

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

All American champions

Members of The All Americans of ETC School of Musical Arts in Akron, Ohio, perform Saturday during the Jay County Show Choir Spectacular at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The group went on to win the competition. Rouge, ETC's all-girl group, finished in second place while Vocal Pointe of Columbus North took third. Jay County's Patriot Edition and Just Treble groups performed in exhibition. They will begin their competitive seasons on Feb. 1 at Northrop.

Health care, taxes top the agenda

Prescott provided update in Winchester on Saturday

By **SCOTT SHAFFER**

The Commercial Review

Property tax reform, Medicaid costs and lowering healthcare costs.

Those items are at the top of the list of priorities for local legislators.

The 2025 Indiana General Assembly began its legislative session Jan. 8 and State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) visited the Farm Bureau office in Winchester to provide the first legislative update of the year.

Additional updates are scheduled for 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the Farm Bureau office.

Both Prescott and State Sen. Scott Alexander (R-Muncie), who joined him for the update, noted that the priorities this session are enacting meaningful property tax reform; containing Medicaid costs and preventing fraud; lowering health care costs, responsibly managing water resources; and ensuring fiscal integrity and contract accountability.

"Property taxes have been an ongoing battle since 2004," said Alexander. "The current system of assessing property taxes and distributing bills is cumbersome and costly. For years we've been putting a BandAid on it. We're now working towards a long-term solution to the issue."

The House and Senate are looking into the possibility of eliminating property taxes.

See **Agenda** page 2

Ceasefire holds, hostages swapped

By **GALIT ALSTEIN**

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

A long-delayed ceasefire in the Gaza war began taking hold as Hamas released three hostages in exchange for 90 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

The first halt in the war since November 2023 appeared to go as planned, following months of negotiations by the Biden administration, along with Qatar and Egypt, then a recent push by President-elect Donald Trump for a deal before his inaugura-

First stop in Gaza war appeared to go as planned

tion on Monday. The six-week truce aims for the release of 33 Israeli hostages and hundreds of Palestinians in prison in Israel — 30 for each hostage freed.

The three Israeli women — Romi Gonen, Doron

Steinbrecher and Emily Damari, who's also a British national — were united with their mothers on Sunday at an initial reception facility near the Gaza border. Air Force helicopters later flew them to a hospital where

they were reunited with the rest of their families and received medical treatment, the IDF said in a statement.

The Palestinian prisoners were released from buses early Monday morning. They included 78 residents of the West Bank, who were released at the Beitunia checkpoint near Ofer Prison. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross escorted the prisoners on the buses.

Among the released Israelis, Steinbrecher, 31,

and Damari, 28, were kidnapped from Kfar Aza, and Gonen, 24, was abducted at the Nova music festival on Oct. 7, 2023.

"The Israeli government embraces the three returnees. Their families were informed by the appointed officials that they joined our (IDF) forces," according to a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. "The Israeli government is committed to the return of all abductees and missing persons."



Tribune News Service/CNP via Zuma Press Wire/Kevin Lamarque

U.S. President Donald Trump takes the oath of office on the day of his Presidential Inauguration at the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Monday. Trump, who won his first term in 2016 but lost his re-election bid in 2020 becomes the second president in history to serve non-consecutive terms, joining Grover Cleveland.

Inaugurated again

By **FAITH E. PINHO**
and **JAMES RAINEY**

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Donald J. Trump took the oath of office to become the 47th president of the United States on Monday, capping a political comeback and promising to "make America greater, stronger and far more exceptional than ever before."

Trump became only the second person in the nation's history to regain the White House after losing it — following Grover Cleveland, the first Democrat to become president after the Civil War and the last to hold the post before the dawn of the 20th century.

Trump's ascension to the most powerful office in the world represented an astounding comeback for a man twice impeached during his first term, then held

Trump becomes second president in to serve non-consecutive terms

liable for both civil and criminal misconduct during the years he tried to regain the White House.

Every living former president — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — attended the ceremony. They were joined by world leaders, including former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and recently elected Argentinian President Javier and Amazon sat in front of the president's entire Cabinet — a nod to the importance Trump has given the heads

of some of the most powerful companies and social media platforms over his agency heads.

Also occupying prime seats were conservative political icons, including UFC CEO Dana White and podcast host Joe Rogan.

Trump takes over from President Joe Biden, who met with his successor at the White House before proceeding by motorcade to the U.S. Capitol for Trump's swearing in and inaugural speech.

See **Inaugurated** page 2

Deaths

William Thomas, 91, Portland
George Horn, 93, Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 25 degrees Sunday before dipping to a low of 1 on Monday morning. A cold weather advisory is in effect until 10 a.m. Wednesday, with lows of minutes 1 tonight and minus 6 Tuesday.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Wednesday is the last day to register for Arts Place's Make Your Own Sourdough Starter class. The event for those 16 and older is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday. The fee is \$15. For more information, visit myartsplace.org.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Jay School Board meeting.

Thursday — Details from Tuesday's Portland City Council meeting.



Obituaries

William Thomas

Aug. 20, 1933-Jan. 15, 2025
William "Bill" Thomas, age 91, a resident of Portland, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.



Thomas

Bill was born Aug. 20, 1933, in Louisville, Kentucky, the son of William H. and Goldie (Napper) Thomas. Bill was raised in Surry County, Virginia. Bill was a veteran of the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. Bill was a truck driver and retired from Geneva Plastics.

Bill married Betty Ann Holt on Dec. 19, 1959, and she passed away on April 7, 2000. He later married Bessie (Ramsey) on April 28, 2012.

Survivors include:
His wife — Bessie Thomas, Portland, Indiana
His children — Dale Irvin (wife: Jayne), South Hampton, England, Tony Thomas (wife: Stephanie), Greenville, Ohio, Dan Thomas (wife: Cleo), Portland, Indiana, Randy Thomas (husband: Scott), Phoenix Arizona
Fifteen grandchildren and several great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Thomas; and two sons, Don and Brian Thomas.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Bill's life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland. American

Legion Post #211 of Portland will conduct military rites at the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

George Horn

George Horn, age 93, went home to his heavenly home on his birthday on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at The Waters of Dunkirk.



Horn

He is the husband of the late Elnora (Landon) Horn who passed away in September 2008.

His children are Gary Horn (deceased), Linda Lowe (husband: David), Dennis Horn (wife: Marianne), Brian Horn (wife: Angie) and Cheryl Schell (hus-

band: Mark). He also survived by 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

George Horn was a board member of the State Holiness Campgrounds. He was a dairy farmer, school bus driver and fuel oil driver for Pennville Oil and Lumber, worked for Franklin Trucking, Hartford City, for many years, drove the tour bus for the Ray Boltz ministry, sang bass for The Christianaires Quintet and Christian Brothers Quartet and also drove the bus for multiple Christian artists in his later life.

George also volunteered at Jay County Hospital, where he enjoyed meeting and talking to people. He enjoyed driving tractor for his son's farming operation. He was a founding member of Faith Evangelical Church.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Randy Davis presiding. Burial will follow in the IOOF Cemetery in Pennville. Visitation will be Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Memorials can be made to Pennville Fire Dept. or Pennville Community Gym.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 1/22	Thursday 1/23	Friday 1/24	Saturday 1/25	Sunday 1/26
19/16	29/17	24/16	36/27	33/20
Wednesday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with wind gusts up to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny on Thursday with highs in the upper 20s.	Friday's forecast looks to be mostly sunny with highs again in the 20s.	Mostly sunny, when temperatures may jump to just above freezing.	There's a slight chance of snow and rain on Sunday.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	14-16-19-23-24-29-32-36-41-44-55-59-65-74-77-78 Cash 5: 6-12-13-26-43 Estimated jackpot: \$125,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-1-8 Daily Four: 2-1-1-3 Quick Draw: 5-6-7-11-12-14-15-18-19-25-26-43-47-48-51-57-62-73-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 4-0-1 Daily Four: 8-3-2-7 Quick Draw: 1-2-4-12-	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 9-8-0 Pick 4: 0-1-2-7 Pick 5: 9-3-2-6-6 Evening Pick 3: 1-7-1 Pick 4: 4-6-6-7 Pick 5: 5-8-1-7-0 Rolling Cash 5: 15-16-19-29-30 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.86 Feb. corn4.87 March corn4.89	Feb. beans10.32 Wheat 4.89
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.86 Feb. corn4.88 March corn4.90	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.79 Feb. corn4.79 Beans10.28 Feb. beans10.31 Wheat4.98
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.81 Feb. corn4.81 Beans10.29	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.82 Feb. corn4.82 Beans10.04 Feb. beans10.09 Wheat4.79

Today in history

In 1616, Samuel de Champlain arrived in a Huron Indian village after a battle with the Iroquois in New France.
In 1783, Britain signed a peace agreement with France and Spain.
In 1793, Louis XVI of France was executed in Paris. Louis was convicted of "high treason" by the French Parliament amid the French Revolution.
In 1905, Christian Dior was born in Granville, France. The fashion designer became a worldwide success in his career.
In 1930, aviator Charles Lindbergh arrived in New York after a 14.75-hour flight.
In 2013, Jay County Regional Sewer District set plans in motion for a rate increase of up to 22%. After months of discussion and contention, the board ultimately agreed to move forward with the increase in July.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
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.
Thursday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Friday
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine
A Portland man was arrested Friday for possession of methamphetamine.

Travis L. Stone, 49, 1019 W. North St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for the alleged crime, and a Class A mis-

demeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

He was being held on an \$11,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Crossed center

A Bluffton man crashed the car he was driving into a pole along county road 450 East about 1:37 a.m. Sunday.

Nathan E. Snyder, 24, was driving a 2004 GMC Sierra north on the road just north of Indiana 67 when he crossed the center line and drove west into a ditch. The front of the vehicle then hit a utility pole, causing it to snap in half. Part of the pole landed across county road 450 East.

Snyder was cited with a misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxic-

ated and later booked into Jay County Jail.

He sustained a minor face injury.

The vehicle Snyder was driving — it's registered to Benjamin L. Eicher of Monroe — was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The pole is registered to Jay County REMC.

Spinning accident

An Austin woman lost control of the vehicle she was driving and hit a pole on Indiana 67 in Jay County about 7:45 a.m. Saturday.

Thelma J. Caudill, 69,

was driving a 2010 Cadillac Escalade east on the highway when she lost control on the slick road. The vehicle went across the center line and off the north side of the road, causing it to spin and crash into a pole.

The vehicle Caudill was driving was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The pole is owned by Jay County REMC.

Couldn't turn

A California semi driver crashed the vehicle he was driving into a utility pole at the intersection of

county road 500 South and 1150 West about 9:45 a.m. Saturday.

Iqbal Kaur, 28, Live Oak, was driving a 2019 Freightliner Cascadia north on county road 1150 West and turning onto 500 South. He wasn't able to make the turn, and the passenger side of his truck hit a pole owned by Frontier Communications.

The crash knocked the pole onto the ground and left a phone line across the road.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The truck is registered to White Fox of Indianapolis.

Agenda ...

Continued from page 1
Such a change would also eliminate the need for county assessors.
House Bill 1229 proposes eliminating new assessments as of Dec. 31, 2025, and collecting of property taxes as of Dec. 31, 2026. It would also prohibit the creation of new levies or referenda, and create a fund to pay off existing referenda at the current rates.

In order to compensate for the property tax revenue lost for schools and local governments, the bill proposes extending sales taxes to transactions for services with the exception of health and mental health services (including insurance premiums) and charitable services that are tax exempt. The state comptroller would be responsible for distributing the

revenue from the taxes to the appropriate funds. About 45% would go to schools, with 20% going to city governments and another 20% going to county governments based upon their population and amount of roadways. The remainder would go to township governments based on a five-year average of their needs.
"This model actually works out much better than we expected when you look at the projections," said Prescott, who represents the southern two-thirds of Jay County as well as all of Randolph and Blackford counties and part of Delaware and Henry counties. "We are still very early in the session. Even if this isn't the solution, we have started a meaningful discussion on the issue."
Prescott and Alexander also noted

that newly elected Gov. Mike Braun has been open to discussion on a number of issues.

"A more common-sense and back-to-our-roots approach to things seems to be taking place," said Prescott.

Prescott has also introduced bills addressing transparency of school board elections, the posting of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, illegal immigration and restrictions of advertisements of sports gaming.

Some of the issues brought up by those in attendance at Saturday's session included underage vaping, money received by the Union School Corporation for online learning, and what would become of local fire services should the township level of government be eliminated.

Inaugurated ...

Continued from page 1
The two men followed protocols in place for more than 200 years of American history, as did outgoing and incoming Cabinet members, lawmakers and members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The scene came four years after Trump's followers stormed the same Capitol building and attempted to halt Congress' certification of the 2020 election. Trump subsequently declined to attend Biden's 2021 inauguration.

Biden took action in the final hours of his presidency to issue preemptive pardons to protect some of

Trump's best-known adversaries from the retribution that the incoming president promised to unleash once he returned to power.

Pardoned by Biden early Monday were members of his family as well as Dr. Anthony Fauci, a top medical advisor to Biden; Gen. Mark Milley, the former

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Liz Cheney, a former Wyoming congresswoman who joined Democrats in trying to remove Trump from office.

"I believe in the rule of law, and I am optimistic that the strength of our legal institutions will ultimately prevail over poli-

tics," Biden said in a statement. "But these are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing. Baseless and politically motivated investigations wreak havoc on the lives, safety and financial security of targeted individuals and their families."

SERVICES

Friday
Horn, George: 10:30 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday
Thomas, William: 10 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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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

Remember not to worry about tomorrow

By OLIVIA SMITH
The Commercial Review

Getting back to college after a break is not always easy, and the return for the 2025 spring semester was no different.

The weather caused people to scramble to come early, only for classes to be canceled. The professors didn't care that it was the first day of classes, assigning homework and essays and discussing exams. Returning to campus has

**You're
On Your
Own,
Kid**



caused many people stress and anxiety about getting things done before they are assigned. I am no exception.

Coming back to campus, I was worried about the schedule changing

things with friends, meaning I would have to start all over again meeting people.

I prayed the first night back, asking if going to college was in my cards and telling God I might just go back home and figure it out.

The next day, I met some friends of a friend and ended up having a fantastic conversation about how patient God is and how he works. I needed that conversation to remind me why I am here

and what matters. The following week, after that conversation, I met with many friends, planned meet-ups, talked with professors and scheduled weekly meals with those I don't see often. I was excited to get back into schoolwork and a routine.

As the excitement kept up with everyone, I made plans with classes and I had a new stress — schoolwork. I got into my head about getting everything done, trying to find

time for friends, studying and getting ahead.

Once again, I worried. As I worried, I went to dinner with some friends and revealed these worries to them. One reminded me that we are told in the Bible to not worry about tomorrow. Again, I was reminded that I am cared for, even if it doesn't feel like it.

Since I needed this reminder multiple times in the five days since I was back on campus, I'm assuming others need it

too. I don't know what you are going through, but I don't have to because there is someone who knows exactly what it is and is there for you. So, if you need the reminder or know someone who needs it, tell them you are loved and do not need to worry about tomorrow.

Matthew 6:34 "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Obsession with weight creates added stress

DEAR ABBY: I am a middle-aged slender woman born into a family of women who have always struggled with weight. Ever since I can remember, I have been subjected to nasty jibes and microaggressions regarding my weight.

My siblings have always kept a close eye on my waistline for clues that I could be gaining. They have also bullied and excluded me, and I have long suspected the reason has something to do with my weight. Depending on my lifestyle and the season, my weight fluctuates by about 10 pounds.

When traveling family members visit, I always hear, "You're so skinny! I'm so jealous!" Or, if I have put on a few pounds, "You look really healthy!" None of the other women in my family are on the receiving end of these unwelcome comments, and I feel objectified and embarrassed by all this.

I am more than a body. I'm a kind and caring human being who just wants to be accepted and respected by family members I love, despite their annoy-

**Dear
Abby**



ing comments. How can I get them to stop seeing me as a body and start seeing me as the caring human being I am? I want those comments to stop. — THIN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR THIN: It may be time to approach these relatives head-on and say something like this:

"For years I have watched you struggle unsuccessfully with your weight. Frankly, it has made me feel guilty for being thin. It's possible that I was born with a higher metabolism than the rest of you, which is not my fault. In all this time, I have never commented about your weight. So please, from now on, quit commenting about mine, because I find it embarrassing for all of us."

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband hates my special needs sister. He allowed her to come on one short vacation but said she was awful, annoying and a bad influence on the kids. She doesn't curse or do anything inappropriate. She is lazy and obese, but the kids love her and asked for her to come. He also screams at me if she calls, which she does sometimes because I'm her legal guardian and manage her funds. He wants me to stop doing it and turn her over completely to the state.

I love my sister, and it breaks my heart that he hates her, doesn't want her to visit once a year for a few days and accuses me of not caring about his feelings or listening to him. He's under a lot of stress and just hates having her around him. Must I cut ties with my sister to make him happy? — PULLED IN TWO IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR PULLED: It appears you married a selfish, unsupportive, controlling man who lacks empathy for people with disabilities. I hope you won't cave in to his

demands and desert your sister who needs you. He has no right to berate you for fulfilling a family obligation. If he can't stand having her visit, perhaps HE should take a small vacation during the few days she's with you. Draw the line and insist upon it before he swallows you up entirely.

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DEAR ABBY: My sister, brother and I lost our mom to dementia six months ago. We needed to start cleaning out the house. My brother, who lives in assisted living was unable to help.

When I mentioned to my sister that I was going to start cleaning out the kitchen, she told me she didn't want me there alone. I told her when a person offers to help, the polite thing to say is thank you. Well, she hasn't spoken to me in the last five months. She and her husband have taken to cleaning out the house on their own.

I know my sister has personality disorders. Her doctor told that to my mom from the time sis was a teen. She won't take

my calls. I have apologized 100 times. What now? — SAD SISTER IN ARIZONA

DEAR SISTER: When someone with a personality disorder is also suffering from an emotional stressor such as grief, they are, to put it mildly, not at their best.

Did your sister object to you going to the house because she was afraid you would take something without telling her? Did your mother leave a will describing what she wanted you, your sister and your brother to have in the event of her death? What is supposed to be done with the house and its contents?

Because your sister won't accept or answer your calls, seek out a lawyer for guidance.

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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.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Honoring accomplishment is good

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Everywhere I looked last week, people were receiving the Sagamore of the Wabash award from outgoing Gov. Eric Holcomb. Most were given in his office in front of the fireplace. His face must have been stiff from all the smiling.

- Among the awardees were:
- A private college executive
 - The Purdue University president
 - A biotech executive
 - A former House speaker
 - A lobbyist
 - An attorney who represented Holcomb in a constitutional lawsuit
 - Another attorney
 - A lawmaker
 - A civil rights advocate
 - A law partner
 - Another private college executive
 - A businessman

Niki Kelly



- A former GOP party chair
 - Several Ball State University board members
 - A mayor
 - A Purdue University trustee
 - Another mayor
 - A political strategist
 - A bank executive
 - More attorneys
 - A zoo president
 - A firefighter
 - A health care executive
 - A CEO
 - An auto-racing leader
 - Another lawmaker
 - A congressional staffer
 - A baseball executive
- And those were only the ones

posted publicly online. There are so many more.

I sent a note to Holcomb's office asking for a final list of those awardees but, alas, the request wasn't answered.

Back in 2021, I wrote a story on how often high honors, including the Sagamore, are given.

At that point — five years into his eight-year tenure — Holcomb had given more than 1,100 awards. Of that, 585 were the Sagamore award, considered by many to be the highest honor.

It was started in the 1940s by Gov. Ralph Gates. The term "sagamore" was used by the Native American tribes of the Northwest Territory to describe a lower chief or a great man among the tribe to whom the true chief would look for advice and wisdom. Each governor has his own criteria for giving the Sagamore award — though anyone can nominate someone.

Prior to Holcomb, then-Gov.

Mitch Daniels limited use of the award to preserve its meaning. He gave only 250, according to that 2021 Journal Gazette article.

Former governors Robert Orr and Evan Bayh gave more than 3,600 Sagamores each.

Daniels revived the Schem Award, and only one is issued each year. Recipients have included legendary college basketball coach John Wooden in 2005 and Lincoln National Corp. CEO Ian Rolland in 2012.

Holcomb's last Schem was given to Clay Robbins, the chair and CEO of the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Holcomb added his own award to the cadre: the Circle of Corydon, the home of Indiana's first state capital. It recognizes "those who have made remarkable contributions that have bettered Indiana and demonstrated the qualities exemplified by our greatest citizens."

And there are also the Distin-

guished Hoosier Award, which has been given by governors for more than 50 years to recognize outstanding Indiana residents, and the Honorary Hoosier Award to recognize those not from Indiana but who have made outstanding contributions to the state.

Maybe I should be upset at the diminishment of the Sagamore of the Wabash. After all, several of those who were awarded in the last two weeks already had a Sagamore from a previous governor.

But I honestly can't bring myself to care that much. I am all for recognizing Hoosiers doing amazing things, no matter what you call it.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Gaza ceasefire now has to stick

Chicago Tribune

Which U.S. president gets credit for the Gaza ceasefire, the one incoming or the one outgoing?

Who cares? Let's just say both administrations did their part and be done.

What matters is that the people of Gaza get a road to post-Hamas recovery and the Israeli hostages can come home, be reunited with their families and tell their stories. At least the ones who are still alive. In the gruesome business of hostage counting, dead bodies also matter, especially for those of the Jewish faith. No one doubts there will be plenty of those and that all homecomings will be suffused with agony as well as joy.

But the world only spins forward. Decent people on all sides now are praying that the wobbly ceasefire ending this brutal 15-month war is maintained without further loss of life, Israeli or Palestinian.

For all the withering criticism lobbed his way from the administration of President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has given up plenty for this deal, releasing many Palestinian prisoners held in Israel and fending off those on his far-right flank who see it as agreeing to something less than the total eradication of Hamas. But that was always more of a symbolic goal than a practical one.

Hamas might not be wiped from the face of the earth but the terrorist organization, not to mention its friends in Hezbollah, is mortally wounded and anyone versed in realpolitik knows that you don't sacrifice a 95% gain for the last 5% of the journey. In some Israeli minds, an alternative leadership structure should have been in place before any ceasefire but that's not practical. The high-ranking Israelis we have spoken to are focused on bringing home their hostages. In the end, the likes of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia will have to be

Guest Editorial

Decent people on all sides now are praying that the wobbly ceasefire ending this brutal 15-month war is maintained without further loss of life, Israeli or Palestinian.

involved in the reinvesting in, and rebuilding of, Gaza. But the hostage release has to come first and for that a deal must be made with Hamas and the fighting must cease.

The Palestinian people, betrayed by Hamas and treated brutally by Israeli forces, already have watched tens of thousands die around them and communities reduced to rubble. They've had more than enough.

Donald Trump and his seemingly effective special envoy, Steve Witkoff, will have a lot more work to do with a fragile agreement that has multiple stages, meaning several opportunities for one party or the other to walk away. The last thing Trump needs is an ongoing war and in that the president-elect's interests align with everyone outside a group of narrow-minded extremists.

Trump already has begun his victory lap. But the man who prides himself on the mastery of the art of the deal had first better make darn sure this one sticks.



No one should count on luck

By JAY BALAGNA

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

As bad as the fires in the Los Angeles area have been — more than 12,000 structures burned, about 180,000 people evacuated, more than 35,000 acres scorched, and at least 25 deaths — they could have been even worse. Officials noted they didn't "have enough fire personnel ... to handle this," but in some ways we Angelenos got lucky.

American wildland firefighting today is built on a complex network of local, state and federal agencies that are often called to support one another, traveling long distances across state lines to do so. This is how firefighters from neighboring states like Nevada and Arizona can currently be found on the fire lines in L.A., and why the aircraft overhead bear liveries from nearby Orange County and faraway Quebec. North America's wildland firefighting systems rely on this sort of mutual aid as backup, and it was sheer luck that many agencies — both near and far — had capacity in this moment to spare. As of Tuesday afternoon, when numbers started to slowly decline, there were 5,123 firefighters assigned to the Palisades fire and 3,408 assigned to the Eaton fire, according to status reports.

But a system built on luck is not a durable system. It is already strained, and it risks breaking down in a world of greater and more frequent wildfires.

In the U.S., the federal forces that form the wildland firefighting system's backbone are the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, along with a handful of smaller agencies. All are overworked, because of a long history of overburdening and underpaying a workforce that is mostly seasonal. Those agencies face deep and constant staffing shortfalls, leading to a wildland fire workforce in America that faces men-

tal and physical health crises and even homelessness.

The better-supported and more stable local and state agencies, by necessity, must focus on their local jurisdictions first. The only reason Orange County can send so much help to L.A. at the moment is that there are currently no large fires burning in Orange County. If Canadian wildfires were burning, we couldn't have counted on the Quebecois Super Scooper aircraft we see skimming water from the Pacific to fight the Palisades fire.

L.A. County is already home to some of the highest concentrations — and highest quality — of firefighting resources anywhere in the world. More personnel or equipment would not have meant that the Palisades or Eaton fires would have been suppressed in a day or two. Given the severe drought and winds, along with the lack of beneficial natural or prescribed fire in the landscape that has built up what experts refer to as the region's fire debt, ignitions this month were perhaps destined to cause major fires.

Even if nothing could have stopped those fires, L.A. only narrowly escaped further destruction from numerous new blazes that started after the Palisades and Eaton fires were already burning out of control. As is normal in our current system, additional firefighters from outside the local area arrived to backstop the initial responders when they were exhausted after their 24- or 48-hour shifts. Those relief firefighters

helped to ensure new fires didn't escalate out of control, too.

As a former firefighter myself, I've long preached the benefits of the mutual aid and resource-sharing systems. Our world is changing, though, and firefighting tactics must follow. Our firefighting systems are still organized around seasonal staffing surges — but as these January blazes make clear, there is no such thing as a "fire season" anymore.

Land managers, researchers and advocates correctly point to the dire need to reintroduce fire to Western landscapes to repair some of the damage done by more than a century of mismanagement. But prescribed fire in densely populated Altadena or Santa Monica is a tricky task with limited scope. As fires in the so-called wildland-urban interface grow ever more destructive, fighting them is still often the only answer that protects lives and property.

And fighting them requires us to have the workforce to do so. We need that workforce to be stable, year-round and localized. This means exploring options such as perpetual National Guard activations with a focus on firefighting. It might even mean implementing voluntary local or national service models that funnel Americans' desire to help into these overdrawn and overwhelmed systems. None of this would substitute for the mutual aid we see when communities share resources; those systems should be expanded as well.

Whatever the new system looks like, it can't just keep doing the same thing we have done every fire season — because if the usual response didn't work in L.A., it won't work anywhere.

Balagna, a former wildland firefighter, is an assistant policy researcher at the nonprofit, nonpartisan Rand. He lives in Los Angeles near the Eaton fire.

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

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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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Invenergy reaches supply deal

Invenergy announced last week that it has reached a supply agreement with Hubbell.

The supply agreement involves \$70 million in investment in the Grain Belt Express Phase 1 transmission line project in Missouri. Construction on the project is expected to begin in 2026.

"Grain Belt Express is the highest capacity transmission line in the U.S. and the longest line the U.S. has built in over 50 years, making this domestic supply agreement among the largest of its kind in the industry," said Invenergy executive vice president for transmission Shashank Sane in a press release. "The products made by Hubbell and distributed out of Centralia will ensure a more reliable, resilient energy grid at a time of unprecedented demand."

Invenergy is developing Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay County.

Deal announced

Leeward Renewable Energy announced more than 700 megawatts in renewable energy projects in Oklahoma.

Business roundup

The projects include the 372-megawatt Mayes County Solar portfolio, which includes three facilities in southern Oklahoma. The will support the company's agreement with Google to support its data center operations.

"We are proud to expand our presence in Oklahoma with these projects which are ideally located to support Google's data center operations," said Eran Mahrer, Leeward chief commercial officer, in a press release. "This partnership with Google not only strengthens our collaboration but also contributes to the reliability of Oklahoma's electric grid and helps advance national energy independence. By utilizing domestically manufactured equipment and creating job opportunities for Oklahomans, these projects deliver tangible benefits to local communities

navigating the energy transition. They underscore our commitment to responsible development and fostering economic growth in regions critical to the future of energy."

Leeward is developing Rose Gold Solar north of Dunkirk.

Applications open

CenterPoint Energy Foundation is accepting applications for its 2025 grant cycle.

Grants are available to nonprofit organizations in Indiana and Ohio that support "community vitality and education." They cover projects including affordable housing, quality of place, literacy, STEM and workforce development.

"We are proud of the impact the CenterPoint Energy Foundation continues to have in helping create positive, meaningful change in the communities we're privileged to serve," said CenterPoint vice president of community relations June Deadrick in a press release. "We remain committed to investing in initiatives enriching the lives of those living and working in communities

we currently serve, while building a strong foundation for a brighter tomorrow. We encourage qualified nonprofit organizations who focus on community vitality and education to apply for a grant through Feb. 14."

CEO named

Yum! Brands last week named Scott Mezvinsky as its chief technology officer.

Mezvinsky, has been with Yum! Brands for 20 years and currently serves as president of Taco Bell North American and International. He will step into his new role on March 1.

"Scott is one of Yum! Brands' most respected leaders, with more than 20 years of experience with the company in areas including operations, strategy, finance and development and a strong track record of delivering impactful results," said Yum! Brands CEO David Gibbs. "In his most recent role as President of Taco Bell North America and International, Scott has helped implement Taco Bell's well-known bold and exciting ideas and ensured

that global restaurant teams and customers have an industry-leading experience. He is a natural choice to lead KFC's long-term global growth strategies, working in close partnership with our franchisees."

Officer appointed

Advance Auto Parts has appointed Shweta Bhatia as its chief technology officer. Bhatia previously served as senior vice president of technology at Dollar General. She also has experience with Walmart and Kohl's.

"Shweta's history of successfully executing transformational programs that focus on speed, efficiency, and providing quality solutions to customers will greatly contribute to the execution of our three-year financial plan," Shane O'Kelly, Advance president and CEO, in a press release. "We welcome Shweta to our leadership team that is passionate about carrying out our decisive actions which will set up Advance for future growth and value creation."

Donating for relief

Comcast NBCUniversal is donating \$10 million to

support wildfire relief efforts in Los Angeles.

The funding includes \$2.5 million for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles' ReBUILD LA initiative. Additional funding will go to the American Red Cross, Entertainment Industry Foundation SoCal Fire Fund, Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles.

"We extend our deep appreciation to the first responders for their tireless and courageous efforts and to our news teams, including NBC4 and KVEA, who are providing vital coverage during this time," said Brian L. Roberts, chairman and CEO of Comcast, in a press release. "We stand ready to support our employees and the broader Los Angeles community as we recover and rebuild from these tragic events."

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

U.S. will ban cancer-linked Red Dye No. 3

By DEENA SHANKER and ANNA EDNEY

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. health officials banned the artificial food coloring Red No. 3, which has been linked to cancer and is currently in scores of products from candy to cold medicine.

The dye will no longer be allowed in U.S. food or ingested drugs starting Jan. 15, 2027, according to a Food and Drug Administration document posted online.

Red No. 3 is used in foods such as Brach's candy corn from Ferrara Candy Co., Betty Crocker sprinkles from General Mills Inc. and strawberry Ensure from Abbott Laboratories. It is also found in drugs including Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s Vyvanse for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and store-brand heartburn pills from Costco Wholesale Corp. and Rite Aid Corp.

The move comes more than 30 years since the Food and Drug Administration prohibited the use of Red No. 3 in cosmetics after studies found tumors linked to the dye in lab rats. Consumer and patient advocacy groups petitioned the agency in 2022 to revoke the use of the food coloring in American diets.

The FDA said the dye doesn't cause cancer in humans the same way it does in rats but

under a provision known as the Delaney Clause, anything that causes cancer in humans or animals is not allowed in food in the U.S.

"The petitioners provided data demonstrating that this additive induces cancer in male rats," the FDA wrote in its notice Wednesday. Bloomberg previously reported the decision.

One of the proponents of banning controversial dyes is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

"If you can't put it on your skin why would you eat it?" said Linda Birnbaum, former director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program, in an interview last month. "Bright red dye is completely unessential. We don't need bright red dyes."

Birnbaum signed the petition to ban Red No. 3 in the U.S. along with about 20

advocacy groups including Consumer Reports, Public Citizen and the Environmental Working Group.

The dye is common in U.S. supermarkets. About 26% of baking decorations and dessert toppings have the dye, according to an analysis of October data performed by healthy food app GoCoCo. It's also found in 16% of chewing gum and mints, 13% of candy, and 11% of cookies and biscuits.

"Red Dye 3 poses an unacceptable risk to our health, especially when safer alternatives are readily available," said Brian Ronholm, director of food policy at Consumer Reports. "By banning Red Dye 3, the FDA will protect the public by encouraging manufacturers to switch to safer ingredients already used in products sold in Europe and numerous other countries."

The industry should be ready to remove Red No. 3, said Peter Lurie, executive director of Center for Science in the Public Interest,

which also signed the petition, in an interview last month. California banned Red No. 3 in foods in 2023, though companies have until 2027 to make the change.

A spokesperson for General Mills said that the company will be in compliance with California's law when it takes effect. Ferrara has already begun reformulating products without Red No. 3 to align with consumer preferences, a spokesperson told Bloomberg.

Shares of General Mills and Abbott were little changed on Wednesday in New York.

The Consumer Brands Association, a food industry group, and the National Confectioners Association, a candy-focused trade organization, both said companies would comply with the ban.

"Our consumers and everyone in the food industry want and expect a strong FDA, and a consistent, science-based national regulatory framework," the candy group said in a statement. "FDA is the right national regulatory deci-

sion maker and leader in food safety."

Red No. 3 is one of a handful of dyes that have recently come under scrutiny by state legislatures. Lawmakers are weighing bans on Red No. 40, which has been associated with hyperactivity in children, as well as Yellow Nos. 5 and 6, Blue Nos. 1 and 2, and Green No. 3.

"Red 3 has no place in our food, especially in food marketed to our kids," said Scott Faber, senior vice president of government affairs at Environmental Working Group. "Now, the FDA needs to take the next step and ban other dangerous chemicals lurking in our food."

Some food and drug makers have already begun switching to other types of dyes such as carmine, which comes from ground insects.

The only foods in the European Union that can use Red No. 3, known as erythrosin there, are cocktail and candied cherries.

The EU has a more robust system to review food additives than the U.S. does, Jim Jones, the FDA's deputy commissioner for human foods, told U.S. senators during a hearing on industry tactics that have led millions of Americans to develop diabetes and obesity. Jones said the agency recently created an office to examine food chemicals that are on the market and is pushing Congress for more funding.

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North dealer.
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NORTH
♠ K Q 5 2
♥ K 6
♦ A 7 4
♣ A K 8 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 3
♥ A Q J 9 5
♦ J 10
♣ Q J 6

WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ 10 8 4 3
♦ Q 9 6 5 2
♣ 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 9
♥ 7 2
♦ K 8 3
♣ 10 7 5 4

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

Opening lead — three of hearts.

Assume you're in four spades and West leads a low heart. East collects two heart tricks and shifts to the jack of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

The outlook is not good. It seems certain that you'll lose a diamond and a club and go down one. Of course, you might get lucky and catch the doubleton Q-J of clubs, but the 7% chance of this occurring doesn't cheer you up much.

But when you consider the matter further, a brighter prospect emerges. You might be able to make the contract via an elimination play. So, you win the diamond return with the king, draw three rounds of trump and cash the A-K of clubs. After the trumps and clubs both turn out to be divided 3-2, your chances of making four spades improve significantly. You next cash the ace of diamonds, and then, with fingers crossed, you exit from dummy with a club.

When East wins the trick with the queen, which is what you were hoping for, the contract becomes a virtual certainty. Assuming East started with five hearts for his overcall, he now has nothing but hearts left in his hand. When he returns one, you discard a diamond from one hand and ruff in the other to make four spades.

The hand illustrates how a declarer can sometimes salvage what appears to be a hopeless contract. The key to success in such situations is to try to picture an opposing distribution that would allow you to get home safely and then play for it to be that way. More often than not, your hopes will go unrewarded, but occasionally the outcome will be a happy one.

Tomorrow: Keeping in touch.
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE CIRCLE WAS DOING STUPID THINGS, WHAT DID THE TRIANGLE SAY TO IT? "YOU'RE POINTLESS."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Idle of Monty Python
- 5 Homer's lament
- 8 Grate
- 12 Sprint
- 13 Geological period
- 14 Intro studio class
- 15 Met melody
- 16 Knee cartilage
- 18 Cough drop flavor
- 20 Valerie Harper sitcom
- 21 Light brown
- 22 Fluffy neck-piece
- 23 Strep of "The Post"
- 26 Patching up
- 30 Lab eggs
- 31 Witty one
- 32 Wrigley product
- 33 Protégés
- 36 Accra's country
- 38 Stein filler

DOWN

- 1 Dutch cheese
- 2 Exceptional
- 3 "The doctor —"
- 4 Talkative
- 5 Fiend
- 6 Pitcher Hershiser
- 7 Solo in space
- 8 Actress Phylicia
- 9 With the bow, musically
- 10 Poker type
- 11 Galileo's birthplace
- 17 Pressing need
- 19 Actor Linden
- 22 Plead

23 Soccer —

- 24 Prior night
- 25 Campaigned
- 26 More, to Manuel
- 27 Polish tennis star
- 28 Convent head
- 29 "Today" rival, briefly
- 31 Pint-sized
- 34 Flavors
- 35 K thru 12
- 36 Tom Collins liquor
- 37 Website invader
- 39 Green sauce
- 40 Urban haze
- 41 Apportion
- 42 Shortly
- 43 L-Q bridge
- 44 Designer Spade
- 45 Literary Jane
- 46 Must have
- 48 British singer Rita

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16		17			
18					19			20		
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40	41	42			43			44	45	46
47					48			49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

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Sports

Turnovers to transition

Fort Recovery uses defense to spark offense in blowout

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Caitlynn Shroyer dribbled toward the left sideline. Cameron Muhlenkamp and Brooke Bihn swarmed her. She tried to send a pass back to Mackenzie Hocker near the top of the key.

Karlie Niekamp sliced into the passing lane, knocked the ball away and cruised down the court for an easy layup.

That final play of the first half was a microcosm of the game.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team used a combination of full-court pressure and half-court traps to force 20 first-half turnovers in a 61-22 victory over the Bradford Railroaders.

"That was something we really worked on yesterday in practice, was being able to change things up defensively and being able to really go out and execute and try to get some of those easy baskets," said FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch, adding that he didn't feel his team played to its potential in a 37-23 loss Thursday to Minster. "So being able to change things up on defense and adjust and make them also kind of slow things down and think about what they're doing ... was a big emphasis for us ..."

"Just with our length and how aggressively we played today was really big with that and being able to push the ball down the floor with our tall girls up top, being able to get transition layups is just huge."

Most of the points for the Indians (7-9) came off of turnovers, with back-to-back Bridget Homan steals leading to Kennedy Muhlenkamp layups for a 10-2 lead less than five minutes into the game. The Tribe closed the first quarter with a dozen consecutive points for an 18-point advantage.

See **Turnovers** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Karlie Niekamp and Kennedy Muhlenkamp (right) of Fort Recovery High School swarm Bradford's Hayven Evans during the first half of the Indians' 61-22 victory Saturday morning. Niekamp totaled 24 points and Muhlenkamp had 16 for the Tribe, which forced 20 first-half turnovers.

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Robinson leads Jay County to first place at Celina Lions Invitational

CELINA, Ohio — The Patriots only had one wrestler reach the top of the podium, but it was enough to lift the team to the top of the standings.

The Jay County High School boys wrestling team took first place out of 14 teams in the Celina Lions Invitational on Saturday.

The Patriots racked up 266.5 points to skate past the host Bulldogs (145) with ease.

Jacob Robinson claimed the only individual victory for Jay County, winning the 150-pound weight class.

Four more Patriots made it to their respective title matches, but fell in the final. Corbin Lothridge claimed second in the 106 bracket while the other three runners-up — A.J. Heskett (144), A.J. Myers (190) and Alan Ortiz (215) — were in the middle and heavy-weight classes.

Seven more Patriots made it into the top four as Griffin Byrum (113), Syllas Wenk (120) and Jason Landers (132) placed third, and Hayden Richmond (120), Cooper Glassford (126), Mario Ardizzone (165) and Freddie Lingo (215) took fourth.

Treacherous third

FORT RECOVERY — Fort Recovery's boys basketball team fell to the Division VI No. 7 Crestview Knights 67-37 on Saturday.

The Indians (3-11) trailed 26-18 at the half, but a poor third quarter put the game out of reach as the Knights (12-3) rattled off 24 points.

Breaker Jutte led FRHS with 10 points. Only two more players for the Tribe reached five, with Briggs Overman scoring six points and Grant Fortkamp putting up five.

Wren Sheets topped all scorers with 16 points, including 12 in the third period. Hayden Perrott followed with 13 points and Owen Heckler contributed nine on three triples.

Indians roll

The Fort Recovery boys bowling team picked up a pair of victories against Ansonia 2,197-2,093 on Friday and Coldwater 2,887-2,762 on Saturday at Miracle Lanes and McBo's Lanes, respectively.

In the blowout against Ansonia, Riley Grishop led the way for the Tribe (5-7, 3-2 Midwest Athletic Conference) with a 227 game and a total of 417 pins. Gabe Acheson threw the match-high

Local roundup

game of 234 pins against Coldwater (9-2, 4-1 MAC). Acheson finished with a 217 average pinfall. Eli Lennartz also averaged above 200 pins, as he rolled games of 212 and 206.

Brown leads

The Fort Recovery girls bowling team dominated both Ansonia 2,302-1,834 on Friday and Coldwater 2,586-2,063 Saturday at Miracle Lanes and McBo's Lanes, respectively.

The Indians (7-1, 5-0 MAC) had two bowlers average over 200 pins a game against Ansonia. Deanna Brown shot the match-high 237 and coupled it with a 164 for an average of 200.5 pins. Ella Schoen led the way with games of 223 and 183 for a 203 average.

Brown followed up with a strong performance against the Cavaliers (3-8, 2-3 MAC). She shot games of 231 and 213 for a 222 average as Fort Recovery rolled over CHS.

Bronze for bronze

INDIANAPOLIS — The JC Flipsters gymnastics team competed at the Meet Me Under the Sea Invitational on Saturday.

First all-around performances by Paxton Hirschy and Carlie Runkle led the bronze Xcel team to third place in the meet.

The bears was Hirschy's top event, in which she placed first with 9.65 points en route to her 37 all-around points. Hirschy also finished second on the vault and third on the beam.

Runkle's 37.25 all-around points were fueled by a first-place finish on the vault with 9.65 points, second-place performances on the bars and the beam and a third place on the floor.

Paylin Vance had the best day of the Flipsters in the silver Xcel division. She finished seventh all-around thanks to a third-place finish on the vault (9.375).

Aubree Shannon and Jordyn Champ both claimed fourth all-around in the gold Xcel division with scores of 36.15 and 35.675, respectively.

See **Roundup** page 7