it comes to different social media feeds.

Many people are part of social media communities that are closed to the world outside their homes and familiar social circles. Based on people's political views and what they search for or watch and read, social media algorithms feed them content where everybody talks and thinks alike. If you hear about the other side, it is only about their worst attributes and behavior.

The disconnect is so wide that people are not even able to comprehend the thinking of those from other perspectives and find their logic or political beliefs unfathomable.

Many Americans have gotten to the point of believing that the other half of Americans are, at best, unintelligent and stupid; and at worst, immoral and evil.

### Politics and identity

There was a time in American politics where two politicians or two neighbors could disagree, but still believe that the

other person was fundamentally good.

Over time, and more so since the early 2000s, this ability to connect despite political beliefs has decreased.

The majority of both Democrats and Republicans said in a 2022 Pew Research survey that someone's political ideas are an indicator of their morality and character.

This 2022 Pew survey also shows that partisan animosity extends to judgments about character: 72% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats said they believe members of the opposing party are more "immoral" than other Americans.

This is evident in day-to-day conversations of members of both political tribes: "How can I be friends with someone who wants to kill babies," or "How can I talk to someone who is OK with women dying in a corner of a clinic parking lot". We can no longer see someone's political affiliation in the context of their humanity at large.

### What science says

Fear as a deeply ingrained survival mechanism takes priority over other brain functions.

Fear guides your memories, feelings, attention and thoughts, and can cause you to keep watching, scrolling and reading to monitor this perceived

threat. Positive or neutral news could then become uninteresting because it is not important in your survival response. That has been the key to a person's deep engagement with the fear-based political news.

But too much fear does not keep someone engaged forever. That is because of another survival mechanism — what's called "learned helplessness."

In 1967, American psychologist Martin Seligman exposed two groups of dogs to painful shocks. Dogs in group 1 could stop the shock by pressing a lever, which they quickly learned to do. But the dogs in group 2 learned that they could not control when the shock starts and stops.

Then, both groups were placed in a box divided into two halves by a small barrier, and shock was applied to only one side of the box. Dogs in group 1 — who had learned how to stop the shocks in the earlier experiment — quickly learned to jump over the barrier to the shock-free side. But dogs in group 2 did not even attempt to do so. They had learned there is no point in trying.

This experiment has been replicated in different forms with other animals and humans with the same conclusion: When people feel they cannot control the painful or scary situation, they just give up. During

such experiences, the brain's fear region — called the amygdala — is hyperactive. Meanwhile, emotion-regulating brain areas like the prefrontal cortex decrease in activity under these circumstances.

Learned helplessness also means the brain mechanisms commonly involved in regulating anxiety and depression don't function as well.

When working with patients who have suffered from long periods of intense anxiety, fear, trauma and exhaustion, I see learned helplessness showing up in the form of depression, loss of motivation, fatigue and lack of engagement with the world around them.

The COVID-19 pandemic, more than a decade of intense political stress, polarizing social media and wars across the world, as well as public disillusionment with U.S. politics and media, have led, I believe, to many people experiencing burnout and learned helplessness.

If you feel politically exhausted, you are not the problem. Feel free to tune out from the noise.

.....  
Javanbakht is an associate professor of psychiatry at Wayne State University.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

**RAY COONEY**  
President, editor and publisher

**TONIA HARDY**  
Business manager

**LOUISE RONALD**  
Board chair

**BRIAN DODD**  
Production manager

"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

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](mailto: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.

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 176  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

**Subscription rates**  
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.  
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$11; 13 weeks — \$36; six months — \$68; one year — \$122.  
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$44; six months — \$74; one year — \$140.  
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.  
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588



# President ...

Continued from page 2  
The hostages were held for 444 days, a period that spanned Carter's final 15 months in the White House. They were finally freed the day his successor, Ronald Reagan, took the oath of office.

Near the end of Carter's presidency, one poll put his job approval rating at 21% — lower than Nixon's when he resigned in disgrace and among the lowest of any White House occupant since World War II.

In a rarity for an incumbent president, Carter faced a formidable primary challenge in 1980 from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a favorite of the Democratic Party's liberal wing. Although Carter prevailed, his nomination was

in doubt until the party's August convention.

The enmity between Carter and Kennedy, two of the most important Democratic political figures of their generation, continued throughout their lives. In Kennedy's memoir, published shortly after his death in 2009, he called Carter petty and guilty of "a failure to listen." While promoting the publication of "White House Diary," Carter said Kennedy had "deliberately" blocked Carter's comprehensive healthcare proposals in the late 1970s in hopes of defeating the president in the primary.

In the 1980 general election, Carter faced Reagan, then 69, who campaigned on a promise to increase military spending and res-

cue the economy by cutting taxes and decreasing regulation. Carter lost in a 51% to 41% thumping — he won just six states and the District of Columbia — that devastated the man known for his toothy smile and sent him back to his hometown, an ex-president at 56.

A year later, he and Rosalynn founded the Carter Center, which pressed for peaceful solutions to world conflicts, promoted human rights and worked to eradicate disease in the poorest nations. The center, based in Atlanta, launched a new phase of Carter's public life, one that would move the same historians who called Carter a weak president to label him one of America's greatest former leaders.

His post-presidential

years were both "historic and polarizing," as Princeton University historian Julian E. Zelizer put it in a 2010 biography of Carter. Zelizer said Carter "refused to be constrained politically when pursuing his international agenda" as an ex-president, and became "an enormously powerful figure on the international stage."

When Carter appeared on "The Colbert Report" in 2014, host Stephen Colbert asked him, "You invented the idea of the post-presidency. What inspired you to do that?"

"I didn't have anything else to do," Carter replied.

He traveled widely to mediate conflicts and monitor elections around the world, joined Habitat for Humanity to promote

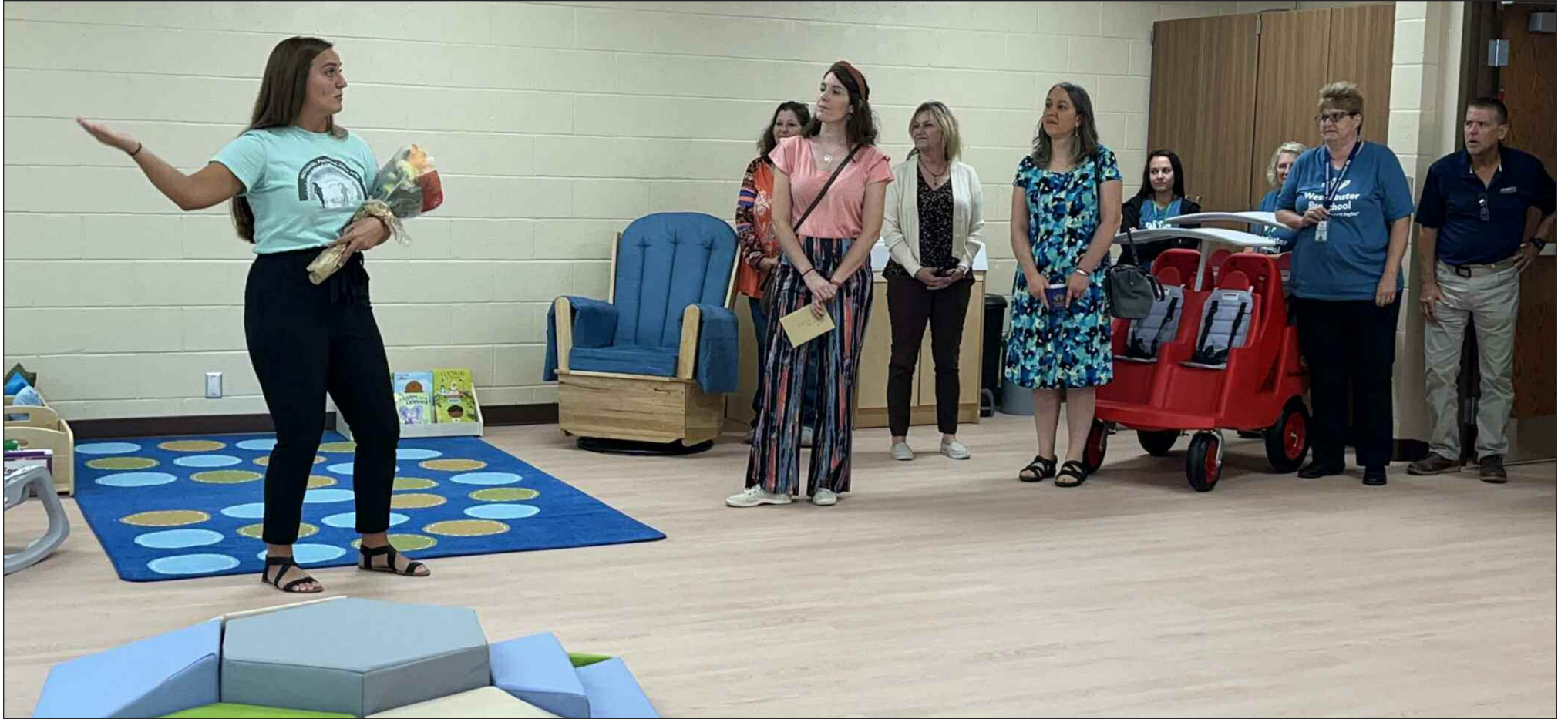
"sweat equity" for low-income homeownership, and became a blunt critic of human rights abuses. He angered conservatives and some liberals by advocating negotiations with autocrats — and his criticism of Israeli leaders and support for Palestinian self-determination angered many Jews.

A prolific author, Carter covered a range of topics, including the Middle East crisis and the virtues of aging and religion. He penned a memoir on growing up in the rural South as well as a book of poems, and he was the first president to write a novel — "The Hornet's Nest," about the South during the Revolutionary War. He won three Grammy Awards as well for best spoken-word

album, most recently in 2019 for "Faith: A Journey For All."

As with many former presidents, Carter's popularity rose in the years after he left office. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for "decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts" and to advance democracy and human rights. By then, two-thirds of Americans said they approved of his presidency.

"Jimmy Carter may never be rated a great president," wrote Charles O. Jones, a University of Wisconsin political scientist, in his chronicle of the Carter presidency. "Yet it will be difficult in the long run to sustain censure of a president motivated to do what is right."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Westminster Preschool at Jay County Early Learning Center was open to the public for the first time during an open house Sept. 26. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the new facility that opened in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School on the west side of Portland.

# Top ...

Continued from page 1

The school was closed for a week. Students were then moved to other areas of the school and are now utilizing mobile classrooms. The damage has already resulted in \$2 million in costs before the expected multi-million dollar reconstruction project has begun.

## 2. Capacity expanded

Jay County saw a huge increase in its early learning capacity this year with the openings of Westminster Preschool Portland at the Jay County Early Learning Center and Toddertown Early Learning Center. The Westminster facility opening late in 2024 in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School marked the culmination of a years-long effort led by The Portland Foundation to expand early learning opportunities in Jay County. It followed the February launch of Toddertown Early Learning Center, an initiative from Pioneer Packaging owners Susan and Wade Kohler. Combined, the facilities can serve about 225 children.

## 3. Ongoing project

An Indiana Department of Transportation construction project on U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) in Portland that started in April will continue into 2025. The project involves paving from county road 200 South to county road 100 North, the installation of new Americans with Disabilities Act sidewalk ramps, sidewalk bump-outs at some downtown intersections and new traffic signals. As 2024 comes to an end, traffic signals still need to be replaced at the Meridian Street intersections with Main, Walnut, High and Lafayette streets. The work was initially



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Construction crews work on the east side of Meridian Street (U.S. 27) at its intersection with Washington Street in Portland on Oct. 17. The work is part of an ongoing Indiana Department of Transportation project that involves paving U.S. 27 through the city, upgrading sidewalk ramps and installing new traffic signals.

expected to be complete in November.

## 4. Meetings, conflicts

Jay County Commissioners' ongoing contract dispute with Jay County Development Corporation stretched through another year and sparked other issues. In May, The Commercial Review questioned the legality of commissioners' discussion about the contract during an administrative meeting and later filed a formal complaint with the state's public access counselor. (A July 31 opinion from the public access counselor agreed that commissioners' discussion of the contract in that meeting was inappropriate.) There was also controversy in July when commissioners made derogatory comments about Jay County Fair Board and Jay County Chamber of Commerce executive director Tabby Sprunger dur-

ing another administrative meeting.

## 5. Misconduct, deception

Two Jay County Jail correctional officers and a former Jay County Sheriff's Office deputy were charged in court this year for criminal acts.

John R. Norris, 33, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in August to sexual misconduct, a Level 5 felony. William B. Bentz, 35, Portland, was charged in May with one Level 5 felony and three Level 6 felonies for sexual misconduct. Both men were accused of engaging in sexual acts with inmates.

Also, former sheriff's office deputy Derek J. Bogenschutz, 36, Peru, was charged in September with identity deception, a Level 6 felony.

## 6. There goes the sun

Indiana communities planned for and experienced a total eclipse April 8.

The phenomenon occurs when the moon blocks out the sun as it passes between the sun and earth allows viewers to see the sun's corona, its outer atmosphere.

Totally — the amount of time the sun was obscured by the moon — ranged between three and four minutes in Jay County, depending on the location. Some out-of-state visitors stopped in local communities to catch a glimpse of the eclipse and participate in various activities planned in celebration of the rare event.

## 7. Lawsuits, arrest

In January, the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed two separate lawsuits against Jay County Junior-Senior High School assistant principal/dean of students Brad Milleman alleging that searches he conducted violated students' rights against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government. Milleman was placed on leave for about two months before returning to work following an independent legal review. In April, junior-senior high teacher Joel Bowers was placed on administrative leave following allegations of misconduct. Accused of masturbating in a classroom with students, he was arrested in October and formally charged with two Level 6 felonies.

## 8. Chaotic council

Redkey Town Council's meetings became contentious, with the council now facing a formal complaint to a state office.

An April meeting devolved into chaos after discussion about the location of a sewer clean out on a Redkey resident's property. Some council members accused others of illegally hiring police officer Chris Boggs without a council

vote. Council later voted to reassign leadership roles.

Council member and former president Dave Dudelston filed a complaint with the Indiana Public Access Counselor's Office against the council, alleging the town board illegally fired Boggs during an executive session and questioned other actions.

## 9. City sparring

Portland City Council meetings had their fair share of bickering as well in 2024, including a nearly three-hour March meeting that included discussion of a sewer rate increase and updates to the city's trash and recreational vehicle ordinances. Council members and Mayor Jeff Westlake sparred again over the RV and trash ordinances in April. There were also heated conversations regarding police pay and take-home vehicles, an order from the mayor that police officers not visit The Greazy Pickle restaurant/bar during their shifts (he has since lifted that order) and the mayor's handling of personnel issues.

## 10. Two sentenced

Two Jay County men were sentenced to prison for crimes resulting in death.

Cody A. Brenner, 34, Dunkirk, was sentenced in September to 20 years in prison for dealing narcotics, a Level 2 felony, in connection with the death of 26-year-old Zachary Long of Dunkirk.

Michael L. Brown, 29, Portland, was sentenced in April to eight years in prison for causing death while operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content equivalent to 0.08% or more, a Level 4 felony. His actions resulted in the death of 18-year-old Bryant resident Devon Drumm.

# No. 1s from the last 10

The top 10 stories have been the year-end fixture in The Commercial Review for decades. Below is a look at the No. 1 stories from each of the last 10 years.

- 2023** — July derecho damaged Portland after April tornados hit rural Jay County
- 2022** — Jay County Fair celebrates 150 years
- 2021** — Coronavirus pandemic continues impact, vaccines introduced
- 2020** — Coronavirus pandemic results in 20 deaths, 1,500 cases
- 2019** — The murders of twin brothers Zayne and Wayne Burroughs

- 2018** — Jay School Board approves reconfiguration of schools
- 2017** — Jay County Hospital integration with IU Health approved
- 2016** — Portland Water Park opens, draws more than 33,000 visitors
- 2015** — Residents arrested for four murders in three separate incidents
- 2014** — The debate about funding and design for Portland Water Park



# New or used, cars are expensive

By **ETHAN BARON**

The Mercury News  
Tribune News Service

Tony Grey needed new wheels, but he didn't want to buy a new car.

It took the retired San Jose computer designer three weeks to locate a used SUV in good condition at the right price, at a Santa Clara, California, car lot.

At \$28,800, the 2023 white Nissan Pathfinder with 40,000 miles was the best deal Grey found — and slightly below the region's average used-car price. The cost of a new version of the vehicle would have been more than \$40,000.

"It had no damage at all, no scratches, the engine was good, and the inside was immaculate," said Grey, 62. "I've done a used car before and as long as you're careful, you do quite well."

Americans wanting — or needing — to buy a car are steering this winter into what experts call an affordability crisis.

"The price of new cars, in general, has become alarming for a lot of people," said Brian Moody, executive editor of Autotrader.com.

Those sky-high costs are pushing many buyers toward used vehicles. But later-model used cars are costly, cheaper ones are scarce, and prices for either new or pre-owned cars remain far higher than before the pandemic.

Nationwide, the average monthly payment for a new vehicle in November was \$753, up more than 30% from just five years ago, said Jessica Caldwell, a head analyst at Edmunds, which tracks the auto industry.

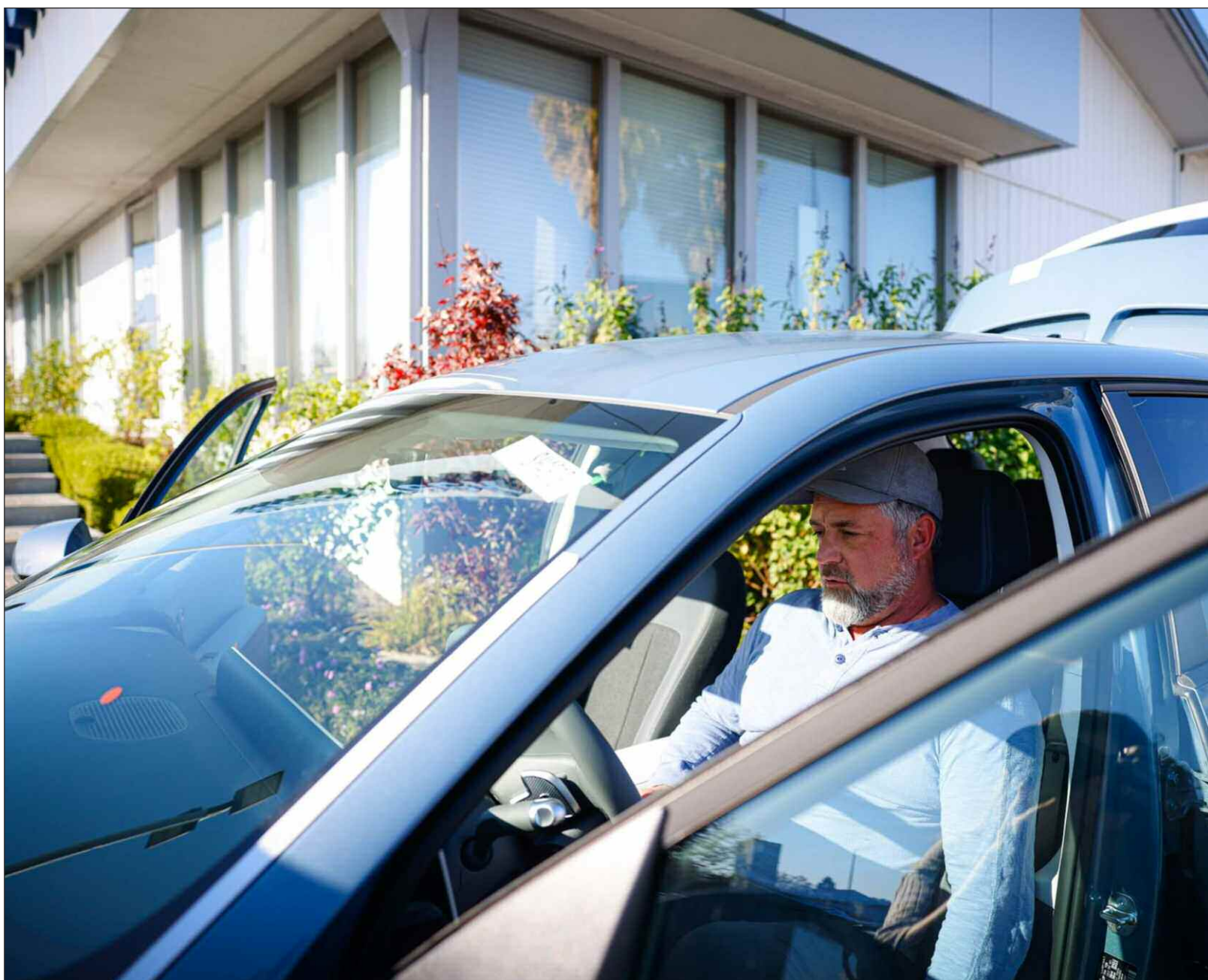
Just five years ago, 23% of new cars cost less than \$25,000, and 43% were under \$30,000, Caldwell said. Many buyers found interest rates as low as 4%, Edmunds reported. Now, only 5% of new cars sell for less than \$25,000, and only 18% are under \$30,000.

"It's hard to find a basic car," Caldwell said.

Adding to buyers' woes is the high price of most everything else. A recent Edmunds study found 54% of people surveyed who were planning to buy a new or used car in the next year said they would have to work extra hours or take a side job to afford it. "This wasn't an issue 10 years ago," Caldwell said.

Used cars averaged \$20,000 before the pandemic, shot to an all-time peak of \$31,095 in 2022, and now come in around \$28,000 across the U.S. But because the price of used cars flows from the cost of new ones, pre-owned vehicle prices "are not going to be trending back down," Caldwell said.

Meanwhile, auto insurance rates that jumped 24% last year are on a similar trajectory this year, according to insurance comparison firm Insurify, and



Tribune News Service/Bay Area News Group/Shae Hammond

Ray Schubert, of Los Gatos, California, looks at the 2024 Hyundai Ioniq 5 for a friend, shopping for a car at Stevens Creek Hyundai in San Jose, California. Nationwide, the average monthly payment for a new vehicle in November was \$753, up more than 30% from just five years ago. Used cars averaged \$20,000 before the pandemic, shot to an all-time peak of \$31,095 in 2022, and now come in around \$28,000 across the U.S.

have become a crucial factor for many buyers.

"I've heard from a few consumers who say, 'I bought this car, and I called my insurance company and I'm like, what? This is now unaffordable for me,'" Caldwell said.

And incoming President Donald Trump's promised tariffs have added uncertainty to car pricing.

What's a car shopper to do? "Once people understand the difference between their needs and their wants, everything gets a lot easier," said Sultan Mohammad, a salesman at Fremont Toyota in Fremont, California.

Industry analysts say years of low interest rates plus Americans' affinity for big, expensive vehicles with fancy bells and whistles led to skyrocketing new-car prices.

"A lot of people are just priced out of the new car market," Caldwell said. "The used car market is just going to be naturally where a lot of consumers will find themselves, whether they want to or not."

Recovery of auto production

after pandemic-era disruptions, plus new-vehicle loan deals from manufacturers, have softened demand for used cars and stabilized prices, analysts said. But many cars that would have been made early in the pandemic would be hitting the used market in the coming months. Without them, the supply of pre-owned cars is expected to dwindle, boosting prices, Moody said.

Shoppers who can afford a newer-model used car, particularly from popular brands like Honda and Toyota, may find prices high enough that buying new makes more sense.

"It's only a small difference from the used to the new," said Imelda Roldan, 55, of Union City, California, who was eyeing Corollas and Camrys at Fremont Toyota for her 17-year-old daughter.

Lower interest rates on new cars — around 7% — compared to used ones — around 11% — can add to the appeal, Moody said. Rates are higher on used cars because their resale value in case of loan default is less predictable for lenders, accord-

ing to credit-reporting firm Equifax.

Even wildly popular vehicle types like compact SUVs may come with low-interest new-car financing, and some of the best incentives, thanks to some two dozen models now available beyond the pioneering Toyota Rav4s and Honda CRVs, Moody said.

More affordable new vehicles exist, like a Toyota Corolla or Nissan Altima, Caldwell said. Nissan has six models starting at less than \$30,000, and Toyota's Corolla Hybrid SE starts around \$26,000, Moody noted.

Prices for electric vehicles in the U.S. stayed mostly flat from late last year, with November's average at \$59,173.

Dealer incentives and government grants and rebates have risen, and EV leasing deals "have been phenomenal," Moody said. Ray Schubert, a semi-retired auto-industry consultant who often helps friends and colleagues find cars, was checking out electric SUVs for a school principal, and possibly one for his daughter.

"I'm tempted to get something before the end of the year," said Schubert, 54, who worried that a tax credit of up to \$7,500 on leased EVs might disappear under Trump.

Schubert, 54, sees leasing as the best choice for EVs since the technology is advancing quickly.

Affordability is growing into a thorny problem for dealers and automakers, analysts said.

Over the next five years, Caldwell expects new car prices to go up, but probably not steeply, and with more incentives on offer.

Moody expects manufacturers to develop low-cost models, or sub-brands. In five years, many now-new vehicles will hit the used-car market, boosting supply and bringing better deals, Moody said.

Grey said uncertainty about future car prices made him glad he had found his Pathfinder, which has plenty of room for him, his wife and four grandchildren.

"Now," he said, "we're looking at a car that will last us, hopefully, another 20 years."

**Home Idea Center**  
901 Industrial Dr.  
Ft. Recovery, OH  
419-375-4951  
www.ehomeidea.com

**Baird Freeman Funeral Home**  
221 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, IN  
260-726-7171

**Sisters Sweet Escape**  
41 W 275 S  
Portland, IN 47371  
260-202-9591

**Fortkamp Foam**  
3216 Wabash Road  
Fort Recovery, OH 45846  
419-852-1390  
Fortkampfoam.com

**Hopkins Repair, LLC**  
Auto & light truck repair  
Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm  
Call Scott Hopkins  
260-251-0459

**J Wood Products For Sale**  
Sawdust & Firewood Call  
or Text 260-251-1154.  
415 W Water St. Portland.  
7:00 am-3:00 pm.

**Find Local Businesses & Services**

**All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning**  
(260)726-4822  
24 hr Emergency Service  
Serving Portland & Surrounding Areas

**Vormohr Family Dentistry**  
1413 W. Votaw St.,  
Portland  
260-726-7822

**Brigade**  
You're safer with us  
1976 W. Tyson Road,  
Portland, IN 47371  
(260)766-4343  
brigade-electronics.com/en-us

**All Circuit Electrical, LLC**  
5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN  
260-997-8336  
www.allcircuitelectrical.com

**Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition**  
100 N. Meridian St.,  
Portland, IN 47371  
260-251-3259  
Email:  
jcdpcccontact@gmail.com

**Ohio Valley Gas**  
129 E. Main St.,  
Portland  
260-726-8114  
www.ovgc.com

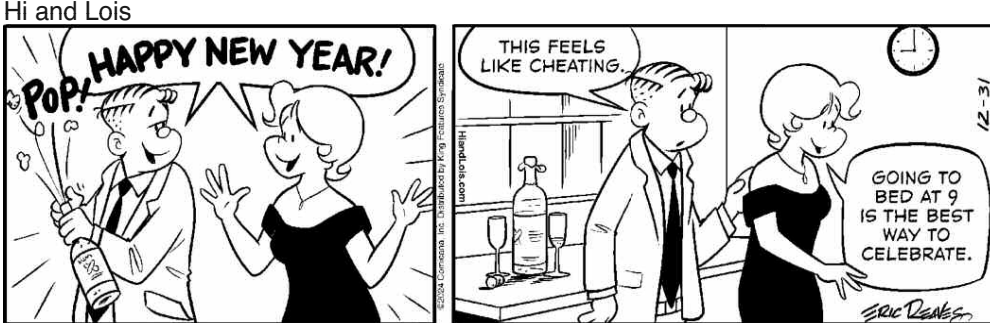
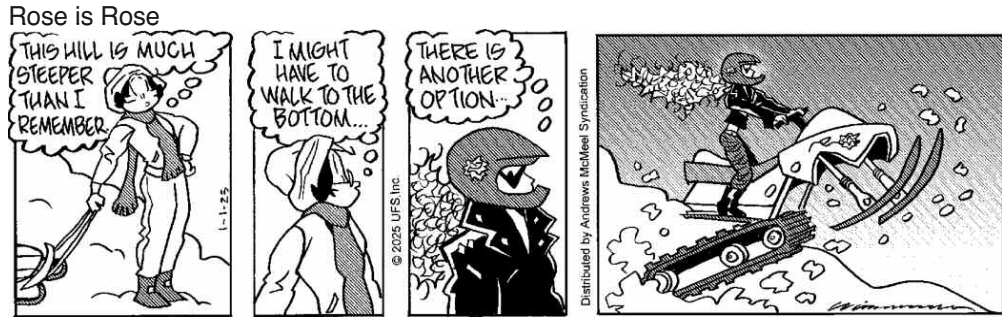
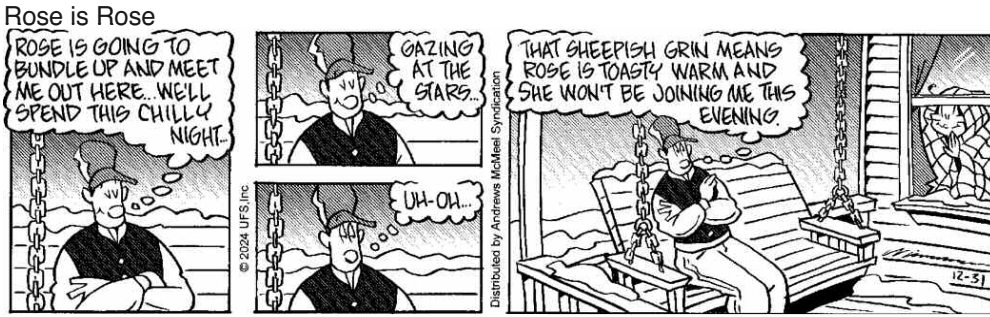
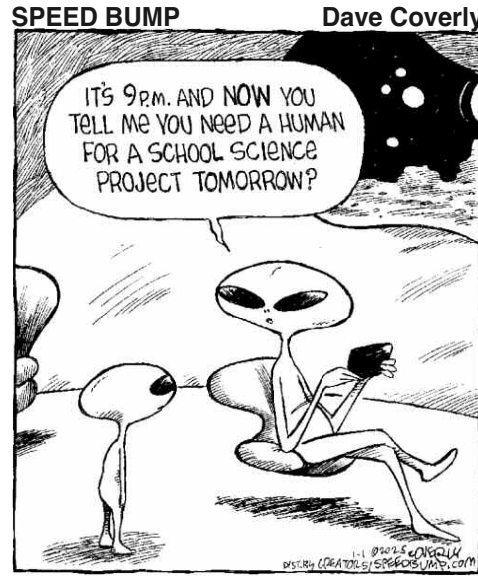
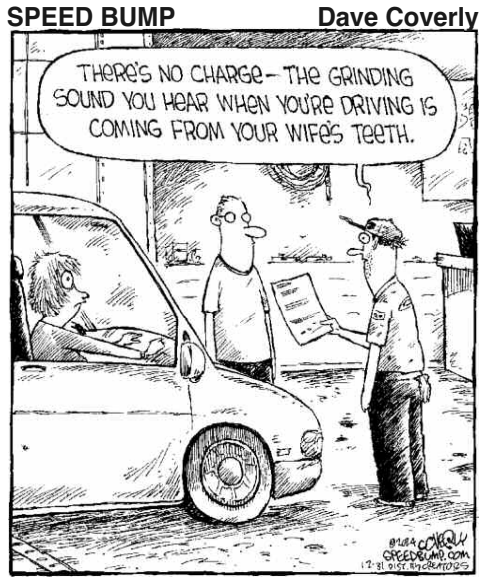
**Display Craft Signs**  
630 E. Votaw St.  
Portland, IN  
260-726-4535

**Dunn Family Dental Care**  
110 W. North St.  
Portland, IN 47371  
260-726-8007

**Williams Auto Parts, Inc.**  
1127 Detroit Ave.  
Portland, IN  
8-5:30 Mon-Fri,  
Closed Sat & Sun.  
Used auto parts  
since 1951  
(260) 726-8001  
www.williamsautoparts.com

This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50. Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included





**We Deliver**

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

**Laughter**

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Look before you leap!

West dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ... WEST ... EAST ... SOUTH ... The bidding: West North East South ... Opening lead — five of clubs.

Humans are creatures of habit — and it would be hard to find a bridge player to whom this generality does not apply. Consider this case where West leads a club against three notrump. Declarer follows low from dummy, winning East's eight with the ten, and returns a low diamond.

one. West scores the last three tricks with the ace of hearts and 9-2 of clubs.

The outcome seems normal, with South appearing to have bitten off a bit more than he can chew. But the fact is that South should have made the contract, and the reason he didn't was that he made a critical error at trick one.

Had South done that, nothing could have stopped him from making at least three notrump after leading a diamond from dummy at trick two. If West won and persisted with clubs, declarer would score three club tricks instead of only two and would wind up with 10 tricks.

The "free" club finesse South gets at trick one by playing low from dummy is a snare and a delusion. South should realize that West must have all three missing aces for his opening bid, so that nothing can be gained — but much can be lost — by playing the three of clubs from dummy instead of the king.

The deal provides an excellent example of the principle that no play, however automatic it might seem, should be made before considering its effect upon the hand as a whole. The first priority is to look before you leap.

Tomorrow: It ain't over till it's over. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

It ain't over till it's over

North dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH ... WEST ... EAST ... SOUTH ... The bidding: North East South West ... Opening lead — king of spades.

When declarer appears to be in a hopeless position, he might do well to remember the old baseball adage, "The game isn't over till the last man's out." South did exactly that in today's deal, and as a result succeeded in a situation that many would have considered a lost cause.

He ruffed the second spade lead and cashed the A-Q of hearts. When West failed to follow to the second heart, it appeared declarer would have to lose a trick in each suit and go down one.

But South did not give up and continued to play on in the hope that East had started with a 3-4-3-3 distribution, in which case the contract could still be made.

At this point, East was known to have started with four hearts and at least three diamonds and three spades. Declarer had to hope that East did not have another spade or the 13th diamond, which would leave him room for at most two clubs.

With five tricks remaining to be played, declarer cashed the A-K of clubs and then, with fingers crossed, led a third club, hoping East would have to win the trick.

When West failed to follow to the second heart, it appeared declarer would have to lose a trick in each suit and go down one. But South did not give up and continued to play on in the hope that East had started with a 3-4-3-3 distribution, in which case the contract could still be made.

12-31 CRYPTOQUIP

AVDDME KBRXC JOTVO SFGS SZRQN EARR GBLZGTMILRX FGR AOXDKO VOGHHE WDWBHGVDREDXN OIVIVTIO MUI FOIDM GKDTJ ACJ GBRVSGHCGTVGWWIM BDVIL QIOVAM. UI'N

ACVMR: OKB OKD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE FLORIST NOTICED ALL HER PINK FLOWERS HAD DROOPED, SHE SHRIEKED "WHAT IN CARNATION?!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 One-named super-model 5 Sub shop 9 Sit-up targets 12 Crèche trio 13 Ms. Brockovich 14 Chou En — 15 Settings for dishes 17 Rapper — Kim 18 Mr. Kringle 19 Immune system agent 21 Bagel features 24 Cabinet dept. head 25 Gas co., for one 26 Unusual 30 Tyler of "Ad Astra" 31 Golf clubs 32 Carte lead-in 33 Log-on need 35 Harrow rival

Solution time: 22 mins.

HOHO SPA BELA MUENSTER EXEC MINIMART SPAT OUT FSTOPS PAINT KILO SIBS ALLOWED ARE GRUMP KIR STKITTS EERO ELTE BIEDO TICTAC OIL ROMO LATTEART ATON ESTEEMED MANE SAO NODS

Yesterday's answer 12-31

1-1 CRYPTOQUIP

AVDDME KBRXC JOTVO SFGS SZRQN EARR GBLZGTMILRX FGR AOXDKO VOGHHE WDWBHGVDREDXN OIVIVTIO MUI FOIDM GKDTJ ACJ GBRVSGHCGTVGWWIM BDVIL QIOVAM. UI'N

GB-SOZF-IMMDTRI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BROODY MUSIC GENRE THAT HAS BECOME REALLY POPULAR AMONG BIG AUSTRALIAN BIRDS: EMU EMO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals M

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Table support 4 Mosque leader 8 Island near Java 12 Terre Haute sch. 13 Terse denial 14 Poetic tributes 15 Ecol. watchdog 16 Faints 18 Word list, for short 20 Japanese pond carp 21 Sty chow 24 Rebuffs 28 Review in detail 32 Pesky insect 33 Friendly leader? 34 Albacore and yellowfin 36 Playwright Levin 37 Finn's floater 39 Revamp 41 Vampire, by nature 43 Nobelist Walesa 44 Bar bill 46 Savory taste 50 Begin anew, as on January 1 55 — Angeles California valley 57 Egyptian river 58 Book-spine abbr. 59 Afternoon affairs 60 Darkens 61 Oklahoma city DOWN 1 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan" 2 Hockey legend Phil, to fans 3 Avocado dip, for short 4 Rorschach pattern 5 Curly's brother 6 Devoured 7 Moo juice 8 Fan disapproval 9 Pt. of speech 10 Author Harper 11 Leb. neighbor 17 "Mayday!" 19 Bat wood 22 Egg 23 Prison-related 48 Disposition 49 Actress Fisher 50 Retired jet 51 Dead heat 52 "I — Rock" 53 Half of XIV 54 Shade tree

Solution time: 23 mins.

IMAN DELI ABS MAGI ERIN LAI PLACEMATS LIL KRIS TCELL HOLES SECY UTIL ATYPICAL LIV IRONS ALA USERNAME ETON COAL ISSUE COHOS GOVT ANA PARTYHATS ATT OHIO EXIT NOS TINE REMY

Yesterday's answer 1-1

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141 ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge.... \$12.40 1 insertion.....62¢/word 2 insertions.....81¢/word 3 insertions.....96¢/word 6 insertions.... \$1.14/word 12 insertions. \$1.52/word 26 insertions. \$1.77/word Includes Online.....FREE Classified Display \$6.95/per column inch No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication. Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one day incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

ISEAMSTRESS NANĪ HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, AppliquÉ, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

GOODHEWIS ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

90 SALE CALENDAR

48TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Saturday February 8, 2025 The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio. For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096 Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800 Machinery consigned by January 17, 2025 can be advertised

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bearcreek Farms, 8341 N 400 E, Bryant, IN January 6th, 2025 6:00 P.M. 75 Acres-Bearcreek Township Jay County, IN Parcel 1-55 acres with 53 acres of tillable ground. Soil types include Blount-Glywood, Pewamo and Glywood clay. Parcel 2-20 acres of woods. Parcel 3-Combination of Parcels 1 and 2. Acreages are subject to pending survey. Farm has access off Highway 27. For more information contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700 LANA NINDE, JULIE HUMMEL, CORBY BUBP AND CHRISTOPHER BUBP Loy Auction AC31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

JAY COUNTY ZONING ADMINISTRATION JAY COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: Cynthia Robinson & Howard Minnick, 11765 W 700 S, Redkey, IN, have filed with the Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals a petition, #SpEx2024-12-11, requesting a Special Exception to the zoning regulations, to wit: Parcel ID: 38-09-28-200-002.000-030 Location of Property Affected: 1,1765 W 700 S, Redkey, IN, on the south side of the road, Richland Township, Section 28 Action Requested: To operate an event venue on said property using the existing old horse barn. The Jay County Zoning Ordinance Article 206.3 requires Special Exception Use approval from the BZA for this type of business. A public hearing will be held by said Board on January 16, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Community Resource Center, 118 S Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana. At that time, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard in reference to matters set out in the petitions. The petition and file on this matter is available for public inspection at the Jay/Portland Building & Planning Department, 118 S Meridian Street / Ste E, Portland, Indiana 47377. If unable to attend the meeting, the Department will accept letters from the public prior to the meeting date. Letters may be sent or taken to the Jay/Portland Building Department. Questions may be directed to the office at 260-726-6904. Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals John Hemmelgarn Zoning Date: 12-23-2024 CR 12-31-2024-HSPAXLP

100 JOBS WANTED

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

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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

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.

190 FARMERS COLUMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

200 FOR RENT

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

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS You never know what you might find in The Commercial Review Classifieds. From a new car to a new home, to a new job, the Classifieds deliver! Go to thecr.com or call 260-726-8141

www.alaskahatingandcooling.com ALASKA Heating & Cooling Albany: 765-789-8036 YOU are the reason we are in business! WE ARE CELEBRATING 29 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

Little JJ's Tree Service Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding. Firewood available 765-509-1956

Dave's Heating & Cooling Furnace, Air Conditioner Geothermal Sales & Service 260-726-2138 Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

E and E Construction Amish Crew BARN RESTORATION Specializing in metal roofs, decks & more FREE Estimates 260-301-1777

BOOLMAN'S Auto Sales & Service, Inc. Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana 260-251-9735

Wendel's Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial Dave Wendel Ph. 260-726-4520 Cell 260-729-2797

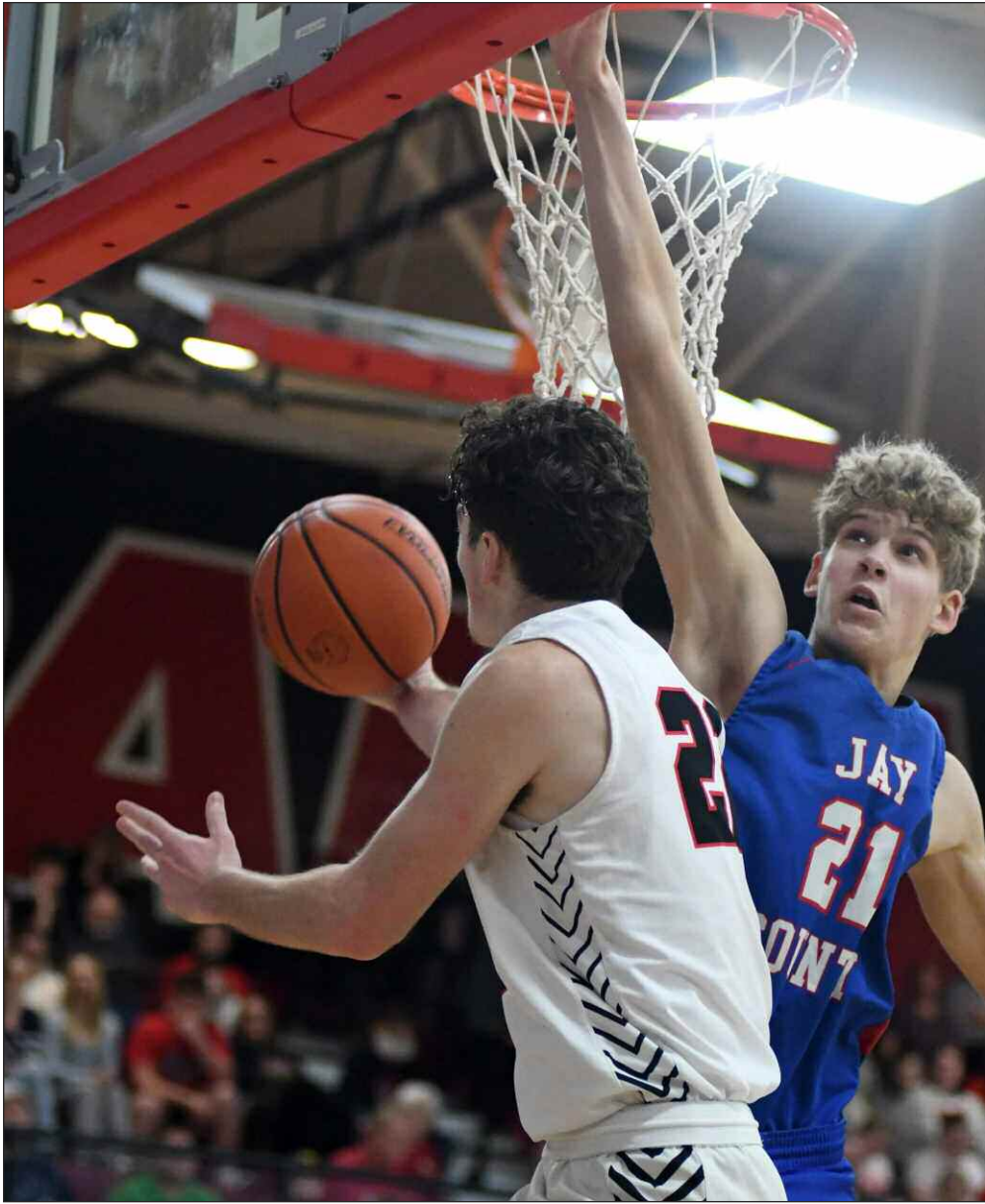
BAIL BONDS Travis Weaver 260-726-3189 across street from Jail

Bricker's Flowers & More 414 N. Meridian St. Portland Call or text to order 260-703-0304 Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday 9:30-3:00 Saturday

MAY FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. ACA Marketplace health insurance OPEN ENROLLEMENT November 1, 2024 to January 15, 2025 MATT FRANKS your hometown agent (260) 729-5200 111 W. Main Street, Portland, IN

Out The CR Classifieds www.thecr.com





The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Eli Petro contests a reverse layup by Camden Bell during Saturday's 50-46 loss to No. 1 Wapahani. Bell hung in the air to make the shot, giving the Raiders a two-possession lead.

## Fall ...

Continued from page 10

Jay County got one more bucket from Eli Dirksen, as he put back an offensive rebound as the final buzzer sounded.

The Raiders got off to a blistering start, nailing six triples in the first quarter. The hot shooting led to a 20-3 run over the first six minutes before Jay County finished the quarter with a Griffin 3-pointer and a put-back by Forthofer.

The Patriots' first-half offensive woes came from a combination of Wapahani's defensive intensity that prevented the ball from reaching the paint easily and the lack of offensive sets being run effectively.

"The thing is, they weren't different plays," Bomholt said. "We weren't trying to run anything different in the second half, but it didn't look that way. It's just a lot different when we are able to actually run the play."

Nate Luce of the Raiders led all scorers with 20 points while hitting six 3-pointers. Eli Andrews followed Luce and Bell with six points while dishing out a game-high six assists. Griffin led the Patriots with 14 points while Comer and Forthofer added 10 apiece.

Box score			
<b>Class 2A No. 1 Wapahani Raiders vs. Jay County Patriots</b>			
<b>Boys varsity summary</b>			
<b>Jay County (3-4)</b>			
	<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Comer	4-11	0-0	10
Fuggett	0-1	0-0	0
Petro	0-2	0-0	0
Dirksen	3-3	0-0	7
Forthofer	5-8	0-0	10
Phillips	1-2	0-0	2
Griffin	6-8	0-1	14
Swoveland	0-7	3-4	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19-42</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>46</b>
	<b>.452</b>	<b>.600</b>	
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .857</b>			
<b>Wapahani (9-0)</b>			
	<b>FG-FGA</b>	<b>FT-FTA</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Wulff	0-1	0-0	0
CarBell	1-2	0-0	3
Luce	6-16	2-2	20
Andrews	2-6	0-0	6
CamBell	8-13	0-0	19
Zickgraf	1-2	0-0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18-40</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>50</b>
	<b>.450</b>	<b>1.000</b>	
<b>Def. rebound percentage: .462</b>			
<b>Score by quarters:</b>			
Jay Co.	8	8	15—46
Wapahani	7	12	11—50
<b>3-point shooting:</b> Jay County 5-12 (Griffin 2-3, Comer 2-8, Dirksen 1-1). Wapahani 12-31 (Luce 6-15, CamBell 3-7, Andrews 2-5, CarBell 1-2, Wulff 0-1, Zickgraf 0-1).			
<b>Rebounds:</b> Jay County 32 (Forthofer 12, Swoveland 4, Comer 3, Dirksen 3, Griffin 3, Team 3, Petro 2, Phillips 2). Wapahani 15 (Andrews 4, Zickgraf 4, Wulff 3, Team 2, CarBell, Luce).			
<b>Assists:</b> Jay County 5 (Swoveland 3, Comer 2). Wapahani 16 (Andrews 6, Zickgraf 3, Wulff 2, Luce 2, CamBell 2, CarBell).			
<b>Blocks:</b> Jay County 3 (Dirksen, Forthofer, Swoveland). Wapahani 0.			
<b>Personal fouls:</b> Jay County 12 (Comer 4, Griffin 4, Swoveland 3, Forthofer). Wapahani 9 (Wulff 3, Luce 2, CamBell 2, Andrews, Zickgraf).			
<b>Turnovers:</b> Jay County 17. Wapahani 8.			

Jay County did find some strength on the glass, ripping down an extra 17 rebounds, including 14 on the offensive end of the floor. Forthofer grabbed the most, with 12 total boards, seven of which were offensive.

### Junior varsity

Contributions from five players in the fourth quarter helped the Patri-

ots take down Wapahani 39-34.

Jacob Monroe and Nick Snow both scored three points in the fourth period, while Brack Wasson, Kaden Sommers and Drew Schemenaur each had a bucket to top the Raiders.

Wasson led Jay County (6-1) with 12 points, followed by Monroe with six.

## Tribe girls fall in fourth quarter to Flyers

MARIA STEIN, Ohio — The Indians only trailed by one point entering the final period.

Despite only allowing one field goal in the fourth quarter, the Flyers found a way to win at the free throw line.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team fell to the Marion Local Flyers 47-37 in the Ohio 119 Classic on Saturday.

The Tribe (4-7) trailed Marion Local (9-0) 32-31 entering the final period. Mya Eckstein scored the only bucket for the Flyers in the final period, but she added six free throws to go with it. Chloe Ronnebaum and Faith Ronnebaum added seven makes at the charity stripe as well.

FRHS only scored six points in the fourth quarter, with Bridget Homan and Makenna

### Fort Recovery roundup

Huelskamp scoring three apiece.

Homan led the Indians with 13 points after dropping 10 in the first quarter. Kennedy Muhlenkamp followed with 12 points, while Karlie Niekamp and Huelskamp added seven and five, respectively.

### Tribe falls

MARIA STEIN, Ohio — The Fort Recovery boys basketball team's defense couldn't slow down the Marion Local Flyers in Saturday's 64-43 loss on Saturday in the Ohio 119 Classic.

The Indians (3-4) surrendered 12 or more points in each quarter, while only managing to reach double digits themselves in the first and second periods.

Sophomore guard Grant Fortkamp led the way for FRHS with 15 points, followed by Gavin Evers and Breaker Jutte with seven each.

Colson Post put up five points in the first half, followed by Brody Barga with four, Briggs Overman with three and Braylon Dilworth with two.

Austin Niekamp led Marion Local (5-0) with 22 points, 10 of which came in the second quarter. Grant Kremer also added 13 points.

### LeFevre leads

MINSTER, Ohio — Fort Recovery's boys bowling team

lost its first Midwest Athletic Conference match to St. Henry 2,950-2,644 on Saturday at Community Lanes.

St. Henry (5-0, 3-0 MAC) had a pair of players average over 200 pins, while only Reece LeFevre met the mark for the Indians (3-6, 2-1 MAC). LeFevre knocked over a match-high 269 pins in the first game before only getting 148 in the second for a 208.5 average pinfall.

The next-best FRHS average came from Gave Acheson with 172.5 after rolling a 192 and a 153.

The Indians also got outplayed in the baker games 1,013-909. Fort Recovery's best game came right at the beginning with a score of 217.

### Kaup places in two

LIMA, Ohio — The Fort Recovery High School swim

teams each had a swimmer place in the top 10 of an event while competing in the Bluffton Holiday Invite at Lima Family YMCA on Friday.

The girls team totaled 43 points to finish 16th in the 20-team field, while Ottawa Glandorf took the top spot with 287. The boys team secured 18th place out of 24 teams by tallying 21 points. Shawnee won the boys' side with 322 points.

Joelle Kaup picked up a pair of top-10 finishes and the best placement of all the Indians on the day. Her time of 26.12 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle earned fifth place. She also added a sixth-place finish in the 100 butterfly, hitting the wall in 1 minute, 7.17 seconds.

Caleb Smith had the best finish for the boys, placing eighth in the 100 breaststroke, swimming a 1:12.28.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Pendleton Heights — 6:30 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
12 p.m. — College football Reli-

aquest Bowl: Alabama vs. Michigan (ESPN)

12 p.m. — College basketball: N.C. State at Virginia (ESPN2)

1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Washington at Illinois (BTN)

2 p.m. — College football Sun Bowl: Louisville at Washington (CBS)

2 p.m. — College basketball: Wake

Forest at Syracuse (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — College football Cheez-It Citrus Bowl: South Carolina vs. Illinois (ABC)

3 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Oregon at Northwestern (BTN)

3:30 p.m. — College football

Kinder's Texas Bowl: Baylor vs. LSU (ESPN)

4 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona State at BYU (ESPN2)

5 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Marquette at Providence (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — College Football Playoff: Penn State at Boise State (ESPN)

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal at Brentford (USA)

1 p.m. — College Football Playoff: Texas vs. Arizona State (ESPN)

3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Nebraska at USC (BTN)

5 p.m. — College Football Playoff: Ohio State vs. Oregon (ESPN)

ball: Michigan at UCLA (BTN)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Butler (FS1)

8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Seton Hall at Villanova (FS1)

8:45 p.m. — College Football Playoff: Notre Dame vs. Georgia (ESPN)

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

# Small Business Spectacular

Advertise your small business (30 employees or fewer) in all of our publications with:

Four 4x4 ads in The Commercial Review  
Two 4x4 ads in The News-Gazette  
One 4x4 ad in The News Times for  
**\$230**

Or run two 4x4 ads in the publication(s) of your choice during January for:  
The Commercial Review — **\$160**  
The News-Gazette — **\$145**  
The News Times — **\$120**

Rates do not apply to special sections.



**THANKS**  
for supporting local business!

**GRAPHIC**  
PRINTING  
NEWSPAPERS

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com



# Patriots fall short

*JCHS gets within two points of top-ranked Raiders but can't complete comeback*

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

SELMA — For the fourth time this season, the Patriots trailed at the intermission.

Despite giving up 20 points in the first quarter and facing one of their toughest opponents, the Patriots didn't back down. But they couldn't complete the comeback to pull off victory.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team got within two points of the Class 2A No. 1 Wapahani Raiders with a minute left in Saturday's game but ultimately fell 50-46.

"They really battled out there," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "To be down that big and fight to come back was nothing small, especially against the No. 1 team in the state. Just proud of the kids."

After Wapahani (9-0) exploded for a 20-8 lead at the quarter break, the Patriots (3-4) won the next two quarters by a combined four points to get within single digits at the start of the fourth. The teams traded baskets over the first 4 minutes, 26 seconds, of the final period before Jay County started to figure things out.

Tucker Griffin started things off for JCHS with a corner three assisted by Swoveland with 3:14 remaining, before adding another basket off of a drive 76 seconds later.

Cole Forthofer converted the front end of a three-point play on a baseline-out-of-bounds play before Swoveland got fouled on a second-chance attempt from Forthofer's missed free throw. Swoveland knocked down both of his foul shots to cap off a 9-0 run for the Patriots and get them within

two points with 1:13 left.

"We had to chip away by getting a stop, then a score, then a stop, then a score," said Bomholt. "We did that and got back into it. The problem was we would do some things right and make some mistakes. We'd get it within two or four, then make some mistakes and it's six or eight again."

The first major mistake came on the next play. After Jayden Comer took a foul to put the ball out of bounds in front of the Raiders' bench, Wapahani got the ball to leading scorer Camden Bell in the near corner. Bell — finished with 19 points on 61.5% shooting — ripped through to get past Forthofer on a baseline drive. The junior met Eli Petro at the basket, but hung in the air for a reverse layup that put Wapahani ahead by four with 45 seconds remaining.

"Camden Bell is a good player and makes winning plays," said WHS coach Matt Luce. "It was designed to throw it to him in the corner and what he does after that is up to him. ... For Camden to make that play at the end was a wonderful play."

The Patriots' second mistake followed on the other end of the floor. Swoveland drove toward the rim and made the shot through contact, but it was wiped away after he was called for a travel.

With 34.6 seconds left and a 48-44 lead, WHS tried to milk the clock away but Jay County fouled Nate Luce twice to send him to the line. The senior guard officially put the game on ice as he knocked down both free throws to go up 50-44 with only 9.8 seconds remaining.

See Fall page 9



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Tucker Griffin, a senior on the Jay County High School boys basketball team, begins to drive to the rim during Saturday's 50-46 loss at Class 2A No. 1 ranked Wapahani. Griffin led the Patriots with 14 points, scoring seven in each half.

**Portland's Largest Selection of FRESH CUT QUALITY MEAT**

**AWARD WINNING MEATS**

**While supplies last, no rain checks**

**Fisher Gift Cards available for purchase! They can be used at either Portland or Muncie locations and never expire.**

<p><i>Bone In Thick Cut</i> <b>Chops</b>     <b>\$3.39</b> /lb</p> <p><i>Bone In Country Style</i> <b>Ribs</b>     <b>\$2.89</b> /lb</p> <p><b>Stuffed Sausage</b>     <b>\$2.99</b> /lb</p>	<p><i>10 lb case of 80/20</i> <b>Ground Beef</b>     <b>\$3.49</b> /lb <i>in 1 lb frozen tubes</i></p> <p><b>Rump Roasts</b>     <b>\$4.99</b> /lb</p> <p><b>Corned Beef Brisket</b>     <b>\$7.99</b> /lb</p>
--	--

**From Fisher's Smokehouse**

Shrimp Cocktail 1 lb frozen bags	.....\$11.99 each
Franks's Sauerkraut 2 lb pkg	.....\$2.99 each
Swiss Cheese	.....\$6.99/lb

**Holiday Specials**

Boneless Prime Rib Roast	.....\$18.49/lb
<i>-seasoned, add 50 cents/lb</i>	
Standing Rib Roast (bone in prime rib)	.....\$17.49/lb
<i>-seasoned, add 50 cents/lb</i>	
Whole Beef Fillet	.....\$22.99/lb
<i>-less than whole</i>	.....\$29.99/lb
Bone In Smoked Hams (17-20 lb avg)	.....\$3.29/lb
Semi Boneless Hams	.....\$3.79/lb
Spiral Sliced, Fire Glazed Hams	.....\$4.99/lb
Boneless Pit Hams (13-16 lb avg)	.....\$4.29/lb
5 lb Boneless Hams	.....\$6.49/lb

**\*\*for half hams, add 30 cents/lb\*\***

**\*while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

**300 W. Walnut St., Portland, IN**  
**(260) 726-7355**  
*Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm • Saturday 8 am-1 pm • Closed Sunday*

**Call your order in today!**  
Freezer bundles are also available. They offer the perfect mix of our most popular cuts of meat in quantities small enough to not crowd your freezer or cramp your budget. Save time and energy with call ahead ordering and have your order ready to go when you arrive.

**www.fishermeats.com**

**JANUARY Specials**

1/4-page **COLOR** ad

**\$225**

1/4-page **B&W** ad

**\$175**

*Ask us about pick-up rates!*

Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in January.

**The Commercial Review**

**GRAPHIC PRINTING**  
NEWSPAPERS

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