

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



Cold spell

A cold weather advisory that had been in effect since Sunday was lifted Wednesday morning as temperatures slowly crept from below zero toward a projected high of 17. The frigid stretch led to Jay Schools being closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Temperatures are expected to climb into the 30s by the weekend.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Concern raised about access to services

Resident expressed frustration with struggle to get help

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Where can I find mental health resources?

Portland City Council addressed that question from a resident Tuesday after they expressed frustration about struggles with finding help.

Kenji Lehman presented council members the concern, indicating a personal mental health crisis for about a month. Efforts to find help, specifically with paying for prescription medications, have not been fruitful.

Lehman said the situation forced a decision between paying for the electric bill or paying for medication.

Among options explored were Meridian Health Services, The Bowen Center and the Wayne Township Trustee's Office. Lehman indicated that Meridian and Bowen had a long wait time and the trustee's office was not helpful.

"I don't understand what I'm supposed to do," Lehman said.

"Mental health awareness starts with kindness and I have not gotten that at all," Lehman added later.

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake said he reached out to Meridian Health Services and that he had some information to provide to her.

Council member Ashley Hilfiker suggested IU Health Jay's behavioral health unit, which is located in Building C on the west side of the hospital property. She noted that the unit offers services, including helping patients find assistance with paying for medications.

See **Services** page 2

Libraries push back on taxing authority

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Hoosiers visit their local libraries millions of times each year, one of the public services funded by tax dollars. But boards overseeing the entities have a unique position in Indiana because the appointed members can impose a tax levy for certain needs — a funding option not available to other public services.

A proposal from Republican Sen. Gary Byrne, of Byrnesville, would remove that authority from the public board and give it to the county — a process he said "works very well" with other services, like public parks.

Proposal would shift the power to county government

"The primary goal is to have the elected fiscal body have a ... review of the unelected or appointed boards," Byrne said Tuesday, adding that he believed it would have a "neutral" revenue impact.

"I actually had a constituent come up to me and ask about the library tax when I was on the (county) council and said, 'Well,

that board is appointed. We really have no binding review over what would happen,'" he continued. "(This) just would allow the elected bodies to have a little more say or control and be able to answer to the constituents in their district."

But librarians, five of whom appeared to testify in opposition, believe it creates "an additional

layer of bureaucracy" and said that counties, schools and cities work together to appoint board members.

"Library boards operate openly and transparently so the public can be as engaged as it wants," said Vanessa Martin, the co-chair of the advocacy committee for the Indiana Library Federation. "Public libraries are also regularly audited to make sure that funds appropriated are being spent as they are meant (to be)."

The bill comes as libraries continue to be under fire for their catalogs, including efforts to ban books with LGBTQ or anti-racist themes.

See **Libraries** page 2

States sue to block order

By MICHAEL MACAGNONE and CHRIS JOHNSON

CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — More than a dozen states challenged President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship Tuesday, asking a federal judge to block a campaign pledge of the incoming administration.

The order from Trump, one of dozens that Trump signed on his first day in office, argued a provision in the 14th Amendment that requires people to be "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States allows him to define the children of undocumented immigrants as noncitizens.

Trump, who campaigned on ending birthright citizenship, ordered the government to deny citizenship to anyone born in the United States to undocumented or temporary resident parents as of Feb. 9.

The lawsuit from the state officials, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, seeks an injunction to block the

Trump called for denial of citizenship in some situations

executive order. It argues that Trump overstepped his bounds by trying to overturn the 14th Amendment to the Constitution with only the stroke of a pen.

"The president has no authority to rewrite or nullify a constitutional amendment or duly enacted statute," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit comes from either states or officials from Massachusetts, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico,

New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia and San Francisco.

Immigrant advocacy organizations filed separate lawsuits Monday to challenge the order.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, at a press conference announcing the suit, called Trump's actions "un-American" and that it could impact more than 20,000 Californians born in the next year alone.

"The president chose to start his second term by knocking down one of our nation's fundamental longstanding rights and foundational documents," Bonta said.

Bonta said Trump's executive order would hurt Californians' ability to get Social Security cards, passports and other documents, as well as the state's own ability to access federal funds where the programs are based on the citizenship of the state's residents, like children's health insurance.

See **Sue** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP

Lebanon fire

Smoke billows from a fire that Lebanese media reported was lit by Israeli forces in the southern Lebanese village of Burj al-Muluk, across from a UNIFIL base Tuesday near the border with Israel on. Local media reports added that the fire engulfed a house and construction equipment related to a national water management project.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 12 degrees Tuesday. The low dropped below zero just before midnight.

Tonight's low will be 7 with winds gusting to 20 mph. Expect

mostly sunny skies Friday with a high in the lower 20s. Temperatures are expected to climb into the 30s over the weekend.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Tickets are on sale for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "Everyone Gets Abducted By Aliens." The cast of the play is made up of performers middle school and younger. Tickets are \$5 and are available at bit.ly/JCCTAliens, by visiting Arts Place at 131 E. Walnut St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-4809.

Coming up

Friday — Preview of the JCHS girls wrestling team in the team state tournament.

Saturday — Coverage of Friday's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.

Tuesday — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Services ...

Continued from page 1
She provided Lehman with information about IU Health. "I know it's hard, but stick it out," said Hilfiker, who also pointed to Bowen and Centerstone as options that offer assistance. "You've got to just keep reaching out. "It's unfortunate that you had one bad experience, but there are people in Jay County that will help you." Council member Matt Goldsworthy suggested that

information regarding mental health resources be added to the city's website. Hilfiker agreed that making the information more easily accessible would be a good idea. In other business: •Council member Ron May referenced executive orders signed by President Donald Trump. One of those says: "It is the policy of the United States to take all appropriate action to secure the borders of our Nation through the follow-

ing means ... Cooperating fully with State and local law enforcement officials in enacting Federal-State partnerships to enforce Federal immigration priorities." May asked if Portland police are prepared to handle enforcement. Westlake said he would be attending a round table today to seek additional information. •Council forwarded a request from Joyce/Dayton for a one-year tax abatement on a \$57,000 investment on new equipment

to the city's tax abatement advisory committee. •May suggested the city consider requiring that residents euthanize their chickens in an effort to slow the spread of bird flu. He referenced the outbreak of bird flu in Mercer County. •Council member Michele Brewster asked a question regarding a resident having an issue with trash pick-up. •Westlake reminded residents that Splashin' with a Pas-

sion: Peggy's Plunge is scheduled for noon Saturday, Feb. 8, at the pond behind Moser Engineering and that Portland Fire Department will host a chili cook-off the following weekend. •May said he hasn't found anyone who is in favor of initial plans to create a "social park" in the now-vacant lot to the east of The Greazy Pickle. He asked council members to continue to seek input on the matter.

CR almanac

Friday 1/24	Saturday 1/25	Sunday 1/26	Monday 1/27	Tuesday 1/28
19/11	36/26	31/17	35/26	39/30
Friday's forecast looks to be mostly sunny with highs again in the 20s.	Mostly cloudy, when temperatures may jump to just above freezing.	There's a slight chance of snow and rain on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 20s.	Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when the high will be in the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$31 million	Evening Daily Three: 0-1-1 Daily Four: 7-4-7-1 Quick Draw: 5-8-17-21-22-25-37-43-44-47-48-54-59-62-63-64-65-71-76-77
Mega Millions 27-30-56-64-65 Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$28 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 6-0-4 Pick 4: 8-0-2-4 Pick 5: 0-2-8-8-8 Evening Pick 3: 9-3-5 Pick 4: 2-6-5-6 Pick 5: 4-3-9-5-0 Rolling Cash: 6-15-16-21-38 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 1-4-5 Daily Four: 2-4-2-4 Quick Draw: 3-4-6-7-15-20-21-24-25-28-31-41-49-50-52-58-66-71-79-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.92 Feb. corn4.93 March corn4.95	Feb. beans10.65 Wheat 5.09
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.92 Feb. corn4.94 March corn4.96	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.85 Feb. corn4.85 Beans10.61 Feb. beans10.64 Wheat5.23
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.87 Feb. corn4.87 Beans10.62	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.88 Feb. corn4.88 Beans10.37 March beans10.42 Wheat4.99

Today in history

On Jan. 23, 2020, Chinese state media said the city of Wuhan would be shutting down outbound flights and trains, trying to halt the spread of a new virus that had sickened hundreds of people and killed at least 17. The World Health Organization said the viral illness in China was not yet a global health emergency, though the head of the U.N. health agency added that "it may yet become one."
In 1812, the second New Madrid Earthquake struck, with an estimated magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.
In 1971, the Bryant High School boys basketball team improved to 11-3 with a 91-75 victory over Redkey. Center Rick Schoenlein led the Owls with 28 points.
In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.
In 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.
In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War, and would be formally signed four days later in Paris. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland. 4:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.	Monday 8:45 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Friday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	

Capsule Reports

Didn't see

A Pennville woman turned her van into oncoming traffic near the intersection of Votaw Street and Industrial Park Drive in Portland about 1:53 p.m. Friday. Alisia A. Crouse, 60, was driving her 2010 Chrysler Town and Country east on Votaw Street when she began to turn north into the entrance of Crossroads Financial Federal Credit Union, 1102 W.

Votaw St. She drove in front of a westbound 2020 Ford Explorer driven by 55-year-old Chris A. Snyder of Montpelier. Snyder wasn't able to avoid crashing into the side of Crouse's vehicle. Crouse sustained a lower leg injury and complained of rib pain. She was taken to IU Health Jay for treatment. Snyder was administered a preliminary breath test, according to a Port-

land police report. The vehicle he was driving is registered to the City of Montpelier. Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000. **Backing accident**
A Montpelier resident backed his truck into a Portland resident's vehicle at Village Pantry in Portland about 1:10 p.m. Tuesday.

Craig D. Binegar, 58, was backing his 2016 Ram 2500 out of a parking spot at the convenience store at 704 N. Meridian St. when he failed to notice the 2010 Ford Focus driven by 28-year-old Kaleb J. Lairson pulling into a parking spot nearby. Binegar backed his truck into the passenger side of the vehicle Lairson was driving. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Libraries ...

Continued from page 1
Notably, Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith was part of the Hamilton East Public Library Board of Trustees and spearheaded a book review policy that included prominent local author John Green.

Senate Bill 283

No one testified explicitly in support of Senate Bill 283. David Bottorff, executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties, said it is his group's policy that taxation should be approved by an elected body. But he added that he is glad the bill is being held as there are concerns about which fiscal body would be in charge — counties or cities — and what would happen to existing debt. "That's our involvement," he said. According to the Indiana State Library, roughly 237 libraries throughout the state have the power to introduce a levy on property taxes, an authority overseen by the Department of Local Government Finance. Then the board justifies

the levy in a public hearing before the state can certify.

But Byrne seemed to find support among his Republican colleagues. During his time in local government, he said finding people to serve on the board could be a challenge — something Sen. Mike Gaskill said he'd also seen. "Both as a school board member and as a county councilman, my experience was that there wasn't a lot of thought and competition," said the Pendleton Republican. "... those people end up basically having taxing authority over residents."

Pushback from libraries

But not all of Byrne's colleagues agreed. Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, wondered what problem this bill was trying to solve and questioned whether there were other ways to meet that goal. "I think it might be helpful to have a deep dive into current operations and, if the issue is accounta-

bility or transparency, I think we can look at — 'Are they publishing their annual audited reports? Are they communicating that information to the citizens, if they have concerns?'" Qaddoura said. Carmel Clay Public Library Director Bob Swanay noted that the city council approved its \$29.9 million bond for a renovation project and timed it in a way that avoided a tax increase. "It was a successful partnership that Carmel library had with the City of Carmel and, to this day, we work closely with the City of Carmel in all kinds of ways. My concern is this bill would disrupt that long-standing and successful relationship," Swanay told senators. The Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee opted not to put the bill up for a vote, holding it back for potential amendments.

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

Felony arrests

Vehicle theft

A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for vehicle theft. Desiree N. Walker, 31,

228 W. McNeil St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. She is being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Sue ...

Continued from page 1
"The president has overstepped his authority by a mile, and we will hold him accountable," Bonta said. Republicans in Congress praised Trump's first day immigration moves as well as his actions against birthright citizenship, even as they acknowledged that it would face an uphill battle in the courts. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., told reporters Tuesday that he thinks the proper route to address birthright citizenship may be through legislation defining who is "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States. "I think this will be litigated, and I wouldn't be surprised if part of the answer comes back as well. Congress may need to address that," Hawley said. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., criticized birthright citizenship Tuesday, saying "It makes no sense" for the country to have that policy. Graham has previously introduced legislation to end birthright citizenship. "We're one of the handful of countries in the world that give your citizenship based on being born in the country, and it's been abused," Graham told reporters Tuesday. "Whether or not it holds up in court, we'll see." Thomas Wolf, director of Democracy Initiatives at the Brennan Center for Justice, called the executive order "flagrantly unconstitutional" and said it goes against more

than 100 years of Supreme Court precedent.

"Trump's executive order is unconstitutional not just because it's relying on interpretation of the substantive provision of the Constitution that flies in the face of the clear text of that provision and Supreme Court rulings on the issue, but it's also assuming that a president can unilaterally change or suspend the Constitution, which you can't do," Wolf said. Trump has relied on a provision of the 14th Amendment that says anyone born "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States is a citizen.

SERVICES

Today Cramer , Norma: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
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. Bricker , Fred: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Nominations open for Cole award

The Portland Foundation is accepting nominations for the 28th annual Jack Cole Award for Volunteerism.

The award was established by the foundation's board of trustees to honor Cole's work as its first executive director.

Nominations should be by letter of recommendation and include the nominee's name, address and a

Taking Note

brief background describing why the nominee deserves the award.

The winner will receive a commemorative plaque

and a nominal cash award to be presented to the volunteer's charity of choice. The award will be presented at the Foundation's annual meeting on May 28.

Deadline for nominations is March 14. They should be sent to the foundation office at 107 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, contact the foundation office at (260) 726-4260.

Diabetes cooking

There's a new cooking program coming up in Dunkirk.

Dining with Diabetes, a four-session program focused on preparing healthy meals, will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25 at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St.

The free class will be discussing the basics of

nutrition and providing recipes for participants to try.

To register, call (260) 726-4707.

Heart 101

A free community education series about heart disease prevention has another session slated for next month.

Cardiologist Todd Brophy will discuss heart

disease and provide tips on prevention and early diagnosis at 6 p.m. Feb. 11 at Mercer Health Mar-ion Campus, 8106 Booster Drive, Maria Stein, Ohio.

Reservations are not required. For additional information, contact Mercer Health at myhealth@merc-health.com or (419) 678-5247.

Sister-in-law kisses boyfriend on mouth

DEAR ABBY: I recently realized that my sister-in-law has been kissing my boyfriend on the mouth every time she greets him. We all live in the same town and get together for dinners and events often. I love my SIL and don't believe she would ever do anything to hurt me or my brother. Our families and my mom are all close.

This all came to light after a recent dinner where my brother noticed this kiss (and a cheek rub) and questioned her. My boyfriend told me about it and doesn't think it's a big deal. He says it would be rude to present his cheek instead. I told him I'm not comfortable with this, and that it wouldn't be rude to implement a boundary.

I'm trying not to make this into a major issue, but I'm angry at both my SIL and my boyfriend for not telling me about this sooner. I feel betrayed, and now I'm feeling suspicious. I have toyed with asking her to stop, but it seems kind of juvenile and insecure to mention it to her. Please give me your honest, unbiased take.

— TAKEN ABACK IN NEW JERSEY
DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Because this bothers you so much that you would write to me about it, say something about it to your sister-in-law. Tell her it may be innocent, but the idea of

Dear Abby



anyone other than you kissing your boyfriend on the mouth makes you uncomfortable, which is why you are asking her to stop. Your feelings are your feelings, and you needn't apologize for them.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 12, and I am dating a boy from my class. I know what you're thinking, but no, we have not had sex or kissed, and he is not pressuring me to. My problem is something else — TEXTING! He texts me every morning and chats all day. He often texts in the middle of an activity like going to the beach or flying a kite, and actually apologizes for going into the water and stopping the texting.

I can't spend that much time in contact because I have other things in my life. While I really like him, I don't want to spend this much time texting ANYONE. Plus, our conversations are getting boring because neither of us has anything more to say.

Abby, I feel guilty for not being

able to keep up the conversations. He has an active social life, so it's not like he's depending on me for entertainment. He's a really nice guy. There's just this texting issue. What should I do? — TOO MUCH CONTACT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TOO MUCH: Be completely honest with the boy. Tell him you think he's a really nice guy and you like him, but that you have things you need to be doing other than constantly texting. (It's the truth.) Then give him some times when you would welcome his texts. This is called creating boundaries, and starting at your age, it's really good practice.

DEAR ABBY: We recently hosted an event at home, and one couple showed up an hour and a half early! I thought it was incredibly rude. Thankfully, I wasn't in the shower or only partially dressed. I was in the middle of food preparation and house cleaning, and too frazzled to say anything.

My partner entertained them while I finished preparing for the party, but I had planned on using his help for a few last-minute tasks. These guests have also nicknamed our children despite our repeatedly politely correcting them. How do we better establish firm

boundaries? — SEETHING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SEETHING: A way to do that would be to tell these people (I hope they aren't relatives) you prefer they not arrive early because you are not prepared to entertain them. If they ignore your request and show up early again, DO NOT LET THEM IN. As to their addressing your children by nicknames in spite of your asking them to refrain, quit "asking." Tell them it is offensive, and if it happens again, you will no longer invite them over.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 16 years (eight years married). When we were first married, we had fun. He used to take me out on dates. He knows I enjoy dining and dancing, but it has been years since he invited me out. I have talked to him about this on multiple occasions, and he says he hears me, but we never do anything. I'm tired of repeating my wants and needs to him.

I recently met someone very nice, and I'm attracted to him. He's attentive and picks up on little things I don't mention. We're both married and have no intention of leaving our spouses. We have been talking on the phone only. We have had

no physical contact. But when we talk, I experience feelings that make me want to be with him.

I love my husband and our family, but I'm falling for this gentleman. What do I do about my feelings? — TORN IN NEW YORK

DEAR TORN: The first thing to do would be to end the flirtation with your phone buddy. Then take a long, hard look at what has happened to your relationship with your husband. Tell him you feel the two of you are drifting apart because he no longer gives you the attention he did when you were first married.

Is the problem a lack of initiative on his part? How would he react if you asked HIM out for a date? Ask if you may have done anything to cause him to lose interest, and if talking about this with a licensed marriage and family therapist would make a positive difference. Marriages wither if no effort is made to nurture them.

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

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 Out-patient 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.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

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

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

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE — BRI-ANNA'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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Here Comes the
Bridal Season!

BRIDAL SECTION ADVERTISING SPECIALS

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

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

	full-page color — \$625
	full-page B&W — \$525
	1/2-page color — \$425
	1/2-page B&W — \$325
	1/4-page color — \$275
	1/4-page B&W — \$225
	Big business card (3x3.5) — \$105
	Business card (2x2) — \$52

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Immigrants fill U.S. birth dearth

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

In an updated projection, the Congressional Budget Office moved up its estimate for when deaths will outpace births, putting that event horizon only eight years away, in 2033. That would mean a country suffering from the particular malaise that's afflicted Japan, Norway, the U.K. and elsewhere: an aging population with a dwindling worker base, essentially an economic ticking time bomb. But our saving grace is immigration and the Golden Door must be kept open.

It is the influx of newcomers, which is expected not only to counteract this inverted birth-death ratio, but keep the U.S. population growing — at least if we can shut out the counterproduc-

Guest Editorial

tive anti-immigrant voices and embrace the benefits of an effective system of mass immigration.

We are used to having the ability to debate exactly how to contend with the millions of people clamoring to contribute their talents to the American project, but this is not a law of the universe.

So far, the nation's economic prospects and cultural saliency as the de facto country of immigrants has meant that, despite sometimes harsher and some-

times looser policies, people want to come and settle down and become business owners and nurses and technicians and artists. If conditions are hostile enough for long enough, as the incoming Trump administration promises, they'll look elsewhere, taking their talents and potential for population revitalization to Canada, or Germany, or Australia.

International students that have been the leading edge of, for example, medical research in this country for years will have other institutions to turn to. The lower-skilled workers who power the entire food production sector and construction — the exact type of workers who will now be needed to, for example, rebuild fire-ravaged Los Angeles — might just leave, the type of

departure that some nativists gleefully call "self-deportation." What's the plan then? If we ever hit that reality, it is not going to be easy to put the genie back in the bottle, and the population panorama starts looking far more grim, with steep population declines that will be felt nationwide.

That's not to say there aren't other ways of boosting population growth, and political leaders are increasingly coming around to the idea that having children is something that needs to be to some extent incentivized with policy action, whether it's directly targeted — for example, expanded child tax credits and child care subsidization — or generally having necessities like proper housing within reach. There's much that can bump the

calculus to have a child over the edge towards where young people can feel stable in doing so, and we should be moving in this direction.

This is very unlikely to happen fast enough or at the scale necessary to put the U.S. on a path to population growth or even retention sans significant immigration. Even if it could, there's no real reason to do this. Despite successive anti-immigrant panics — against Chinese, Irish, Italians, Jews and on and on — throughout the course of our entire history, every migration wave has fully integrated into the social and economic fabric of the country and made it stronger for it. We won't feel the impact of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs until it is much too late.



Year will bring growth, long-term concern

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Last week, I presented my 2025 economic forecast to a large group in Muncie. The projections for 2025 are strong for Indiana and the U.S., with a few matters to be concerned about.

First, the good news.

I project the U.S. economy to grow between 2.5 percent and 3 percent in each quarter, with annual growth ending at about 2.8 percent in inflation-adjusted terms. Indiana will also do well, growing at between 2.3 percent and 2.5 percent over the same time, ending the year with an economy that is 2.4 percent larger than today.

Both estimates offer stronger growth than usual since the start of the Great Recession. It is now time to consider that the slow growth that gripped the nation between 2007 and 2019 might be over.

One caveat here is that the differences in growth between Indiana and the U.S. are actually pretty large. One way to think about this is to consider how long it would take for the size of the U.S. and Hoosier economies to double at these different rates of growth.

At 2.8 percent growth, the U.S. economy will double in size—in inflation-adjusted terms—in just under 26 years. At 2.4 percent growth, it will take Indiana 30 years to double the size of the economy. Today, the average American worker earns about 13 percent more than the average Hoosier. If the slower growth projections are correct, the income gap between Hoosiers and the rest of the nation will continue to grow substantially.

The Hoosier economy is

Michael J. Hicks



growing, but at the same time falling further behind the rest of the nation. I hope my forecast is pessimistic. But, over the past few years, I have over-projected the Indiana economy by a tad bit less than 0.2 percent. Let's hope I'm wrong in the other direction this year.

I also project employment to grow by 37,000 more jobs this year. That would be a slower pace than in recent years. However, constraints on labor force availability weigh heavily on an economy with a 4.4 percent jobless rate.

The slower rate of GDP growth and slower job growth I project for 2025 are consistent with the soft landing I continue to expect from our recent bout of inflation. Obviously, some of the economic activity we can expect in the short run will be dependent upon the Federal Reserve's decisions about interest rates. Inflation is stubborn, and getting the last few percentage points back to their target rate has been slower than I expected. Thus, I now expect the Fed to pause rate cuts at least by a few months.

The recent recovery has also seen differences in growth by industry. Manufacturing is one to always watch here in Indi-

ana—the nation's most manufacturing-intensive state.

Since the COVID downturn, factory productivity has risen substantially. The average manufacturing employee is today producing roughly 26 percent more value of goods each year than they were in the quarter before COVID started. That growth in factory productivity has been lacking since the end of the Great Recession.

Productivity growth in manufacturing results in several things. It typically means higher wages for workers, better profits for producers and lower costs for consumers. It also means fewer jobs.

Manufacturing employment today is lower than it was in 2018, before the Trump tariffs took effect. It is also lower than in the early days after COVID-19. The culprit is primarily productivity growth in recent months. If productivity grows faster than demand for goods, there will be job losses in manufacturing. We appear to be back on that trend.

There are three worrisome aspects to my forecast which I've written about in the past. First, the average wages for Hoosier workers, relative to the rest of the nation, continue to slide. The average Hoosier worker takes home less about 84 cents on the dollar when compared to the typical American. The average Hoosier factory worker takes home about 86 cents on the dollar compared to the typical American factory worker.

This is a growing economic challenge for the state. A short 25 years ago, our factory workers earned the national average

wages in manufacturing and, overall, our wages were just 6 percent below the nation as a whole. I know of no other state that has seen this large a decline, and I know of no current or proposed policy that will have any meaningful influence on this wage gap.

The second problem is the composition of jobs in Indiana. I use manufacturing as a bellwether data point. I look back 20 years to January 2005. Since then, factory jobs in our state and the rest of the nation have faced a well-known pattern of growth. We have more high-skill jobs and more low-skill jobs. The middle-skill jobs have declined precipitously.

Since 2005, Indiana has seen solid growth of manufacturing jobs for adults without a high school degree. Those occupations, which pay less, grew by 3.3 percent. College graduates working in manufacturing saw growth of 3 percent. The middle-skill jobs held by high school graduates and those with some college or an associates degree declined by 7.9 percent and 3.5 percent respectively.

This change reflects the trends of automation in the workplace. Jobs that are traditionally performed by college graduates, such as engineering and technical positions, have been resistant to automation. Jobs that are still performed by workers without a high school degree have also proven resistant to automation.

Jobs performed by people with a high school degree, or maybe a couple of years of college, have really been subject to losses due to automation and technology. In short, though manufacturing pro-

ductivity growth is great for businesses and consumers, it has proven tougher for communities and workers when jobs are eliminated.

Finally, I look to the greatest sources of uncertainty about 2025. This year it is not inflation, but federal tax and immigration policy. Indiana has far fewer immigrants than most nations, illegal or otherwise. We need more, but federal policy is likely to lead to fewer immigrants in the coming years. Without immigration, Indiana's population growth will essentially halt, and then begin to decline. That will be a challenge for about 80 counties statewide.

A more immediate challenge lies in potential tariffs. The last round of Trump tariffs pushed Indiana to the brink of recession by 2019. COVID spared us from an obvious tariff recession. The 2018 tariffs on China were modest compared with statements made by the leaders of the incoming administration. An immediate 20 percent tariff on all imported goods will push the Indiana economy into recession in late 2025, before the inevitable retaliatory tariffs on Hoosier corn, soybeans and pork.

In short, 2025 looks to be a solid year of growth, overshadowed by longer-term concerns and very high policy uncertainty.

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

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

Bellefountain 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.
fccftrecovery.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.
firstpceportland.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: 5:30 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 Sharpsburg 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 Kruckow
(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.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.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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Elected ...

Continued from page 8
They will be officially inducted at a July 27 ceremony in Cooperstown, New York, along with former sluggers Dick Allen and Dave Parker, who were selected last month by the Classic Era Committee.

Sabathia went 251-161 with a 3.74 ERA and 3,093 strikeouts in 3,577 1/3 innings from 2001-19. He is one of three left-handers to record at least 3,000 strikeouts, and one of 15 pitchers with 3,000 Ks and 250 wins.

A six-time All-Star selection, Sabathia won the 2007 American League Cy Young Award with Cleveland, with whom he spent his first 7 1/2 seasons.

He was traded to Milwaukee midway through 2008 and, despite his impending free agency, willingly pitched on three days' rest in his final three starts of the regular season to help the Brewers make the playoffs. Sabathia finished 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA in 17 starts with Milwaukee, then pitched on short rest again in Game 2 of the NLDS.

That December, the Yankees signed Sabathia to a seven-year, \$161 million contract, making him the highest-paid pitcher in MLB history to that point. In an

above-and-beyond step, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman left the winter meetings in Las Vegas to meet with Sabathia and his family at their home in Vallejo, Calif., to help close the deal.

The 6-6, 300-pound Sabathia proved to be a worthwhile — and franchise-changing — investment. He went 3-1 with a 1.98 ERA in 36 1/3 innings over five starts in the 2009 postseason, earning ALCS MVP honors and helping the Yankees win what remains their most recent World Series championship.

He led the AL in wins in both of his first two seasons with the Yankees, including with a career-high 21 in 2010. He pitched at least 200 innings, won at least 15 games and posted an ERA no higher than 3.38 in each of his first four seasons with the Yankees.

Sabathia remained a steady rotation presence for the rest of his tenure, finishing his 11-year Yankee career with a 134-88 record, a 3.81 ERA and 1,700 strikeouts over 1,918 innings in 307 appearances, including 306 starts. He has said he will "absolutely" enter the Hall as a Yankee.

He is one of two first-ballot

selections in this year's class, joining Suzuki, who appeared on all but one of the ballots. Rivera, who was inducted in 2019, remains the only unanimous selection. Jeter received all but one vote in 2020.

The slap-hitting Suzuki was already a major star in his native Japan when he joined the Seattle Mariners in 2001. He quickly lived up to the hype, winning AL MVP and AL Rookie of the Year in 2001 after setting a rookie record with 242 hits.

In 2004, Suzuki set the MLB single-season record with 262 hits.

Suzuki, a speedy right fielder with a rocket throwing arm, earned an All-Star selection and won a Gold Glove in each of his first 10 MLB seasons, all with the Mariners.

Seattle traded a 38-year-old Suzuki to the Yankees midway through the 2012 season, and he remained in New York through 2014, hitting .281 over 360 games.

Suzuki also played for the Miami Marlins before finishing his career back with Seattle. He retired with a .311 average and 3,089 hits over 19 MLB seasons.

That production, coupled with his 1,278 hits in Japan's

Nippon Professional Baseball league, gave Suzuki 4,367 hits as a professional player — the most by anyone in baseball history. He is the first Japanese player to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

Wagner, meanwhile, was elected Tuesday in his 10th and final year on the Hall of Fame ballot.

He had missed last year's class by only five votes.

Wagner pitched to a 2.31 ERA, a 0.998 WHIP and 1,196 strikeouts in 903 innings over 16 MLB seasons with the Astros, Philadelphia Phillies, Mets, Boston Red Sox and Atlanta Braves from 1995-2010.

His 422 saves rank eighth in MLB history and second among lefties.

Naturally right-handed, Wagner began throwing from the left side after breaking his right arm twice as a child. With that left arm, Wagner regularly reached triple digits with a fastball he once dialed up to 103.1 mph.

Wagner is the ninth reliever to make the Hall of Fame, breaking through at a position that voters have long been stingy with.

His strikeout rate of 11.92 per nine innings ranks 13th in MLB

history. Among the pitchers to throw at least 900 innings since 1920, Wagner's 2.31 ERA is the second lowest, behind only Rivera's 2.21. No one else's is under 2.50.

Wagner signed a four-year, \$43 million contract with the Mets before the 2006 season. He pitched to a 2.37 ERA and nailed down 101 saves with the Mets before being traded to Boston in August of 2009.

Finishing short of the Class of 2025 were former Mets and Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltrán, who appeared on 70.3% of the ballots in his third year of eligibility, and ex-Yankees outfielder Andruw Jones, who appeared on 66.2% in his eighth year.

Other notable omissions include former Yankees stars Alex Rodriguez, who received 37.1% of the vote in his fourth year of eligibility, and Andy Pettitte, who appeared on 27.9% of the ballots in his seventh year.

Former Mets captain David Wright received 8.1% of the vote.

All five received more votes than they did in 2024, and they will each return to the ballot next year after clearing the 5% cutoff.

Comer ...

Continued from page 8
The Patriots never trailed again in the contest.

"There's no way they could have continued that type of shooting," said Bomholt. "If they were going to do that, we were going to lose. I'm not sure what it was, but they made a lot fewer shots than they made in the beginning."

Landon Lawson led Hagerstown with a 16-point and 12-rebound double-double as the IHSAA Class 2A Tigers came up just short.

"I told the guys in there; I asked them to be honest. 'Did you expect us to come in here and just scream at you?' And they all said, 'No.' I said, 'You're right.' It's a shame that society measures success based on wins, losses, or how many points and rebounds you get," said Hagerstown coach Mark Doerstler. "Because, honestly, our record doesn't reflect who we really are. We've been playing three freshmen a lot, which comes with its learning curves. But we're headed in the right direction. We're going to peak in the next three or four weeks, and I'm confident in that. I'm happy with where we're at."

Anthony Kelley totaled 8

Box score			
Hagerstown Tigers vs. Jay County Patriots		Score by quarters:	
		Jay Co. 13 19 14 10—56	
		Hagerstn 22 9 11 7—49	
Boys varsity summary			
Jay County (7-5)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Comer	7-9	4-5	23
Schemenaur	0-0	0-0	0
Jetmore	0-0	0-0	0
Petro	2-4	1-1	5
Dirksen	0-0	0-0	0
Forthofer	5-6	2-2	12
Phillips	0-0	0-0	0
Griffin	3-10	3-4	9
Swoveland	3-6	1-2	7
Totals	20-35	11-14	56
	.571	.786	
Def. rebound percentage: .800			
Hagerstown (4-9)			
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Schmitz	3-6	0-0	8
Sanders	0-0	0-0	0
Kelley	3-6	1-1	8
Hall	1-3	0-0	2
Vinson	1-2	0-0	2
Rhodes	0-2	0-0	0
Kendall	6-11	0-0	15
Doerstler	1-1	0-0	2
Lawson	4-6	4-8	12
Dickey	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	18-37	5-9	49
	.486	.556	
Def. rebound percentage: .708			
3-point shooting: Jay County 5-11 (Comer 5-6, Griffin 0-5); Hagerstown 7-17 (Kelley 3-6, Schmitz 2-3, Kendall 2-5, Rhodes 0-1, Vinson 0-1, Hall 0-1).			
Rebounds: Jay County 23 (Griffin 6, Comer 5, Swoveland 4, Phillips 3, Petro 2, Forthofer 2, Dirksen). Hagerstown 21 (Lawson 15, Schmitz 2, Kelley 2, Doerstler 2, Dickey).			
Assists: Jay County 7 (Griffin 4, Swoveland 2, Petro). Hagerstown 4 (Kendall 2, Lawson, Vinson).			
Blocks: Jay County 2 (Petro, Forthofer). Hagerstown 2 (Lawson, Kendall).			
Personal fouls: Jay County 8 (Phillips 4, Swoveland 2, Forthofer, Griffin). Hagerstown 10 (Lawson 3, Doerstler 2, Hall 2, Schmitz 2, Kelley).			
Turnovers: Jay County 10. Hagerstown 13.			

points following Kendall's big performance for Hagerstown.

Cole Forthofer and Tucker Griffin each added 12 and 11 points, respectively, to support Comer and the Patriots.

Despite the win, Bomholt was not pleased with his team's performance, feeling the Patriots

played sloppy and unimpressive.

"We were very inconsistent and sloppy at times," said Bomholt. "We probably did just enough right to win the game, but we're nowhere near the level we need to be to get where we want to go and to take that next step of being a good team."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Ruble rumbles

Brenna Ruble of the Jay County High School girls wrestling team throws No. 9 Vika Konovalenko of Columbus North in the IHSAA state finals 120-pound opener on Saturday at Corteva Coliseum. Ruble upset the opposing freshman by pinning her in 34 seconds to earn a spot on the podium.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Delta — 6:30 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Mississinewa — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Coldwater — 6 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Swim ACAC Invite — 5:30 p.m.; Boys wrestling ACAC Individual tournament at Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at South Adams — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Coldwater — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3:25 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)
2 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Indiana Pacers (ABC)
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at Ohio State (BTN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Wichita State at Memphis (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UCLA at Rutgers (FS1)
7 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating (USA)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)

8 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (ABC)
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: LSU at South Carolina (ESPN); Illinois at Northwestern (BTN)
8 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at St. Louis Blues (FSDN Indiana)
8:20 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating (NBC)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Appalachian State at Arkansas State (ESPN2); Maryland at Illinois (FS1)
9:15 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating (USA)
10 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
10:25 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)

Friday
3:30 a.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN)
2 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: Australian Open (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)
6 p.m. — College wrestling: Michigan at Nebraska (BTN)
6 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating Championships (USA)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Marquette (FS1)
7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Mist BC at Phantom BC (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Saint Joseph's at Dayton (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Purdue (FOX)
8 p.m. — College wrestling: Rutgers at Penn State (BTN)
8 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating Championships (NBC)
8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Vinyl BC at Laces BC (TNT)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Penn State at Iowa (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: Oregon State at Auburn (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA at Washington (FS1)

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

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110 HELP WANTED

CITY OF DUNKIRK Clerk's Office is currently accepting applications for a clerical assistant. Previous customer service and computer knowledge are required. Applications are available at the municipal office located 131 S Main St. Dunkirk, IN 47336

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Comer comes up big

Jay sophomore pours in 24 points on five triples to push past Tigers

By Will Cash
The Commercial Review
HAGERSTOWN — With 45 seconds left, Gradin Swoveland was at the free-throw line for Jay County, up 52-49.
The Patriots overcame a slow start, being down by as many as ten points in the first quarter, and now had a chance to go up two possessions.
Swoveland went through his routine and netted the first attempt to get that job done. His second try hit the back of the rim and squirted out to the elbow.
Jayden Comer was there to scoop up the rebound and immediately went into keep-away mode, burning 30 seconds off the clock. When he was finally fouled, he hit both of his shots to ice the game.
Behind a 23-point performance from Comer, Jay County High School's boys basketball team went on the road Tuesday and defeated the Hagerstown Tigers 56-49.
"We always pretty typically get off to a slow start," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "You could tell from the moment we stepped off the bus that we weren't focused. On nights like this, you'd expect a different energy, but we didn't have it. We were fortunate to even stay in the game, given the mental mistakes. We couldn't even run our offense properly; we couldn't take care of the basketball. There was very little pressure, and still, we made mistakes that you just can't afford to make if you want to be a good basketball team. Right now, that's what's holding us back."
Jay County (7-5) found itself in a competitive tilt with the Tigers (4-9) in the fourth quarter,

as Kaagan Kendall finished an easy layup and then Isaac Schmitz probed in the lane and floated in a basket to cut the Patriot lead to three points with 2:03 left in the quarter.
"They attacked us a little differently than we expected," said Bomholt. "They kept attacking the short corner, and it's been a while since we've seen that, and it didn't allow us to get the trap that we usually rely on. When teams attack us in the short corner, we need to trap it, but we weren't closing in fast enough to do that. They took advantage of it, making it tough to defend, but we survived and got it done."
Jay County held a narrow 32-31 lead at halftime before Comer took over the game offensively in the third quarter.
The sophomore caught fire from behind the arc, knocking down three of his five 3-pointers and scoring 12 of the team's 16 points in the quarter. The offensive outburst helped give Jay County a four-point cushion heading into the fourth quarter.
"I was knocking down my 3-point ball," said Comer. "We were able to spread the floor and work it inside, and my teammates found me where I was open. But yeah, it was the 3-ball for me and definitely the team; we were getting them up there."
Hagerstown came out of the gate firing on all cylinders, jumping to a 19-9 lead with one minute left in the first quarter thanks to 4-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc and 4-of-8 from inside it.
The Patriots eventually clawed their way back into the game, going on a 16-9 run in the first five minutes of the second quarter to claim a 29-27 lead.
See **Comer** page 7



The Commercial Review/Will Cash

Jay County High School's Gradin Swoveland clings to possession of the ball on Tuesday's matchup against Hagerstown. The Patriots went on the road and overcame an early double-digit deficit to defeat the Tigers 56-49.

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Jay County swim splits with Bearcats

Swim roundup
MUNCIE — The Patriot girls had no problems with the Bearcats. The boys won half of the events, but a second-place Bearcat finish in 11 events pushed the Patriots down.
Jay County High Schools swim teams split with the Muncie Central Bearcats on Tuesday with the girls cruising to a 128-52 victory and the boys falling 117-61.
The Patriot girls () won 11 of 12 events, including all three relays. Brooklynn Byrum, Lauren Fisher and Maddy Snow led the way for JCHS with a pair of first-place finishes each.
Byrum handled the sprint freestyles, winning the 50-yard in 28.27 seconds and the 100-yard in 1 minute, 1.44 seconds.
Fisher claimed the 200 individual medley in 2:44.07 before taking the 100 butterfly in 1:10.29.
Snow started the day

Swim roundup

with a score of 187.9 points to win the 1-meter diving before finishing first in the 100 breaststroke in 1:28.62.
Other individual wins came from Sophia Hoebel in the 200 freestyle (2:17.06) and Kenzie Huey in the 100 backstroke (1:15.37).
While the boys () were victorious in half the events, MCHS placed second in every race other than the 400 freestyle relay.
Cooper Glentzer had the strongest day, winning the 100 butterfly (57.4) and the 500 freestyle (5:21.62).
Other individual wins came from Bryden Carter in the diving (131.1) and

Carson Westgerdes in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.14).

Tribe outnumbered

MUNCIE — The Fort Recovery swim team's lack of tankers couldn't overcome the depth of Delta or Burris in a three-team meet on Tuesday.
The girls' duel with Burris was the closest of the four, with the Indians falling 75-54. Delta defeated the Fort Recovery girls 120-37.
The boys fell to Burris 80-20, while Delta's numbers suffocated the Tribe for a 110-18 loss.
Fort Recovery has two first-place finishers, with one representing each team.
Joelle Kaup came out on top for the girls, claiming the best time in the 50-yard freestyle.
The boys' best performance belonged to Caleb Smith, who finished first in the 100 backstroke.

CC Sabathia, others elected to Hall of Fame

By PETER SBLENDORIO

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service
NEW YORK — CC Sabathia's career ended abruptly.
Yes, the longtime Yankees left-hander had announced months earlier his plans to retire after the 2019 season, but his final appearance did not go as ceremoniously as Derek Jeter's or Mariano Rivera's.
As an appreciative Yankee Stadium crowd chanted "CC" in the eighth inning of an ALCS Game 4 loss, Sabathia fired an 89-mph cutter to Houston Astros star George Springer for a ball.
The offering left Sabathia in visible discomfort, and, after testing his durable left arm with a single warm-up toss, he walked off the field to a standing ovation.
Sabathia had suffered a shoulder dislocation and, as he later revealed, tears to his rotator cuff, labrum and biceps.
It was the last MLB pitch he'd ever throw.

"I think it's just kind of fitting," Sabathia said the following day. "I threw until I couldn't anymore."
Indeed, Sabathia left everything on the field throughout his 19-year MLB career with Cleveland, Milwaukee and the Yankees, during which he stood out as one of his era's most dominant, dependable and clutch competitors.
On Tuesday, the Baseball Writers' Association of America recognized Sabathia's prolonged excellence by voting him into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.
Sabathia appeared on 86.8% of the ballots, pushing him past the 75% needed for induction.
He is one of three new members for the Hall of Fame's Class of 2025, joining former Yankees teammate Ichiro Suzuki, who received 99.7% of the vote, and former Mets closer Billy Wagner, who got 82.5%.

See Elected page 7