

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Notification bill advances

Prescott's measure clears committee

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill regarding notification following accidents is headed to the full House.

State Rep. J.D. Prescott's House Bill 1012 that would require property owners to be notified following a motor vehicle accident on their property unanimously cleared the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee with one amendment Tuesday.

Prescott, who represents the southern two-thirds of Jay County as well as all or

part of Randolph, Blackford, Delaware and Henry counties, presented the bill that calls for property owners to be notified when:

- There is damage to the owner's property, crops or a structure that is reported to a law enforcement officer or agency
- Debris identified by a law enforcement officer or agency is left on the property

Prescott told the committee that the bill was brought to him by a constituent and he agreed to carry it after talking with other farmers. He explained that following accidents debris can be left in fields and remain unseen until harvest time when it can potentially cause damage to farm equipment such as combines.

"As a farm family myself, we ran into this issue on some of our properties as well," he said.

See **Notification** page 2

House GOP reveals priorities

Caucus eyes secession, deregulation and budget

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ and CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In House Bill 1001, the caucus hopes to pass an "honestly balanced" biennial budget, according to a news release. That's despite worsening financial winds.

Revenue is projected to grow — but by less than in recent years — in the first year of the budget, and be flat in the second year.

Expenses like Medicaid could quickly eat that up.

"I know it's a difficult time in terms of revenue, but we will find those priorities and we'll fund those and then go forward from there," said Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton. He chairs the House's powerful, budget-building Ways and Means Committee.

The legislation wasn't posted online as of Tuesday evening.

Budget, schools

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See **House** page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Savoring 600

Jay County High School basketball coach Jerry Bomholt grins with junior forward Gradin Swoveland following the Patriots' 61-14 win over South Adams in the opening round of the ACAC tournament Tuesday that earned him his 600th career win. "Coach, you finally hit 600. I love you. It's an awesome milestone," Swoveland said to Bomholt before the two embraced each other. For the full story, see page 8.



Tribune News Service/dpa/ZUMA Press Wire/Mark Edward Harris

A firefighter battles the fire in Mandeville Canyon neighborhood in Los Angeles, as the Palisades fires rage through the area. The firestorm is expected to be the most costly in U.S. history, consuming what officials estimate could be more than 12,000 structures, including many homes.

L.A. fire threat continues

By HANNAH FRY, RONG-GONG LIN II, NATHAN SOLIS and GRACE TOOHEY
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — A week after flames leveled huge swaths of Pacific Palisades and Altadena, Southern California remained under a severe fire threat as residents still struggled to comprehend the scale of the loss.

An army of firefighters spent Tuesday putting out small fires before they got out of control, and continued building containment lines on the Palisades and Eaton fires in hope of preventing them from spreading. The firestorm is expected to be the most costly in U.S. history, consuming what officials estimate could be more than 12,000 structures, including many homes.

"This is the most devastating natural disaster to hit the Los Angeles area," said L.A. Fire Department Capt. Erik Scott. "I've worked here for 20 years and I've never seen nor imagined devastation to be this extensive."

The reality of the losses came into greater focus as residents lined up Tuesday at two Federal

Firestorm is expected to be most costly in U.S. history

Emergency Management Agency disaster recovery centers opened to assist people whose homes and belongings were destroyed in the fires.

Sonja Jackson waited outside the center with her 3-year-old granddaughter, Amirah, and her 9-year-old son, Aaden, looking for some guidance after her family's initial application for assistance was denied.

The Eaton fire destroyed Jackson's home in Altadena, her mother's home and her daughter's home in a matter of hours. The family cat, Marshmallow, is still missing.

"We all left with the clothes on our back," Jackson, 45, said. "We thought we'd be able to come back in the morning. We didn't think the fires were gonna do what they did."

Jackson, a nurse, now finds herself along with as many as nine family members crammed into her aunt's home. She's hoping to secure some type of temporary housing while she and her family get back on their feet, but her insurance provider, Allstate, will cover only a two-night stay at a hotel. Her plan will also cover only \$20,000 for personal items lost in the fire, Jackson said.

"Which does nothing," Jackson said. "I lost appliances, clothes — mine (and) my granddaughter's. So, what do you do with that money? It will get us an inch, but what happens after that inch?"

While gusty winds were still present across the region for much of the day, the extreme winds that were initially forecast for Tuesday didn't materialize.

Deaths

Shirley Litmer, 76, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 21 degrees Tuesday. The low was 9.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 20s. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with a high in the upper 30s and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Tickets are on sale for Arts Place's 2025 Eric R. Rogers Performing Arts Series. The series will kick off with a performance by the duo Ryanhood at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Tickets are \$9 for students and \$15 for adults and are available at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland, or online at myartsplace.org.

Coming up

Friday — Details from this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.

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Notification ...

Continued from page 1
Committee members asked what types of items might be cause for concern.
Prescott identified tires, bumpers and even drug paraphernalia.
“You never know what you’re going to find — anything that could be in a car or a part of a car after an accident,” he said.
Delaware County farmer Eugene Whitehead testified in support of the amendment, citing three examples of such incidents. He noted a situation in which a vehicle damaged a fence and the law enforcement officer who responded to the scene did not realize there were cattle inside and did not notify the property owner. The result was cattle leaving the fenced area and roaming

the neighborhood, which Whitehead pointed to as a safety and liability issue.
He shared two other incidents in which debris from vehicles was left in fields. In one, a spare tire was noticed before a combine ran over it. In another, small metallic items caused thousands of dollars of damage to a combine.
“Come to find out it was a fatality that happened in our field and we were not aware of it,” said Whitehead, adding that a complete driver’s side panel was also found.
Prescott offered one amendment to his original bill to provide law enforcement agencies flexibility with the notification process as well as eliminating any civil or criminal liability for

law enforcement for failure to notify.
Plainfield Police Chief Kyle Pruitt, representing Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, spoke in support of the measure with the amendment.
“This is a best practice that most, if not all, law enforcement agencies try to do,” he said.
He added that notification can be complicated if the property is held by trust or corporation.
Pruitt also pointed out that state law requires responders to accidents to remove any such debris but that sometimes it can be difficult to locate, particularly if there are crops in the fields.
Whitehead fielded a question from Rep. Jim Lucas (R-Seymour) regarding the cost of farm equipment, noting that a new combine

costs about \$750,000 with additional equipment such as a corn head costing at least \$175,000.
Rep. Becky Cash (R-Zionsville), vice chair of the committee, asked about the ability to get contact information for property owners. Prescott responded that all counties have access to a geographic information system (GIS).
Addressing Pruitt’s concern about trusts and corporations, Prescott said notifying whoever is listed on billing documents would satisfy the law under his bill.
The committee accepted Prescott’s proposed amendment by consent and then approved House Bill 1012 unanimously.
It now heads to the House for second reading.

Obituaries

Jonathan Smith
Nov. 3, 1957-Jan. 13, 2025
Jonathan L. Smith, 67, rural Bryant, died Monday at his home. Services are pending at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 1/17	Saturday 1/18	Sunday 1/19	Monday 1/20	Tuesday 1/21
38/35	38/17	19/-3	5/-4	6/-2
Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with wind gusts reaching up to 25 mph.	There's a 70% chance of snow on Saturday when temperatures will hit the 30s during the day.	Sunday looks to be mostly cloudy and cooler, with temperatures in the mid teens to low 20s.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a wind chill as low as -20.	Another day of mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when wind chills may again hit 20 below.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$303 million	Evening Daily Three: 7-4-8 Daily Four: 4-0-2-9 Quick Draw: 2-3-5-7-14-23-31-32-38-45-46-48-51-56-59-62-64-66-70-72
Mega Millions 4-14-35-49-62 Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$113 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 2-1-3 Pick 4: 1-2-5-4 Pick 5: 8-0-0-5-9 Evening Pick 3: 3-1-8 Pick 4: 0-7-5-4 Pick 5: 5-4-2-7-9 Rolling Cash: 13-15-16-21-23 Estimated jackpot: \$177,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 7-0-0 Daily Four: 8-1-2-5 Quick Draw: 2-5-6-9-10-11-21-24-32-33-35-39-42-45-53-59-60-65-66-78	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.80 Feb. corn.....4.81 March corn.....4.83	Feb. beans10.46 Wheat 4.96
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.81 Feb. corn.....4.83 March corn.....4.85	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.73 Feb. corn.....4.73 Beans.....10.41 Feb. beans.....10.44 Wheat.....5.05
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.75 Feb. corn.....4.75 Beans.....10.43	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.77 Feb. corn.....4.77 Beans.....10.19 March beans.....10.24 Wheat.....4.86

Today in history

In 1605, the first edition of “Don Quixote,” also known as “El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha,” was published by Miguel de Cervantes in Madrid, Spain. The classic story follows a senile old man, Don Quixote, who sets out on adventures as a knight with his squire, Sancho Panza.
In 1793, King Louis XVI of France was sentenced to death by the National Convention. An act of the French Revolution, Louis was executed less than a week later.
In 1919, the 18th amendment of the United States Constitution went into effect, prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transporting of alcoholic beverages. Prohibition lasted until 1933, when the U.S. ratified the 21st amendment.
In 1965, 18 people in Mississippi were arrested in connection with the deaths of three civil rights workers.
In 1991, the Persian Gulf War started. The United States led an offensive attack against Iraq, Operation Desert Storm, ultimately removing Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The conflict lasted approximately 100 hours.
—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	cil public hearing, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 6:00 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council	Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

House ...

Continued from page 1
Expenses like Medicaid could quickly eat that up.
“I know it’s a difficult time in terms of revenue, but we will find those priorities and we’ll fund those and then go forward from there,” said Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton. He chairs the House’s powerful, budget-building Ways and Means Committee.
The legislation wasn’t posted online as of Tuesday evening.
House Republicans also hope to “streamline” the state’s K-12 education system through House Bill 1002.
Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, said the proposal — a behemoth, 138-page omnibus education bill — intends to eliminate regulations for schools and “more towards professionalizing education, as opposed to using the industrial model, where you regulate everything.”
The measure includes dozens of repeal provisions, loosening or eliminating some existing requirements related to teacher training, professional development, school programming, administrative duties, and school boards, among other changes.

Health care, energy
The caucus is planning a two-pronged offensive on Indiana’s expensive health care industry.
House Bill 1003 is intended to improve transparency and predictability in pricing and billing, according to the release. The legislation would also give Hoosier patients “increased access” to their health information and “more control” over their treatment options.
Author Rep. Brad Barrett, R-Rich-

mond, said it’ll touch both hospitals and insurers in ways that ensure “those savings actually get passed to the patient.”
The chamber has made multiple efforts — or “incremental change” in Barrett’s words — to reduce such costs in previous years, notably with the creation of the All Payers Claims Database. However, the price transparency tool isn’t widely used and varies depending on the Hoosier and their insurance options.
House Bill 1004 houses another look at health care, this one putting nonprofit hospitals in the hot seat.
“When you look closer at the numbers, you see some of our highest-cost hospitals that are driving this issue are large, not-for-profit hospitals,” Rep. Martin Carbaugh, R-Fort Wayne, said. “In 1004, we’re going to look at how we can better hold accountable those hospitals to save Hoosiers real dollars on health care.”
Carbaugh said hospital prices would be compared to Medicare charges, a measure that has been subject to intense scrutiny in previous years.
The caucus turned its attention to energy in House Bill 1007.
The wide-ranging draft creates a tax credit for manufacturers of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) and lets public utilities ask for permission to spend money on SMRs and recover their costs before getting certificates of public convenience and necessity.
Housing, safety, secession
Homebuilder and Rep. Doug Miller, R-Elkhart, hopes to chip away at Indi-

ana’s housing shortage through his House Bill 1005.
He led the charge with the creation of the Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program in 2023. The nascent revolving loan fund lends money for housing-related infrastructure projects, then will reinvest the proceeds in its next loans.
Miller’s legislation would dump \$25 million more into the fund.
Huston’s bill, meanwhile, establishes the Indiana-Illinois Boundary Adjustment Commission. The group would have five appointed Hoosier lawmakers and five appointees from Illinois.
After naming Indiana’s members, newly inaugurated Gov. Mike Braun would have to notify Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker that he’s appointed members. The group would hold its first meeting within two months of Pritzker picking members to represent Illinois.
Swapping states, however, is unlikely.
Illinois would need to approve the move, alongside Indiana. Then, it’d head to the U.S. Congress for approval.
Asked if his proposal was “serious,” Huston noted that 33 Illinois counties have voted to secede from that state — with seven of those votes occurring in the November general election.
“Look, it’s serious, because these people have already decided,” he said.
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This story was edited for length. For the full story, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Capsule Reports

Lost control
A New York semi driver lost control of the vehicle was driving along Indiana 67, causing an accident about 9:32 p.m. Friday.
Gurwinder Singh, 24, Bay Shore, was driving a 2022 Freightliner Cascadia east on the highway just west of county road 200

Winter Sale

\$225
\$175

1/4 PAGE
COLOR AD
1/4 PAGE
B&W AD

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

The Commercial Review

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

Felony courts

Unlawful possession
A Muncie resident was sentenced to jail for unlawful possession of a syringe.
Jeremy L. Slater, 42, 1207 S. Wall Ave., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but eight days suspended and given eight days credit for time served.

SERVICES

Today

Miller, Alice: 11 a.m., The Church at Westchester, 4487 E. 400 North, Portland.

Friday

Nuckols, Larry: 10 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

JOB OPENING

FULL TIME HEALTH DEPARTMENT SCHOOL HEALTH LIAISON
JAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SALARY: \$50,013.60 per year

DUTIES

- Collaborate with schools and community partners to promote whole child health, and wellbeing
- Work closely with schools and youth serving organizations to identify, develop, and deliver educational programs geared toward student health in Pre-K through Grade 12
- Collaborate and enhance current vaccination efforts to ensure childhood vaccine requirements and seasonal vaccine needs are addressed
- Coordinate and assist schools with vision, hearing, oral, as well as other health screenings
- Develop operational plans and policies to achieve department objectives and services
- Represent the Health Department on coalitions, taskforces, and committees
- Support immunization clinic operations

REQUIREMENTS

- Associate Degree in Nursing or completion of Nursing Diploma required and current licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of Indiana
- Possession of or ability to obtain certifications in TB skin testing, CPR/AED certifications, Bloodborne Pathogens, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, National Incident Management (NIMS) and/or other areas as required for public health programs/operations
- Ability to effectively examine individuals, assess needs, and provide information, treatment, assistance, or referrals
- Ability to serve the public with diplomacy and respect, including occasional encounters with difficult persons
- Ability to travel off-site (active driver’s license)

HOURS

- 35 hours weekly (Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
- Occasional evening and weekend hours as needed for department operations and out of town meetings
- Follows the Jay County government office holiday schedule

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Health Department at:
504 W. Arch St., Portland, IN 47371
Ph. 260-726-8080 Fax 260-726-2220 environmentalist@co.jay.in.us
Applications will be accepted until February 16, 2025

Workshops available

Artistic opportunities are available this month.

Minnetrasta Museum & Gardens will host painting and fused glass workshops in the coming weeks.

Bob Ross painting workshops are scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 15 and 31 and 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 16. Participants will learn one of Ross's signature techniques.

A Bob Ross kids painting workshop for those ages 8 to 13 is set for 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23.

A fused glass workshop is set for 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

Minnetrasta is located at 1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie.

For more information, visit minnetrista.net.

Understanding grief

There's a support group in Jay County created for individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide.

Understanding Your Suicide Grief meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month and from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

Library challenge

Jay County Public Library's adult and teen winter reading challenge started this week.

Challenge cards will be available at the library through March 1. Adults and teens must complete at least four spaces on their

Taking Note

cards before turning them in for prize drawings, which include gift cards to Pizza Hut, Walmart or Bizzy Dips.

All cards will also be entered into a grand prize drawing for a Kindle Paperwhite.

Also, an after-school activity for children to knit scarves, is slated from 4 to 5 p.m. or 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Dean's list

A Fort Recovery resident recently made the dean's list at Miami University.

Megan Knapke earned a spot on the list at the university in Oxford, Ohio. Students who were ranked in the top 20% of undergraduate students for the fall semester were named with the honor recognizing academic excellence.

Added to archive

Indiana Arts Commission has partnered with the Indiana State Library to add 28 poets to the State of Indiana's poetry archive — INverse.

"Celebrating and preserving the work of Indiana poets is a very worthy project and the Indiana State Library is honored to partic-

ipate in this collaboration," said Jake Speer, state librarian, in a press release.

"The Indiana Arts Commission appreciates the partnership with the Indiana State Library, which allows us to preserve and showcase the work of Hoosier poets," said Miah Michaelson, IAC executive director. "The poets highlighted in the INverse Poetry Archive demonstrate the creative talent at work in Indiana."

The archive is available at bit.ly/INverse.

Wellness initiative

There's a new educational program available for seniors in the community.

Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) is a six-week program for those 55 years old and older to learn more about themselves and make friends.

Participants will learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices, discuss risk factors and behaviors to avoid, examine how alcohol, prescription medication and over-the-counter medications impact seniors differently and learn how to use tools to feel empowered about health.

Door prizes and free food will be available during each of the two-hour sessions that will be offered at Jay Community Center.

To learn more, contact Stephanie Patterson of Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition at (260) 251-3259.

Estranged siblings continue texting

DEAR ABBY: My siblings and I are estranged. I live in a different state. My brother and I never got along and stopped speaking many years ago. My older sister and I, after a long, toxic relationship, finally had a blowout after Dad passed. We haven't spoken since. My younger sister took my older sister's side and doesn't speak to me either.

I have communicated briefly via text and email with all my siblings regarding my parents' trust and final matters. My sisters still insist on texting me birthday wishes. Because of this, I feel obligated to send them a birthday text as well. I stress out weeks before their birthdays because of it. I felt peaceful after becoming estranged from my older sister. I have many feelings of resentment toward all my siblings for having taken advantage of my parents, especially this older sister. She lived with them rent-free for many years. She refused to get a job and wouldn't help out — not even to clean their room when they were elderly. Doesn't estrangement include birthdays as well? Why do I feel this way? — ESTRANGED 364 DAYS IN ARIZONA

DEAR ESTRANGED: There is such a thing as righteous indignation. It appears this is what you may feel toward your siblings. Whatever closeness there may have ever been seems to have evaporated many years before your parents' deaths. Family estrangement is defined as the loss of a previously existing relationship between family members through physical or emotional distancing. This appears to accurately describe you and your siblings. If you prefer not to exchange birthday greet-

Dear Abby



ings, stop doing it. I suspect that once you quit responding and reciprocating, those greetings will cease.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, one of my best friends took her life. I'd known her since we were in our freshman year. We dated for nearly a year while still in school before deciding to break up and remain as friends. She was much closer to me than that, though. She was like a sister. I loved her so much.

Each year on the anniversary of her death, I go somewhere new, someplace she would have wanted to see had she lived. I know nothing I could have done would have stopped her. I understand that. But Abby, how do I stop feeling like I could have done more? I don't want to feel guilty anymore. I just want to remember her. I just want to love her: — HER 'SISTER' IN MICHIGAN

DEAR 'SISTER': Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your dear friend. The feelings you are having after her death — regardless of the circumstances — are normal. Did we do enough? Could we have done more? Is it all right to go on with our life? The term for this is survivor guilt. A way to better cope with these feelings about her loss might be to join a grief support group or talk with a licensed therapist.

Community Calendar

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

Today

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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. Vin-

cent 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

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

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each

Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Jan. 17, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORI-

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

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30

p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Brides Special



Our brides special section will be distributed in:

- The Commercial Review (Portland),
- The News-Gazette (Winchester)
- The News Times (Hartford City)

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

Full-Page Color — \$625	1/2-Page B&W — \$325
Full-Page B&W — \$525	1/4-Page Color — \$275
1/2-Page Color — \$425	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

Staff found way to get the job done

By WILLIAM HARTLEY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In one weekend, a homeowner's sense of security is shattered by a burglary. A child finds the courage to come forward about sexual abuse. A family loses a loved one in a drunk-driving crash. These heartbreaking events are a reality in communities across Indiana, and every day, county prosecutors shoulder the immense responsibility of holding offenders accountable while supporting victims through their darkest moments.

Yet how this vital work gets done depends entirely on where you live. While every prosecutor's office shares the same mandate to deliver justice and protect their communities, the resources available to fulfill that mission vary drastically from county to county.

A day in the life of a prosecutor is relentless and unpredictable. It can start with assessing police reports and probable

William Hartley



cause affidavits to decide whether to file charges, meeting with detectives to review evidence, and determining if further investigation is needed. Hours are spent preparing for trials, whether reviewing pre-trial assessments and calling victims for hearings, evaluating evidence and plea offers for pre-trial conferences, or prepping witnesses and arguments for evidentiary motions. If a trial looms, prosecutors must develop the case, organize witnesses, craft jury instructions, and prepare every phase of the trial, from opening and closing statements to cross-examinations of defense witnesses. Outside the

courtroom, prosecutors attend multidisciplinary team meetings, train law enforcement, respond to homicide or drunk-driving fatality scenes, observe forensic interviews at child advocacy centers, and even attend autopsies.

The work is emotionally and mentally demanding, often bleeding into personal time, but prosecutors are at the heart of justice in our communities. They don't have the option to ignore cases, to neglect victims, or to skip witness preparation. The work must be done, but the resources in which to do that are not the same in every community.

Take, for instance, a few examples. Boone County prosecutor Kent Eastwood has the support of a fully staffed office, allowing them to focus on the courtroom while a dedicated victim advocate handles outreach and communication. Floyd County prosecutor Chris Lane, however, works in an office that's only 35% staffed (when using accepted

caseload standards), meaning his attorneys often spend the day in court before returning to their offices to call victims and prepare witnesses late into the evening. Fulton county is only 38% staffed. And using the same metrics, my own office is only 39% staffed. All prosecutors are equally committed to their communities, but some operate with more tools and support, while others work with one arm metaphorically tied behind our backs.

These disparities are unsustainable, and they endanger our communities. Burnout among prosecutors and their staff is not a hypothetical — it's inevitable under these conditions. When dedicated professionals leave the field, the cracks in the system widen, leaving fewer people to manage increasingly overwhelming workloads.

What does an ideal system look like? It's one where every prosecutor's office has the resources to do the job effectively. Every pros-

ecutor deserves the support to prepare their cases, advocate for victims, and protect their communities without sacrificing their health and families in the process. In the real world, however, we see counties struggling to fund even a fraction of the positions they need. We see deputy prosecutors and victim advocates stretched to their limits and positions unfilled.

Their work is hard, their commitment unwavering — but the system must meet them halfway. It's time to invest in our prosecutor's offices to ensure every Hoosier, in every county, has equal access to justice.

Hartley has served as the elected prosecuting attorney for Wabash County since 2003. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he currently serves as president of the Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys.

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

Zuckerberg sways with political winds

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Mark Zuckerberg can do with his social media giant Meta as he pleases and he aims to please the prevailing views of the federal government.

The return of Donald Trump to the White House coincides with the naming of key Trump ally and UFC CEO Dana White to its board and abruptly deciding to move away from using fact-checking partners to combat the spread of disinformation and loosened its hate speech rules and also scrapping DEI programs. We don't see how this will improve the experience for the billions of users.

Four years ago, when Trump lost, Zuckerberg had Meta tamp down on conspiracies after Trump's election denial and Jan. 6 attack and banned the defeated president from Facebook and Instagram. Now, Zuckerberg is swinging the other way.

Meta is a publicly-traded but private company and they can make any content and moderation decisions they want, when they want. There's no legal argument to be made against this turn away from fact-checking and towards a more freewheeling, more disinformation-laden, more confusing, more hateful and less illuminating approach.

The timing mostly makes sense here if you take this not really as a principled stand on speech but as an effort to curry favor with an incoming administration helmed by a man that essentially built his brand and political movement on a rejection of shared reality and adherence to narratives, even if those narratives were false. To say that Trump lies is almost beyond the point; every politician fibs but Trump has no use for the truth if it doesn't aid his cause.

By that token, a turn away from a focus on accuracy and moderation is not an above-the-fray, non-ideological decision. It won't impact the postings of people who tell the truth and believe in reality. Those who benefit will be the peddlers of lies and provable garbage, on everything from the efficacy of vaccines to the reality of climate change to the basic fact of who won the 2020 election.

Claims of bias against

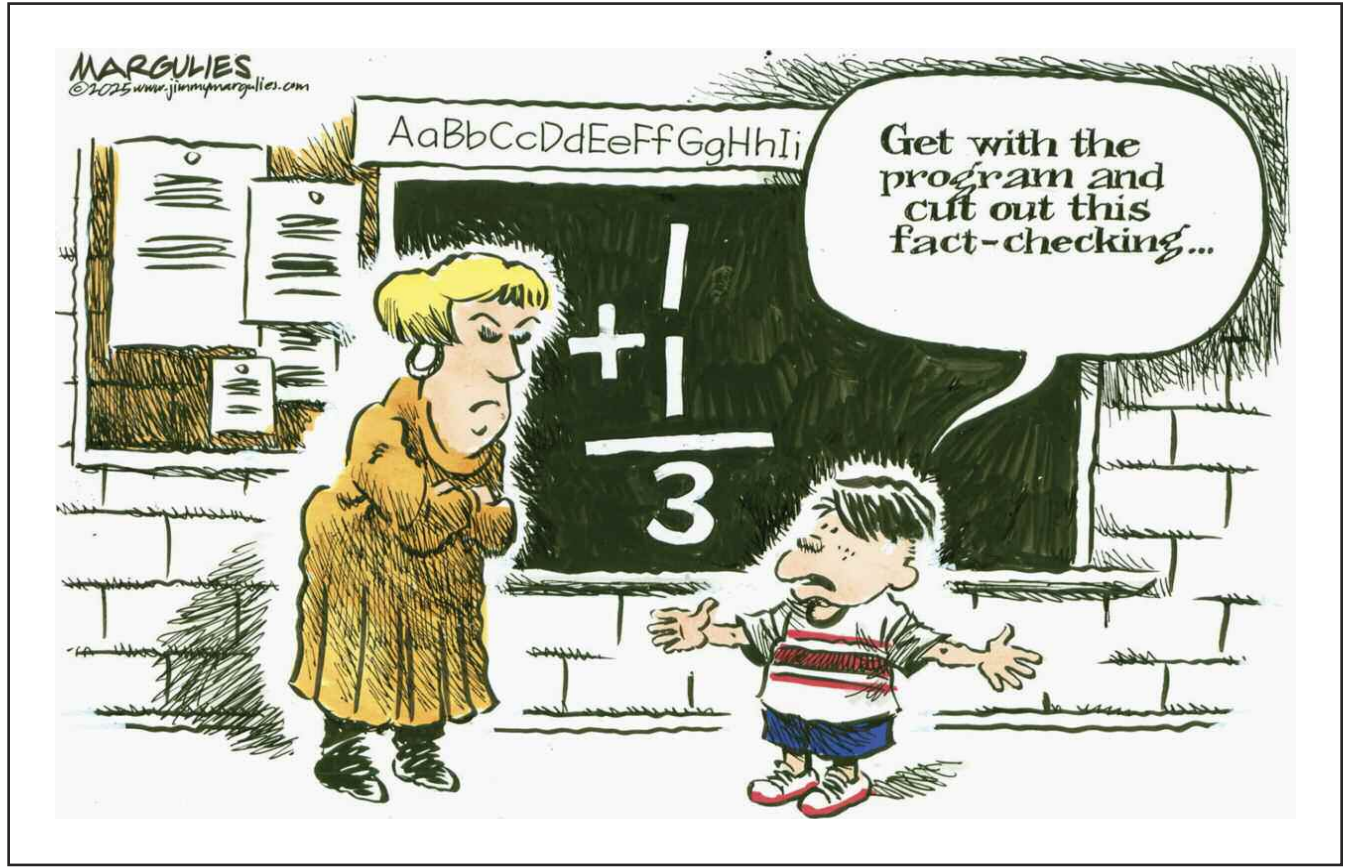
Guest Editorial

The timing mostly makes sense here if you take this not really as a principled stand on speech but as an effort to curry favor ...

what are by and large dedicated journalists and fact-checkers striving to hit as close to the mark of truth as is possible are often simple acknowledgements that one movement is more in the business of falsehoods, yet these claims are now coming from Zuckerberg himself.

Beyond fact-checking, there's much to take away from the modifications to speech policies, including the detail that Meta has explicitly carved out LGBT identity from a prohibition on referencing or alleging users' mental health or illness status. What is this, a throwback to the discredited idea from a half century ago when the American Psychiatric Association classified homosexuality as a mental illness in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders? That was dropped in 1973, the last time it was acceptable in civil society to call a gay person mentally ill. Moving in this direction is, once more, not an apolitical choice but a starkly political one.

There was a time when Zuckerberg sang a tune, making public assurances that the company was aggressively tamping down on fake news as it faced escalating pressure in the aftermath of its role in the 2016 election. It seems like Zuckerberg has adjudged the winds are blowing differently now, to the detriment of our public discourse.



Wealthiest have turned their backs

By VLADIMIR HAMED-TROYANSKY
The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service

The number of displaced people worldwide has reached 122 million — the largest on record. Of this group, 38 million are categorized as refugees — another tragic record. Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan and Venezuela each recently lost over 6 million people as refugees. South Sudan is in the grip of ethnic violence, and Sudan is facing starvation amid a civil war, with refugees fleeing both countries.

Twenty percent more refugees will need resettlement in 2025 than in 2024, yet pathways to safety in the West are narrowing rapidly.

President-elect Donald Trump's second term might usher in an era of cruelty. Trump has vowed to start mass deportations of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and scale back humanitarian protections for many individuals legally residing here. Many of these migrants are refugees who have the right to apply for asylum.

The contrast between the world's dire humanitarian moment and the president-elect's rhetoric could not be sharper. Refugee fatigue and anti-immigrant sentiments sweep across the Global North. At the time of greatest need, the world's wealthiest societies are turning their back on refugees. They are restricting the right to asylum by violating domestic and international laws.

Anti-refugee sentiments have been fueling the rise of far-right parties, and Trump's second term will see these movements in full bloom.

Far-right parties that were previously regarded as untouchable for their racist and antisemitic rhetoric now sweep European elections. In the past year, the Freedom Party came first in the Austrian elections; the Alternative for Germany won its first state election and is poised to do well

Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky



in German federal elections in 2025; and Marine Le Pen's National Rally won the European Parliament elections in France. These parties made refugee admission their top issue and flaunted hard-line policies to reduce immigration.

Trump also made immigration central to his 2024 campaign, promising "the largest deportation program in American history." Trump also vowed to scale back the Temporary Protected Status program for Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio. TPS provides a work permit and protection from deportation to nationals of 17 countries deemed unsafe to return to, including Haiti, Ukraine and Syria.

Refugee resettlement is likely on the chopping block for the incoming administration. When Trump first took office, he reduced President Barack Obama's cap of 110,000 refugee admissions for 2017 to 50,000. The Trump administration further decreased the cap every year until setting it at 15,000 for 2021 — a record low. Biden's administration, predictably, moved in the opposite direction, raising the ceiling. It is now set at 125,000 for 2025, but Trump will likely start cutting it again.

Despite higher quotas, only 197,000 refugees were admitted to the U.S. under Biden, versus 118,000 refugees under Trump. Those are not high numbers; they rank among the three lowest for a presidential term since the creation of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Pro-

gram in 1980.

Even more alarming is the practice of offshoring asylum. Recently, western states started making legally dubious deals, paying third world-countries to hold refugees as their cases slowly move through asylum review. Trump's first administration implemented the Remain in Mexico program in 2019, making migrants wait for their asylum hearings while in Mexico (the Biden administration ended that program).

In 2024, Italy finalized a deal with Albania, which will host Italian processing facilities for asylum seekers. In 2022, Denmark signed an agreement with Rwanda to hold its asylum seekers, and the United Kingdom considered a similar scheme in Rwanda. These practices place refugees in dangerous situations, are costly and ineffective in preventing irregular migration and violate domestic and international laws on asylum.

There is a solution that meets this historic moment: expand domestic infrastructure in processing and housing asylum seekers while their cases undergo review, thereby creating thousands of jobs and growing local economies, especially near the border. This solution upholds laws on asylum and saves the lives of the most vulnerable.

Trump's administration is likely to do the opposite.

Hamed-Troyansky is an assistant professor of global migration and forced displacement at UC Santa Barbara.

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

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Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefontain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line
Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@inumc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fcfcfortrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:50 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

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

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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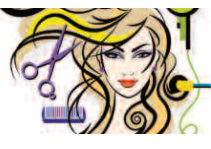
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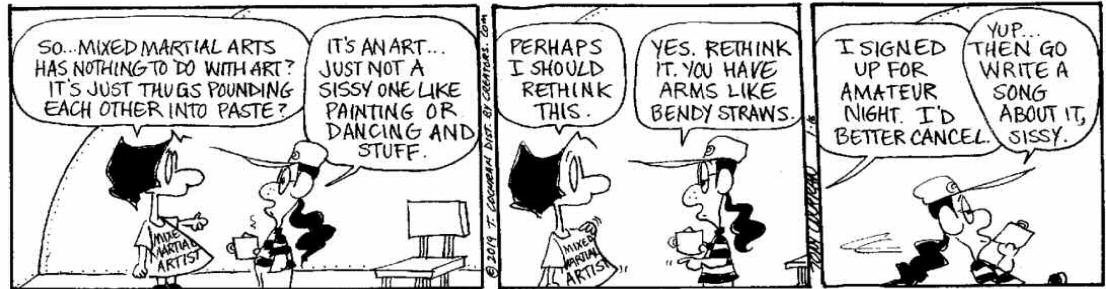
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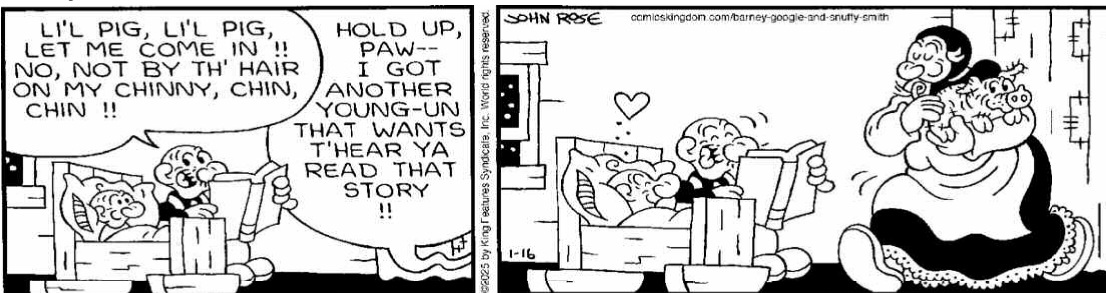
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

No way out

South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: A J 8 7, 8 7, 7 5, Q 10 9 8 6. WEST: 9 4, K 6 5 4 2, K 9, J 5 4 2. EAST: A Q 10 3, Q 10 8 6 4 3 2, K 7. SOUTH: K Q 10 6 5 3 2, J 9, A J, A 3. The bidding: South 1♣, West Pass, North 2♣, East 3♦. Opening lead — king of diamonds. Of all the so-called fancy plays in bridge, the most common is the endplay. It is not an exaggeration to say that the opportunity for some kind of endplay arises as often as once in every half-dozen deals. Some endplays may need a certain amount of complex preparatory work. Others come all tied up in a silk ribbon bearing the notice "Hi, I'm an endplay," and are relatively easy to execute. Today's deal is one of the latter. North-South arrived at four spades, and West led the king of diamonds. South immediately recognized that an endplay was just about his only legitimate chance. With two hearts and a diamond certain to be lost, South's only hope was to avoid a club loser. But if he initiated the clubs himself, he would almost surely lose a trick. His only chance, therefore, was to force the opponents to lead clubs for him or yield a ruff-and-discard. The solution could not have come more ready-made. South won the first diamond, drew two rounds of trump, then exited with the jack of diamonds and sat back to await developments. East won the jack with the queen and played the ace and another heart. West took South's jack with the king and was a dead duck. If he played a third heart, declarer would ruff in dummy and discard a club from his hand. In the hope that East had the ace of clubs, or that South would misguess the club position, West returned a club. This was the ending South had envisioned from the start. He had expected that the defender with the king of clubs would arrange not to be on lead after the second heart was taken. Consequently, when West returned a low club at trick seven, South played the ten from dummy, and that was that. Of course, if East had held the K-J of clubs, this line of play would have failed, but in that case the contract could not have been made. Tomorrow: Test your play. ©2025 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

U DFMH TWB TYRAHA QDFQ U VDWRYA BHMHL FLKRH EUQD BUBHQC-AHKLHH FBKYHV. QDHC'LH FYEFCV LUKDQ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY MAKING OUT SOUNDS, THE SILVERY FISH DECIDED TO TAKE A HERRING TEST. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Super-girl's first name, 5 Platter, 9 Author Tolstoy, 12 Lay — the line, 13 Cold War initials, 14 Days of yore, 15 Citrus producer, 17 Avril follower, 18 At hand, 19 Un-manned plane cooler, 21 Apt. of wool, 22 Rid of coconut juice, 27 "Nova" sub., 28 Feed the piggy bank, 31 Hearty quaff, 32 Klutz, 33 Actor Patel, 34 Mater lead-in, 36 Roman 1051, 37 Big party, 38 Chose Undergrad deg., 40 Undergrad Ford or Hudson, 41 Ford or Hudson Parlor piece, 43 Parlor PC key, 44 Tangy, custard-like spread, 47 Employ Brontë, 48 Novelist Grazing tract, 49 Activist Parks, 50 Adoles-cent, 51 "Zounds!", 52 "Garfield's pal", 53 "The Wall" network, 54 B&O and others (Abbr.), 22 Burn with steam, 23 LP player, 24 Goat's cry, 25 Under the weather, 26 Throat-soothing drink, 27 Not all, 29 Bird doc, 30 Cain's mom, 35 Earth Day mo., 37 Nabob, 39 10th U.S. president, 40 "Gandhi" star, 41 Move, as freight, 42 Other-wise, 43 Pop, 44 Melody, 45 Sea eagle, 46 Paradise, 49 id counter-part, 50 Pas' mates

Solution time: 24 mins. Yesterdays answer 1-16. Crossword grid with letters filled in.

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-56 indicating starting positions for clues.

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Dominant ...

Continued from page 8
Jay County did most of its damage in transition, with Hallie Schwieterman outscoring the Starfires on her own as she finished with a game-high 17 points. She also led the Patriots with four assists.

Amelia Heath, who rebounded well but struggled to put the ball in the basket in the previous meeting, found her groove underneath. The freshman shot 7-of-9 from the field to follow Schwieterman with a career-high 14 points.

“I think I’m getting a little bit more comfortable with my moves down low and just getting ahold of the ball better,” said Heath, whose previous high was nine points in the Patriots’ loss to Belmont on Nov. 22. “Step-throughs, I feel like

they just open it up a little bit.”

Elizabeth Brunswick added 10 points and Natalie Carreno had eight.

Jay County will have its hands full with Bluffton, a team it lost to by 30 points on Friday. Limiting the Tigers — they have not won an ACAC title this century — to one opportunity on the offensive end will be key, said McIntire.

“If they miss, we have to get the rebound,” she added. “We cannot give them second, third and fourth opportunities or it’s gonna be a long night for us. So we have to do better about keeping them off the boards ...

“If we have a chance to win, which I feel like we do, that will be a key right there.”

600 ...

Continued from page 8

While Jay County suffocated the Starfires at the defensive end of the floor, Forthofer dominated in the paint.

The 6-foot, 9-inch junior has been on a tear since the Patriots’ game against New Castle on Dec. 14. During the 6-game stretch he has averaged 12.6 points per game and 8.8 rebounds per game. (The first four games of the season Forthofer was dealing with an injury, keeping him from playing seven of the first eight quarters of the season all together.)

Against South Adams, Forthofer had 22 points and 14 rebounds — seven on each end of the floor — while shooting 10-of-13 (76.9%) from the field.

“They were just a smaller team,” Forthofer said. “They

‘It’s not about me, it’s about those kids and for them to be a part of something that’s really special, to me that’s a lot more meaningful than anything else other than my own kids to be a part of it. This was fantastic.’

—JCHS boys basketball coach Jerry Bomholt

didn’t box out great. I was just trying to play aggressive and go after everything I could. I got lucky quite a bit with a lot of open shots under the basket.”

(While Forthofer did have multiple open opportunities, they came about due to sealing a defender and receiving a pass over the top or working for possession to grab offensive rebounds.)

Forthofer’s 14 boards nearly outrebounded the Starfires as a whole, as they grabbed 12 and got another four from the ball bouncing out of bounds, a foul and a tie up.

The Patriots also had a major advantage in the turnover battle, forcing 20 giveaways while only coughing the ball up seven times themselves.

The offensive dominance and defensive activity led to a 36-9 Patriot lead at the intermission, which only grew as they only gave up one field goal in the entire second half.

After getting the opportunity to celebrate with his players and receive congratulations from many of his supporters, Bomholt reflected on the effort his team gave and what’s to

come for the rest of the season.

“It’s not about me, it’s about those kids and for them to be a part of something that’s really special, to me that’s a lot more meaningful than anything else, other than my own kids to be a part of it,” Bomholt said. “This was fantastic. This is a group of kids that you want to spend that extra time with and you want something like this to happen with them.”

“But now we’re trying to move and win this tournament, trying to win this conference. If we can keep everybody healthy, and keep the right frame of mind for everybody, we have a chance to be really good. This has a chance to be a really good basketball team and I was proud of them tonight.”

Box score				
Jay County Patriots at South Adams Starfires		Score by quarters: Jay Co. 24 16 6 8 — 54 S. Adams 1 5 4 2 — 14		
Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament		3-point shooting: Jay County 1-7 (Newton 1-4, Schwieterman 0-2, Petro 0-1), South Adams 1-8 (Lehman 1-5, Patterson 0-2, Brown 0-1).		
Semifinal		Rebounds: Jay County 27 (Brunswick 5, Schwieterman 4, Carreno 4, May 4, Newton 3, Petro 3, Heath 3, team). South Adams 26 (Trausch 7, Lehman 4, Bollenbacher 4, team 4, Patterson 2, Schwartz, Minger, Sprunger, McKinley, Smith).		
Girls varsity summary		Assists: Jay County 13 (Schwieterman 4, Petro 3, Newton 2, Brunswick 2, Carreno, Heath), South Adams 2 (Lehman, Smith).		
Jay County (8-9)		Blocks: Jay County 3 (Newton, Schwieterman, Brunswick), South Adams 0.		
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	Personal fouls: Jay County 11 (Schwieterman 3, Petro 3, Carreno, Newton, Brunswick, May), South Adams 8 (Patterson 2, Trausch 2, Lehman 2, Smith, Bollenbacher).	
Newton 2-8	0-0	5	Turnovers: Jay County 9. South Adams 27.	
Schwieterman 6-15	5-6	17		
Carreno 4-6	0-0	8		
Petro 0-2	0-0	0		
Brunswick 5-8	0-0	10		
May 0-0	0-0	0		
McAbee 0-1	0-0	0		
Heath 7-9	0-0	14		
Totals	24-49	5-6	54	
	.490	.833		
Def. rebound percentage: .571				
South Adams (3-14)				
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		
Schwartz 0-0	2-4	2		
Minger 1-1	0-0	2		
Sprunger 1-4	0-0	2		
Patterson 0-4	0-0	0		
Trausch 0-4	2-2	2		
Lehman 2-9	0-1	5		
McKinley 0-0	0-0	0		
Smith 0-2	0-2	0		
Brown 0-2	0-0	0		
Totals	4-27	5-11	14	
	.148	.455		
Def. rebound percentage: .560				

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling vs. Homestead — 6:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Minster — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls wrestling state finals at Corteva Fieldhouse — 10 a.m.; Girls basketball ACAC tournament semifinal at Bluffton — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball ACAC tournament semifinal vs. Woodlan at Bluffton — 7:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Ansonia —

4:30 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Ansonia — 4:30 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Minster — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — USGA golf: Latin America Amateur Championship (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Southampton at Manchester United (USA)
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis at Temple (ESPN2); Michigan at Minnesota (FS1);

Northeastern at UNC Wilmington (FOX)
7 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Nebraska at Iowa (BTN)
7 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at Florida Panthers (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Northwestern (BTN); Rutgers at Nebraska (FS1)
9 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Houston Rockets at Sacramento Kings (TNT)

Friday
3 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — USGA golf: Latin America Amateur Championship (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA: Orlando Magic at Boston College (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Providence at Villanova (FS1)
7 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa at Illinois (BTN)
7 p.m. — Unrivaled soccer: Lunar Owls BC at Mist BC (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: Florida at

LSU (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Indiana at Ohio State (FOX)
8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled soccer: Vinyl BC at Rose BC (TNT)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at UCLA (FS1)
9 p.m. — College wrestling: Nebraska at Penn State (BTN)
9 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Boise State at New Mexico (FS1)

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9:30 A. M.
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Jay County, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, has developed preliminary plans for a replacement of Bridge No. 93 on County Road (CR) 350 West over Sipe Ditch (also known as Wehrly Ditch), approximately 0.90 mile north of State Road (SR) 26, in Greene Township, Jay County, Indiana.

The project proposes replacing the existing bridge with a three-span continuous reinforced concrete slab bridge. The new bridge will have a total length of 75 feet with a 28-foot clear roadway width and no weight or height restrictions. The new structure will be built with no skew to match the channel. The new roadway will provide two 10-foot travel lanes, one in each direction, bordered by 4-foot paved shoulders adjacent to the guardrail and 2-foot aggregate shoulders in sections without guardrail. The majority of the roadway improvements will involve widening the shoulder for guardrail placement and accommodating the 0.7-foot grade change for the new structure. Midwest Guardrail System (MGS) Guardrail with Type OS End Treatments will be installed, except at the northeast corner, which will have a curved guardrail terminal system. Outside the limits of the project, the road cross section will taper back to the existing roadway. The posted speed limit will remain at 55 miles per hour (mph). The approach roadway reconstruction will extend 295 feet from each end of the bridge’s approach slab. Full-depth pavement replacement will be necessary. One field entrance at the northeast corner of the bridge will be reconstructed. The pipe underneath the field entrance will be replaced with a 55-foot-long, 15-inch diameter Type 3 pipe that aligns with the new ditch on each side of the drive; as a result, grading to the side slopes will occur. Grading will be done to side ditches of all documented stream features, resulting in flat bottom ditches with 2:1 or 3:1 side slopes. Riprap will be placed for 85 linear feet along the abutments for scour protection. The project limits are approximately 355 feet north (will be corrected in the final environmental document) and 355 feet south of the centerline of the bridge, and approximately 80 feet east and 85 feet west of the center of the bridge.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will require a full road closure on CR 350 West with a detour utilizing State Road (SR) 26, CR 400 West, and CR 200 North. The detour will be one mile long and last approximately 6 months. Anticipated construction is in Fall 2026. The project is approximately 0.1 mile in length. Land use surrounding the project area is agricultural fields. Construction of the project will require approximately 0.95 acre of permanent right-of-way (ROW) and 0.20 acre of temporary ROW. Both federal and local funds are to be utilized for the construction of this project. The construction cost is \$1,837,000.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) have agreed that this project is within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document with no significant impacts to wetlands. Permanent impacts to Sipe Ditch are approximately 30 linear feet and 0.020 acre due to channel grading and interior bent construction. In addition, approximately 100 linear feet and 0.020 acre of Sipe Ditch will be temporarily impacted due to cofferdam placement. Approximately 53 linear feet and 0.002 acre of Unnamed Tributary (UNT) 1 to Sipe Ditch will be permanently impacted by channel grading. Approximately 333 linear feet and 0.040 acre of UNT 2 to Sipe Ditch will be permanently impacted by channel grading. There will be no temporary impacts to UNT 2 to Sipe Ditch. Approximately 46 linear feet and 0.004 acre of UNT 3 will be permanently impacted by channel grading and pipe replacement under the field entrance driveway. No temporary impacts to UNT 3 will be necessary. In addition, approximately 0.08 acre of tree clearing will occur. Proposed impacts have been minimized to the extent practicable.

Preliminary design plans, along with the CE document, are available for review at the following locations:

- Egis BLN USA, Inc. (Egis), 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
- Jay County Public Library, 315 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana 47371
- Jay County Highway Department, 1035 E 200 N, Portland, Indiana 47371
- Online at: <https://tinyurl.com/Des-No-2101729>

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Grace Jerde by email at grace.jerde@egis-group.com, by phone at 317-806-3029, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250 on or before January 31, 2025. In addition, a hard copy of the project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed, please contact Grace Jerde by email at grace.jerde@egis-group.com, by phone at 317-806-3029, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act,” with advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodation for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process, including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight-impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids, including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required, please contact Grace Jerde at 317-806-3029 or grace.jerde@egis-group.com or Taylor Darrah at 317-467-3915 or tdarrah@indot.in.gov for information.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1)) stating, “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.”; 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) stating, “Public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process, as necessary.”; approved by the Federal Highway Administration U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.
CR 1-16,24-2025-HSPAXLP

Jerry joins 600 club

Bomholt gets 600th career victory in 61-14 domination of South Adams in ACAC tournament opener

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

BERNE — "Congratulations coach."

"You dropped this. It's your crown."

"Coach, you finally hit 600. I love you. It's an awesome milestone."

"Six hundred!"

That and much more was said to the Patriots' leader following the complete dismantling of the Starfires and a night for the record books.

Jay County High School's boys basketball coach Jerry Bomholt recorded his 600th career victory as the Patriots dominated the South Adams Starfires wire-to-wire for a 61-14 win on Tuesday in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament.

"I think it's been great," Bomholt said. "I think it's been fantastic for my wife and I to be able to come home for the last five years and have something like this happen. ... What a great group of parents. What a great group of kids. It tells you a lot when you can carry that over from one generation to the next. You feel pretty solid and feel pretty good about what you're developing."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Jayden Comer puts up a layup while Jackson Roe contests during Tuesday's 61-14 beatdown. The win earned coach Jerry Bomholt his 600th career victory and advanced the Patriots to Friday ACAC semifinal against Woodlan at Bluffton.

"I can't say thanks enough to the kids for what they mean to me and what they were able to do these last five years. I'm just happy for it."

Bomholt's milestone victory comes on the heels of the Patriots' 62-49 win over

Adams Central that he missed due to a health scare. Once it was decided that Bomholt was OK to return to the sideline on Tuesday, the Patriots made sure to get the job done for his 600th win. (With the victory, Jay County earned a

match with Woodlan in the ACAC semifinal on Friday at Bluffton.)

And they made sure to put the game away before the buzzer sounded for half-time.

Jay County (6-4) suffocated the Starfires' offense

Box score			
South Adams Starfires vs. Jay County Patriots		Score by quarters:	
		Jay Co.	15 21 16 9 — 61
		S. Adams	4 5 2 3 — 14
Boys varsity summary			
Jay County (6-4)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Comer	2-9	0-0	6
Schemenaur	0-1	0-0	0
Fugiett	2-2	0-0	5
Jetmore	0-0	0-0	0
Wasson	1-1	0-0	3
Petro	0-2	0-0	0
Dirksen	0-1	0-0	0
Forthofer	10-13	2-3	22
Phillips	0-1	0-2	0
Griffin	5-9	0-0	11
Swoveland	5-10	4-5	14
Sommers	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	25-49	6-10	61
	.510	.600	
Def. rebound percentage: .917			
South Adams (2-7)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
McKean	1-4	0-0	2
Craig	0-5	0-0	0
Scott	0-1	0-0	0
O'Dell	0-0	0-0	0
Cameron	0-0	0-0	0
Copaert	0-2	1-2	1
ORoe	0-0	0-0	0
Sturwold	0-1	0-0	0
Fields	0-1	0-0	0
Lehman	3-11	4-4	11
JRoe	0-0	0-0	0
Hunley	0-0	0-0	0
Herring	0-2	0-0	0
Totals	4-27	5-6	14
	.148	.833	
Def. rebound percentage: .560			
3-point shooting: Jay County 5-14 (Comer 2-5, Fugiett 1-1, Wasson 1-1, Griffin 1-3, Schemenaur 0-1, Dirksen 0-1, Swoveland 0-2). South Adams 1-12 (Lehman 1-6, Herring 0-1, McKean 0-2, Craig 0-3).			
Rebounds: Jay County 33 (Forthofer 14, Phillips 5, Comer 3, Griffin 3, Swoveland 3, Petro 2, Team 2, Fugiett). South Adams 16 (Lehman 4, Team 4, Craig 3, Colpaert, ORoe, Sturwold, JRoe, Hunley).			
Assists: Jay County 11 (Griffin 3, Comer 2, Swoveland 2, Schemenaur, Petro, Dirksen, Forthofer). South Adams 1 (Herring).			
Blocks: Jay County 4 (Forthofer 2, Petro, Swoveland). South Adams 1 (Lehman).			
Personal fouls: Jay County 7 (Swoveland 2, Comer, Fugiett, Petro, Dirksen, Griffin). South Adams 15 (Craig 3, JRoe 3, Copaert 2, ORoe 2, Herring 2, Scott, O'Dell, Fields).			
Turnovers: Jay County 7. South Adams 20.			

right out the gate. The strong defensive showing let JCHS get out on a 12-0 run that included drives by Tucker Griffin and Gradin Swoveland, a Jayden Comer triple and two post moves — a baby hook middle and a spin baseline — and a free throw from Cole Forthofer.

South Adams (2-7) finally got on the board with 2 minutes, 4 seconds, remaining in the first half after Tytus Lehman hit a pair of free throws. Lehman also hit the Starfires' first field goal — a baseline runner — with 17 seconds remaining in the quarter.

The Patriots finished out the quarter with three more points from Swoveland on a one-dribble pull up from the short corner that he got fouled on and converted the free throw.

Lehman, South Adams' leading scorer at 13.1 points per game, finished with 11 points on 3-for-11 (27.2%) shooting. Derek McKean had the only other SAHS hoop — Nolan Colpaert also split a pair of free throws — as the Patriots held it to 14.8% (4-27) from the floor.

"We contained defensively out front and then did a really good job of knowing where Lehman was the entire game," Bomholt said. "We had guys switching on him. I just thought we had guys having some sensibility to cover the cutter at the right time and then pass him on to the next guy and then do the same thing with the dribbler. We just did a good job defensively with what we're trying to work on."

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Even more dominant

Jay County girls roll over Starfires in ACAC tournament

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

BERNE — In their first trip to the Stardome, the Patriots got a good idea of what worked well against their hosts.

They executed their game plan even better in their second opportunity.

Forcing 21 first-half turnovers and holding the host South Adams Starfires without a field goal for nearly 16 minutes, the Jay County High School girls basketball team cruised to a 54-14 victory in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament.

"We knew we were able to do that the last time against them and we thought that was obviously a key because we do better when we can get offense out of our defense," said McIntire, whose team emphatically halted a four-game skid. "We didn't have very many turnovers, so that was good as well."

The Patriots (8-9), who have won four straight ACAC tournament titles, advance to visit Class 2A No. 8 Bluffton (15-2) for a semifinal game at 6 p.m. Friday. The Tigers topped Woodlan 67-52 in their opening-round game Tuesday.

In the first meeting between the two squads just before Christmas, Jay County was up before its lead got trimmed to 15 at the half. On Tuesday night, it scored the game's first six points, had a 20-point lead in the first quarter and reached the 40-point mark before the home team converted its first field goal.

Turnovers and transitions powered the Patriots, who had runs of six, 20 and 10 points in the game's first 13 minutes. They limited South Adams to a single first-quarter point on a Charlee Bollenbacher free throw.

JCHS pushed its lead to 40-5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Natalie Carreno of Jay County goes to the basket during the first half of the Patriots' 54-14 win over host South Adams on Tuesday during the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament. Carreno tallied eight points in the victory.

before Starfire freshman Ana Lehman finally took a pass from Adalyn Smith at the top of the key and hit a 3-pointer for her team's first field goal with just 28 seconds left before half-time.

The numbers said it all, as the Patriots forced 21 first-half turnovers and shot 58.6% from the field while South Adams hit just 5.8% (1-of-17).

"I thought we played physical," said McIntire, whose team

won the first meeting 65-36. "I thought we obviously played hard. We were getting after loose balls. We did the kind of things on the defensive end that we needed to do."

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Tigers take down Jay with ease

YORKTOWN — The Tigers were just too much.

Jay County High School's swim teams both took a loss to the Yorktown Tigers on Tuesday, with the girls falling 110-66 and the boys going down 123-56.

Both teams only picked up a pair of first-place finishes.

Cooper Glentzer led the boys (4-6) with wins in the distance freestyle events. He beat Yorktown's Peyton Wormer by the tips of his fingers in the 200-yard freestyle as the JCHS freshman's time of 1 minute, 56.09 seconds, was just 0.01 seconds ahead of the Tiger.

Glentzer had an easier time in the 500 freestyle, as his time of 5:21.51 earned him the victory with over 20 seconds to spare.

Maddy Snow got the Patriot girls (6-4) started off with a first-place finish in the 1-meter diving. She was uncontested, but the senior still racked up 173 points.

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