

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## On the move

### Legislators' bills clear chambers

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Local legislators will visit Jay County on Saturday morning.

About a month into the 2025 session, they have a combined four bills that have made their way through their chamber.

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) has had two bills clear the Indiana Senate thus far while State Reps. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) and Matt Lehman (R-Berne) have each had one bill make its way through the Indiana House.

All three will be in Jay County on Saturday morning for a legislative update session at 11 a.m. at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Holdman's Senate Bills 451 and 452, which are both related to taxes, both were approved on 49-0 votes Jan. 28 and subsequently referred to the House. The former calls for decreasing the state income tax rate by 0.05% in even-numbered years beginning in 2030 as long as certain fiscal conditions are met. The latter amends existing legislation to state that the legislative service agency must review tax incentives at least once. (Reviews are currently required once every seven years.)

Senate Bill 450, authored by Holdman, is currently awaiting third and final reading after it was amended on second reading Monday. It changes language and sets requirements for those who may be appointed commissioner for an Article V convention (regarding term limits in Congress).

Senate Bill 292, which would allow a tax credit for certain railroad expenditures, passed the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation but has not yet had a second reading in the Senate.

Holdman, who chairs the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Com-



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, speaks during the 2024 Third House Session at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland. Holdman has had two tax-related bills advance while his Senate Bill 1, which addresses property tax reform, is continuing to be reviewed in committee.

mittee, has several other pieces of legislation related to taxes, including Senate Bill 1, that have not yet been voted on in committee. Those bills address property tax reform, tax deferral, local taxes and tax credits.

Prescott's House Bill 1012 calls for property owners to be notified when:

•There is damage to the owner's property crops or a structure that is reported to a law enforcement officer or agency

•Debris identified by a law enforcement officer or agency is left on the pr

The bill cleared the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety with unanimous support on Jan. 8 and passed the House on third reading 92-0 on Jan. 28. It has since been referred to the Senate.

Lehman's House Bill 1214 says employers cannot be prohibited from bidding on a contract solely based on the employer's experience rating and requires insur-

ance companies to provide workers compensation insurance in certain situations.

House Bill 1213, also authored by Lehman, cleared the House Committee on Insurance and second reading in the House. It removes language regarding coverage under a casualty insurance policy or liability insurance policy on property transferred by a transfer on death deed and makes other clarifications.

See Move page 2

## Muncie man gets 78 years in prison

*Curtis was convicted of killing FCC employee*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A Muncie man will serve just under eight decades in prison for killing his ex-wife, a former FCC employee.

Ceaser Curtis, 51, was sentenced Wednesday in Delaware Circuit Court to 78 years in Indiana Department of Correction for the murder of 46-year-old Marcia Curtis. He was found guilty in December after a five-day jury trial.

The jury deliberated for about five hours Dec. 6 before convicting Ceaser Curtis of murder. He received a 60-year sentence for the murder charge Wednesday and an additional 18 years added for being a habitual offender.

According to an online release from Delaware County prosecuting attorney Eric Hoffman, chief deputy prosecutor Zach Craig said during the sentencing that Ceaser Curtis' case was "the most brutal murder (I have) seen in (my) entire career."

Marcia Curtis had been missing for two weeks when Muncie police discovered her remains Sept. 14, 2023, at an abandoned property along Delaware County road 800 South. According to a probable cause affidavit filed with the case, police said Marcia Curtis sustained "significant trauma to the head."

Ceaser Curtis told police he picked up Marcia Curtis from FCC in Portland on Sept. 1, 2023, and they began arguing on their drive back to Muncie, the affidavit says. He told police she demanded to be let out of the vehicle at the intersection of Jackson Street and Butterfield Road, and she started walking north as he drove away.

Detectives found an argument via text between Marcia Curtis and Ceaser Curtis in which she told him she was "done" with him, after which he called her 36 times consecutively without a response.

A male witness told police Ceaser Curtis admitted guilt of the crime, saying Ceaser Curtis told him he slapped Marcia Curtis in the face while driving south on Burlington Drive and tossed her phone out of the window. He alleged Ceaser Curtis admitted to hitting Marcia Curtis with a baseball bat and leaving her in a rural part of Delaware County, near Prairie Creek Reservoir.

A female witness told police Ceaser Curtis asked her to kill Marcia Curtis shortly after their divorce on March 28, 2023. The witness said Ceaser Curtis discovered his ex-wife had been speaking to other men and told the witness he had a homemade lead pipe he wanted her to use, the affidavit says.

He also posted to Facebook on Aug. 27, 2023, and accused his ex-wife of sleeping with other men.

See Prison page 2

## Commission hears proposal

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

County officials entered into an interlocal agreement with Jay County Redevelopment Commission in November to use remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds for a housing project in Portland.

The redevelopment commission is already looking into how it will follow through with using those dollars as intended.

Jay County Redevelopment Commission heard plans Wednesday about entering into a contract with Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates for developing the county's 68 acres on the western edge of Portland.

Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes noted the current contract for planning development of the property is between Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates and Jay County Commissioners. County attorney Wes Schemenaur advised the contract moving forward should be between Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates and the redevelopment commission.

Jay County officials approved a \$395,000 contract with Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates in September 2023. The

### Contract with Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates lays out details of process for 68-acre development

design, planning and architecture firm shared potential plans last year with county officials for the 68-acre project, which at that time included housing and mixed-use development for the land along Indiana 67.

If completed in full, the estimated \$25.5 million project would produce 76 single-family homes, eight duplexes and 154 multi-family units. Some county officials have referred to it as a "legacy project" to be worked on for the next several decades.

The redevelopment commission agreed in July to commit up to \$1.5 million in tax increment financing (TIF) dollars toward the project, and commissioners also agreed at the time to commit \$1.3 million subject to receiving grant dollars. The first few phases of the project were also included in the county's request for funding through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0.

In November, commissioners and Jay County

Council agreed to an interlocal agreement with the redevelopment commission. Per the agreement, redevelopment commission will use the county's \$1.24 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars for developing the county's 68 acres. The funding must be spent by the end of 2026, according to federal requirements.

Curtin said Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates has revised its contract, which now lays out plans for the firm to complete engineering work and seek requests for proposals and bids for the project.

He estimated Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates will need six to eight months before a developer can be selected.

"I think the goal is as quickly as possible, get the contract approved so they can start on the construction documents so that we can put ourselves in a position to be able to award the contract by this fall, so that gives the contractor 12 to 15 months to be able to get the

thing done," he explained.

Answering a question from redevelopment commission member Chuck Huffman, Curtin confirmed the project would consist of the first phase in Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates' plans — installing infrastructure. By seeking requests for proposals, added Curtin, the county will be able to gauge what it needs for developers' projects.

Curtin also pointed to a recent meeting with East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, which he said indicated a desire for county representatives to gather "more definitive letters of interest" from developers in relation to the project.

"I think we've got two or three that are in the pipeline," he said. "Basically, it's going to give the (Indiana Economic Development Corporation) a greater level of comfort with the project moving forward."

Indiana Economic Development Corporation announced plans to distrib-

ute funding through READI 2.0 across the state in 2023. The East Central region, which includes Jay County, was awarded \$35 million through the program in June.

Redevelopment commission president Carl Walker asked how much funding the county will be receiving from READI 2.0 for the project. According to Curtin and Schemenaur, ECIRP has earmarked \$1.2 million in READI 2.0 funds as a potential award for Jay County. (As of Wednesday evening, no official announcement has been made regarding the funding.)

Commissioners president Chad Aker added that county representatives are working with the state to get the funding decision formalized and shared hopes to hear an official announcement soon.

Huffman said the redevelopment commission would feel more comfortable if it could see a budget for the project.

See Commission page 2

#### Deaths

**Dolores Fortman**, 87, Fort Recovery

**Earl Hayden**, 81, Portland

**Shirley Litmer**, 76, Fort Recovery

Details on page 2.

#### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 32 degrees Wednesday. The low was 26. There was about a tenth of an inch of rain.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 20s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with rain and snow likely in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

#### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available today. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

#### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from the JCHS girls basketball sectional semifinal versus Delta.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Saturday's Third House Session.

**Wednesday** — Details from Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Obituaries

Dolores Fortman

Dolores Ann Fortman, 87, Fort Recovery died Tuesday at Legacy Nursing Home in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Funeral Services are pending with Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home in Fort Recovery.

Earl Hayden

July 9, 1943-Feb. 5, 2025 Earl William "Pete" Hayden, age 81, of Portland went home to be with Jesus surrounded by his family on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025.

He was born in Delaware County on July 9, 1943, the son of Arnold and Grace (Borem) Hayden. He was married on Sept. 6, 1969, to Shirley Franks who survives.

Pete was a Vietnam veteran and was proud to be an American. He served his country in

the Army from 1965 to 1967. Through all his trials he never lost his love for his family or his faith.

Pete spent his life helping others and taught his girls to do the same. He loved to be outside mowing with his grandson. He taught his family to persevere and to believe in the goodness of others. He had a love for life and a fun personality. He brought light and joy to anyone who knew him. He loved to play practical jokes on his friends and family. He was always grateful for life and anyone who helped him. He taught us all to look for the best in everything. We learned to respect everyone we met.

He was a member of the



Hayden

D.A.V., V.F.W., American Legion Post #211 and Bryant Wesleyan Church.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife Shirley; four daughters, Tonya Sharp (husband: Kevin) of Clinton, Tennessee, Melinda Hayden of Portland, Tammy Bogenschutz (husband: Marc) of Portland and Rhonda Monroe (husband: Duane) of Portland; two brothers, Les Hayden (wife: Stella) of Winchester and Tom Hayden (wife: Quanda) of Portland; sister Patty Noble (companion: Gary) of Redkey; brother-in-law David Hill of Berne; 10 grandchildren Ryan Denney (companion: Shannon) of Redkey, Kyle Denney of Portland, Aaron Bogenschutz (wife: Janel) of Greenwood, Julie Fields (husband: Jesse) of Cincinnati, Taylor Fisher of Muncie, Darren Bogenschutz

(wife: Sara) of Albany, Lyndi Snyder of Clinton, Tennessee, Josh Monroe of Portland, Blake Bogenschutz of Portland and Jacob Monroe of Portland; great-granddaughters Adriene, Karyssa, Alena, Ariaah and Kenize; great-grandsons Declan, Kellen, Boston, Camden, Ben and Beau; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Hayden; and a sister, Nancy Hill.

Funeral services will be on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m. in the Bryant Wesleyan Church with Pastors Paul VanCise and Joe Hines presiding. Burial with military rites by American Legion Post 211 will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home and one hour prior to the services at the

church. Memorials can be made to Gideons or Heartland Hospice or any Veteran Organization.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Shirley E. Litmer, Fort Recovery, died Jan. 5 at her home. An open house celebration of life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus hall, 1300 Commerce St., Fort Recovery.

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

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

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Saturday 2/8, Sunday 2/9, Monday 2/10, Tuesday 2/11, Wednesday 2/12. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

Lotteries

Powerball

19-27-30-50-62 Power Ball: 14 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$133 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

Hoosier

Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 1-3-6 Daily Four: 0-8-4-1 Quick Draw: 2-4-16-19-21-26-29-38-45-46-50-55-58-59-61-63-67-69-70-73 Evening Daily Three: 2-7-9

Daily Four: 6-7-2-4 Quick Draw: 2-4-8-12-17-20-25-42-45-56-59-61-63-68-70-71-74-75-77-79 Cash 5: 2-18-21-34-36 Estimated jackpot: \$372,500

Ohio

Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 4-1-4 Pick 4: 1-9-9-7 Pick 5: 2-0-7-2-4 Evening Pick 3: 8-0-5 Pick 4: 8-2-0-3 Pick 5: 3-5-3-2-3 Rolling Cash: 1-2-12-26-32 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.89 March corn .....4.94 April corn .....5.01

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....4.96 March corn .....5.03 April corn .....5.12

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn .....4.89 March corn .....4.89 Beans .....10.51

March beans .....10.56 Wheat ..... 5.20 ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.89 March corn .....4.92 Beans .....10.50 March beans .....10.54 Wheat .....5.42

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....4.85 March corn .....4.85 Beans .....10.32 March beans .....10.37 Wheat .....5.15

Today in history

In 1812, Charles Dickens was born in Landport, Portsmouth, in the United Kingdom.

In 2011, Portland Mayor Bruce Hosier announced Fort Recovery Industries purchased a building in Portland Industrial Park for \$383,554.63. (The sale had been finalized three days earlier.)

It included 8 acres around the building on county road 100 North just east of U.S. 27.

In 2022, Portland City Council allocated \$100,000 in economic development funds from Bitter Ridge Wind Farm to Portland Park Board to be used for repairs at Portland Water Park. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, community room, city library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facili-

ty, 1194 E. 200 North, 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. Tuesday 10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, Ridgeville Fire Department, 302 N. Walnut St.



Photos provided

Optimist Day

Local mayors signed proclamations this week declaring Thursday as Optimist Day. Pictured above sitting next to Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake is Optimist member Kathy Nelson. Back row, from left, are Optimists Mike Leonhard, Laurinda Shope, P.J. Corwin, Bobby Ruiz, Judy LeMaster and Leland LeMaster. At right with Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins are Nelson and Dunkirk Optimists president Sherry Minnick.



Move ...

Continued from page 1 Prescott's House Concurrent Resolution 9 to name the Indiana 67 bridge over the Salamonie River in Jay County the Lance Corporal Andrew Whitacre Memorial Bridge in honor of the Marine from Bryant who died while serving in Afghanistan in 2008 passed through the House unanimously and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.

Bills from Holdman that have not yet cleared committee are as follows: 1 — Addresses various tax issues including amending the homestead standard deduction 6 — Authorizes a county fiscal body to establish a property tax payment deferral program 290 — Requires the Department of Local Government Finance to increase the maximum permissible property tax levy in certain situations

297 — Allows a taxpayer to assign all or part of a film and media production tax credit 352 — Establishes the local government efficiency task force 453 — Addresses tax matters including amending estimated quarterly payment provisions and restructuring tax collection requirements for kerosene 478 — Establishes testing and packaging requirements for hemp products

Bills from Prescott that have not yet cleared committee are as follows: 1013 — Makes "The Hoosier State" the official nickname of Indiana and recognizes Harry Hoosier as the namesake 1105 — Removes penalties for 529 college choice education savings funds not used for higher education in certain circumstances 1229 — Abolishes property tax and establishes a sales tax on services 1230 — Requires that political

party affiliation be indicated on ballots for school board 1231 — Requires the Ten Commandments to be displaced in each school library and classroom 1399 — Makes "unlawful presence in Indiana by an alien," referring to those who have entered the country illegally, a Class A misdemeanor 1531 — Addresses various immigration matters, including detailing enforcement that may be carried out 1532 — Prohibits sports wagering from accepting wagers on the outcomes of elections

Bills from Lehman that have not yet cleared committee are as follows: 1108 — Requires tow truck operators to provide the owner a rate sheet for services 1109 — Requires insurers to take certain actions when using aerial images as part of its determination to not renew insurance coverage 1424 — Limits civil lawsuits regarding a public nuisance

Prison ...

Continued from page 1 On the same day, he shared more than 100 Facebook posts from various sources, including a picture of a sweatshirt with the following words printed on it: "I'll put you in the trunk and help people look for you don't test me!" Ceaser Curtis faced up to an 85-year sentence — in Indiana, murder carries a penalty of 45 and 65 years

with an advisory sentence of 55 years, and the habitual offender enhancement could have added between six and 20 years to his total sentence. He was charged in Randolph Superior Court on Sept. 25 with arson, a Level 4 felony. He was charged last year in Randolph Superior Court with a Class A misdemeanor for invasion of privacy in the

case of violating a protective order issued to prevent domestic or family violence or harassment. His criminal history includes charges for battery and operating a vehicle while intoxicated. "It is my sincere hope that this verdict is the first step toward healing for the family and friends of Marcia Curtis," said Hoffman in the release.

Commission ...

Continued from page 1 Curtin said he would connect with Cecil Penland of Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates to put something together. Relatedly, Walker and Huffman volunteered as the redevelopment commission's representatives for a joint meeting — its date is to be determined — between county and Portland officials to discuss the 68-acre project. Curtin noted he is also gathering volunteers from Portland

Redevelopment Commission, Portland City Council, Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners. Also Wednesday, Walker announced the redevelopment commission currently has just under \$1.4 million in its bank account. (That does not include the approximately \$1.24 million allocated for the 68-acre project. Those dollars will likely be kept in the county's account until the project is farther along,

noted auditor Emily Franks.) In other business, commission members Doug Horn, Harold Towell, Walker and Huffman, absent Ted Champ, who arrived later: •Paid a \$19,230.40 invoice to consulting firm CWC Latitudes for services completed between July and December •Appointed Walker as president, Huffman as vice president and Champ as secretary

SERVICES

Today

Midlam, Betty: 11 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Saturday

Walker, Connie: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Wright, Jacquelyn: 11 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 Wayne St., Fort Recovery. Litmer, Shirley: 1 p.m., Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus Hall, 1300 Commerce St., Fort Recovery.

Tuesday

Hayden, Earl: 11 a.m., Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St., Bryant. Fidler, Bruce: 4 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

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



Photo provided

## Showing fairness

Pictured above are first graders awarded for showing fairness at East Elementary. In the front row are Kamzy Huffel, Lucy Edmundson and Boone Locke, and in the back row are Preslee Morgan, Hayden Guggenbiller and Izabella Williams.

# Sibling's behavior hurts relationship

DEAR ABBY: My younger brother, "Paul," is 40 and in a rut. He became friends with a friend of mine, "Mitch," whom I met in college. Paul also became good friends with Mitch's wife, "Iris." After a year of close friendship, my brother made a pass at Mitch's wife during a BBQ. He was promptly asked to leave, and they have ceased contact with him.

It has been a year since Mitch spoke to Paul. Mitch has no interest in rekindling the relationship. My brother is convinced that Mitch's wife will leave her husband for him, despite the fact that there has been no communication and she never expressed an interest.

Paul has a longtime therapist who is aware of the issue. I'm concerned that my brother is wasting his life pining after someone who is not an option for him. He has never been married, doesn't have children and lives in an isolated mountain area. He is also jobless and mostly living off an inheritance. I know all of this because it's all Paul ever talks about.

Today, I told him I'm done entertaining this delusion and won't talk to him until he makes some changes. I know I'm venting, but I need to know if I made the right move. Did I? — WITNESS TO A DISASTER

DEAR WITNESS: I don't think you should completely cease contact with your very mixed-up brother. I do think that if Paul turns a conversation to the subject of Iris, you would be doing him a favor to point out that a relationship with her isn't going to happen. Then turn the conversation toward things that might help him, including finding a job that will make him less isolated and

Dear Abby



booking more sessions with his therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I have known my best friend, "Carl," and his wife for 30 years. We do everything together — cruises, holidays, birthdays, etc. They allow (and enable) their boxer dog to go after innocent cats and squirrels. It's like it's a game. The dog does not know any different.

I recently adopted two indoor cats. I live in the country, and I also have a 5-year-old Lab that would not hurt a bunny. I can no longer allow Carl and his wife to visit because they (mainly she) have allowed their dog to terrorize the kittens and squirrels in their neighborhood. I know she will make me out to be a villain and refuse to come if the dog cannot. Carl and I keep avoiding the conversation. Any advice? — APPALLED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR APPALLED: As I see it you have two choices. Either HAVE the conversation you have been avoiding or visit your friend only at their home or on neutral territory. Frankly, I'm surprised the owners of some of those innocent cats haven't informed the authorities that a vicious dog harmed or killed their pet. If you witnessed such a thing, recognizing Carl's wife is sadistic, you should have made the call.

P.S. Why are you still friends with creeps like this?

## WOW scholarships are available

Win on the Wabash Super Raffle will be awarding 20 seniors this year from the local area with \$1,000 scholarships.

Seniors who have demonstrated a dedication to volunteerism and community service throughout high school will be awarded.

Requirements are students must be a United States citizen, must have logged community service hours throughout their high school career and must be a senior enrolled in school in Jay County, Mercer County, Ohio, Darke County,

### Taking Note

Ohio, Auglaize County, Ohio, or Shelby County, Ohio. Applicants are asked to fill out a 400-word maximum essay reflecting on their experiences with community service throughout high school.

Applications must also include a letter of recommen-

ation. The deadline to apply is March 31.

### After school art

Arts Place's After School Art Club returns next week.

Fifth and sixth graders are invited for after school crafts from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday at Hudson Center for the Visual Arts. Participants will create a 3D heart with markers. The cost is \$5. To register, visit [bit.ly/4hL8MNB](http://bit.ly/4hL8MNB). For more information, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing [visualarts@myartsplace.org](mailto:visualarts@myartsplace.org).

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

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

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

**SOFT SHOULDERS** — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the first Friday of each

month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

**CINCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Feb. 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

### Saturday

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

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

**ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday

of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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

### Sunday

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

### Monday

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

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

**JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION** — Will meet at noon the second Monday of

each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP** — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

**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.

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTER** — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

**BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL** — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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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# Trump must do better in tragedy

To the editor:  
When tragedies like the crash of an American Eagle commercial jet and a U.S. Army Black Hawk happen, the president can provide comfort to the families of the victims and assurances to the public.

President Donald Trump began the press conference the next morning with words of condolence to the families of the victims. He commended the rescue and recovery efforts, acknowledging local, state and federal agencies, and the military. And then, in true "As the Trump Turns" style, he went off course. "We do not know what led to this crash, but we have some very strong opinions and ideas, and I think we'll probably state those opinions now."

Without any facts in hand, the president made statements that implied diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs could be the cause, although the inves-

## Letter to the Editor

tigation into the disaster had only just begun. He also impugned the actions of the Army helicopter crew.

Seriously, before any kind of real investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board, the president is assuming the guilt of the helicopter crew?

President Trump criticized the previous administration's management of the Federal Aviation Administration. He cited the FAA's website disabilities definition that included "hearing, vision, missing extremities, partial paralysis, complete paralysis, epilepsy, severe intellectual disability, psychiatric disability,

and dwarfism." The president claimed people with these disabilities would qualify for air controller positions. The FAA's website did not say that.

When Trump took questions after his remarks, he was asked whether he believed the crash was the result of diversity hiring.

Instead of taking a step back and saying, "I didn't mean to suggest that" his response was, "It just could have been."

Air traffic controllers receive extensive training and must pass mental fitness tests to qualify for their positions. According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the tests are to determine that air traffic controllers don't have personality or mental disorders that demonstrate "a potential hazard to safety in the air traffic control system."

People with disabilities do serve as air traffic controllers. But the disabilities they have do

not interfere with performing their jobs. There is no evidence that anyone with intellectual disabilities is serving as an air traffic controller. None.

The air safety system in the United States has dramatically improved over the past 20 years. The Jan. 29 crash was the first of its kind in the U.S. since 2013. That year, three people died and more than 180 injured in a commercial airline crash in San Francisco. Between 2003 and 2012, there were five commercial airline crashes in the U.S., including two that killed 49 people each. Whatever the NTSB and other agencies are doing is making a difference.

But cracks in air safety are developing. It is well known we need more air traffic controllers. There are other issues. These must be addressed as soon as humanly possible.

It's also fine to push the NTSB to move with greater

speed in coming to conclusions, provided due diligence is not lost.

But the press briefing on Jan. 30 was not the time to attack the people who are doing their jobs as air traffic controllers, pilots, NTSB investigators or serving in the military. We do not need anyone, including the president, smearing these public servants or coming up with solutions before the facts are in.

At times when the American people are rocked by tragedy, we need our president to speak words of condolence, encouragement and assurance.

Presidents Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all did it with grace.

Look back at their words, President Trump. Please do better next time.

Eric R. Rogers  
Portland

## More attention is needed for homes

By MORTON J. MARCUS

When Jimmy Carter left the White House, he focused world attention on peace and the transfer of power. But his personal efforts went into teaching Sunday school and building houses to strengthen communities.

He understood the micro is the foundation of the macro.

Carter's personal involvement in Habitat for Humanity was part of a lifetime commitment that went beyond good words to good deeds. He saw clearly that a home is not a house, but a place of security, comfort and productivity within a community.

Habitat for Humanity serves Indiana through more than 50 local offices. In addition, Habitat has stores where pre-used furniture and other household materials and necessities can be purchased or donated.

But why? Gov. Mike Braun's State of the State address did not acknowledge a housing crisis or poverty or homelessness. His singular contribution to any housing issue was lower property taxes.

Will lower taxes repair a roof? Will they put in a new furnace? Will they ensure a door holds out the winter wind or keep the cool air in when we need the air conditioning?

There has been considerable talk in Indiana and the nation about a housing crisis. But not finding the house of your dreams is not worthy of national attention. The real housing crisis is not having the funds to repair a roof, to insulate the windows, to make needed repairs.

Housing is the private infrastructure of the community. All the grants and fundraising for remodeling an old theatre, holding a festival or establishing other urban amenities do nothing to restore or replace dilapidated housing.

Without open hostility toward urban sculpture, bicycle paths, downtown potted plants or restoring the grandiose residences of the past, we need to recognize and put money to work protecting the health and productivity

Eye on the Pie



... we need to recognize and put money to work protecting the health and productivity of our citizens.

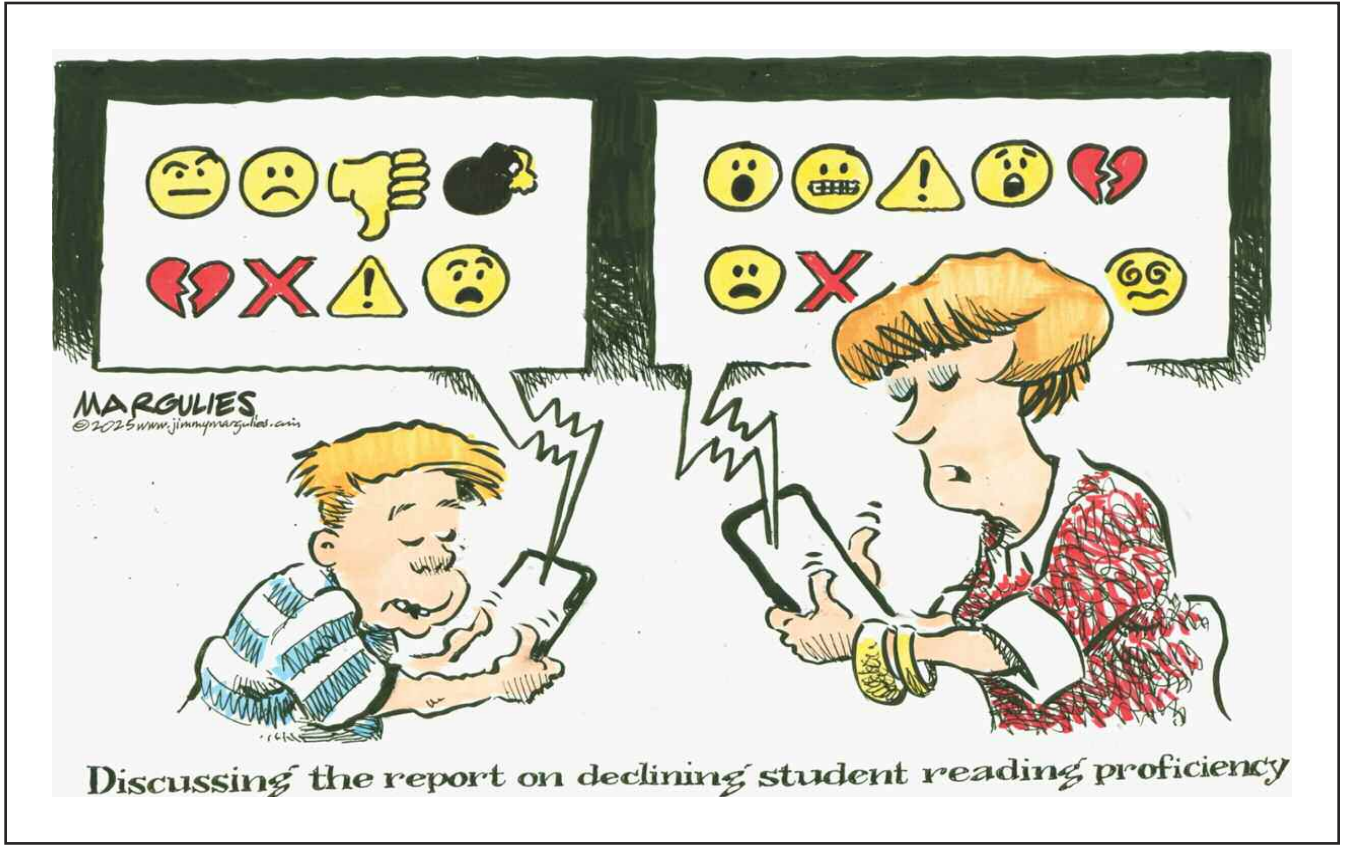
of our citizens. One vital means of doing this is maintaining the existing housing stock and building new, moderate houses for households of low-to-moderate income.

There is a way to do that. Working with Habitat or other like-minded organizations, an income tax credit for dwelling repairs could be given to property owners housing low-income residents. That takes a burden off the property owner/resident and does not steal money from local governments and schools.

Local foundations could come forward with investments in their communities by funding the certification of needed repairs by Habitat or some other agency without increasing public employment. The last seems to be an evil in the minds of our legislature in revolt from traditional values.

What is so positive about Habitat groups is they are fundamentally local organizations, energized by local leadership, making tangible contributions to the future of their communities, and helping current residents. Habitat meets the housing problem directly to the extent it can. Others advocate for more governmental action, which most often is not forthcoming.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).



## Rein in presidential pardons

By ROBERT A. LEVY

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Imagine the following presidential proclamation: "I do hereby grant unconditional pardons to all United States persons for those offenses against the United States which such persons may have committed to date over their lifetimes." Who would be covered? Virtually everyone. For which crimes? All crimes. When were they committed? Anytime in the past or maybe never.

Would that be constitutional? Probably, many legal authorities say. And yet, the case for unlimited pardons is less than compelling.

Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution grants the president nearly plenary "power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment." The Supreme Court elaborated in *Ex Parte Garland* (1866): "The power thus conferred is unlimited, with the exception stated. It extends to every offence known to the law, and may be exercised at any time after its commission, either before legal proceedings are taken or during their pendency or after conviction and judgment. This power of the President is not subject to legislative control."

Ditto, in *Ex Parte Grossman* (1925): "The executive can reprieve or pardon all offenses after their commission, either before trial, during trial or after trial, by individuals, or by classes, conditionally or absolutely, and this without modification or regulation by Congress."

In other words, the pardon power is almost unbounded — excluding only state crimes, civil liability, future crimes and (perhaps) crimes by the president himself. Presumably, among the covered offenses are unidentified crimes that may or may not have occurred.

For example, Gerald Ford's preemptive pardon of Richard Nixon

Robert A. Levy



was for "all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed" from Jan. 20, 1969, through Aug. 9, 1974. Similarly, Joe Biden's preemptive pardon of family members plus Dr. Anthony Fauci, Mark Milley, members of the House Select Committee and police witnesses related to the events of Jan. 6, covered all "non-violent offenses against the United States which they may have committed or taken part in" over a 10-year period, including seven years before Biden was inaugurated.

Most legal scholars assert that future crimes cannot be pardoned because there have been no unlawful acts that would constitute "offenses against the United States." In other words, if an act is merely hypothetical, there's no definitive crime to pardon. Indeed, nothing in the Federalist Papers or records of the Constitutional Convention suggests that the pardon power was meant to apply speculatively. Moreover, the acknowledged purposes of the pardon power were to express compassion, redress injustice and restore tranquility. Thus, whether referring to the pardon power's text, history or purpose, the exclusion of future crimes seems both necessary and proper.

But wait a minute! The bases asserted for not pardoning future crimes are that they are not "offenses," but rather, they are speculative, they haven't previously been pardoned and their absolution would not conform to the expressed purposes of the pardon power. That same rationale dictates that putative but uniden-

tified past crimes may not be pardoned. And, if that logic were to prevail, then both the Ford and Biden pardons should have been declared invalid. They provisionally consisted of crimes that, if not committed, were nonoffenses, speculative, never previously included and contrary to the purposes of the pardon power.

Of course, the procedural question remains unanswered: How could the Ford or Biden pardons have been judged invalid? To challenge the pardons in court, litigants must demonstrate legal standing, which requires a unique, concrete, particularized injury that is actual or imminent. Possibly, a victim of the pardoned crime would have standing, a co-defendant whose rights might have been impaired or a person who declines the pardon for reputational reasons.

More likely, however, the pardon would not be successfully challenged, and Congress would have no statutory recourse unless *Ex Parte Garland* were to be overruled. That leaves two remedies, the first and most obvious of which is impeachment, which might punish the president but wouldn't affect the validity of the pardon.

Longer term, a constitutional amendment seems appropriate — perhaps a supplement to Article II, Section 2, stipulating that a pardon, to be valid, must identify the crime with reasonable particularity. The identification process might be by nature of the crime, location, timing or a combination of those factors.

Yes, courts would be faced with interpreting "reasonable particularity," but that's no more than courts routinely do when interpreting terms such as due process, unreasonable searches, probable cause and just compensation.

Levy is an emeritus chairman of the Cato Institute.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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## Innovations focus on facility safety

By STEVE KOPPES

Purdue Ag News  
WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Frequent explosions plagued the U.S. grain industry until the Occupational Safety and Health Administration introduced new grain-handling standards in 1988. The number of explosions soon dropped.

Still, grain handling and processing facilities in the U.S. have experienced a 10-year average of 8.4 incidents annually, said Kingsly Ambrose, professor of agricultural and biological engineering. During the last decade these incidents have led to dozens of injuries and fatalities, millions of dollars in damage, and operational downtime.

Ambrose specializes in the agricultural applications of particle science. His current work delves into grain dust explosion prevention, improved fertilizers and grain damage modeling. Funding for these projects comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CNH Industrial and Bayer.

"Particle science is helping to develop new controlled- and slow-release fertilizers that reduce the use of chemical coatings," Ambrose said. "Through better characterization and by structural modifications, we are developing innovative solutions that optimize nutrient delivery in fertilizers, prevent dust explosions, minimize grain damage during harvesting and handling, and improve seed germination."

In recent years, Ambrose and his associates have patented several processes, including one that measures the amount of light passing through a dust cloud to quantify airborne dust in a grain facility. No previous method enabled grain operators to quickly, easily and continuously monitor dust accumulation in their facilities.



Purdue University/Joshua Clark

Vidya Nagaraju and Kingsly Ambrose measure the size and shape distribution of particles on a Malvern Morphologi G3-ID particle shape analyzer Jan. 3 at the Agricultural Particulates Lab at FLEX in West Lafayette.

Ambrose and his colleagues disclosed their discoveries to the Purdue Office of Technology and Commercialization, which applied for patents to protect the innovations.

He also has patented an algorithm that uses artificial intelligence to automatically calibrate for the type and amount of dust being measured.

"Depending on the grains, the amount of dust will vary. Corn generates more dust than wheat, for example," he said. "Properties will also differ, so you want separate calibration for each type of dust," he said.

The economic stakes of damaged grains are significant. From 5% to 10% of all grains become damaged during combine harvesting or handling and storage.

"Damages could be both internal and external. We

lose quality. We lose storage ability. The value goes down," he said.

Ambrose blends model development with laboratory testing to identify where most grain damage occurs. His particle science approach reveals what forces act on the grains as they run through a threshing cylinder or a combine harvester. Companies can then apply his findings to improve their systems.

"The integration of particle modeling and design allows us to support modern agricultural practices with greater precision," he notes.

Ambrose and his collaborators have also improved the efficiency of urea, a form of nitrogen fertilizer, with a patented process of layer-wise agglomeration of urea granulates—this refers to a process where

urea granules are combined or compacted in layers to form larger clusters. This process improves the granules' size, shape or handling properties.

"If you apply urea and there is rain, even if there's high moisture, it dissolves immediately, so the plants may not have enough fertilizer during their growth period," Ambrose said.

"Our approach here is to make the urea dissolve slowly, without using any additional chemicals to make them release nutrients slowly," he said. Instead, Ambrose modified the structural components of the urea and mixed it with environmentally friendly ingredients.

"We are also using other methods to control granule density and structural characteristics so that the fertilizer doesn't dissolve

quickly," he said. "If we can reduce the leaching of urea from the soil, we can help prevent both land and water pollution."

He hopes that a recent grant from USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative will lead to further improvement in developing innovative granular urea fertilizers. This work is in collaboration with Carl Wassgren, professor of mechanical engineering, and Kurt Ristroph, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, both at Purdue; and Chad Penn, soil scientist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Ambrose began conducting particle research as a graduate student at Purdue, completing his PhD in agricultural and biological engineering in 2010. He lauded the influence of the

interdisciplinary faculty and facilities of Purdue's Center for Particulate Products and Processes (CP3) on his academic career path. Now he manages the center's characterization lab, which spans faculty members from the colleges of agriculture, engineering and pharmacy.

"Leveraging the power of particle technology will drive agriculture toward a more sustainable and safer future, helping meet global food demands while minimizing the environmental footprint," he said. Lowering the cost of production will also be a benefit.

Ambrose was recognized as a 2024 Fellow of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineering in November. The society cited him "in recognition of his significant contribution in the field of agricultural engineering both in India and abroad."

His research group draws undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from agricultural, chemical and mechanical engineering, along with food science. Past projects have involved pharmaceutical and beverage engineering, including the powders used to make energy drinks.

In previous work, for example, he developed a model to overcome the challenges presented by mixing more than a dozen different types of powders to yield a uniform taste for a popular energy drink.

Particle science and technology is still a developing field in the U.S. "Not many people work in this area," Ambrose said. Purdue offers several courses in agricultural particulates, taught by Ambrose and other faculty members in the colleges of agriculture and engineering. Alumni go on to work for pharmaceutical, food and agricultural companies.

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**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Test your play**

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, North having opened the bidding with one diamond, which your partner doubled. North leads the queen of hearts. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1.)

WEST: ♠ A K J 10 6, ♥ 8 5 2, ♦ K 9, ♣ Q 7 2  
EAST: ♠ Q 9 5 3, ♥ A K 7, ♦ 6 4 2, ♣ A J 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand?

WEST: ♠ 8, ♥ K Q 9 8, ♦ A K 4 2, ♣ A 7 6 3  
EAST: ♠ A Q 6 5 3, ♥ A J 10 4, ♦ 7 5 3, ♣ 4

\*\*\*

1. Your potential losers are a heart, two diamonds and a club, but one of them is very likely to be averted by capitalizing on the knowledge gained from North's opening bid. Aside from the Q-J of hearts, he is almost certain to have the A-Q or A-J of diamonds and the king of clubs. The first step in the right direction is to duck North's queen of hearts! The purpose is to prevent South from later gaining the lead with a heart for a killing diamond return through your king. Let's say North continues with a heart to dummy's king. You draw trump, lead a low club to the jack, cash the ace of hearts and then play the ace and another club. North presumably wins with the king but must then return a diamond or yield a ruff-and-discard, handing you the contract.

2. Your best chance for 12 tricks lies in a crossruff. However, after winning the first club, you should prepare the groundwork for the crossruff by first cashing the A-K of diamonds. Though there is a slight possibility that the first or second diamond will be ruffed, that presents far less of a risk than any other line of play.

You next play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. It is important to ruff a spade in your hand before ruffing a club in dummy. (If you think it makes no difference, try ruffing a club first. You are then apt to finish with just 11 tricks instead of 12!)

Now ruff your clubs and spades in alternating order, scoring eight trump tricks, a spade, a club and two diamonds in all.

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SXNQJWU, KFE MSM SJ TFDXM?

A FDBK GXM ANNMU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOODLE DISHES MAY BE PREPARED IN SO MANY DIFFERENT STYLES. THERE ARE ENDLESS PASTA-BILITIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Ashley and Wynonna  
6 Consumer protection agcy.  
9 Catchall abbr.  
12 Track star Bolt  
13 Tic-tac-toe win  
14 "The Matrix" character  
15 Refuse an offer  
16 Seattle suburb that's home to Microsoft  
18 Credit rating publisher  
20 Skin soother  
21 Corp. money exec  
23 Overly  
24 Part of LGBTQ  
25 Hit on the noggin  
27 Japanese fish dish  
29 Tranquil  
31 Sort of dive

**DOWN**

1 Roast beef au —  
2 "Suits" network  
3 "Shark Tank" star — John  
4 Flintstones' pet  
5 Stuffed shirt  
6 Gift giver's words  
7 Low digits  
8 Atlantic fish  
9 —  
10 Holmes (Sherlock's sister)  
10 Mortise partner

**11 Encryptions**  
**17 "Butterfly" singer** Carey  
**19 Medicated**  
**21 "60 Minutes" aier**  
**22 Nemesis**  
**24 Fill in — blank**  
**26 Explosive sound**  
**28 Bed cover**  
**30 Wee bit**  
**32 Tiara stone**  
**33 Work unit**  
**34 Old Olds**  
**36 Census info**  
**38 "Sexy" Beatles girl**  
**39 "— say more?"**  
**40 Director** Welles  
**42 — apso (small dog)**  
**45 Novelist** Seton  
**46 Airline to Tel Aviv**  
**48 Spanish gold**  
**50 Born**  
**51 Blunder**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

T	U	F	T	T	L	C	S	F	P	D		
E	C	R	U	H	A	H	U	R	S	A		
E	L	A	L	E	T	A	B	E	A	R		
S	A	T	I	N	S	I	M	P	U	T	E	
H	A	G	S	I	S	C	A	R	I	O	T	
T	S	U	A	T	O	A	D	O				
P	L	A	T	I	N	I	U	M	K	N	E	W
T	I	D	I	E	R	D	E	E	D	E	D	
A	S	I	A	I	C	I	P	E	D	I		
C	L	A	D	T	E	A	I	B	E	G		
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# Dealt ...

Continued from page 8  
Despite comments earlier this month by Butler of coach Erik Spoelstra minimizing his role in the offense after five years of leading the team during the most pressure-packed portions of the season, it was money that ostensibly created the irreconcilable difference.  
Indeed, no sooner was Butler dealt to the Warriors than it was reported that Butler and the Warriors had agreed to a two-year, \$121 million extension that carries through 2026-27, to pair him with Stephen Curry and Draymond Green.  
From the moment Butler became eligible for an extension after last season, Riley instead challenged Butler to do more and be available more, after missing 22 games last season, as well as a play-in game and the first-round playoff

ouster at the hands of the Boston Celtics.  
Instead, Butler missed 10 of this season's first 30 games and then meandered through the next two, in a pair of low-impact performances against the New Orleans Pelicans and Indiana Pacers that raised the specter of a suspension even before the team ultimately acted with a seven-game sanction. Three more listless appearances were followed by the two-game suspension. The third suspension came when Butler left practice last week after learning he would not be starting.  
Ultimately, Butler's Heat tenure will go down as one of some of the franchise's highest non-championship highs as well as some of the most contentious lows.  
During Butler's first five sea-

sons, before the partnership soured in recent months, he helped lead the Heat to three Eastern Conference finals and a pair of NBA Finals, with the Heat unable to break through for a championship.  
Along the way, as had been the case in Butler's previous three NBA stops with the Chicago Bulls, Minnesota Timberwolves and Philadelphia 76ers, there also were moments of unease with coaches and management, with Butler at times angry and animated as well as sullen and withdrawn.  
Acting in free agency in the lack of cap space, the Heat on July 6, 2019 acquired Butler from Philadelphia in a complex four-team deal that delivered Butler from the 76ers and center Meyers Leonard from the Portland Trail Blazers. In that deal, the 76ers acquired

Richardson from the Heat; the Trail Blazers received center Hassan Whiteside from the Heat; and the Los Angeles Clippers acquired forward Maurice Harkless from the Blazers, the draft rights to Mathias Lessort from the 76ers and a future first-round pick from the Heat.  
That Heat first-round pick eventually was traded from the Clippers to the Oklahoma City Thunder, who will either receive it from the Heat as a lottery-protected selection this June or as an unprotected selection in 2026.  
In addition, Richardson eventually cycled back to the Heat, when he rejoined the team in 2023 free agency.  
In announcing the 2019 trade for Butler, Riley said at the time in a statement, "We are thrilled to acquire Jimmy Butler and Meyers Leonard. They are both

players who fit the mold of Heat culture perfectly. Jimmy's leadership, tenacity, professionalism, defensive disposition and his ability to create his own shot will improve our roster immediately. Any time you can add a four-time All-Star to your roster, you make that move. Meyers is a versatile big, a great shooter, can play inside and block shots. The addition of both men puts us in a great position to win, and we welcome them to the Miami Heat organization."  
In addition to his playoff success with the Heat, Butler during his Miami tenure was named second-team All-NBA in 2023, third-team All-NBA in 2020 and '21, and second-team NBA All-Defensive in 2021, when he led the league in steals per game. He also was selected as an All-Star while with the Heat in 2020 and '23.



Photo provided

## ACAC champs

Pictured is the Jay County Junior High School 8th grade girls basketball team, which brought home both the Allen County Athletic Conference regular season title and were ACAC tournament champions. Pictured from left are Claudia Dirksen, Karsyn Schwieterman, Charlee Peters, Avery Snow, Alivya Schwieterman and Kendall Schemenaur. The Patriots finish the season with a 15-2 record.

# Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls basketball sectional semifinal vs. Delta at Connserville — 7:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Swim sectional at Trotwood — 6:30; Boys basketball at Versailles — 6 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Jay County — Boys wrestling regional at Jay County — 8:30 a.m.; Girls swim sectional at Jay County — 9 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling MAC tournament at Minster — 9:15 a.m.; Swim sectional at Trotwood — 11 a.m.; Middle school girls basketball MAC tournament at St. Henry — 10 a.m.; Middle school boys basketball MAC tournament at St. John's — 10:15 a.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
6 p.m. — College wrestling: Penn State at Michigan (BTN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: USC at Purdue (FS1); VCU at Dayton (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Lunar Owls BC at Phantom BC (TNT)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Detroit Pistons (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: St. John's at UConn (FOX)  
8 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa at Nebraska (BTN)  
8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Rose BC at Mist BC (TNT)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: San Jose State at Boise State (FS1)

9 p.m. — College gymnastics: LSU at Alabama (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — College wrestling: Wisconsin at Purdue (BTN)  
**Saturday**  
10 a.m. — LIV Golf: Riyadh (FS1)  
12 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Oklahoma (ESPN); South Carolina at Kentucky (ESPN2); Oregon at Michigan State (FOX) Richmond at Davidson (USA); Seton Hall at Georgetown (FS1)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Indiana (CBS)  
1 p.m. — NHL: Tampa Bay Lightning at Detroit Red Wings (ABC)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: Marquette at Creighton (FOX); Kansas at Kansas State (ESPN);

Miami at Louisville (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Xavier at Seton Hall (FS1)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: WM Phoenix Open (CBS)  
3:30 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Boston Bruins (ABC)  
4 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Florida at Auburn (ESPN); Penn State at UCLA (BTN); Pitt at North Carolina (ESPN2)  
6 p.m. — College basketball: BYU at Cincinnati (ESPN2); Illinois at Minnesota (BTN); Elon at Charleston (NBC)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Clemson (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — UFC: Aleksandre Topuria vs. Colby Thiekenesse (ESPN2)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at New York

Knicks (ABC)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Alabama at Arkansas (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — UFC: Bruna Brasil vs. Cong Wang (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio State at USC (FOX)  
9 p.m. — UFC: Viacheslav Borshchev vs. Tom Nolan (ESPN2)  
9:30 p.m. — UFC: Gabriel Santos vs. Jack Jenkins (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — College basketball: St. Mary's at Oregon State (ESPN2)  
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Texas Tech at Arizona (ESPN); Northwestern at Washington (BTN)  
.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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February 15th, 2025 9:30 A. M.  
ANTIQU-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEM  
CAST IRON: Griswold #10 Skillet, Favorite #12 Skillet, Wagner cornbread, & more. MARX Klown Katch & Spot Bowler Pinball games, CROCKS & STONEWARE: 1 gallon early grey crock, 3 gallon bee sting crock, Blue & White baked beans, brown crock with lid, Steiff teddy bear, 1940is Girl Scout pins, vintage fishing lures, Ford oil can, skeleton keys, Railroad lock with key, Kenton Toy Co. cast iron driver and lady, Fram Filter diecut girl with swimsuit, Craftsman stamps, wood bucket,

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

metal pot, and many other items not listed.  
**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:**  
Doors will open at 8 a.m. day of auction for preview.  
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Auctioneers  
Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer  
AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
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STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO: 38C01-2411-EU-000032 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: LARRY LEE BICKEL (Deceased)  
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Kent L. Bickel was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Larry Lee Bickel deceased, on 11-14-2024, who died on the 7th day of October, 2024.  
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated this 11-15-2024  
Jon Eads  
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER  
Attorneys at Law  
940 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, IN 47371  
260-726-4220  
CR 1-31.2-7-2025-HSPAXLP

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO: 38C01-2309-EU-000022 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: WAUNETA A. KEGERREIS (Deceased)  
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Phillip Kegerreis and Nathaniel Kegerreis were appointed as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Wauneta A. Kegerreis, deceased, on the 20th day of September, 2023, who died on the 8th day of September, 2023.  
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated 1-27-2025  
Melissa Elliott  
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER  
Attorneys at Law  
940 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, IN 47371  
260-726-4220  
CR 1-31.2-7-2025-HSPAXLP

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# Sports

## Jay wrestlers got some tough draws at regional

The Patriots picked up some difficult draws.

They'll try to work their way through some strong first-round opponents to make their way to Fort Wayne.

Nine Jay County High School wrestlers will compete Saturday as the Patriots host the regional tournament.

The first round of the regional sets the course for the rest of the tournament — winners advance

to the semi-state (and continue to wrestle toward a regional championship) while losers have their seasons come to an end.

While the regional brackets are set up to reward sectional winners from the previous week, even one of the Patriots' champions got a tough assignment.

While No. 16 Griffin Byrum (33-3) of JCHS will be a heavy favorite to

beat Yorktown's Brayden Williams (15-8) in the opening round at 113 pounds, A.J. Heskett (33-4) faces a wrestler — Cory Brown Jr. of Monroe Central — with a nearly identical record at 33-5.

Eighth-ranked Alan Ortiz (32-3), a sectional runner-up, will meet a 30-win opponent in the opening round Saturday at 285 pounds as he takes of Cortez White (30-10) of Muncie Central.

The rest of Jay County's first-round matches are as follows.

•A.J. Myers (17-5) vs. Tom Dygard (16-19) of Yorktown at 190

•Corbin Lothridge (27-9) vs. Muncie Central's Shepherd Zick (22-16) at 106

•Sylas Wenk (27-12) vs. Ben Bush (24-7) of Yorktown at 120

•Jason Landers (25-12) vs. Cowan's Kyler Coffey (21-7) at 132

•Brice Coy (23-11) vs. Wyatt Roach (11-4) of Yorktown at 215

•Cole Carpenter (7-14) vs. Delta's No. 5 Kaeb Stebbins (28-4) at 175

The Patriots face several potential semifinal matches against ranked opponents. Lothridge would likely meet No. 1 Reed Wicker (26-4) of Delta in the semifinal, Wenk lines up against 11th-ranked Levi Johns (31-1) of Bluffton and

Landers would likely get No. 10 Sam Mosier (27-4) of Delta.

If they advance to the finals, Byrum could meet 12th-ranked Kaid Jackson (27-6) and Myers could get a rematch against No. 8 Xavier Palacios (39-2) of Belmont.

Jay County advanced seven wrestlers to the semi-state last season, with Byrum and Ortiz seeking return trips last year.

## Brown bowls

Fort Recovery High School's Deanna Brown is in the backswing of her approach during the Midwest Athletic Conference tournament at Community Lanes in Minster on Tuesday. Brown had the best fill and strike percentage of the Indian bowlers, who fell to Versailles in the final to split the MAC title for the second year in a row. The lefty sophomore will look to lead her team to a sectional title on Feb. 11 at Rollhouse Dayton.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

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## Butler dealt to Warriors for Wiggins

By **IRA WINDERMAN**  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
Tribune News Service

MIAMI — The Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler Era came to an end Wednesday night, hours ahead of Thursday's NBA trade deadline, with the six-time All-Star dealt to the Golden State Warriors amid a deteriorating relationship between the disgruntled forward and the team he helped lead to two NBA Finals.

In return, the Heat acquired Andrew Wiggins and a protected first-round pick. Veteran guard Dennis Schroder and veteran guard Kyle Anderson also were part of the transaction, with Schroder rerouted to the Utah Jazz and Anderson to the Toronto Raptors.

As part of the complex maneuvering, the Heat also sent guard Josh Richardson to the Detroit Pistons and created a reunion for former Heat forward P.J. Tucker, who arrives from the Jazz.

While hardly the prime return envisioned, with the Heat just hours earlier linked to Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant, it nonetheless allowed the Heat to move on from Butler.

After Heat President Pat Riley issued a statement in December that essentially said the team would not be coerced into a trade, the Heat wound up making the move after Butler lashed out at the organization for not utilizing him properly and the Heat responded with three suspensions.

Having issued a seven-game suspension on Jan. 3 for "conduct detrimental to the team," the Heat ostensibly started their trade clock well ahead of Thursday's deadline.

The Heat followed that initial suspension with a two-game suspension after Butler missed the team's Jan. 22 flight to Milwaukee.

That was followed by an indefinite suspension that had Butler away from the team when he finally was dealt.

While the Heat could have allowed the matter to play out further down the line, with Butler holding a player option to enter free agency in July, the trade removed the risk of Butler opting into his \$52 million 2025-26 salary to further muddle the Heat books.

See Dealt page 7