

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Trump vows more tariffs

Trump announced plans on social media

By **HADRIANA LOWENKRON** and **JOSH WINGROVE**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump said he would announce reciprocal tariffs on Thursday, promising to deliver on his threat to slap tariffs on imports from countries that impose higher duties on U.S. goods.

The move would represent a major escalation of his trade war with economic partners. Trump announced the move on his Truth Social platform. He did not give any details on what the tariffs would be, how they would be structured or when they'd take effect.

"THREE GREAT WEEKS, PERHAPS THE BEST EVER, BUT TODAY IS THE BIG ONE: RECIPROCAL TARIFFS!!! MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!" he wrote.

The dollar trimmed losses. Currencies of economies at the heart of the trade tensions with the U.S. immediately reacted, with the euro paring gains and the Mexican peso lagging major currencies versus the greenback so far this session. Meanwhile, haven currencies like the Swiss Franc and Japanese yen held higher, outperforming peers.

The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on further details of Trump's plans.

See **Tariffs** page 2

Message remains



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Past and present First American Baptist Church goers attended the church's final service Jan. 19. Pictured above, churchgoers — including Pamela (Anderson) Frazee and Patty (Million) Walker in the front row — share a moment of prayer in the worship hall.

Members of First American Baptist Church shared memories as last service was celebrated in January

By **BAILEY CLINE**

The Commercial Review

Church services. Bible school. Weddings. Baptisms. Live nativity scenes.

All memories First American Baptist Church attendees shared from the church's 154 years.

Now, new memories will be made elsewhere.

Past and current Dunkirk community members attended the church's final service Jan. 19. Pamela (Anderson) Frazee attended First American Baptist Church with her best friend, Patty (Million) Walker. She recalled being a part of the live nativity scene.

"(I remember) the cars that would drive by and stop and watch us, and we had the crowns that we would wear, and it was very cold but we really enjoyed that time," she said.

Frazee's parents, Betty June

and John Anderson, regularly attended the church. Now a Knightstown resident, Frazee noted her daughter and nephew were baptized there. She was also married at First American Baptist Church in 1977.

"I just know that First Baptist has always been a very special place," she said, adding that they had hoped to do their 50th wedding vow renewal at the church.

Former Dunkirk clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott said she hasn't been a regular attendee at the church but recalled when she moved to Dunkirk in 1963.

"My grandparents brought me here, to this church," she said. "I spent many a many a (Vacation Bible Schools) in this church, my grandfather helped do some building on this church ... I started out here, my roots were right here, and this church will be sadly missed. It's a great church."

See **Remains** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Various photos from First American Baptist Church's past are displayed Jan. 19 for the final service. In the background, Samantha Thomas, First American Baptist Church's secretary, deaconess, junior church teacher and worship leader, points out certain pictures of the church's past to other attendees.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Encased in ice

The ends of tree branches are encased in ice Thursday morning followed by freezing rain overnight. The icy conditions had Jay Schools closed Thursday and the county on a travel watch.

Ed measures pass

By **LESLIE**

BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's Senate on Tuesday approved a trio of education measures — on supplemental teacher pay, sexual education materials and chaplain-counselors — largely along party lines. Then, the chamber nearly split on bulked-up carbon storage regulations.

Republicans united behind "market force" teacher pay legislation with implications for unions, passing it on a 39-10 vote.

Sen. Spencer Deery, R-Lafayette, told of how a school in his district struggled to retain special education teachers — but was paying them like other educators.

"At the same time in that school district, the highest-paid teacher was a gym teacher," Deery said. "... I became kind of obsessed with this fact that our schools are not adequately

using market forces to differentiate pay to attract and retain teachers in the highest-need areas, or the highest-value teachers that are most essential for the school."

His Senate Bill 249 would let schools divert revenue available for collective bargaining toward supplemental pay. It would also require that "employment in a high need area" account for at least 10% of the calculations used to determine supplemental increases and increments.

Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, said she "couldn't agree more that

we need to find creative ways to pay teachers more, but Senate Bill 249 is not the way to do it."

She argued there are other ways to differentiate pay that don't affect the pot of money open to collective bargaining.

Deery said such mechanisms exist "in theory" but schools only use 0.2% of their state money on supplemental pay. His legislation next heads to the House for consideration.

Educational materials for "human sexuality" instruction were back up for debate.

See **Pass** page 2

Deaths

Eugene Henizer, 60, Pennville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 32 degrees Wednesday. The low was 27 and there was about 0.15 inches of rain.

Snow and rain are in the forecast tonight with a low in the mid 20s and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

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

Tuesday — Results from the semi-state boys wrestling tournament.



Pass ...

Continued from page 1
Senate Bill 442 requires school boards to approve materials, then publish basic information about them in a “conspicuous” place on the school’s website. The school’s parental consent form — which lets parents remove their children from sexual education classes — would need a link to that information. Author Sen. Gary Byrne, R-Byrneville, acknowledged that parents can already request access to the materials, but that his work would make it easier for

them to know what’s being taught — and would “help parents better decide whether or not they want to opt out.” “Most of what is being asked is already in (Indiana) Code,” said Sen. J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis. He said the legislation was “not necessary.” He also asked what would happen if materials or even the class’ teacher changes during the academic year, since the postings are due in July. Byrne replied that school boards could “figure that out” — using the phrase

repeatedly throughout their discussion. Senate Minority Leader Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, went further. She argued that Senate Bill 442 would let community members influence what gets taught at a cost to parents’ own rights. The Senate approved the legislation on a 39-9 vote, also along party lines. Byrne’s previous attempt passed his chamber with similar margins last session but failed to get a House hearing. And another repeat proposal — this one legalizing chaplain-coun-

selors in public schools — moved on after a 32-16 vote. Senate Bill 523 would let public schools bring in paid or volunteer chaplains and use them for both secular and religious counseling — the latter with parental permission. Author Sen. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport, said it wasn’t intended to replace traditional counselors. She added, “I pray you give every student the opportunity to become a stellar adult, and Senate Bill 523 is just that: another opportunity.”

Obituaries

Eugene “Gene” Henizer, Pennville, Jan. 1, 1965-Feb. 11, 2025. No services are scheduled at this time.
.....
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

Saturday 2/15	Sunday 2/16	Monday 2/17	Tuesday 2/18	Wednesday 2/19
39/27	30/8	12/6	16/5	17/2
There's a 90% chance of rain and snow throughout the day. Temperatures may dip into the 20s at night.	Sunday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies, when there's a 50% chance of snow.	Mostly sunny on Monday when wind chill values may hit as low as -10 early.	Mostly cloudy skies on Thursday when there's a chance of snow in the afternoon.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday when the high will be 17.

Lotteries

Powerball 21-32-36-45-49 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$172 million	Daily Four: 9-1-3-9 Quick Draw: 7-8-9-11-17-18-30-36-49-50-52-53-55-57-59-65-73-74-78 Cash 5: 4-20-22-25-39 Estimated jackpot: \$514,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$129 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-7-2 Pick 4: 4-6-1-2 Pick 5: 4-1-7-2-8 Evening Pick 3: 2-1-4 Pick 4: 1-1-4-4 Pick 5: 6-0-7-0-9 Rolling Cash: 1-4-7-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 3-3-2 Daily Four: 1-9-2-8 Quick Draw: 5-6-14-19-23-24-29-30-31-33-34-37-41-43-52-56-61-65-72-78 Evening Daily Three: 3-8-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.84 March corn4.90 April corn5.00	March beans10.31 Wheat 5.22
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.90 March corn5.98 April corn5.10	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.85 March corn4.88 Beans10.23 March beans10.27 Wheat5.42
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.90 March corn4.90 Beans10.26	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.78 March corn4.78 Beans10.06 March beans10.11 Wheat5.17

Today in history

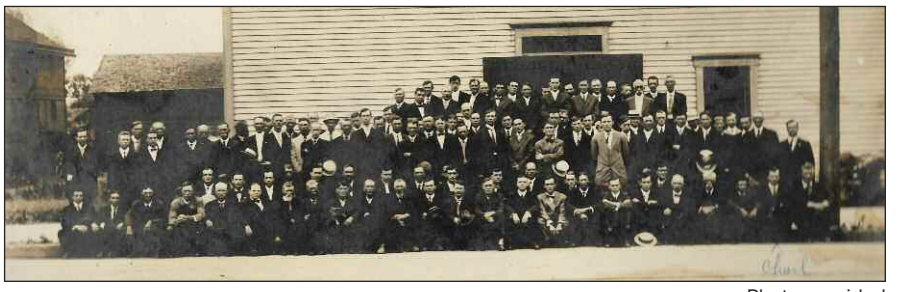
In 1779, Captain James Cook was killed in a dispute over a theft. Cook was known for his three Pacific voyages that included the first European contact with the eastern coast of Australia and the Hawaiian Islands. In 1818, abolitionist, speaker, publisher and author Fredrick Douglass was born. In 1904, Sarah Miller of Jay County High School finished her diving career with a sixth-place finish at the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals at Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis. In 2022, Jay County Election Board removed Brenda Beaty from the ballot for Jay County Council District 1, upholding a challenge filed by Jay County Republican chair Jenae Blasdel. —The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
Monday 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.	Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 5:15 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building & Planning Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. Thursday 3 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Remains ...

Continued from page 1
Samantha Murdock’s cherished memories with the church rest within the music. “I’ve been singing here since I was a tiny tot,” said Murdock, 41. She picked up multiple roles in recent years, serving as church secretary, deaconess, junior church teacher and worship leader at the same time. “I’ve been that for a long time now,” she said, pointing out that she’s not alone in filling various positions for the church. “We’ve all had to wear a lot of hats because over the years, the church has gotten smaller and smaller and smaller.”



Pictured are members of the men’s Sunday School at First American Baptist Church from more than 100 years ago.

She attended First American Baptist Church since birth. Her grandmother, Janice O’Connor, migrated the family in the 1960s, moving from Richmond to Dunkirk. It’s the only church Murdock has ever known, she added, a trait many of the regular attendees shared. That includes Greg Wilmore, a Dunkirk native who attended First American Baptist Church for nearly 72 years. Murdock attributed the shrinking congregation to deaths in the last 10 years, noting their members had been mostly an older crowd. Despite the larger-than-usual crowd at the church’s final service, First American Baptist Church had on average between 10 to 13 regular attendees each week for the last two years. First American Baptist Church has operated out of three different buildings, with the original building used for 44 years and the second for 50. It had been operating out of its final location at the corner of Main and Jay streets since 1964. “There’s just a lot of folks here today, from varied backgrounds of life, who have gathered together to say goodbye and farewell to the First

Baptist Church of Dunkirk,” said interim pastor Doug Gregg during the final service. He served in an interim role with the church since August. Although he’s not a longtime Dunkirk resident, Gregg’s connections to the area run deep — his uncle and aunt Don and Helen Hamilton built the original Crown City Lanes. “It has been a long and joyous occasion for me to set my foot in Dunkirk from time to time,” he said. As a leading member of the church, Murdock said it wasn’t an easy choice to shut its doors. “To have to close up shop and all that kind of stuff, it was a really hard decision, but we did it now instead of waiting until the money ran out so then that way, whatever money we had left, we could still do good with it,” she explained. Plans were to donate money partially to Dunkirk non-profit organizations, with the bulk of dollars going toward a scholarship fund in the church’s name through The Portland Foundation. Murdock noted the scholarship likely won’t be ready to offer to seniors this year, but it should be available to Dunkirk students in the Class of 2026 and thereafter. “So then that way, even after we

close up shop, we’re still being able to give back to the community for years to come instead of just one lump sum altogether,” said Murdock. “And so then that way we can help out future generations of Dunkirk seniors go to college or further their education ... then that way, the church’s memory is still kept alive, but we’re still doing good after we’re gone.” Heather Clemmons has purchased the building. Murdock talked about working with Dunkirk Historical Society and other historical entities to preserve memorabilia — Murdock displayed various photos and other items from the church’s past in the worship hall during the final service. Gregg asked the congregation during his sermon to continue sharing its values and beliefs with the community moving forward. “On this final day of the First Baptist Church in Dunkirk, Indiana, let us carry forth all that this body of believers has meant to this community and has declared for the past 154 years,” he said. “Even though the doors will be shut, the message of God’s redeeming love will remain open for all who believe.”

Tariffs ...

Continued from page 1
White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt had previously indicated that Trump was planning to announce the tariffs program before his meeting Thursday with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While Trump did not provide a specific time he planned to unveil the program, the White House has said he plans to sign executive actions at 1 p.m. Washington time, ahead of the Indian leader’s arrival at the White House. Trump has gravitated toward the reciprocal tariff plan as a key part of his push to raise U.S. levies overall. Trump has said it would apply to nations who generally have a higher average tariff rate than the US, which would raise its own tariff to match them. “Very simply, it’s: If they charge us, we charge them,” he said Sunday while speaking with reporters and confirming he planned to announce this week. The White House has not

shared details of the plan, including what would be used to calculate the tariff rate and whether other trade barriers or taxes would be considered.

SERVICES

Today

Thornton, Harvey: 10:30 a.m., Christ Chapel, 2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery.
West, Nellie: 1 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

Mandy Cheurer

July 18, 1988 - February 13, 2015

Sadly gone, but not forgotten.
In our hearts always.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 211

Contrary to public opinion the American Legion Post 211 is open for business. Regular Hours

Public Welcome
at 211 W Walnut, Portland

GREAT SELECTION

of newspaper roll ends

FOR SALE!

Stop by our office or call TODAY!

GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

Publishers of

The Commercial Review
Portland, Indiana
The News and Sun
Dunkirk, Indiana

The News-Gazette
Winchester, Indiana
The News Times
Hartford City, Indiana

309 West Main Street
Portland, IN 47371

260-726-8141

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm



Photo provided

Second grade stars

Pictured above are second graders awarded for demonstrating fairness at East Elementary. In the front row are Dulce Velasquez-Medrano and Olivia Bihn, and in the second row are Milan Alcantar, Ryan Dudley, Jack Huelskamp and Kane Noggler. Not pictured is Keaton Osterholt.

Spouse questions close relationship

DEAR ABBY: My mom and stepdad ("Hugh") are divorcing after 20 years of marriage. Mom has been involved with scammers for the last two years, giving away money and her Social Security number. I no longer talk to her because of this. She actually expected me to drive her places to meet these men and lend them her money!

My stepdad and I started talking a lot about things involving my mom. We text each other good morning and goodnight. Hugh doesn't have children, and my birth father is in Ohio, so I don't see him often.

The problem is, my husband is saying my relationship with Hugh is "weird," and he is feeling insecure. He says he thinks Hugh and I are attracted to each other. I'm a caregiver by profession, and I'm always there for people. I told Hugh how my husband feels, and now I feel bad about this situation. Your thoughts would be greatly appreciated. — COMPLICATED IN CAROLINA
DEAR COMPLICAT-

Dear Abby



ED: If you value your marriage, look at this from your husband's point of view. Checking in every morning and every night with the man your mother is divorcing IS unusual. However, if Hugh had a hand in raising you, commiserating with you is understandable. If your husband feels threatened, perhaps Hugh can explain it to him. Whether or not it allays his fears, it's worth a try.

DEAR READERS: On this day that celebrates love, I want you to know how much I value the relationship I have with you. Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day!
— WITH LOVE, ABBY

Fort Recovery FFA celebrating agriculture next week

Fort Recovery FFA is celebrating National FFA Week beginning Tuesday.

The Community FFA Breakfast is slated from 6 to 8 a.m. Wednesday for local business leaders, community leaders, FFA Alumni, teachers, FFA parents and members. A Food For America program, intended to teach elementary students about farm and ATV safety, is also scheduled for Wednesday. The program will involve various agriculture-themed activities.

Taking Note

An elementary petting zoo will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Thursday in the agricultural shop for preschoolers through second graders to learn more about agriculture. Anyone with

young children in the community is welcome to attend.

Agricultural Olympics, an event in which high schoolers compete against each other in events promoting agriculture, will wrap up festivities at the end of the school day Feb. 21.

Other activities include a tractor drive-in Tuesday and a truck drive-in Feb. 21.

Free admission

Enjoy a free day learning

about history next week. Limberlost State Historic Site of Geneva will be offering free admission on Monday. Indiana State Museum and other Historic Sites will be open for free to the public in observance of Presidents Day.

Limberlost State Historic Site will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, weather permitting. Visitors can take guided indoor tours of Gene Stratton-Porter's Geneva home to see where Indiana's most prolific

female author wrote many of her books, including her two most famous novels, "Freckles" and "A Girl of the Limberlost."

Attendees can also take self-guided hikes through the Limberlost Conservation Area Nature Preserves to explore the natural landscape that inspired Stratton-Porter's writings.

Advance registration is encouraged for indoor tours, which are offered at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Visit IndianaMuseum.org for more information.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-

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

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE

CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.



YOUR LOCAL FOUNDATION REPAIR AND WATERPROOFING EXPERT.

For a basement, crawl space, or slab foundation, we guide you on the right path to a healthy home.

Family owned and operated since 1996, we treat your home like our own.



BEFORE AFTER



BEFORE AFTER

OUR SERVICES

- Cracked or Bowing Walls
- Sump Pumps
- Settling Foundations
- Waterproofing & Encapsulation
- Concrete Leveling
- Sagging Floors
- Crawl Space Repairs

CALL FOR YOUR FREE HOME INSPECTION
877-229-0197

ACT NOW!
UP TO \$600 off*

Offers can't be combined. Minimum purchase required. Please call for details.



94%   

*10% off any job over \$3,000. Up to a maximum of \$600. Coupons must be presented at the time of inspection. This offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Valid through 12/31/2024.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

Consumer Cellular®

BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today.

855-572-5165

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

RUN YOUR HALF-PAGE BLACK & WHITE AD

any day from **Feb. 1 through 8** for **\$150** each
(Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$100 each)

any day from **Feb. 11 through 22** for **\$175** each
(Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$150 each)

any day from **Feb. 25 through 28** for **\$200** each
(Run it again as many times as you want in February for \$175 each)




Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in February.



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

Economic development is changing

By MORTON J. MARCUS

There is political talk, which may not be related to reality, of transforming the Indiana Economic Development Corporation into a more responsible, transparent, locally focused agency.

That would mean leaving behind the Great Leap concept which has already made its mark on Boone County (Lebanon).

Similarly, whatever has been posing as the economic development agency for Indianapolis is being reeled in. This action is described as an effort to bring that woeful truant back home to the mayor's office. The outcome here, we are told, is to provide us with an agency that is more responsive, responsible and transparent.

How both these organs of government became unresponsive,

Eye on the Pie



unreliable and opaque has not been detailed. No one has come forward with the inside story, the lowdown, the skinny. How do such important functions get loose from the sworn deputies of our governor or the mayor of our largest city?

It could be that the person(s) responsible for giving authority and funding to such agencies are neither rigorous nor vigorous in their oversight on behalf of the public. But then, maybe the pub-

lic has little interest in economic development.

Who really supports the development of our economy? Are these agencies, which are to be found in almost every county or city in most states, actually engaged in developing the economy or do they have other goals?

Once upon a time, the Indiana Area Development Council was the means whereby the private sector provided funds for the governor or his lieutenant to travel with an entourage of corporate heavyweights to places (domestic and foreign) where "prospects" might be engaged to talk about locating facilities in Indiana.

These trips might, on occasion, involve the consumption of alcohol, a no-no for our righteous civic leadership. Expenditures

for such wicked refreshment could not be borne by government accounts and the private sector Indiana Area Development Council was there to absorb the charges.

The council was limited to 40 members, primarily senior (older) executives who represented the railroads, the utilities, the banks, a few commercial real estate firms and other enterprises with a landed interest in Indiana. Most of these men were closing in on retirement and had proven to upper management they were no longer of significance.

(Transparency requires I admit to ex officio membership in the Indiana Area Development Council. My university affiliation suggested I could provide data, but no one could vouch

for my significance. My time included only one trip, introducing me to Shelbyville.)

Bob Orr and John Mutz, in the early 1980s, envisioned a more cerebral role for an Indiana Economic Development Corporation, with a professional staff, but that entity devolved over time into the huckster organization we have come to know in this century.

Where will our governor and the mayors (if they are involved) take us in raiding the state (and local) treasuries in our quest to have more jobs, bigger users of our water and land? Maybe the Shadow knows? I don't, do they?

And what is economic development anyway?

.....
Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Tariffs are risky with little reward

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump's reckless weekend threat of sabotaging trade in North America and spiking inflation with instant 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports severely spooked investors, but did manage to get him some promises of tougher interdiction of people and drugs at the southern and northern borders. It's a dangerous way to deal with our friends and closest neighbors, whose leaders are behaving much better than Trump.

We'll see what happens with Trump's 10% duty on China.

We are not sure if Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau blinked in their Monday phone calls with Trump, as the president crows, or just winked to humor the president, who keeps saying how he so loves tariffs.

Of course Trump sees a big victory for himself, as he did the weekend prior when he also used the 25% tariff weapon to get Colombia to accept a couple flights of deported Colombian nationals.

Such a huge duty on Colombia put at risk goods, like fresh flowers, compromising about 0.5% of U.S. imports. Mexico and Canada, however, account for 60 times as much, roughly 30% of all imports into the United States. Which is why when the stock exchange opened at 9:30 a.m. Monday morning it dropped far and fast.

It was only the announced deal within the hour with Mexico following Sheinbaum's phone call forestalling the tariffs due to commence at midnight last night that eased Wall Street's fears of economic chaos. The trade duties have been frozen for a month and hopefully will never happen.

The same deal came in the late afternoon with Canada after Trudeau's second call of the day with Trump.

Despite having very different borders and different issues, the two "deals" are quite similar.

Sheinbaum is pledging 10,000 troops to the border. Trudeau says: "nearly 10,000 frontline personnel are and will be working on protecting the border."

The Mexican "soldiers will be specifically designated to stop the flow of

Guest Editorial

... Mexico and Canada ... account for 60 times as much, roughly 30% of all imports into the United States.

fentanyl, and illegal migrants into our country," says Trump.

For his part, Trudeau promised that Canada will make "new commitments to appoint a fentanyl Czar." It will also "list cartels as terrorists, ensure 24/7 eyes on the border, and launch a Canada-U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering." Trudeau also promised to sign "a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl," backed by an investment of \$200 million.

Sounds like Trudeau got his answers for Trump from Sheinbaum to let the president hear what he wants. Whatever works to prevent those ruinous tariffs.

Adding 10,000 people to the border and denouncing fentanyl are worth it to avoid a trade war and soaring prices on just about everything.

Even Trump recognized that the steep tariffs would bring pain to American consumers and we thank Sheinbaum and Trudeau for acting quickly to satisfy Trump.

Sheinbaum has just started a six-year term and Trudeau is soon to leave office after a decade in power. But both the novice and the veteran responded to Trump's threats with grace and finesse.

Trump can tout his "wins," but the real winners are 335 million Americans as well as 128 million Mexicans and 40 million Canadians. Everyone on the continent, in all three countries, would have been seriously hurt by the Trump tariffs.



Prioritize affordable energy solutions

By SAM CARPENTER
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Rep. Ed Soliday, chairman of the Indiana House Utilities Committee, recently said on the House floor that we can all expect to see our utility bills increase. He's right that long-deferred investments are needed to upgrade our energy grid and infrastructure.

Indiana is at a critical juncture in deciding our energy future, but the degree of cost increases depends on the decisions we make now. That is why legislation to push funding for small modular nuclear reactors' (SMRs) design, permitting, and planning expenses onto rate payers is so misguided. Not only will these payments include a hefty profit margin for utilities, Hoosiers will see the extra expense on their utility bills even if projects are over budget, past due, or cancelled altogether.

SMR technology design is in its infancy and developers are working to attract venture capital to prove it can be commercialized. There are no SMRs currently operating in the U.S.; in fact, only three exist in the world. Indeed, even the concept of SMRs —building smaller reactors in an assembly-line fashion — remains theoretical and the costs associated with past nuclear failures are staggering.

Consider the ambitious effort by Nuscale Power to deploy SMRs at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory. Initially planned in 2016, the project was canceled six years later after its estimated cost ballooned from \$5 billion to \$9 billion. Utility customers in South Carolina are on the hook for \$6 billion for a failed nuclear project planned by Dominion Energy and will be paying that off for 15 years,

Sam Carpenter



even though the project was scrapped and they will never benefit from the promised energy. Hoosier ratepayers cannot afford to lose billions in speculative funding.

Craig Piercy, CEO and executive director of the American Nuclear Society, said in a statement to the online publication Utility Dive, "Setbacks are to be expected when it comes to pioneering technology like small modular reactors..." This is a time for the Metas, the Microsofts, Googles and Amazons to invest — the mega businesses that can afford billions in speculative venture capital, not Hoosiers that are struggling to just get by.

Perhaps in coming decades an SMR manufacturing industry will grow into functional maturity and the cost of nuclear energy will become competitive with other carbon free sources, but that is not the case now. The U.S. Department of Energy's Pathways to Commercial Liftoff report suggests advanced nuclear technologies can expect to cost \$120 per megawatt hour (MWh) over their lifetime, however in reality, new nuclear power stations in the U.S. and Europe are coming in much costlier, not to mention five to 15 years late. By comparison the International Energy Agency shows total cost for solar and storage combined, will drop dramatically to around \$50 per MWh over the next five years.

To keep Hoosier electric bills

low, there are a few actions Indiana can take in the next five to 10 years. For example, Indiana should maximize lower cost energy that comes from renewables paired with batteries or other types of energy storage. Managing the timing of demand, through what are termed "virtual power plants" is another way to minimize expenses. Steps toward energy efficiency and technology upgrades to our existing transmission grid are additional low-cost avenues to meet growing electricity demand.

With just around 14% of our state's energy coming from renewables today, we have a good runway to triple that output without risk to our grid stability. Future sources of continuous power that are still in the development stage, such as long-term energy storage, advanced geothermal and SMRs should not be charged to the ratepayer until their costs and outcomes are verified. In the meantime, we need a blended portfolio of advanced energy solutions while also transitioning away from dirty and costly coal.

Indiana stands at an energy crossroads, facing crucial decisions for its future. Embracing proven renewable energy sources today is essential to keep costs low for Hoosiers. There will be a time for ratepayers to benefit from new technologies, but the financial risk of SMRs today are too great for everyday Hoosiers to bear.

.....
Carpenter is executive director of the Hoosier Environmental Council.

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

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair

TONIA HARDY
Business manager

BRIAN DODD
Production manager

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 207
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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

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

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days - \$3; Monthly auto-pay - \$10; 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108.
City (walking - where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$11; 13 weeks - \$36; six months - \$68; one year - \$122.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$12; 13 weeks - \$44; six months - \$74; one year - \$140.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$49; six months - \$80; one year - \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

Ohio reports first human bird flu case

By **PETER KROUSE**
cleveland.com
Tribune News Service

CLEVELAND, Ohio — A Mercer County farm worker has likely come down with the state's first human case of the bird flu, the Ohio Department of Health reported Wednesday.

The man had been in contact with dead poultry infected with the virus.

Ohio has led the nation recently in the number of commercial birds affected by bird flu.

Mercer County, in the western part of the state, is among four counties where bird flu has been detected in commercial poultry flocks, leading to the destruction of some 10 million birds since December.

Mercer County farm worker had been in contact with dead poultry infected with virus

Most of the poultry that has been destroyed in the state has been chickens that are raised for their eggs.

People who have unprotected contact with infected birds for a prolonged period of time have the greatest risk of catching the virus, according to the health department.

"The risk of acquiring bird

flu to the general public is low," the health department says. "The best way to prevent bird flu is to avoid direct contact with wild birds, or sick or dead poultry or other animals."

Western Ohio is along a major path for migrating birds, which have been blamed for infecting commercial poultry flocks.

Transmission of the virus requires direct contact with bird feces or secretions such as saliva, or perhaps dust kicked up in the handling of the birds, according to Mark Cameron, associate professor and infectious disease researcher at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

There have been 68 con-

firmed cases of bird flu in humans across the country, with one death. The largest number of cases, 38, have been in California, with most of them associated with the cattle industry.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to destroy poultry at those commercial operations where bird flu has been detected.

"Commercial poultry owners should practice good biosecurity and prevent contact between their poultry and wild birds, specifically migratory waterfowl," the health department states.

Disaster declared over chemicals

County seeks help from federal authorities

By **ELIZABETH CAMPBELL**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tribune News Service

Johnson County commissioners have issued a disaster declaration after tests found forever chemicals in soil, water and animal tissue on agricultural land.

The unanimous vote on Feb. 11 paves the way for federal help for those whose land has been contaminated by PFAS in fertilizer made from sewage sludge. They also passed a resolution urging Gov. Greg Abbot to declare an emergency related to the use of biosolids containing the forever chemicals.

The disaster declaration comes almost a year after five farmers living near Grandview sued the EPA after their livestock died or were born with deformities, alleging the agency failed to regulate forever chemicals. The farmers are also suing Synagro Technologies Inc. and its Texas subsidiary, which manufactures fertilizer made from sewage sludge.

Synagro contracts with Fort Worth to manage the city's biosolids program, which involves separating solids in the sewage treatment process and recycling the waste into granulate fertilizer. After the sludge is treated in Fort Worth, it is sent to farms in Johnson, Hill and Wise counties.

Commissioners said they are concerned about public health and public safety because forever chemicals don't break down and can accumulate in humans and animals.

Forever chemicals, also



Tribune News Service/Fort Worth Star-Telegram/Amanda McCoy

Five farmers who live in Johnson County are in a legal battle with the EPA and the fertilizer manufacturer, Synagro Technologies Inc. and its Texas subsidiary, saying the fertilizer contains forever chemicals that should be regulated. After a neighboring farm used Synagro fertilizer, which contains biosolids, both families say cattle, horses and fish began dying on their land.

known as PFAS, are man-made synthetics used in a range of products, including carpet, clothing and nonstick cookware. They don't break down, and they accumulate in the human body and in the environment. They're in the blood of people and animals across the world, as well as the air, water and soil, according to the EPA. They are also known to cause health problems such as cancer.

"That's what we're here to discuss today is to declare an emergency

in Johnson County due to the profound contamination that we have found in this county due to soil, groundwater, surface water, animal tissue and fish tissue," Precinct 4 commissioner Larry Woolley said.

"No other county in the state of Texas has ever stepped out of this box largely due to the fact that county commissioner courts don't have jurisdiction over land application over biosolids."

The five farmers who filed the lawsuit allege a neighbor spread the fer-

tizer on his land which then contaminated their property. They did not use the product.

Johnson County spent \$30,000 to test the soil, groundwater, surface water and tissue from dead cattle and fish.

Detective Dana Ames, an environmental investigator for Precinct 4, conducted an investigation that lasted for over a year.

The nonprofit Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility conducted the tests and sent the samples to a lab

approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

"The contaminant numbers that we've revealed, that our test data has shown are so profound and so astounding that they know they have a public obligation to assist us," said Woolley, the commissioner, referring to the federal government.

During the meeting some in the audience expressed concerns that a disaster declaration could affect property values.

"I understand that there is a concern about property values, but we can't put profit over people," Ames said.

She added that although lawsuits were filed, they can take years to litigate.

Woolley said state officials are aware that the county is asking Abbott for the disaster declaration. He also said he met with Texas Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller, who Woolley said told him now is the time to file the declaration.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT SPECIALS

Advertise your not-for-profit organization
in ALL of our publications with:

FOUR 4x4 ads in The Commercial Review
TWO 4x4 ads in The News-Gazette
ONE 4x4 ad in The News Times

for
\$330

GRAPHIC
PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS



Call (260) 726-8141

or email

ads@thecr.com

Or run two 4x4 ads for your
not-for-profit organization
in the publication(s) of your choice
during March for:

The Commercial Review – \$156

The News-Gazette – \$145

The News Times – \$120

Ads must run in March.
Rates do not apply to special sections.

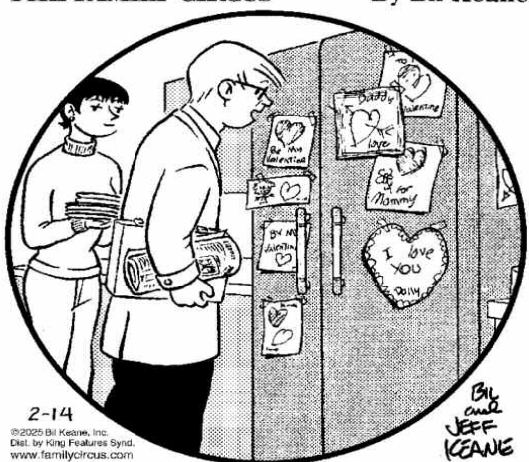
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



©2025 Bil Keane, Inc. All rights reserved. www.familycircus.com

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

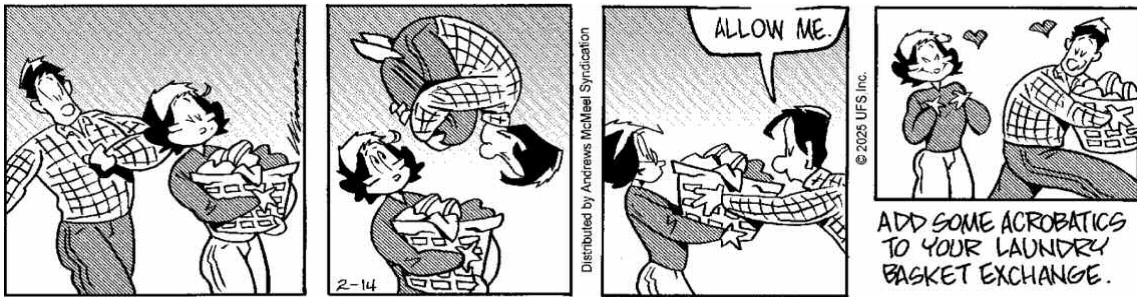
Bidding quiz

1. You are South, and the bidding has gone: South 1♠, West 2♥, North 3♣, East Pass. What would you bid now with: ♠AQJ105 ♥72 ♦AK983 ♣4

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



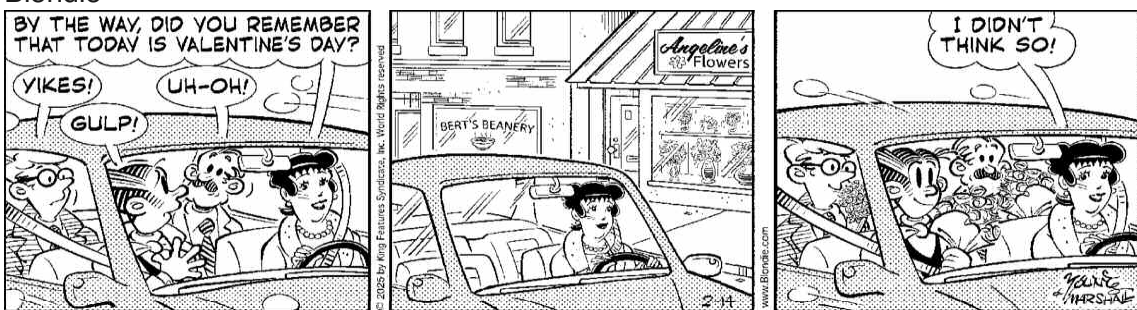
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

E X W V Q W X T C H C L M M L Y Q I H X Q W H V E C S H S W H Q J Q N Z T I Q V Q J T L N Q V S L N N E Q V Y Z , W I V H S Q N T W C H E C S E C H T N Z .

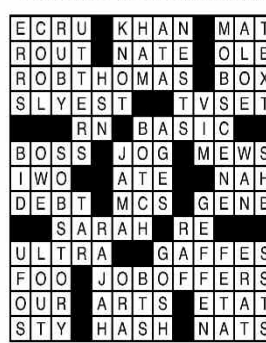
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD ONE CALL A RAINWEAR ITEM DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE PROTRUDING STOMACHS? A PAUNCH-O.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals A

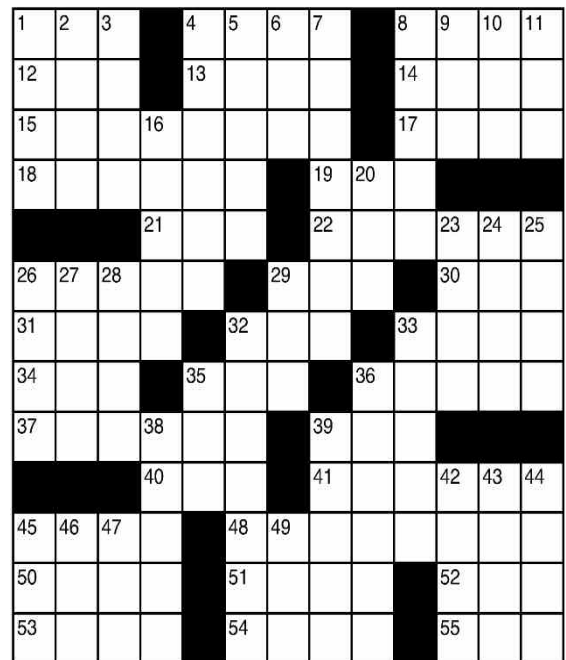
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 "I, Robot" author 1 Personal author 4 Poi base 8 Fraud 12 Romance 13 — incline (tilted) 14 Unruly groups 15 Message from an admirer 17 Border on 18 On an angle 19 Vinyl records 21 Before 22 "Darn it!" 26 Scramble pieces 29 Movie format 30 "Little piggie" 31 Rd. crossers 32 Grant's foe 33 1982 sci-fi film 34 "The News-room" actor 35 Farm grazer 36 Resided

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-14



00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141 ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge.... \$12.40

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations.

SEAMSTRESS NAN HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Applique, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

GOODHEWS ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS Consignment Auction Mercer Landmark, Chickasaw, Ohio Between U.S. Rt. 127 & New Bremen on St. Rt. 274

SATURDAY, MARCH 15th 10 A.M. PLEASE CONSIGN YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: Cole Luthman n 937-658-1380 Jacob Wuebker -937-417-8798 Please call by Feb. 27 to Ensure Advertising WE WILL BE TAKING IN EQUIPMENT THURSDAY & FRIDAY before the sale No items Will be Consigned Saturday Morning COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE

SUBSCRIBE TO THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW up to 49% off Newsstand prices Subscribe at thecr.com or call 260-726-8141

Little JJ's Tree Service Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding, Firewood available 765-509-1956

E and E Construction Amish Crew BARN RESTORATION Specializing in metal roofs, decks & more FREE Estimates 260-301-1777

Wendel's Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial Dave Wendel Ph. 260-726-4520 Cell 260-729-2797

Bricker's Flowers & More 414 N. Meridian St. Portland Call or text to order 260-703-0304 Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday 9:30-3:00 Saturday

GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS You never know what you might find in The Commercial Review Classifieds. From a new car to a new home, to a new job, the Classifieds deliver! Go to thecr.com or call 260-726-8141

Dave's Heating & Cooling Furnace, Air Conditioner Geothermal Sales & Service 260-726-2138 Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

BOOLMAN'S Auto Sales & Service, Inc. Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana 260-251-9735

BAIL BONDS Travis Weaver 260-726-3189 across street from Jail

MAY FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. Life • Health • International Medical Employee Benefits • Dental • Vision • Medicare Supplements • Annuities MATT FRANKS your hometown agent (260) 729-5200 111 W. Main Street, Portland, IN

ALASKA Heating & Cooling Albany: 765-789-8036 YOU are the reason we are in business! WE ARE CELEBRATING 29 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

15th ...

Continued from page 8
Byrum avoids facing another state-ranked wrestler until at least the semifinals, where he could see No. 14 Ian McVicker (40-2) of Mississinewa. Sixth-ranked Rex Moore (43-1) of Manchester and 12th-ranked Kaid Jackson (30-6) of Delta are on the opposite side of the bracket. (Byrum lost to Jackson in the regional championship match Saturday.)

Myers, a senior and first-time semi-state qualifier, would also not have to face a ranked wrestler until the semifinals. At 19-6, his day at 190 pounds will open against East Noble's Dylan Krehl (28-9). He could see either Job Richman (39-7) of Eastside or Fabien Zamudio-Gibson (34-10) of Eastbrook with a state berth on the line.

"He got one of the more fortunate draws that he could get also," said Eric Myers. "The East Noble kid is pretty tough, a pretty athletic kid. ... That'll be a tough first-round match, but both



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A.J. Heskett of the JCHS boys wrestling team runs a headlock on Monroe Central's Cory Brown Jr. during the 144-pound opener at the IHSAA Regional meet hosted by the Patriots on Feb. 8. Heskett will open the semi-state against Erik Hunt of Western on Saturday.

winnable matches for his final season, will start against Erik Hunt Prairie Heights senior Brody Hagewood (39-3), who is ranked ninth in the state. (Hagewood beat

Ethan Reiley of Jay County 5-3 in the 2023 semi-state ticket round.)

"His first-round match is one that we think that he can get," said Myers. "Jason Landers wrestled him earlier in the year ...

"Then he drew one of the better kids in the bracket that he would see in the quarterfinals in the Hagewood kid. That's a pretty tough test for him, but we've seen at the semi-state anything can happen."

Landers (27-13), a 132-pound sophomore, will wrestle Eastside's Noah Dove (38-8) on Saturday morning. If he wins, he'd likely see DeKalb's 12th-ranked Drew Waldon (9-0) — Jay County's Tony Wood beat him 12-5 in last year's semi-state semifinal — in the ticket round.

Freshman Corbin Lothridge (28-11) drew by far the most difficult opening-round match of all the Patriots as he will take on undefeated and top-ranked fan favorite Julianna Ocampo (44-0) of New Haven at 106 pounds. She is a three-time state qualifier and

finished sixth in the state last season. It will mark the second season in a row that a JCHS wrestler lines up against Ocampo in the semi-state after Byrum lost to her 5-2 in the ticket round a year ago.

This season marks the first time since 2017 that the Patriots have not had a returning state qualifier. Gavin Hare, a current JCHS assistant coach, and Mason Winner came through that year. In order to extend the Patriots' state-qualifying streak to 15 years, someone new will need to break through again.

Only Byrum has experience at the semi-state level.

"It's gonna feel different," said Myers. "One, a much larger arena. Two, there's ice underneath you."

The floor sits atop the ice on which the Fort Wayne Komets play hockey.

"Whenever you get out there, once you step into that circle, you're trying to put your blinders on from there."

MAC ...

Continued from page 8
Brown had a more casual approach to the MAC honors.

"It's been a really fun year," Brown said. "My teammates (support me) and being anchor in Baker is really neat. Especially me being a sophomore and there's seniors out there. ... But it's just another trophy. I (treat it) as just another match just like sectionals. I don't get too worked up about it because when I'm a little more nervous I don't do as good, so I have to treat this as just another (trophy)."

As a freshman, Brown averaged 151.1 pins per game, which ranked 15th in the MAC, and her season high came in at 187. She had the 22nd-highest series among the MAC bowlers at 331 pins. Both her high game and series came against Coldwater at Speedway Lanes in New Bremen on Jan. 6, 2024.

This season, Brown's average nearly eclipsed her season-high game as she rolled 183.7 pins per game. She set her new career-high game of 256 (69 pins better than her previous mark) against Versailles again at Speedway Lanes on Jan. 4. She coupled that game with a 235 to smash her previous high series by 160 pins with a total of 491.

Her 491 series was the highest of any MAC bowler on the season, with teammate Ella Schoen coming in second at 447. Brown's 256-pin game was only outdone

by one pin by Schoen. The Indian sophomore's average ranked third in the MAC behind Schoen (187.4) and Danielle Francis of Versailles (184.9).

Brown attributed her big jump to the work she has put in at Miracle Lanes and an equipment upgrade that better suited her release style.

"Coach is helping me out a lot and I've been able to get up here more and practice," Brown said. "Getting better by the day. I got a new ball and after that I was bowling in the 200s more consistently. ... (With the old ball) I used to have a lot more reaction in the pins and they actually scattered instead of breaking right through, so it was leaving me splits."

Brown can often be found at Miracle Lanes after school, practicing between five and six days a week for two to three hours.

"I think Deanna over the last half of the season has really stepped up in terms of her commitment to the sport," Rosegrant said. "She is here practicing every single day and the other girls see that and see where that practice has gotten her."

The Tribe has now won back-to-back Co-MAC championships with Versailles and is starting to prove to be a powerhouse in the conference. Under Rosegrant's leadership, Fort Recovery has clawed from 0-9 conference record in 2016-17 to consecutive

perfect conference records.

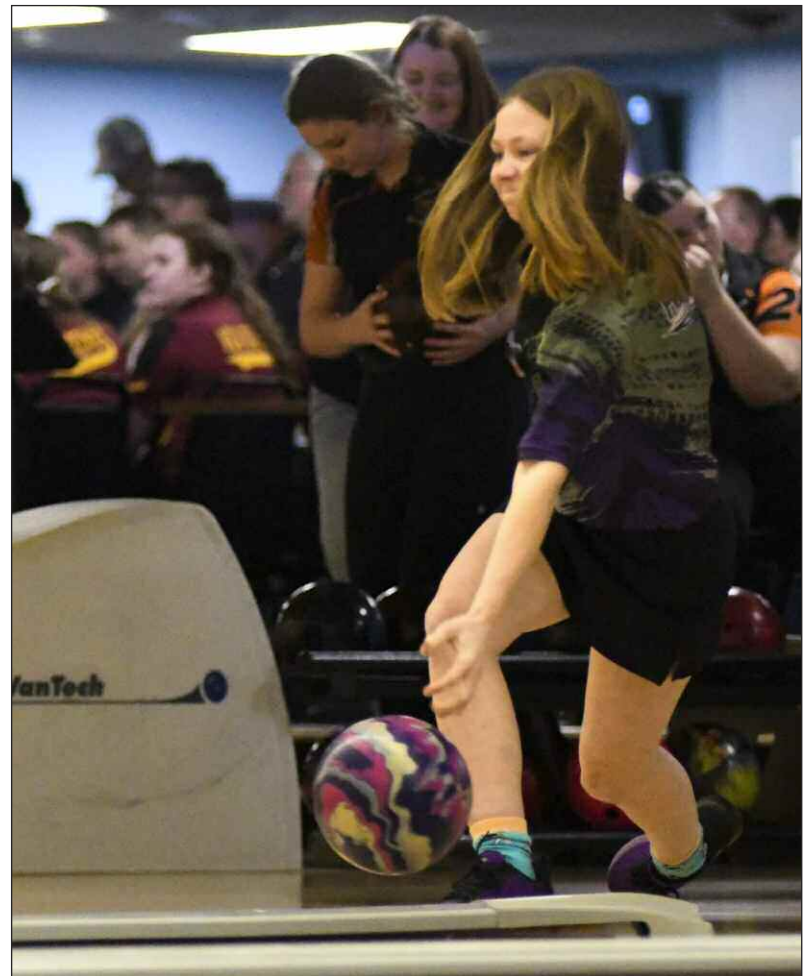
The Indians have now tied Coldwater for two MAC titles, while Versailles leads the conference with four. (Prior to the 2020-21 season, the MAC schools bowled in a larger conference that included Fort Loramie, Russia, Ansonia, Mississinewa Valley and others.)

"(The success) comes down to, they have the drive for it, especially my seniors this year," Rosegrant said. "We've bowled against Versailles and Coldwater when they were at the top, we took a lot of losses against them early in their career and we always wanted to be those teams. ... We took that drive and turned it into success. To be compared to those teams as powerhouses is exciting and where we want to be."

Along with Brown and Rosegrant, Schoen, Emily Lauber, Lilah Thien and Kayla Heitkamp all were recognized by the conference as well.

Schoen and Lauber both made the All-MAC first team alongside Brown. Lauber finished fifth in the conference with a 177-pin average.

Thien made the All-MAC second team, while Heitkamp was an honorable mention bowler. Thien's average of 175.2 was good for sixth in the conference, while Heitkamp came in at 12th knocking down 161 pins per game.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School sophomore Deanna Brown throws her Storm Ion Max during the Midwest Athletic Conference tournament on Feb. 4. Brown was voted as the MAC Player of the Year after averaging 183.7 pins on the season. Four of her teammates also earned MAC honors, while FRHS coach Alison Rosegrant won Co-Coach of the Year.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swim regional at Miami University (OH) — 10:45 a.m.; Boys basketball at St. John's — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling semi-state at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Yorktown — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball sectional championship vs. Triad at Covington — 2 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Tri-Village — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
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. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500 (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Ruffles All-Star 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)
9 p.m. — College wrestling: Minnesota at Iowa (BTN)
9 p.m. — College gymnastics: Oklahoma at LSU (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Nevada at San Jose State (FS1)
10 p.m. — Boxing: Keyshawn Davis vs. Denys Berinckyyk (ESPN)
11 p.m. — College gymnastics: UCLA at Penn State (BTN)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Leicester City at Arsenal (USA)
10 a.m. — College softball: Texas A&M at Oklahoma State (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Nottingham Forest (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at

Texas A&M (ESPN); Miami at Pitt (ESPN2); DePaul at Xavier (FS1)
12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Purdue at Indiana (BTN)
12 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Hard Rock Bet 200 (FOX)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Saint Joseph's at George Mason (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Crystal Palace at Everton (NBC)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin at Purdue (CBS)
1 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: Finland at Sweden (ABC)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Houston at Arizona (ESPN); West Virginia at Baylor (ESPN2); Washington at Penn State (BTN); Georgetown at Butler (FS1)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Seton Hall (FOX); Duquesne at Dayton (USA)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational

(CBS)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Auburn at Alabama (ESPN); Cincinnati at Iowa State (ESPN2); Stanford at Duke (ABC); Minnesota at USC (BTN)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Georgetown at Creighton (FS1)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Mississippi State at Ole Miss (ESPN); North Carolina at Syracuse (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Michigan (BTN)
8 p.m. — NBA: Kia Skills Challenge, Starry 3-point Contest and AT&T Siam Dunk contest (TNT)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Troy at Arkansas State (ESPN2); Kentucky at Texas (ESPN); Michigan State at Illinois (FOX)
8 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: USA at Canada (ABC)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas at Utah (ESPN); Pepperdine at Gonzaga (NBC); Washington State at St. Mary's (ESPN2)

<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN February 15th, 2025 9:30 A. M. ANTIQUE-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 stung crock, Blue & White baked beans, brown crock with lid, Steiff teddy bear, 1940's 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,</p>	<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>metal pot, and many other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Doors will open at 8 a.m. day of auction for preview. RICHARD STACHLER Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069</p> <p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>TOWN OF REDKEY is accepting applications for Town Marshal and or Deputy. Experience pre-</p>	<p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>ferred but not mandatory. Apply at the Redkey City Building. Applications accepted from February 6th through February 14th.</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p>	<p>190 FARMERS COLUMN</p> <p>AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p> <p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com</p> <p>230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p>WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage</p>	<p>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Public Notice</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICE Notice is hereby given that Jon Spencer has filed a petition with the Jay County Board of Commissioners to vacate and abandon a portion of Center Street located between Lot I, Block 6 and Lot 4 in Block 7 in the Town of New Corydon, Wabash Township Jay County, Indiana and Water Street in its entirety located in the Town of New Corydon, Wabash Township, Jay County, Indiana. This matter has been scheduled for hearing before the Jay County Commissioners on the 24th day of February, 2025 at 9:00 o'clock p.m. at the Jay County Courthouse Auditorium, Portland, Indiana. Any person may appear at the hearing and object to the proposed vacation and abandonment as provided by law. Publish in the Commercial Review on February 14, 2025 Emily Franks Jay County Auditor CR 2-14-2025-HSPAXLP</p>	<p>GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS</p> <p>You never know what you might find in</p> <p>The Commercial Review Classifieds.</p> <p>From a new car to a new home, to a new job, the Classifieds deliver!</p> <p>Go to their.com or call</p> <p>260-726-8141</p> <p>Visit Us At: theocr.com</p>
--	---	--	--	---	---

Sports

Searching for 15th straight state appearance

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The Patriots are on a streak. Every year since 2011, they have sent at least one wrestler to the state finals.

For the last eight, it has been two or more.

In order to continue that run this weekend, they will need some first-timers to come through.

Five Jay County High School wrestlers — Griffyn Byrum, A.J. Heskett, A.J. Myers, Jason Landers and Corbin Lothridge — will compete in Saturday's semi-state tournament hosted by South Side at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

Patriots will need a new wrestler to clinch a state berth to keep streak that started in 2011 alive

The top four wrestlers in each weight class — those who win in the second round — will advance to the IHSAA Boys Wrestling State Finals on Feb. 21 and 22 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

"It's important for us, just showing that we've been able to have guys at that level," said

JCHS coach Eric Myers. "My first year as the head coach was after Eric Hemmelgarn's senior year (2014). We weren't sure who was gonna step up and be the guy that qualifies. Andy Kohler ended up being that guy, and that was a lot of fun.

In 2021, three freshmen — Tony Wood, Cody Rowles and Cameron

Clark — all qualified to continue the streak. They essentially made getting at least one state qualifier a foregone conclusion over their next three seasons.

"Sometimes you take that for granted a little bit," Myers said. "But then you've got a group of guys that are coming up right behind them that know that that's the expectation and that's the norm ... I think that helps out whenever they get to semi-state."

Byrum, a senior, is the only state-ranked wrestler of the Patriots' group this year, sitting at No. 16 at 113 pounds. Boasting a 35-4 record, he will open his day against Manny Mora (32-8) of Oak Hill.

Potential ticket-round opponents — if wrestlers win, they punch their ticket to state — are Charlie Fleshman (39-2) of Central Noble and Collum Delaney (27-12) of Bishop Dwenger.

"That's somebody that he's beat a couple of times but they've been pretty tightly contested matches," said Myers, referencing Fleshman. "I like his draw, but really all draws are pretty difficult at this level."

"He needs to be aggressive on his feet. He has really solid take-downs and sometimes he is just a little reluctant to pull the trigger, but he's really good whenever he attacks."

See 15th page 7



Find the **right person** for the job right here!

Fort Recovery sweeps major MAC awards

By ANDREW BALKO

Fort Recovery — When Alison Rosegrant took over the Indians, the Tribe struggled to get above .500 in the conference.

When Deanna Brown joined the high school team, she filled in the lead spot for Baker and averaged 151.1 pins per game.

Nine years later for Rosegrant, the Indians have put together back-to-back title seasons in the conference.

One year later for Brown, the sophomore averaged 183.7 pins per game and has taken over the top spot for her team.

Those improvements resulted in the Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team sweeping the big Midwest Athletic Conference Awards, with Brown named Bowler of the Year and Rosegrant Co-Coach of the Year. The rest of the starting lineup got recognized through the All-MAC teams as well.

This was the second consecutive season that Rosegrant was named MAC Co-Coach of the Year after leading the Indians to back-to-back conference championships. In both years,

Sophomore Deanna Brown earns Player of the Year and Alison Rosegrant is Co-Coach of the Year

Fort Recovery had perfect regular-season MAC records but fell to Versailles in the tournament to split the title with the Tigers and Rosegrant's award with Tyler Phlipot.

"It's something I did not ever expect to have received," Rosegrant said. "I started this just as something fun. They were getting a team together and I liked to bowl in high school and said, 'Well, I'll help out.' Nine years later it's turned into MAC championships, coach of the year and going to state. It's kind of mind blowing to see where we've ended up and I'm excited to see what we can do in the future."

See MAC page 7

Niekamp makes first team All-MAC

The Indians climbed up to sixth in the Midwest Athletic Conference this season.

Three players got recognized for their part in the improvement.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team had three players receive All-MAC recognition on Wednesday.

Both of the Indians' seniors, Karlie Niekamp and Kennedy Muhlenkamp, made one of the teams.

Niekamp, a forward, was named to the All-MAC first team after averaging 12.6 points per game and 11 against conference opponents. Her season high was 28 points against South Adams, while her best mark against a MAC foe was 22 when Fort Recovery (10-12, 3-6 MAC) Coldwater. Niekamp reached 20 points in four games.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp averaged 11.6 points per game with a high of 26 coming in the first matchup with St. Henry.

Cameron Muhlenkamp also received recognition as an honorable mention. The sophomore never reached double digit scoring, but earned her spot in the MAC awards due to her ability to defend the perimeter.

Local roundup

Three make MAC

Three of the Fort Recovery boys bowlers received All-MAC recognition on Monday.

Reece LeFevre and Gabe Acheson both made the All-MAC second team.

LeFevre averaged 187.4 pins on the season, and his game-high of 269 tied a pair of Coldwater bowlers for the fifth-best mark in the conference.

Acheson knocked down 181.5 pins on average, with his best mark coming in at 234.

Riley Grieshop was also named an honorable mention. The senior followed LeFevre with an average of 186. He also put up the second-best series of any of the Indians this season, rolling 440 over two games.

Fort Recovery finished fourth in the conference, tied with Minster and New Bremen after going 4-3 in regular season MAC matches and finishing fifth in the tournament.

WELDING

PORTABLE & SHOP SPECIAL ATTENTION TO BREAKDOWNS!

PRESIDENT STEVE VORE

VORE'S WELDING & STEEL INC.

- COMMERCIAL WELDING & FABRICATION
- SPECIALIZED WELDING & BRAZING (ALUMINUM & STAINLESS STEEL)

PHONE (419) 375-4087 3234 ST. RT. 49N, BOX 37
FAX (419) 375-2466 FORT RECOVERY, OH 45846
vores@bright.net

VETERINARIAN

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

- Vaccinate
- Spay/Neuter
- Microchip
- Protect against fleas & worms

Teeth Cleaning too!

Call Portland Veterinary Clinic
Christian Bader, DVM 260-726-7370

MECHANIC

STU'S GARAGE L.L.C.

Specializing in diesel engines, medium and heavy duty truck, and agricultural equipment
Air conditioning equipped & certified

Stuart Terrell
11490 W. SR. 28
Redkey, IN 47373
(765) 789-4899
Cell: (765) 729-8301

WATER SYSTEMS

ECOWATER SYSTEMS

OF HARTFORD CITY, LLC
(765) 348-2587
413 W. Water St. • Hartford City, IN 47348
Jacob H. Holsten
Owner

Your Water Perfected.™

SERVICE

This Space AVAILABLE for \$60⁰⁰

Call (260) 726-8141
Ad Department

DENTIST

- We are accepting new patients
- We offer all general dentistry
- Complete cosmetic dentistry
- Root Canals
- Anxiety-Free oral sedation
- Payment plans

VORMOHR FAMILY DENTISTRY
Kyeonghaa Vormohr, DDS
260-726-7822

AUTO PARTS

Williams Auto Parts

Used Auto & Truck Parts
1127 S. Detroit Avenue • Portland, IN 47371
(260) 726-8001 • (800) 669-5762
www.williamsautopartsinc.com

REAL ESTATE

JH JACKHOUCK REAL ESTATE
260-729-2164

1415 W. Volaw St.
PORTLAND, IN 47371
jackhouck2012@gmail.com

DENTISTRY

george family DENTISTRY

Malcolm C. George • (260) 726-4710 • Portland, IN

MONUMENTS

Jay County Monuments

Located in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.
Steve Prescott, Sales Representative, has over 30 years of sales and service experience.
Providing FREE quotes and answers to your questions.
We are a proud distributor of Edwin F. Nikol, Inc., Monuments

260-726-7171

It's not a day in a life, but a life in a day.

ADVERTISERS, call 260-726-8141 or email ads@theocr.com.