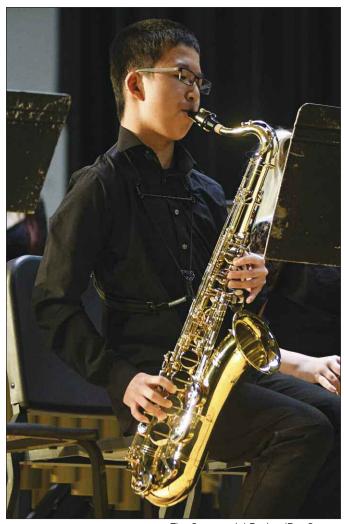
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Winter tunes

Jay School Junior-Senior High School and Fort Recovery Local Schools both held their winter band concert Sunday afternoon. Pictured above, fifth grader Victoria Bruns watches director Reid Knuth while playing her flute. Bruns and her fellow band members played selections from "Essential Elements for Band, Book 1." At left, Ango Kato plays the tenor saxophone during the Jay County junior high and high school combined bands' performance of the theme from "Mission Impossible."

Senate pulls back on Braun cuts

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

Senate Republicans on Tuesday backed away from the most significant parts of Gov. Mike Braun's property tax cut proposal.

Instead, their version of relief includes tightening requirements for schools to advance certain referendums, limiting how much property tax levies can grow and introducing a credit for first-time homebuyers.

The cost to units of government would be just shy of \$300 million in the first year, according to the author.

Three Democrats voted against the measure, citing the lack of relief for renters and the uncertain impacts on schools. It moved out of the committee on a 10-3 vote.

large portions of Gov. Mike Braun's property tax relief proposal, including the annual 3% cap on the



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, introduces the Senate Republican plan for property tax relief on Tuesday. A modified version of Senate Bill 1 passed through the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee.

bills. Senior citizens, fami-An amendment struck lies with children and lowgrowth capped at 2% under Braun's plan.

removed bill. Tt. also

growth of property tax increased deductions for homeowners. Overall, Braun's plan would have income Hoosiers had resulted in an immediate 21% reduction in the

average homeowner tax

Under the new Senate proposal. taxpayers would see \$1.4 billion in savings over the next three years. Braun's plan would have saved \$1.1 billion in its first year and \$1.6 billion in its third vear.

Sen. Travis Holdman, who authored Senate Bill 1, introduced the amended version in committee on Tuesday. Pulling back on Braun's plan lessened the hit on local units of government, which rely on property taxes to pay for services like law enforcement, parks, libraries and fire safety.

'We have worked consistently with the governor's office to get this to a good spot," Holdman said. "We just think there's a fine line that we have to walk to make sure that we are careful to be responsible to local government and, at the same time, provide some tax relief.'

In a statement, Braun's office said the plan took "steps in the right direction" but said he would continue to work with legislators on the administrative priority.

"The Governor will carefully review changes to his plan and looks forward to working with the House and Senate to strengthen the amended bill to include broad based and immediate property tax cuts for Hoosier homeowners who have been hit the hardest by skyrocketing home value inflation."

The wide-ranging amendment introduced to the bill restricts school referendums to general election ballots in evennumbered years. Schools also can't introduce such questions in back-to-back years, though there are exceptions for funding teacher salaries or school safety measures.

See Cuts page 2

Bruns named citizen of year

WPGW's Weaver will also be honored

Several Fort Recovery locals will be honored for accomplishments their next month. One Portland resident

will also take home an award for his work in the community. Fort Recovery Chamber

of Commerce announced its 2024 award winners and nominees Monday. Maria Bruns, a leading

member of Fort Recovery Merchants Association. was named as the 2024 Citizen of the Year. Bruns' community involvement includes organizing the annual tree lighting event at Krenning Park that kicked off Christmas Open House in Fort Recovery the last four years. Bruns, coowner of Cedar & Mane Beauty Collective, decorated Fort Recovery Historical Society's window display and other storefront displays. She co-chaired Fort Recovery Merchant's Association's stand at tractor pulls and Win on the Wabash Super Raffle.

See **Honored** page 2

Kremlin says U.S. is set to release prisoner

Bloomberg News

Tribune News Service The Kremlin said it expects a Russian imprisoned in the U.S. to be freed under the deal with President Donald Trump that saw American teacher Marc Fogel released by Russia.

The prisoner will be "returned to Russia in the coming days," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters Wednesday. He declined to name the man, saying he would be identified once he was in Russia.

The exchange of Fogel and the Russian citizen were steps toward "building up that very mutual trust" between Washington and Moscow "which is now at its lowest point," Peskov

said. Fogel was detained in Moscow in 2021 and sentenced to 14 years in prison after being convicted of drug smuggling attempting to enter the country with medical marijuana. He was freed as Trump is intensifying his efforts to broker an end Russia's nearly three-yearlong war in Ukraine.

The U.S. president told reporters the terms of Fogel's release were "very fair," and that he appreciated the Russian decision.

"It could be a big, important part of getting the war over with Ukraine," Trump said, without elaborating.

Deaths

Harvey Thornton Jr., 96, Portland

Timmie Bell, 60, Portland Nellie West, 101, Portland Ronald Cook, 67, Montpelier

Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 28 and 34 degrees Tuesday.

Tonight's low will be 10. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high in the lower 30s. There is a chance of rain and snow on Friday

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland Fire Department's annual chili lunch is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. Lunch is free, with free-will donations accepted for the annual firefighters' banquet and local charities. The fire department is located at 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.

Coming up

Friday — Preview of the JCHS wrestling team at the semi-state tournament.

Saturday — Details from the Jay County boys basketball game against Heritage.



Honored

Continued from page 1 Todd Homan, Kelly Walter and Amy Wendel were also nominated for the award.

Helen LeFevre and Bob Metzger were named to the 2024 Hall of Fame.

LeFevre's accomplishments includes participating in various organizations, including Fort Recovery Friends of the Opera House, 225 Committee, Fort Recovery Historical Society, PSI Iota Xi Sorority and St. Paul Catholic Church. She has also written two books on Fort Recov-

ery's history as well as a book on the Chamber award. The owner ices. The business also donates to St. Paul Catholic Church's histo-

Metzger volunteered for several Fort Recovery organizations, including Fort Recovery Jubilee, Fort Recovery Ambassadors and Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus. A former business owner in the village, he organized Antique Tractor Pulls and Garden Tractor

Also nominated for the award were Harold Fiely, Rob Weaver and Dan Wendel.

of WPGW Radio in Portland, Weaver has broadcast Fort Recovery village, school, sports and business news for decades and promoted the Fort Recovery community, the press release says.

Salty Haven received the Business of the Year award for shining as "an example of small business that cares for their customers and community," according to a press release from Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce. Its owner, Nikki Kremer, offers Weaver earned the Friend of halotherapy and foot detox serv-

other causes in the village.

The Taste of Fort Recovery Committee was announced as the **Outstanding Community Service** award recipient for 2024. The committee steers the event in the village that kicks off Fort Recovery Jubilee annually in downtown Fort Recovery.

Beautification award recipients include:

•Frank and Caley Thien - Most Improved Dwelling

•Brian and Hunter Hemmelgarn - Most Improved Property

•Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene - Most Improved Landscaping

Fort Recovery High School seniors Evan Evers and Drew Backs will be receiving the chamber's annual scholarship.

An awards banquet celebrating winners and nominees is slated to begin at 5:30 p.m. March 9 in Fort Recovery Elementary and Middle School auditeria. Tickets are available by calling (419) 375-4041 or by visiting Fort Recovery Insurance Agency or Park National Bank.

CR almanac

<u> </u>				
Friday 2/14	Saturday 2/15	Sunday 2/16	Monday 2/17	Tuesday 2/18
30/28	39/25	28/3	15/9	22/11
Friday looks to be mostly sunny skies with 90% chance of snow at night.	throughout the	Sunday, when there's another 50% chance of snow.	Mostly sunny on Monday when wind chill val- ues may hit as low as -10 early.	Mostly cloudy skie on Thuesda when there' a chance of snow in the afternoon.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$154 million

Mega Millions

Mega Ball: 13 Megaplier: 3 Estimated \$129 million

Hoosier

Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 8-6-4 Daily Four: 3-8-5-8 Quick Draw: 10-11-15-18-23-26-29-34-50-51-52-53-54-57-59-60-62-63-65-77

Evening Daily Three: 2-1-8 Daily Four: 1-5-7-9 Quick Draw: 5-7-22-24-25-26-29-32-37-45-46-50-54-57-60-63-65-70-72-78

Ohio

Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 0-2-5 Pick 4: 9-7-4-2 Pick 5: 2-5-6-7-0 Evening Pick 3: 1-7-7 Pick 4: 4-7-0-7 Pick 5: 9-6-7-8-5 Rolling Cash: 3-23-24-26-28

Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

7-30-39-41-70 jackpot:

Markets

Corn.....4.78

March corn4.84

April corn4.94

Corn.....4.84

April corn5.04

Richland Township

Corn4.84 March corn4.84

Beans10.39

The Andersons

POET Biorefining

Portland

Cooper Farms

Fort Recovery

March beans	10.44
Wheat	5.27

ADM Montpelier

C0f11	4.19
March corn	4.82
Beans	10.35
March beans	10.39
Wheat	5.47

Heartland **St. Anthony**

Corn	4.76
March corn	4.76
Beans	10.19
March beans	10.24
Wheat	5.22

Today in history

events leading to the publishers. removal of James II (Mary's father) from Hauptmann was conthe throne.

Lincoln was named as month-old son of aviathe next United States tor Charles and Anne president in Washington, D.C.

was born in Anamosa, Iowa. The American artist is most well known for creating the popular work, "American Gothic."

can Society of Com- creator, Charles Schulz. posers, Authors and

In 1689, William and Publishers formed in Mary became king and New York city. It startqueen of England, rul- ed to protect the rights ing as William III and of the works of its Mary II. Their rule members, such as comcame after the Glorious posers, songwriters, Revolution, a series of lyricists and music

1935, In Bruno victed for abducting In 1861, American and killing the 20-Morrow Lindbergh. He was then sentenced to In 1891, Grant Wood death for the act, which was later termed as "The Crime of the Century.'

In 2000, the last "Peanuts" comic strip was published hours In 1914, the Ameri- before the death of its — The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today

Commission, land. Plan Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian Board, St., Portland.

Friday

Works executive ses- cil, village hall, 201 sion, mayor's office, Main St. city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Monday

Board executive ses- 1616 N. Meridian St.

sion, General Shanks, 6 p.m. — Jay County 414 Floral Ave., Port-

5 p.m. — Jay School General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Portland Board of Recovery Village Coun-

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council 4 p.m. — Jay School chambers, fire station,

Cuts

Continued from page 1

the language mirrors Senate Bill 8, authored by Sen. Brian Buchanan, R-Lebanon. Buchanan said that referendums would need to include the total amount of money that would be raised by levying a property tax.

"There are some revisions to the ballot question in trying to make that very practical and straightforward for the voters," Buchanan

Republican senators also opted to incorporate provisions from Senate Bill 9 into their property tax relief proposal, which freezes the maximum levy growth quotient for 2026 and then caps it for the following two

The maximum levy growth quotient currently limits how much local property tax levies can rise in a year based on a six-year rolling average of non-farm personal income growth. Because of inflation, it rose to 5% in 2023 compared to 3.4% in 2019. Lawmakers last year put in an artificial cap of 4% — when, without the cap, the maximum would've been 5.5%, according to the Indiana Office of Management and Budget.

The amended bill would freeze it for 2026 and then it could increase 1% in 2027 and 2% in 2028.

Previously, local units of government could petition to exceed that cap but they will no longer have that option — instead, they can place it before voters in a ballot question.

Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, described a new method for counties to provide individual property tax relief though a payment deferral program, which she'd authored under Senate Bill 6. That process is coupled with deductions for disabled veterans and seniors.

"This is an opportunity for them newly created one-year 'cooling off'

to be able to help a homeowner that may be going through some very difficult times, or maybe a senior that's on a fixed income," Rogers said.

Homeowners will have the option

to defer \$500 of their property income tax annually until their home is sold. However, it's unclear how many counties will opt to create such a program.

Finally, the bill introduces a firsttime homebuyer tax credit, a first for Indiana. The credit assists those with incomes up to \$75,000 buying a property that costs up to \$250,000. Qualified individuals can get a \$2,500 credit for five years after pur-

The Indiana Capital Chronicle reached out to a handful of local organizations to get an initial reaction to the amended bill.

Denny Costerison, speaking on behalf of the Indiana Association of School Business Officials, noted that the new version "lessen(ed) the negative impact on school corporations and other local government units," but flagged concerns for educators.

The new cap on levy growth will "significantly" reduce property taxes collected over the next three years, which impacts budgets for local schools. Additionally, schools will be prohibited from issuing new general obligation bonds for two years after a current bond expires, he said.

'Many school corporations use this procedure on an annual basis to supplement their operating fund," Costerison noted.

"Regarding school referendums, we appreciate the revised language ... making it more understandable for voters," Costerison said. "And that school operating and safety referendums will not be subject to the period before another referendum could be proposed."

Other entities called it an

improvement from the original ver-David Bottorff, with the Association of Indiana Counties, highlight-

ed the relief included for veterans, senior citizens and first-time homebuyers. His organization also supports

limiting referendums to even-numbered years, which have higher turnout.

But he said "the zero levy growth for 2026, and the limit(s) below inflation growth for 2027 and 2028 is a concern as locals will have increased expenses in operations for utilities, health care for employees, criminal justice, road maintenance and other critical government func-

Various other bills — including ones on personal property tax and assessed values of agriculture land could further erode county revenues, leaving the governments with fewer resources.

Matt Greller, the chief executive officer of Advancing Indiana Municipalities, said he looked forward to working with both lawmakers and Braun's team to finalize the bill. Future conversations could include a "possible replacement source" for

shortfalls, Greller said. "It does not serve Hoosier taxpayers well to overhaul the current system in a manner that does more harm than good. An unbalanced approach represents the worst possible outcome for taxpayers and the governmental units they rely on for safe, livable, affordable, and wellmaintained and well-appointed communities," he concluded.

The bill now moves to the full Senate for further consideration.

Felony courts

Battery

Four Jay County men time for battery.

John A.E. Fields, 25, 637 North Elm St., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to battery on a public safety official, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Fields was fined \$1 and assessed \$189 in court costs.

Joshua A. Guntle, 36, 5826 E. 400 South, Salamonia, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Guntle was assessed \$189 in court costs. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program the court would consider modifying his sentence. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 3 felony for criminal confinement while armed with a deadly weapon, a Level 6 felony for domestic battery committed in the presence of a child younger than 16, and a habitual offender

enhancement. Joseph Steed, 19, 1320 Meadow Lane, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Steed was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 110 days suspended and given 110 days credit for time served. Steed was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs, ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee and placed

on probation for 255 days. were sentenced to serve ment, a Level 6 felony charge for strangulation was dismissed. Daniel R. Miller, 29, 1

South Union Street, Redkey, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to two counts of domestic battery, both Level felonies, and leaving the scene of an accident, a Class B misdemeanor. Miller was sentenced to 1,460 days in Indiana Department of Correction and given 452 days credit for time served. He was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. Miller was also ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution to the benefit of Donna Skinner. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: two counts of intimidation, both Level 6 felonies, and invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor.

SERVICES

Friday

Thornton, Harvey: 10:30 a.m., Christ Chapel, 2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery. West, Nellie: I p.m., Walker

& Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Saturday Fortman, Dolores: 10 a.m.,

Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

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



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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Open mic night set for next Thursday

Open mic night is a chance for anyone to per-

Jay County Campus of Arts Place is hosting an open microphone night Feb. 20. Performers may bring an instrument, sing, read, perform comedy or share other family friendly talents.

Sign up begins at 6:30 p.m., with performances to start at 7 p.m. Time slots are set in 10-minute increments. Attendees may bring law chairs, snacks and non-alcoholic jcc@myartsplace.org.

Taking Note

beverages with them for the free show open to the public.

For more information or questions on how to be involved, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 emailing

Pioneer Camps

Indiana State Police has announced its dates and locations for its summer camps, including several in Anderson.

Pioneer Camps, which are by recommendation only, will be held for 11 through 14 year olds in June, with one set for June 16 through 19 at Mounds State Park in Anderson.

Other camps in Anderson include a Law Camp for sixth, seventh and

held June 29 through a new scholarship pro- work July 2 and a Career Camp for high school students from June 22 through 28. A Career Camp will also be held from July 6 through 11 at Trine Uni-

versity in Angola. Shield Project is scheduled for June 4 through 8 at Anderson University. For more information, or

register, visit trooper.org.

New scholarship

eighth graders will be Management District has

gram.

The district will be awarding two Jay County High School seniors with \$250 scholarships. To qualify, students must have volunteered with a group or organization manning recycling drop off centers throughout Jay County during their high school career.

Applications are due before March 31.

Jay County Solid Waste **Taking applications** Indiana Donor Net-

accepting applications for educational scholarships.

The scholarships are open to immediate family members of Indiana residents who organ, tissue or cornea donors, living donors, transplant recipients and Hoosiers waiting for transplants.

Applications are available online at indianadonornetwork.org/sc holarships. The deadline is March 17.

Public outburst sparks feud with father

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 47 years passed away 16 months ago after living with a disability for many years. I took care of her until the end and loved her with all my heart. Nine months after her passing, I became involved with another woman my age.

I have two sons, 43 and 46. My younger son and my contemporaries are happy that I have found someone to share my life with. Being alone was not easy for me. However, my older son, who has a wife and kids, is no longer speaking to me and flipped out at a public event when I mentioned my girlfriend's name. He seems to think I should be alone the rest of my life.

Dear Abby



rageous behavior, saying that I would always love him, but until he accepts the fact that I have a new lady in my life, I no longer consider him my son. Maybe I overreacted. I haven't heard from him or seen my grandkids in two months.

I know of other widowers who have had the same problem. I find it hard to believe our kids can be so inconsiderate. I I sent him a text after his out- realize many people who lose

the love of their lifetime are not interested in finding another, but I do not want to spend the rest of my life alone. Am I wrong? Should I apologize to my son? — GLAD I FOUND SOMEONE

DEAR GLAD: You may have been too harsh when you said what you did to your son, but he was far out of line when he caused a scene at the mention of your lady friend. You loved and cared for his mother as long as she was on this earth. You were a great husband and partner, and you don't owe anyone an apology for wanting to live your life to the fullest. Please celebrate it with those who are mature enough to under-

DEAR ABBY: I have been friendly with "Blair" for 20 years. During this time, I've taken her to doctors' appointments and made dinner for her and her family after her mother and stepfather died. When I went on vacation with my daughter, Blair said she'd love to come along but didn't have the money, so I paid for her. (She never attempted to pay me back.) On another occasion. Blair insisted on coming to my home with her adult kids to use my pool, even though I asked her not to because my son was home with pneumonia.

When my mom died a few months ago, I called Blair after the out-of-state funeral. She promised to call me back but

didn't call for two months. When I told her I was disappointed in her, she responded that she feels bad. But she has done things like this so many times that I feel used. I no longer want to be friends with her, but she keeps calling me and I don't know what to do. Any advice for a one-sided friendship I can't seem to end? – ENOUGH ALREADY IN ILLI-NOIS

DEAR ENOUGH: Take a page out of Blair's playbook. When she calls or texts, take a long time to respond. When she wants to get together, be too busy. If she asks you if there is a reason for the change in your behavior, tell her the truth JUST AS YOU TOLD IT TO ME.

Community Calendar

space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

SMART RECOVERY focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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. MOUS — Will meet at 10 in Portland. For more a.m. at Zion Evangelical information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or High St., Portland. For Dave Keen at (260) 251- more information, call

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL SUPPORT OSTOMY GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Notices will appear in and intestinal diversion Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 Community Calendar as patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 A group for those strug- p.m. the second Thursday gling with addiction that of each month at Jay Community Center.

Friday

RECOVERY PAST 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 ${\rm ERY-A~12-step~Christian~~information,~call~(260)~251-}$

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-Lutheran Church, 218 E. (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE - A faithbased recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will B. The group is for ostomy each Sunday at Fellowship

West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS

PING PONG — Will be meet for weigh-in at 4:30 cy testing with ongoing played from 9 a.m. to noon p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. To learn more information, please call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will CENTER — Free pregnan-

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 accept-



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Sudoku 9 8 3 2 4 5 3 2 8 6 3 9 6 8 4 9

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

Help to develop a love of reading

Austin Daily Herald (Minnesota) Tribune News Service

February is I Love to Read **Guest** Month, and as promoters of the written word, we applaud the and organizations throughout the community who encourage children and adults to read

Research shows that reading skills are not only important to a child's success in school, but also to their success later in life at work and in society.

are sobering.

Editorial

According to the National Institute for Literacy, the National Center for Adult Literacy, The Literacy Company and the U.S. Census Bureau, The statistics about reading currently 45 million Americans TV. cannot read above a fifth-grade

lems reading, and three out of five people in American prisons can't read.

Want your child to live a life away from crime that can land them in prison? It appears a love of reading can be a start to that prevention.

part of your family's lifestyle, consider these tips:

-Start with turning off the

-Take a simple 15 or 20 min-

of juvenile offenders have probread together. Reading not only expands vocabulary and knowledge but can also open the door to imagination. It can be a great way to bond with your child.

-When you're not reading together, let your child see that you enjoy reading on your own whether it be a newspaper, If reading is not already a magazine or book. Though we may all be busy, we must make it a priority. Let your child see that reading is fun and enjoyable. More than likely, if they see that mom or dad likes to

level. Equally as sobering, 85% utes a day, and sit down and read, then maybe they will try it out, too.

-Take advantage of all of the local resources available at area schools and at the Albert Lea Public Library. The teachers in the Albert Lea school district and the librarians at the public library are wonderful examples of how to make reading fun.

The focus on reading contininto March ues the National Education Association's Read Across America on March 2.



Tax cuts won't bring growth to Indiana

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Hoosier lawmakers face diffiaffecting several million citizens who either receive Medicaid or participate in the Healthy Indiana Plan. These choices also affect health care availability across the state, as well as the viability of providers in rural Indiana. These choices will require trade-offs.

The math is startling.

In 2010, when the Affordable Care Act was passed, Indiana spent 0.57% of our total state GDP on Medicaid, and 969,000 Hoosiers were enrolled. Last year, we spent 1.13% of our GDP on Medicaid and enrolled 1.96 million Hoosiers. For every one new job created in Indiana since 2010, we've had more than two new people enroll in Medicaid.

The GOP will blame the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) for this costly spike in enrollment, and they'd be partially right. Keep in mind that former Gov. Mike Pence accepted the Obamacare Medicaid expansion, which accounted for more than 600,000 of the roughly 1 million new recipients since 2010.

However, there's more to our is there a way to fix it? long-term Medicaid problems ACA expansions.

Michael J. Hicks



national average salary for their work. Overall, Hoosier workers earned about 93% of the national wage. The current Hoosier factory worker now makes about 89 cents for every dollar earned by factory workers nationwide and the average Hoosier worker earns less than 84 cents for every dollar earned nationwide.

The plain and ineluctable fact is that Indiana's economy has spent 25 years falling further behind the rest of the U.S. As a state that is primarily creating lower-wage jobs, we inevitably have a growing share of our working-age population eligible for Medicaid.

So, with or without the ACA which has zero chance of being overturned — Indiana should expect continued growth in the share of poorer residents eligible for Medicaid.

But what is causing this, and

In the modern economy, over than the ACA or state-level the last half-century or so, nearly all business and job Hoosier workers are getting growth has come to places with relatively poorer. In 2000, our an abundance of highly educatfactory workers earned the ed workers. Since 1992, 80% of

all the net job growth has gone enough of the types of workers in about 25 years. But it'll take to people with bachelor's we need to thrive in the Ameria 12% increase just to keep above the national average, and we send less than half of each age cohort to college.

but am not sure most folks, including many making fiscal and economic policy decisions, really understand what has happened or how lasting the effects will be. We are decades away from a turnaround.

In the early 2000s, U.S. manufacturing lost a sizable number of jobs. Most were lost to automation, but some were lost to trade. Economists have long known that better-educated workers, primarily those with some post-secondary education, are more likely to bounce back from a job loss.

Education, and the ability to learn throughout a working life, is important for long-term economic success. Indiana has the highest share of jobs at risk of automation, and an astonishing undersupply of workers who can transition easily to

Again, the data are startling. For every factory job Indiana's Recession, we've created 14.4 sounds good, but nationwide, the number is 24.3 new jobs created for every lost factory job.

Indiana simply does not have graduated, we could catch up him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

higher. However, can economy of the 21st centu- from falling furth Indiana has only six counties ry. That's how we got where we with educational attainment are today, and the future is decidedly more challenging than the past.

Since 2010's ACA passage, I write often about this issue, Medicaid spending as a share of our GDP rose by 97%

We've chosen a different path for education. Since 2010, state spending on K-12 education as a share of GDP declined by more than 21% and state spending on higher education declined by almost 30%.

Those cuts weren't just in terms of our state's economy. In inflation-adjusted terms, Indiana spends less per student today than we did in 2010. We've also de-emphasized postsecondary education, and for a brief time, actively adopted curriculum choices pushed kids as young as 12 away from the college track.

The legislature has wisely reversed some of these errors. Perhaps a more flexible high school diploma, the elimination of some regulatory burden and an expanded 21st Century Scholars program will help.

The problem is, to match the lost since the start of the Great national educational attainment average, we need 275,000 new jobs in other sectors. That more adults with college and Frances Ball distinguished degrees. If we boost college attendance rates by 20%, to about 73%, and all those kids Ball State University. Email

We are rapidly falling

behind.

All that extra money we are spending on Medicaid is not being spent on education. It is true that Indiana has been slashing taxes pretty steadily for more than a decade and is proposing more long-term tax cuts. It is also true that there are many unpleasant outcomes associated with cutting Medicaid. We'll have a sicker population, with higher infant mortality and the closure of some rural health care providers.

Public policy is about weighing choices, and those choices are often unpleasant. Indiana can choose to continue spending more tax dollars to mitigate the effects of poverty (Medicaid) or spend more money to prevent poverty (education). Or, we can continue to cut taxes and spend less on both; or raise taxes and spend more on one or the other, or both.

Only one of these choices will result in less poverty and more economic growth. It isn't tax cuts.

•••••

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist

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

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., Por- p.m. Thursday Nanette Weesner (260) 766-9334 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.

nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the

Brethren Floral and avenues, Portland Kevin McClung (260) 729-7295

Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God

Broad Street. South Dunkirk Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m.

Friday

Collett Nazarene 450 South, 1 mile west of Billy Stanton (260) 251-2403

Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

Cornerstone Baptist 211 E. Main St., Portland Wavne 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 Dunkirk Tom Fett (765) 768-6199 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

Evangelical Methodist 930 W. Main St., Portland Steve Arnold (260) 251-0970

Services: 10:20 a.m., 6

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 urday, 9 a.m.

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., Red-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 firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church

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

2535 Wabash Road, Fort 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

Geneva First United Methodist

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

Chicago 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. land 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 Praise Chapel 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 Christian

Immaculate Conception Catholic 506 E. Walnut St., Port-

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. 700East, 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. Sat-

Mount Tabor Community Church

216 W. Pleasant St., tland 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. Wednesdav portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene

920 S. Shank St., Port-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.

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, Father Dan Lavden (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

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) 369-2676

redkeynaz.org

(765) 369-2085 Services: 10:30 a.m. **Redkey Church** of the Nazarene 801 W. High St. Fred Stevens

p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday River of Life

Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

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

The ROCK 1605 N. Meridian St., Por-Matt Ransom (260) 726-7474 Services: 10 a.m.

matt@therockic.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., Port-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. Sun-

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. Wed-

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

Temple Baptist 17920 Indiana

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 Sun-

pastorrobino@gmail.com **Trinity ArchBridge**

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

portlandtrinity.com

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

p.m. **Union Chapel Church** of the Nazarene

County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line) Fred Stevens Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

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@g mail.com Services: 10:30 a.m.

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SPEED BUMP **Dave Coverly** MY KID COULD BUY THAT.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane 2-13

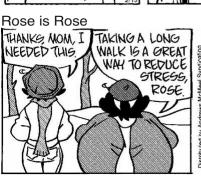
"Grandma likes me best 'cause I remind her of Daddy when he was little.

Peanuts













Agnes







Hi and Lois I'M GIVING VALENTINES TO I'M JUST GONNA GIVE ONE TO EVERYONE IN MY CLASS



Between Friends









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Snuffy Smith

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I FORGOT

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By Steve Becker Bridge

Gazing into the future

saw that in the more likely event that the trumps were divided 3-1, he might still score 11 tricks. South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 6

▼ 9 2

♦ J 7 3 he might still score II tricks.

Accordingly, South cashed the

A-K of trump and, when the suit
proved to be divided 3-1, next led
his singleton diamond. East won
with the queen, cashed the club
queen and exited with a diamond, ♣A9874 EAST ruffed by South with his last trump. ♦ K Q 8 6 4 **Declarer now had** to hope the spades were divided 3-3 to finish with 11 tricks. But when he cashed ♦ A 10 9 2 SOUTH **★** K 8 3 2 **∀** A K 7 4 the A-K of spades and the suit failed to break evenly, he had to

lose a diamond trick at the end to

go down one.

It's not hard to see where South

Let's say East takes the diamond

and returns a trump. Declare who with dummy's ace, disclosing the 3-1 break in the process. He then ruffs a diamond, leads a spade to the ace and ruffs dummy's last diamond. and returns a trump. Declarer wins

The bidding:
West It's not hard to see where South went wrong. He should not have gotten himself in a position where, if the trumps were divided 3-1, the opponent with the third trump could cash it upon gaining the lead and thereby deprive him of a critical ruff. Instead, declarer should have cashed the club king at trick two and then led his singleton diamond. North East 3 ♣ 4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass Opening lead — ten of spades.

Bridge is at times a precarious game. One minute you're flying high, confident of success, and a moment later you find yourself crashing in flames. That's what happened to declarer in this deal, though in fact he had no one but himself to blame for getting shot

He won the spade lead with dummy's queen and saw that if the trumps were divided 2-2, his only loser would be a diamond. He also

2-13

ACROSS

the ace and ruffs dummy's last dia-mond with his last trump. His only remaining loser is a trump trick, and the contract is home. Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

BOMW FPKGX PAQ FMGG M

CRYPTOQUIP

LMTABQML TWQR XQYTSAQX

WP MFFPRRPXMWQ HLPWLKXTAS

YWPRMFOY? M HMKAFO-P.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU SPILL WHISKEY OR TEQUILA AND A POOCH IS LAPPING IT UP, THAT DOG IS A LIQUOR LICKER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

56 D.C.

16 QVC

salad

cheese

Q.E.D.

nobis

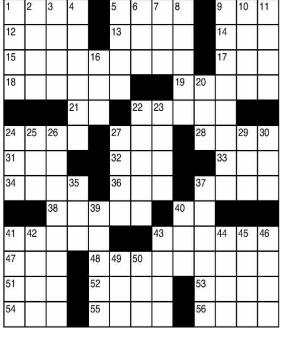
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band

37 Heredi-

1 Off-white	tary unit	baseball	alter-
5 "Star Trek	38 Jazz	team	native
II" villain	legend		20 Energy
9 Yoga pad	Vaughan	DOWN	22 Foul up
12 Lopsided	40 Con-	1 Blunders	23 Ice and
win	cerning	2 "Neato!"	Bronze
13 — the	41 Prefix	3 July	24 Auction
Great	with violet	birth-	action
(kid-lit	43 Social	stone	25 Have bi
detective)	blunders	4 Says	26 Pitiful ta
14 Yucatan	47 Egg —	5 Shoe-	27 Magazi
"Bravo!"	yung	lace	for docs
15 Lead	48 Work-	snarl	29 Pallid
singer of	place	6 Deli	30 That sh
Matchbox	invitations	choice	35 Pitch
Twenty	51 Sharing	7 —	37 Lincoln
17 Present	word	premium	Center's
location?	52 Sciences'	8 Tree	David -
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devious	53 Coup d'—	9 Frenzied	39 Indian
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cheese			whiz!"





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2024-25 girls basketball

All-GPC team



Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year **Jillian Barr**

Delta High School junior

Jillian Barr was selected as the wasn't mentally there," said Barr. "I had some setbacks. I'm just in the inaugural Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for girls basket-

"I am super stoked," said Barr, who surpassed 1,000 career points and broke the Delta rebounding record in its sectional semifinal win over Jay County. "I've been trying to push and work hard for this all summer, working on conditioning with (coach Ty'Ronda Benning). ... I'm so excited."

Referred to by her teammates as Jill-zilla, Barr has averaged 20.5 points over her team's last 14 games, including a career-high 31 in the sectional championship.

'The beginning of the season, I just

right headspace now because I've had

people to help me through it."

She averages a double-double for the season with 10.1 rebounds per game and leads the team with 4 assists per game.

"Jillian's a monster," said Benning. "I say it all the time, I'm a fan of Jillian's because she's one of those players that nobody's gonna stop Jillian but Jillian. When she's in the right mental headspace, she's a force to be reckoned with. ... It's a blessing to have someone like Jillian, with her athletic ability ... and what she puts forward to the table.

All-Graphic Printing Company first team

Hallie Schwieterman Jay County sophomore

> **Griffyn Knight** Delta junior

Haleigh Allen Randolph Southern junior

Karlie Niekamp Fort Recovery senior

Schwieterman was the leader across the board for the Patriots, averaging 18.9 points, 5.6 rebounds, 4 steals and 2.5 assists per game.

After carrying the scoring load for the Eagles early in the season, Knight is averaging 15 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3.9 steals for the first DHS sectional title time since 1993.

In powering the Rebels to an 8-0 start and a sectional championship appearance, Allen averaged 18.4 points, 6.9 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game.

Niekamp, who will play at Bluffton University, came on strong in the second half of the season, including 24-, 22- and 28-point efforts in a four-game stretch.

Honorable mention

Kimber Abshear, senior, Wapahani Addison Barnes, senior, Delta Glory Ellis, senior, Union Aberee Ervin, freshman, Monroe Central Emily Luce, junior, Wapahani

Alivia McCoy, senior, Winchester Kennedy Muhlenkamp, senior, Fort Recovery Sydney Patterson, senior, Monroe Central Addy Puckett, senior, Monroe Central Oaklee Reichard, senior, Union City

Snow

Continued from page 8 Grace Whitfield of Zionsville was the final state qualifier with 350.7 points, as the top eight divers from the regional meet advanced to compete again Saturday morning at Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Snow, who was seeded last for the regional after placing fourth in Jay County's sectional, reflected on her bookend dives.

She opened with her reverse dive in the tuck position. It scored her 22.4 points.

"I put it first to get it over with," she said, laughing. "It's a dive that I just have never liked and div-

doing a reverse is especially hard because you have to find where to kick.

Snow was 16th through the first five dives with 127.6 points, just 0.8 points ahead of 17th-place Terrell and nearly eight behind 15th-place McKenna Wendland of Homestead (135.25).

Knowing that she might not make the cut for the finals, she put her favorite dive in the No. 8 slot. She was rewarded with five 5.5s from the judges, a 6 and a 6.5.

"My inward dive pike has always been a favorite of mine," said Snow. "I put it eighth so that I was ending on a good note no mating in an unfamiliar space, ter where I finished.'

Saints

Continued from page 8

The Eagles ranked eighth in total offense in 2024, which is where they blended his ideas and scheme with quarterback. the existing one, and the Eagles With the Eagles alone, Hurts' five than they did in 2023.

Moore, 36, has been coaching in the NFL since 2018, when he was the quarterbacks coach in Dallas. He spent the next four seasons as Dallas' offensive coordinator before spending one season as the coordinator of the Los Angeles Chargers.

Moore's departure will force the

Eagles to find a new offensive coordinator, which continues an ongoing trend for Hurts, who has had 11 were in 2023. Moore, Sirianni's coaches calling plays in his nine third coordinator in four seasons, seasons as a professional or college

seemingly executed at a better clip seasons have seen Doug Pederson, Sirianni, Shane Steichen, Brian Johnson, and Moore calling plays. The new coordinator will be a sixth play-caller in six seasons.

The Eagles have plenty of replacement options at their disposal, many of them external, who would likely welcome a chance to coach an offense fresh off a Super Bowl win.

Continued from page 8 Ella Schoen never shot below 175 – her high was 190 in the second game – to claim the 12th-best series in the sectional.

Kayla Heitkamp had the slowest day of the Indians, shooting 163, 174 and 176, but still finished 19th at the sectional and would be moving on as an individual had the team not made it through. The Indians coupled

their individual success with a strong showing during the baker games. In total, they knocked down 1,007 pins, only outdone Kenton Ridge with 1,040. Fort Recovery put up its best game of 215 in the final game.

Sports on tap

Local schedule Thursday

Fort Recovery — Boys bowling sectional at Dayton - 9 a.m.

Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Heritage - 6

Fort Recovery — Swim regional at Miami University (OH) - 10:45 a.m.; Boys basketball at St. John's - 6 p.m.

TV sports

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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AU12400069

100 JOBS WANTED

AMISH CREW LOOK-

Today 10 a.m. — College softball: Florida State at Missouri (ESPN2)

1 p.m. — College softball: Clemson at Missouri (ESPN2)

4 p.m. — College softball: Clemson at Auburn (ESPN2) 5 p.m. — NAŚCAR Craftsman Truck

Series: Duel 1 at Daytona (FS1) - Women's college bas-

ketball: Nebraska at Maryland (BTN) 7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Texas at Kentucky (ESPN2) - NASCAR Cup Series: Day

8 p.m. - Four Nations hockey: Finland at USA (ESPN) 8:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Dal-

las Mavericks (ABC); Oklahoma City Thunder at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT) 8:30 p.m. — College basketball:

Maryland at Nebraska (BTN) 8:45 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Duel 2 at Daytona (FS1)

9 p.m. — Collège basketball: Mem-

phis at South Florida (ESPN2)

Friday 10 a.m. — College softball: Virginia

at Auburn (ESPN2) 1 p.m. — College softball: Kentucky

at Clemson (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Fresh from Florida 250 (FS1) 3 p.m. — College softball: Oklahoma State at UCLA (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Brighton & Hove Albion at Chelsea (USA) 5:30 p.m. — N Daytona 500 (FS1) NASCAR Cup Series: NBA: Ruffles All-Star 7 p.m.

Celebrity Game (ESPN) 7 p.m. — College basketball: Saint Louis at Loyola Chicago (ESPN2) 7 p.m. — College wrestling: Ohio State at Penn State (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Fresh from Florida 250

(FS1) 7:30 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: 1-

on-1 tournament (TNT) 8 p.m. — College basketball: UCLA

AT Indiana (FOX) College wrestling: Minneso ta at Iowa (BTN)

– College gymnastics: Okla homa at LSU (ESPN2) 10 p.m. — College basketball

Nevada at San Jose State (FS1)

10 p.m. — Boxing: Keyshawn Davis
vs. Denys Berinckyk (ESPN)

11 p.m. — College gymnastics: UCLA

at Penn State (BTN)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay

February 15th, 2025 9:30 A. M. ANTIQUE-OLD & COL-LECTORS ITEM

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tona (FS1)

TOWN OF REDKEY is accepting applications for Town Marshal and or Deputy. Experience preferred but not mandatory. Apply at the Redkey City Building. Applications accepted from February 6th through February 14th.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Portland by its Board of Works will receive bids beginning February 14, 2025 until 4 o'clock p.m. on March 4, 2025 at the City Building located at 321 N. Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371. Bids will be received for the sale of real estate owned by the City and located at 208 and 210 N Meridian Street in Portland, Indiana. Bid specifications which include the minimum bid and the legal description of the real estate are available at the City Building from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The real estate is being sold pursuant to IC 36-1-11-4.2 to promote an economic development project and to facilitate compatible land use planning. All bidders must comply with the bid specifications. The City may reject all bids. Lori Phillips.

Portland Clerk-Treasurer CR 2-13,22-2025-HSPAXLP

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www.thecr.com Page 8 **The Commercial Review**

Snow 16th in regional

Patriot senior finished diving career with fourth straight regional appearance

BV RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

FISHERS — Maddy Snow was relaxed.

Having looked at sectional scores, she knew the meet was likely to be her last.

So she approached it with an air of calm, leaving her sectional stress behind.

Snow, a Jay County High School senior, closed her career Tuesday night by finishing 16th out of 20 competitors in the regional diving meet at Hamilton Southeast-

"I had a lot more fun here today, even though my dives weren't better," said Snow, comparing her regional effort to the sectional meet just three days earlier. "I think it was just a little bit of pressure off. It was just go out with a bang and do the best I could."

She was a four-time regional qualifier, with her best finish at 13th place during her sophomore season and best score at 221.2 in 2024.

"It's bittersweet," added. "It's something that's been a part of my life for the last seven years. So it's something that I'm sad to see go, but I think it's a good end."

Snow scored 207.2 points through eight dives, leaving her just over 23 points short of the total needed to make the top 12 and continue into the final three dives. (Delta's Ava West was the last diver to make the cut at 230.65.) She finished ahead of Kennadie Liegl (204.85) of Carroll, Haley Terrell (200.15) of Concordia, Eden McRoberts (196.2) of McCutcheon and Emerson Meredith (187.25) of Norwell.

Noblesville's Eryn McMahon fought off Helena Gibson of Carmel 410.05-406.15 for the regional title. Campbell Lively Mason of Hamilton Heights also cleared 400 points with 401.95 for third place.

See **Snow** page 7



Maddy Snow of Jay County High School reaches toward the water Tuesday on her inward dive in the pike position during the regional meet at Hamilton Southeastern. The dive was the last of her career as she finished in 16th place.

Tribe claims its first sectional

DAYTON, Ohio — The Indians couldn't take down the Tigers to claim the sole rights to the Midwest Athletic Conference title.

One week later, they topped the Tigers and 24 other teams to secure a spot at the district and their first sectional title.

The Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team kept just enough distance from MAC-rival Versailles and Graham Local to claim their first OHSAA Division II Southwest Sectional title on Tuesday at Rollhouse Dayton.

The Indians wracked up 3,813 pins to claim their first sectional title in girls bowling. Graham Local finished as the runner-up with 3,724, while VHS only managed third place with 3,693

The top 12 teams and individuals not on advancing teams move on to the district tournament on Feb. 19 at Beaver-Vu Lanes in Beavercreek, Ohio. Ansonia was the final team to make the cut with a team total of 2,899. The other teams to earn district berths were Urbana, Greenon, Northwestern, Kenton Ridge, Benjamin Logan, Fort Loramie, West Liberty-Salem and Southeastern Local.

FRHS freshman Lilah Thien put together the strongest day for the Indians in the individual games. She finished with a 597 series to earn second place behind Graham Local's Kailey Dowty. Thien started off strong with a 221-pin game before taking a slight dip to 175 and bouncing back for a 201. Two more Indians rolled

220s, as Emily Lauber put up the team high of 227 in her final game and Deanna Brown shot a 225 to open the day. Lauber finished with a 578 series for eighth place, while Brown's 563 left her 10th on the leader-

See **Tribe** page 7

Saints hire **Kellen Moore** o be coach

By JEFF NEIBURG

The Philadelphia Inquirer Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA — For the third consecutive season, the Eagles will be looking for a new offensive coordinator.

Kellen Moore, as expected, is off to New Orleans. The Saints officially announced Moore as their next head coach Tuesday afternoon, a few hours after NFL Network reported that Moore's deal with the team was done.

The Saints have been dialed in on making Moore their next head coach for the last few weeks. According to NFL Network, Saints general manager Mickey Loomis was telling candidates on Jan. 31 that the team while a final decision had not been made — was planning to continue discussions after the Super Bowl with Moore.

to bring Eagles quarterbacks coach Doug Nussmeier with him to New Orleans.

Eagles hired The they looked for an outsider with a different scheme than Nick Sirianni's, which the head coach admitted after last season's collapse had gotten "stale."

Moore just helped lead Eagles to Super Bowl LIX victory over Kansas City as offensive coordinator

The offense looked different this season, but mostly because Moore is also expected Eagles figured out that their best path forward was to hand the ball to Saquon Barkley behind the best offensive line in the NFL. While Jalen Moore last offseason as Hurts was asked to throw a lot less, he did have his best completion percentage (68.7%) and highest quarterback rating (103.7) of his five-season

NFL career. See Saints page 7

