

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Fair on fire



Photo provided

Nate Smith will be the headlining act for the 2025 Jay County Fair, the fair board announced today. Smith won the Academy of Country Music's New Male Artist of the Year Award in 2024. He will perform a Fourth of July concert as part of the fair's grandstand entertainment schedule this year. Tickets will be available to stockholders at the fair office on Saturday and will go on sale to the general public on Monday at jaycountyfair.com.

Country artist Nate Smith, whose hits include 'World on Fire,' will headline '25 Jay County Fair

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

New dates.
A new ride company.
New grandstand entertainment.
And now, a New Male Artist of the Year.
The Jay County Fair added to its list of "new" this week when it announced that Academy of Country Music award winner Nate Smith will be its headlining entertainment for this year's fair.

"After last year — we really switched it up, went with a completely different genre — this year we had an open mind and just said, 'Hey, here's our budget, let's look at the best possible options — country, pop, whatever it might be,'" said fair board president Aaron Loy, referencing 2024 headliner Flo Rida. "Nate Smith was the best option with him being an up-and-comer, country. He just checked a lot of the boxes that

we felt was the right fit for this year's fair."
Smith will be the fair's grandstand entertainment on Independence Day — Friday, July 4 — as the fair shifts one week earlier on the calendar in order to bring in new carnival company Kissel Entertainment. Josh Ross will open for Smith for the concert that starts at 7:30 p.m.
The year's grandstand schedule will also feature a new event in Queen City Stunt Circus.

Smith, a native of Paradise, California, followed a relatively new path to stardom, gaining notoriety when his song "World on Fire" caught, well, fire, on TikTok in 2020. The 39-year-old once thought his artistic career was over, having left Nashville after chasing his dreams there in his early 20s. He found his way back to music, using it as a comfort after his family lost everything in the Camp Fire of 2018.

See Fair page 2

Just Treble wins its division

Choir earned awards for vocals and show concept

One of the choirs won its division.
The color guard was first in its round.

Jay County High School's performing arts groups had a strong day of competition Saturday, with the Just Treble show choir taking first in the Single Clef division in the Kenton Cup while Patriot Edition was third in the Mixed Division. The school's color guard led its round and was 15th overall in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association contest at Carroll.

Just Treble, the all-girl show choir, took first place in preliminaries and earned the award for best show concept in the contest in Ohio. It again took the top spot in the finals while adding the award for best vocals.

Patriot Edition, the school's co-ed group, was second in Mixed Division Tier II in the preliminaries before taking third place in the finals behind North Royalton (Ohio) and Huntington North.

Jay County's winter guard scored 59.2 points to lead Regional A Class round one in the contest at Carroll. It was 0.8 points ahead of John Glenn.

It finished 15th overall while the host Charges won with 71.82 points.

The show choirs will return to competition Saturday, Feb. 22, at Homestead.

The choirs will also perform their show on their home stage at 7 p.m. Monday, March 10. Admission will be \$5.

The winter guard gets a week off before taking part in the IHSCGA contest March 1 at Zionsville.

Opposition seems to have killed energy bill

Measure would have shifted authority to the state

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Overwhelming opposition from county officials has likely killed a Republican bill that could shift authority over large-scale utility infrastructure projects from local governments to the state.

Weeks of recent statehouse discourse around the legislation continued a larger, years-long fight between local and state officials to decide the reach — and limits — of Indiana's "home rule" gold standard.

And contention over House

Bill 1628 seems to indicate that struggle is far from being settled.

Of greatest concern to the bill's opponents are provisions to strip local governments of their ability to approve or deny construction of power plants, water systems, gas pipelines and transmission that span across multiple counties — instead giving the state more decision-making control over the zoning and approval processes for those proposals.

Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, who chairs the House utilities committee where the bill was assigned, called it a response to ongoing resistance of local governments to greenlight solar, wind and other renewables projects that are increasingly necessary to support the state's growing energy demands.

Equally important, Soliday contended, is a transition from coal to more reliable and cost effective power sources that can sustain the influx of data centers and other economic devel-



Tribune News Service

An Indiana House bill seems dead after overwhelming opposition to giving the state more decision-making control over large-scale utility projects.

opment endeavors ventures coming to Indiana.

"We're trying to find something, some common ground. There's \$50 billion worth of new business that wants to come to

Indiana. \$50 billion. They want renewable energy. Why? Not because they're woke. It's because they want to sell to a market that wants a reduced carbon footprint. That's what

the market is. That's why they're asking for it," Soliday said. "Maybe we should just tell them, 'Not here. We want to be an agricultural tourist state.'"

"But sooner or later, we've got to move past this and decide who we want to be, and where the limits of local control are," he continued. "If we're going to have 92 counties, 276 county commissioners, set energy policy for the state — buy some candles. Because we're not going to be able to meet the demand."

Critics, however, decried the proposal as "overreach," and argued that it unfairly — maybe even "unconstitutionally" — weakens local dominion.

Representatives from the Association of Indiana Counties and the Indiana County Commissioners told lawmakers the bill would strip local elected officials of some of their most fundamental duties.

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This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Deaths

Alysia Mann, 31, Portland
Melvin Wendel, 82, Fort Recovery
Mark Brown, 68, Hartford City
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 35 degrees Sunday. The low was 23.
Tonight's low will be 9 and there is a 20% chance of snow. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high of 17.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Arts Place is offering guitar and piano labs at its Jay County campus. Guitar labs for 14 through 18 year olds will start March 3. Piano labs for second through fourth graders will begin March 13. For more information, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing jcc@myart-place.org.

Coming up

Wednesday — Details from Monday's Jay School Board meeting.
Thursday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game at Hamilton Heights.
Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.



Obituaries

Alysia Mann

March 15, 1993-Feb. 14, 2025
Alysia J. Mann, age 31, was welcomed into Jesus's arms in Heaven on Feb. 14, 2025.

She was born in Portland on March 15, 1993, the daughter of Brad Mann and Angie (DeVoss) Waters.

Alysia had worked as a dental assistant and a nail technician. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church, a 2011 Jay County High School graduate and a 2015 graduate of Ross Dental School.

Surviving are her parents, Brad Mann (Janie Landers) of

Portland and Angie Waters (husband: Mitch) of Portland; her companion Aaron Emerick of Portland; two sons, Tycen and Tatum Emerick, and two daughters, Brinley and Laynie Mann; one brother, Garrett Mann (wife: Tori) of Portland; two sisters, Jocelyn Loyd (husband: Josh) of Portland and Emma Waters of Portland; paternal grandparents Doug and Glenda Votaw of Portland; and maternal grandmother Charlotte DeVoss of Portland.



Mann

She was preceded in death by her grandpa Tim DeVoss; and great-grandparents Jigs and Viola Byrum, Jim and Norma DeVoss, Jim and Nina Votaw and Eileen Shaver.

A celebration of Alysia's life will be on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Baptist Church with Pastor Hugh Kelly presiding. Private burial to follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Jay County Humane Society or donations for Alysia's children.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. This is God's promise. He doesn't go back on his promises.

Condolences can be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Melvin "Mel" A. Wendel, Fort Recovery, May 29, 1942-Feb. 15, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Mary Help of Christians

Catholic Church, Fort Recovery.
Mark A. Brown, Hartford City, a Portland native, Dec. 25, 1956-Feb. 14, 2025. Services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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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

Wednesday 2/19	Thursday 2/20	Friday 2/21	Saturday 2/22	Sunday 2/23
21/8	20/13	25/14	32/20	38/31
Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Wednesday. There's a chance of snow late.	Thursday looks to be mostly cloudy with wind chills as low as 5 degrees early.	Friday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies in the morning with highs in the lower 20s.	Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with lows at night in the mid-teens.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies on Sunday, when the high will be in the 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$183 million	18-20-29-41-44-48-57-58-62-63-68-71-74-78-79-80 Cash 5: 1-7-31-39-40 Estimated jackpot: \$603,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$145 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 0-5-7 Pick 4: 4-9-6-3 Pick 5: 6-9-6-7-5 Evening Pick 3: 3-2-5 Pick 4: 7-6-7-2 Pick 5: 4-6-4-9-1 Rolling Cash 5: 6-7-14-22-37 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 1-7-8 Daily Four: 3-1-2-8 Quick Draw: 7-9-13-14-16-18-21-26-27-30-34-38-39-42-43-47-48-62-68-78 Evening Daily Three: 6-4-6 Daily Four: 6-4-7-4 Quick Draw: 7-8-13-16-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.90 March corn4.96 April corn5.05	March beans10.36 Wheat 5.50
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.96 March corn5.04 April corn5.15	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.92 March corn4.94 Beans10.28 March beans10.32 Wheat5.65
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.96 March corn4.96 Beans10.31	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.84 March corn4.84 Beans10.11 March beans10.16 Wheat5.45

Today in history

In 1735, "Flora" was performed in Charleston, South Carolina. It was the first opera performed in the United States.

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte led the French to victory against Austrians and Wurtembergers in the Battle of Monttereau.

In 1865, Charleston, South Carolina, fell to the Union under the control of General Alexander Schimmelfennig.

In 1930, Clyde W. Tombaugh discovered Pluto. It was recognized as a dwarf planet in 2006.

In 1933, artist Yoko Ono was born in Tokyo, Japan. She later became famous for her work as well as her marriage to musician John Lennon.

In 1960, the Latin American Free Trade Association was established. It preceded the Latin American Integration Association.

In 1967, Washington's National Art Gallery moved forward with purchasing a Da Vinci piece for \$5 million.

In 2001, Dale Earnhardt Sr. died from injuries sustained during a crash at the end of the Daytona 500 race.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, Community Room, high school, 400 Butler St.
Thursday 3 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120	

Fair ...

Continued from page 1
He signed a new record deal and put out a self-titled album in 2023 and then "California Gold" last year. "World on Fire" and "Whiskey on You" both reached Billboard's No. 1 for U.S. Country Airplay and Canadian Country. He won Billboard's Rookie of the Year last year.

"He has a lot of major hits right now," said Loy. "He's one of the top artists right now. Hopefully (it will be) the same atmosphere we've been trying to build — exciting, vibrant, really gets into the crowd. Hopefully we can just keep building off of that."

Smith, who is headed on a European swing next month that includes stops in Norway, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom next month, suggested Ross to open the show. The Canadian artist who counts influences ranging from Metallica to Steve Earle released his first single in early 2022. He's had three songs, "Trouble," "Ain't Doin' Jack" and "Single Again" top the Canadian country

charts, and won the Canadian Country Music Association Breakthrough Artist of the Year award in 2023.

After completing his first solo tour recently, he will join Jelly Roll on the Canadian leg of his Beautifully Broken tour next month.

The big country concert will highlight a week of entertainment that will also include bookend demolition derbies on Saturdays, June 28 and July 5; autocross on Sunday, June 29; 3 Bar J Rodeo on Monday, June 30; Figure 8 and barrel racing on Tuesday, July 1; truck and tractor pulls on Wednesday, July 2; and Queen City Stunt Circus on Thursday, July 3. (Saturday and Sunday events will begin at 6 p.m. with weekday events, except for the Smith concert, at 7 p.m.)

The stunt circus includes traditional circus acts (minus the animals), such as aerial acrobatics, fire performers, daredevil stunts and a variety of other attractions. With the change to the holiday week, the fair board want-

ed to make the evening leading into the long holiday weekend one that could appeal to a wide audience range.

"We thought this was a perfect opportunity to make this like a family night," said Loy. "Hopefully the whole family can come out the night before the Fourth of July and just have a great show."

Tickets for grandstand events will be available to stockholders from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 22, in the fair office. They will go on sale to the general public at 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at jaycountyfair.com.

The Kissel Entertainment carnival will be open Monday, June 30, through Saturday, July 5, including from noon to close on the Fourth of July. Armbands range from \$25 to \$35, based on the day, and are available on the fair's website as well.

In addition to all of the "new" this year, the fair board is also striving to offer "more." That will include an expanded Farmer's Building schedule, particularly with shows running later than

usual on July 3 and 4, additional ground entertainment and more games for children. Other possibilities include soccer and cornhole tournaments and a variety of other free events.

"That's something we'd been talking about even before the date changes. We feel like we need to do more stuff out there," said Loy. "Just more events. ..."

"It's just trying to get as many people out there as we can. While you might not like something in the Farmer's Building, there's something else on the grounds that you might enjoy."

Along with the fair, the Jay County 4th of July Committee will still hold its traditional activities including a 5K in the morning, parade, inflatables and fireworks.

"The fair has always been a big event and now we're adding the Fourth of July," said Loy. "I'd say this will probably be the biggest celebration in Jay County history. I think it's going to be amazing. I hope to see everyone there."

Capsule Reports

Lost control

A Dunkirk woman lost control of her vehicle and went off county road 800 South about 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Angelica D. Sherman, 47, was driving her 2006 Dodge Durango east on the road near county road 600 West when she began to slide on the road. She told police she

lost control, causing her vehicle to go into a ditch.

Her vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Arrests

Drunk driving

Two Jay County residents were arrested Wednesday for drunk driving.

John P. Randall, 45, 522 W. Water St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with four Level 6 felonies for three counts of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and resisting law enforcement and a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license. He was released on a \$8,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

Lindsay A. Trausch, 37, 435 S. Haskell Road, Dunkirk, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license. She was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Today
Brown, Mark: 7 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Thursday
Wendel, Melvin: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Mann, Alysia: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Friday
Jackson, Larry: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is Monday March 17th

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Rekindling friendship meant the world

By JAMES FULKS

The Commercial Review

In many ways, the relatively recent inclusion of various social media platforms in our lives can be a good thing.

In my personal experience, it's enabled me to track down and find old friends and family and for a former U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Pacific Fleet sailor, former shipmates.

For anyone who has ever served in uniform, you're fully aware that the bond you make with fellow service members is a

**Fulksy
Mayhem**



close-knit, special kind of bond you have with no other.

At a young age, we were thrust together with total strangers from all walks of life and, especially when we deployed on long overseas missions, we

became dependent on each other.

For those of us who discharged years ago, we all went our separate ways, and even though we said we would stay in touch, in reality, life and all of the pressures that go with it ensured that few of us actually did stay in touch.

Now, we can find each other and the reconnecting has been warm, heartwarming and rewarding with few exceptions.

For me, one such recent reconnection is a former

air traffic controller colleague who originally hailed from Alaska.

He had returned to Alaska and, up until a couple of years ago, I'd lost track of him.

We found each other on social media and reestablished our contact and friendship as if no time had lapsed.

He constantly invited me to visit his remote cabin in Alaska for some rest and rewind.

Just recently, he messaged me was going to his

cabin and chided me that I needed to get up there before we both get too old to be able to make the trip.

I said I would indeed be there as soon as I retire and don't have time constraints.

This morning, at 1:42 a.m., his wife messaged me from his phone.

My old friend had passed away in his cabin.

I'm shocked, heartbroken and oh so aware of how social media cuts both ways.

It sure was wonderful to

reconnect, but now I'll never get to the cabin.

My friend, a healthy 61-year-old corporate air ambulance pilot and retired FAA air traffic controller has departed this mortal coil.

The only consolation is that he was at his favorite place on earth when he wasn't in the clouds flying medical supplies all over the North Slope of Alaska.

Goodbye, old friend; I will regret not accepting the invitation to visit to my dying day.

Violence, lies spell dark omens for marriage

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have not had sex for the last four years. I'm not a perfect husband. I have made my share of mistakes — not always telling the truth, texting other women — and she has her share of imperfections as well. She has hit me on more than one occasion. She has also pulled a gun on me and stole \$1,400. And yet, I find myself putting all that aside and moving forward. I do love my wife, but right now I am at my breaking point. Do you have any advice? — AT WITS' END IN TEXAS

DEAR WITS' END: Because you love your wife and want to stay married, TELL her that. While you're at it, offer her the opportunity to work

**Dear
Abby**



out your differences through marriage counseling. If she agrees, it will be a giant leap in the right direction. However, if she doesn't, for your own safety, you two must separate. The relationship you have described is volatile, unhealthy and unsafe for you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior woman and have been in a rela-

tionship for five months with a widower. His wife died three years ago. He calls me every night, and we see each other three to four times a week. My issue is that he's cheap. He makes three times what I do but takes me out only for bar food meals. I want to say something, but I'm not sure how. He's a great guy except for this, but I don't want to stay if he doesn't value me more. Should I tell him he's too cheap or just break it off? — UNDERVALUED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNDERVALUED: No, do not do either. Tell him you feel a constant diet of bar food isn't the healthiest, and you would like to try something different. Then ask him to make a reserva-

tion at a restaurant. If he balks, volunteer that perhaps you could split the cost. His reaction to that will tell you whether to stick with him or not.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter died tragically this year, struck by a driver while on her morning walk. She leaves behind a husband and four children under the age of 18. Their wedding anniversary is coming up, and we usually send a card and money. What would be appropriate for me to do for our son-in-law? I would like to send a card letting him know I'm thinking of him, but don't know the words to say. — STUMPED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR STUMPED: Please

accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your stepdaughter. Because her husband is family, I don't think sending a card would be enough. Pick up the phone, start a conversation and tell him he is in your and your spouse's thoughts and you want him to know it. Sending an anniversary card to someone whose spouse has recently died might not be as helpful as lending a willing ear.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8

p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4

p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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

CELEBRATE RECOV-

ERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday 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.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former WE.

Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets

Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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

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Some bills are weird, try a few more

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The longer I cover the legislative process, the easier it seems to find silly bills that waste state time and effort.

But I'm going to be honest here and say I would file some crazy bills too if I ever became a lawmaker. I'm not sure I could resist putting my pet peeves into legal form.

That's what I see in House Bill 1064, a move by Middletown Rep. Cory Criswell to demand that schools take cash for entry into paid extracurricular events such as sports. Talk about micromanagement.

He said on the House floor that "cash is king," but I have to side with schools who prefer to not handle cash, which is easily

Niki Kelly



stolen. I mean, if being cashless is good enough for our state's professional sports leagues, then schools should be left alone.

But if I were to file my own version of this bill, it would be about grocery stores increasingly moving to self-checkout. If I have to check out my own groceries, I deserve a percentage off my whole bill. Stores are saving money, so why aren't I?

We have not one, but two, state emblem bills this year. One would

designate the Indiana bat as the official state mammal. A second would name the persimmon the state fruit. Neither have moved this session, though the latter bill had a hearing complete with cute fourth graders pushing the persimmon.

The fact is the number of state emblems has proliferated in recent years. We are way beyond a state tree (tulip) and flower (peony). We have 15 of these entities now and six of them have been put into law since 2005.

Do we really need a state rifle? Aircraft? Fossil? Snack? Even filing the bills takes time and effort of legislative staff.

But if I were to file my own version of this bill, I would want to have an official state sport. Basketball is the obvious answer but auto racing also carves out an

international identity for Hoosiers. Imagine the arguments on the floor!

The bill this year that I find most hilarious is one that criminalizes controlling the weather. You read that right. I have to give credit to fellow reporter Brandon Smith for spotting this one.

House Bill 1335, by Wabash Rep. Lorissa Sweet, prohibits a person who has the intent of affecting the intensity of sunlight, temperature, or weather from discharging a chemical or apparatus into the atmosphere.

No more creating hurricanes, people! If passed, you could be charged with a B misdemeanor.

This leads me to close out with my own hilarious law. Indiana won't be able to avoid legalizing marijuana forever, though it might try.

My hope is that when it does, Hoosiers will be the first in the nation to legalize the drug only in edible form. I would continue a ban on using the product as an inhalant.

I am tired of visiting cities where cannabis is legal and being plagued by that awful smell — in hotel rooms, on the street. It's everywhere and is downright unpleasant.

I'm sure my bills have no chance of passage, as do many of the bills that I criticize each year.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of *Indiana Capital Chronicle*, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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

Welcome home to Marc Fogel

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

On Aug. 14, 2021, Russian authorities arrested Oakmont native Marc Fogel, a teacher who had done several stints educating American ex-pats in Moscow, for carrying a small amount of legal-in-America medical marijuana into the country.

Three and a half years later — after innumerable pleas from this newspaper, Pennsylvania politicians and above all his devoted 95-year-old mother, Malphine — Fogel's nightmare is over. He's home.

This moment represents the joyful culmination of years of advocacy by the Fogel family, led by the indomitable Malphine. Her pleas, echoed time and again by Pennsylvania's congressional delegation, ensured that Marc Fogel's name was never forgotten in Washington, even as the bureaucracy seemed to treat him as an afterthought.

The story of how Fogel became a priority for the Trump administration, meanwhile, is nothing short of cinematic.

Malphine Fogel met Donald Trump, along with then-Senate candidate Dave McCormick, on July 13, 2024. It was in the staging area for the Butler rally where the former president would be shot only moments later. Ms. Fogel was in the front row, and witnessed the entire scene unfold.

The events of that day forged a bond between Ms. Fogel and Trump, who consistently promised to secure Marc's release. Malphine also formed a relationship with McCormick, who told a Post-Gazette editor on Tuesday that he kept up with her during the campaign. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, McCormick's first question to Secretary of State nominee Marco Rubio was about bringing Marc Fogel home.

McCormick credited a bipartisan effort — including his colleague Sen. John Fetterman, who joined him in headlining a letter to Rubio on Jan. 23 — for keeping Mr. Fogel "front of mind for key people" in Washington. But above all, it was the Fogel family "fighting for him from day one"

Guest Editorial

that made their reunion possible.

The speed with which President Trump fulfilled his promise to secure Mr. Fogel's release is an undeniable indictment of the Biden administration's dawdling.

While Biden's State Department wrung its hands for years over whether to designate Fogel as "wrongfully detained," when he clearly fulfilled the criteria under the relevant law, the 63-year-old teacher languished in a Russian prison camp.

Given Fogel's age and health, the 14-year prison sentence handed down in 2022 was tantamount to a death sentence.

Biden's major prisoner swap last August, which included journalists Even Gershkovich and Vladimir Kara-Murza, was a historic diplomatic feat. But it also represented unfinished business.

Only in late December did Fogel finally receive his "wrongfully detained" designation.

It took Trump, along with special diplomatic envoy Steve Witkoff, to seal the deal.

The details of that deal are, as of this writing, not known.

While the White House's statement refers to an "exchange," it is not clear exactly what the United States exchanged for Fogel. This does leave a (very) small cloud over the news: There should be some disclosure of the terms of the deal, to dispel any fears the U.S. promised or gave up something it shouldn't have.

Regardless, it is always in America's interest, and demonstrates American strength, to use the nation's enormous reserves of leverage to mitigate the suffering of Americans who are being mistreated by rogue governments.

Now it's time to celebrate a Fogel family reunion — and the fulfillment of justice — delayed for far too long. Welcome home, Marc.



Poverty is a problem we can solve

By CATHERINE COLEMAN FLOWERS
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Even as incomes rose in 2023, the number of Americans living in poverty went up. More and more people are struggling to afford their basic needs. But this is a problem we can actually solve. With a fully mobilized, multidimensional effort, the U.S. can slash the poverty rate — especially since we've done it before.

I grew up in poverty, my parents among the working poor. We were a family of seven, including my two parents and my four siblings, living in a rural community in Lowndes County, Alabama. That upbringing helped me understand the different degrees of poverty. Our home had an electric pump that provided water from a nearby well — yet no running water inside our home or a working bathroom.

In my work researching environmental health and fighting for climate justice, I have seen a lot of poverty stemming from all kinds of causes, both social constructs and intentional policies.

I've seen the effects of redlining, which financially devalued Black communities across the country, and of locating a sewage lagoon or toxic waste site next to a Black, brown or poor community, which tanked the value of their homes while increasing the incidence of disease. In urban Los Angeles, with its sky-high housing costs, I have seen the large number of homeless people on the streets and also met people who have lived in their vehicles while working and making money that would put them in the middle class in Alabama. Too many people, from Aspen, Colorado, to New York City, work for a salary that doesn't cover their cost of living.

That poverty in the United States is so multifaceted, whether urban or rural, can make it seem daunting to tackle. But some of the New Deal programs established under President

Catherine Coleman Flowers



Franklin Delano Roosevelt nearly a century ago provide a template: Offer more bridges out of poverty than a single, often inadequate, safety net.

My great-great-grandparents benefited from one New Deal-era program that enabled them to purchase land. The Federal Housing Administration, established through the New Deal's National Housing Act of 1934, promoted homeownership by backing loans to guarantee mortgages.

Such programs made homeownership and land accessible to my family, including my parents in the rural South. This progress broke through other policies of the time limiting access to resources for Black families, providing a chance to build wealth and financial stability for those who navigated these programs — an especially notable feat just decades after slavery ended in our nation and as the United States was coming out of the Depression.

This type of imagination and action is needed currently. Recent disasters, including the devastating wildfires in California and hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida, caused many families to lose their largest investment, their homes. Their experience makes the case for redefining poverty to include those who seem financially stable until they incur great economic losses due to climate events or crises beyond their control.

Looking at the New Deal, the Resettlement Act of 1937 — the forerunner to the Farmers Home Administration — may provide a glimpse into what is possible. The resulting programs pro-

vided benefits such as medical care for poor families and collaboration with farmers and their debtors to try to head off foreclosure, which looms over many disaster victims. By one estimate, farmers who participated in these programs raised their incomes by 69%. In this period overall, one study found that the proportion of Americans living in poverty dropped from more than 60% in 1933 to less than 40% by 1945.

Climate change and extreme weather disasters will continually demand that we change our outlook. What if the safety net for Americans could be extended, for example, to include economic security that protects their investment in their homes and allows them to rebuild if necessary? Beyond incorporating New Deal-type government programs with updated policies designed to support homeownership and a living wage for all Americans, what about public-private partnerships such as the one building innovative, resilient and affordable ZenniHome houses for citizens of the Navajo Nation?

Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States, predicted during his 1928 campaign that "given a chance to go forward with the policies of the last eight years, and we shall soon with the help of God, be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this Nation." Yet he became a powerful critic of the New Deal programs from his successor, FDR.

Let us end that self-defeating resistance to government-backed progress and transform Hoover's words about poverty from a vision into reality. The last 12 months have been wrought with disasters, but such radical events also point to an opportunity to eliminate poverty in our nation.

Flowers is the director and chief executive of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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

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Invenergy solar project goes online

A firm that is planning a solar facility in Jay County launched operations at a new Texas facility last week.

Invenergy's Delilah I Solar Energy Center in Lamar and Red River counties launched operations on Thursday.

Honda and Tesla will purchase the power generated by the 300-megawatt facility.

"Landowners and the larger local community were instrumental in Invenergy's ability to reach commercial operations at Delilah I, create good jobs for Texans, and partner with WEC and automotive giants like Honda and Tesla to add more American energy to

Business roundup

the grid," said Bristi Cure, Invenergy senior vice president for renewable development, in a press release. "As the demand for electricity grows, Invenergy values every opportunity to support our customers' operations with affordable, reliable, clean energy solutions that also generate meaningful economic impact

for Americans across our project communities."

Invenergy is developing Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay County.

Deals signed

Eli Lilly reached agreements last week with two firms to work together on novel cardiometabolic and cancer therapies.

According to a report from BioSpace, Lilly will work with OliX Pharmaceuticals of South Korea and AdvanCell of Australia.

Funds in question

Indiana University and Pur-

due University could lose research funding based on a new policy from the National Institutes of Health that took effect last week.

The federal agency said it will now pay universities for indirect costs related to research at a flat rate of 15%. That's down from the recent averages of between 26% and 28%.

A federal judge put a temporary pause on implementing the new rule.

Training offered

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Additional sessions are scheduled for March 25 and April 29.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

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Retail sales drop by most in two years

By **AUGUSTA SARAIVA**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. retail sales slumped in January by the most in nearly two years, indicating an abrupt pullback by consumers after a spending spree in the closing months of 2024.

The value of retail purchases, not adjusted for inflation, decreased 0.9% after an upwardly revised 0.7% gain in December, Commerce Department data showed Friday.

Nine of the report's 13 categories posted decreases, most notably motor vehicles, sporting goods and furniture stores. The data encompassed a period marked by devastating wildfires in Los Angeles — the second-largest metropolitan area in the U.S. — and severe winter weather in other parts of the country, which could have depressed brick-and-mortar shopping activity.

Treasury yields dropped and the dollar remained lower after the release. A report later Friday showed U.S. industrial production rose in January as colder temperatures boosted demand for heating util-



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Spencer Platt

Shoppers walk through Macy's store in downtown Brooklyn after the company announced it was closing the store along with over 60 others on Jan. 13 in New York City. The value of retail purchases, not adjusted for inflation, decreased 0.9% after an upwardly revised 0.7% gain in December, Commerce Department data showed Friday.

ities, while manufacturing eased.

The retail figures follow strong readings in the final months of 2024, in a solid holiday season that helped the economy extend a healthy pace of growth.

The slowdown across many categories suggests other factors than the

snowstorms and fires may be at play. Consumers are dealing with stubborn inflation and high borrowing costs, and many are increasingly turning to credit cards and other debt to support their spending — with a rising number of those loans starting to go bad.

Delinquency is becoming more common as borrowers face a third year of elevated interest rates. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell reiterated this week that the central bank is in no rush to cut rates, especially after a report showed consumer prices picked up broadly in January.

"While households continue to take on more debt, the household sector is broadly in good financial shape and income growth remains supportive of a decent pace of consumption growth this year," Wells Fargo & Co. economists Tim Quinlan and Shannon Grein said in a note.

President Donald Trump's impending tariffs on a variety of goods from several countries could eventually trickle down to consumers. That had led some to stockpile on big-ticket items in recent months, but January declines in sales of furniture, sporting goods as well as electronics and appliances indicate that impulse is fading, according to Oliver Allen, senior U.S. economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

"Pulling forward sales in anticipation of new tariffs likely lifted consumers' spending above its underlying trend late last year, but sets the stage for a drop below that trend thereafter," Allen said in a note.

Tariffs may distort the retail sales numbers going

forward — since they're not adjusted for inflation, an advance could merely reflect higher prices rather than greater sales activity.

The data showed so-called control-group sales — which feed into the government's calculation of goods spending for gross domestic product — declined 0.8% in January, also the most since March 2023. The measure excludes food services, auto dealers, building materials stores and gasoline stations.

Trump's first-term tariffs were starting to drag on growth before the pandemic hit, which will be a key focus for economists and policymakers this time around.

The retail report largely reflects purchases of goods, which comprise a relatively narrow share of overall consumer outlays. Personal consumption expenditures data due later this month will provide more details on inflation-adjusted spending on goods and services in January.

Spending at restaurants and bars, the only service-sector category in Friday's report, rose nearly 1%.



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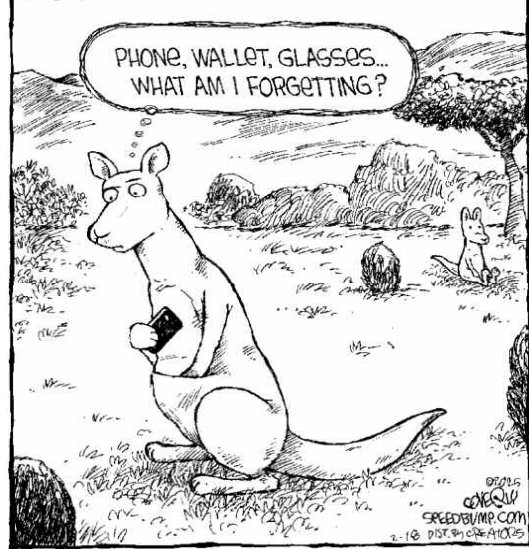
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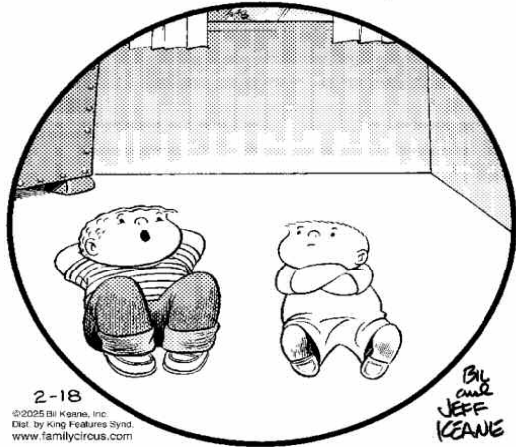
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane



"When you see a dot on the ceiling that wasn't there before, then that's a fly."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

An exceptional exception

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

- NORTH: A Q J 6, 6 4 2, A K J, 10 9 5. WEST: 8 2, J 5 3, 10 8 6 3, A K Q 4. EAST: 10 9 7 5 4, 10, Q 7 4 2, 8 7 6. SOUTH: K 3, A K Q 9 8 7, 9 5, J 3 2.

The bidding: South West North East 1 Pass 1 Pass 2 Pass 4 Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs. Winning at bridge is more a question of how many mistakes you make rather than how often you make brilliant bids or plays. Mistakes can be made for any number of reasons, but most often they are due to the tendency of players to follow general rules blindly, instead of reasoning things out.

should have realized that not only was South likely to have the king of spades for his opening bid, but that even if East had the king, there was nothing to be gained by leading a spade at this point.

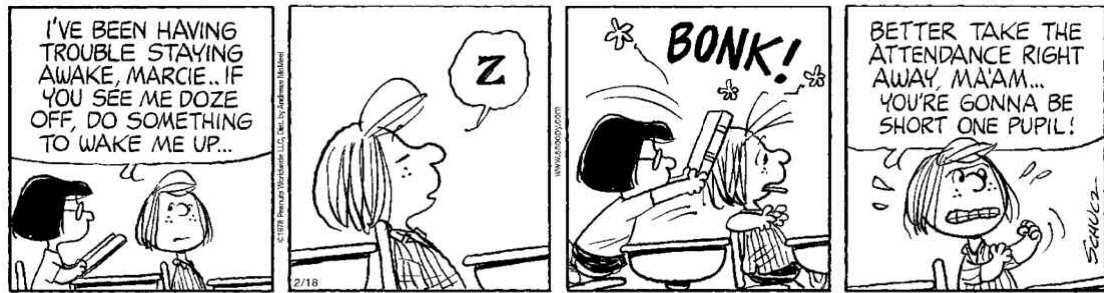
Instead, West should have led the four of clubs! After East ruffed with the ten, West's jack would have become the setting trick.

West should reason that not only is there a possibility that his partner could have the ten of trump, but that nothing can be lost by leading a club no matter what East's trump holding is.

Thus, if East has, say, the lowest missing trump — the seven — South will be forced to overruff it with the eight in order to win the trick. The spade finesse — if South needs it to make the contract — will still have to be attempted. And if East has no trumps at all, then declarer — with seven hearts, the A-K of diamonds and the ace of spades — has 10 unassailable tricks.

Tomorrow: Plain horse sense. ©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

WB H TNDVHWX KDZYC ZB BDNPGQHVND BWPQ ZQXNL H MNDHXLH, PYDNIJ VGNJ QZYIL GHMN H CNDTG PQWKK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR BAND WHOSE MEMBERS ENJOY EATING CHOCOLATE CANDIES DURING EVERY LIVE SHOW: BONBON JOVI.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals A

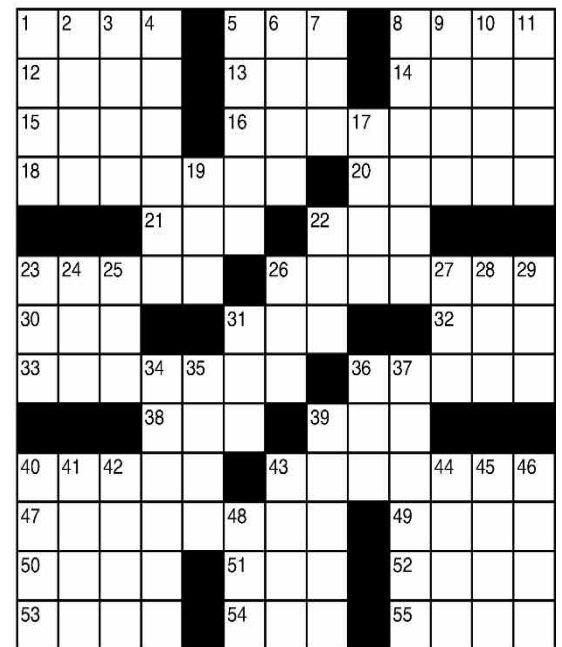
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Furnace fuel, 5 Arles buddy, 8 Grouch, 12 Words said with a sigh, 13 A Bobbsey twin, 14 Corridor, 15 Subsequently, 16 Small orchestra, 18 Tennis category, 20 Like a gorilla, 21 Up to, 22 "Ben- —", 23 Marina boat, 26 "My Way" singer, 30 Rock producer, 31 Monk's title, 32 "Big Blue", 33 Tricky baseball pitches, 36 Old photo tint. DOWN: 2 Surprised greeting, 3 "So be it", 4 Duration, 5 Photographer, 6 French "but", 7 Hostel, 8 "Quantum Healing", 9 Hindu royal, 10 Famed boxing family, 11 Humdrum, 17 Mythic goat-man, 19 Tipsy, 22 That fellow, 23 "Certainly!", 24 Singer DiFranco, 25 Bamboozle, 26 "Help!", 27 Bit of advice, 28 Slugger's stat, 29 Med. group, 31 ER workers, 34 Korean cabbage dish, 35 Wicked, 36 — Diego, 37 Blows one's top, 39 About, date-wise, 40 Priority Mail org., 41 1003, in old Rome, 42 Pantry pests, 43 Beget, 44 Diamond Head locale, 45 — arms, 46 Back talk, 48 Remote batteries, often.

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All five Patriot wrestlers fall at the semi-state, see story below

The Tribe's district opener is now at 5:30 p.m., see Sports on tap

Sports

0 for the half

Tribe girls basketball holds Triad to only three points off free throws in second half for 48-19 sectional victory

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

COVINGTON, Ohio — The Indians weren't satisfied with their defensive effort in the first half, letting the Cardinals slip in six baskets en route to 16 points.

The Tribe had to be happy with the second-half response as it held the Cardinals scoreless from the field through the final two periods and just three points in total.

The fourth-seeded Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team came out of the locker room with a defensive intensity that held the No. 11 seed Triad Cardinals to just three points on garbage-time free throws to win its first postseason game since 2022 48-19 on Saturday in the OHSAA Division VI sectional championship hosted by Covington.

The victory earns the Indians (11-12) a date with second-seeded West Liberty-Salem in Tuesday's Southwest 2 District semifinal game at Covington at approximately 7:30 p.m. It also marks the first postseason victory for Fort Recovery since it beat Waynesfield-Goshen 60-21 in 2022, the first sectional title since beating Minster 53-50 at home in 2021 and Tyler Deitsch's first postseason victory as a head coach.

"That's a good one for us to have and a good notch in our belt," Deitsch said. "Obviously it's one game at a time, but you have your eyes set on a district championship to start the season. So it's nice to check that step one off the list to being able to get there."

FRHS gave up 16 first-half points to Triad (5-18), all of which came in some sort of scramble

situation. Gracie Martin opened the game with a wild transition jumper that banked in before Bre Parsons grabbed a weak-side offensive rebound for a putback on the next possession. Parsons then threw a shot over her shoulder a minute later before Mia LeMay knocked down a pair of free throws by ripping the ball through Karlie Niekamp's body.

LeMay scored a pair of one-on-one buckets off of press breaks early in the second quarter before Martin pulled a guarded 3-pointer and Jazz Ford split a pair of free throws off an offensive rebound.

In the second half, Fort Recovery had the Cardinals scratching their heads trying to find any offense. The Indians held Triad scoreless in the third while holding it to 0-for-7 from the field, getting a pair of free throws and forcing six turnovers.

The Tribe kept the strong defense up in the final period, resulting in 0-of-10 shooting for THS and four turnovers. Triad finally scored its first point of the half with 3:09 remaining when Martin split a pair of free throws earned from an offensive rebound. (Abbey Overfield hit a pair of bonus free throws as well.)

While the Indians' defense improved, Kennedy Muhlenkamp powered a 15-point third quarter to pull away from Triad.

"It was definitely my mom (assistant coach Mandy Gerlach) telling me from the bench, 'it doesn't matter if you make your shots,'" Kennedy Muhlenkamp said. "Just play defense hard and rebound hard and then you'll get the buckets that you'll need."

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Emma Schmitz of the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team tracks down an offensive rebound during the Indians' 48-19 win over Triad in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 sectional championship on Saturday at Covington. The Tribe hit the offensive glass 24 times in the win and held the Cardinals without a field goal in the second half.

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Patriots season ends

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

FORT WAYNE — Two Patriots advanced to the ticket round.

One had a lead heading into the second period.

But for the first time in a decade and a half, they will not be represented at the state finals.

The Jay County High School boys wrestling season came to an end Saturday when its final remaining athletes — seniors Griffin Byrum and A.J. Heskett — fell in the ticket round of the semi-state tournament at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

Fellow Patriots A.J. Myers, Jason Landers and Corbin Lothridge each lost in the opening round.

"It was disappointing not to be able to advance anyone," said JCHS coach Eric Myers. "I felt like our guys wrestled pretty hard. ... The effort from our guys really was there."

The top four athletes in each weight

Jay County won't have a wrestler at state for first time since 2010

class — those who win in the second round, also known as the ticket round — advance to the state finals.

The opening-round wins for Byrum and Heskett scored eight points for Jay County, tying it for 30th place among 46 scoring teams. Delta had three semi-state champions and two runners-up to win the team title with 115.5 points. It finished 10 ahead of runner-up New Haven.

See Ends page 7

Fort falls in finale

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians couldn't flip their momentum heading into the postseason.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team dropped its season finale against the Tri-Village Patriots 71-36 Saturday.

Tri-Village (20-2) jumped on top of the Indians (6-16) right away to grab a 21-9 lead by the end of the first quarter. Griffin Richards sprayed three triples in during the period, while Dominic Black put up three buckets as well.

Richards led all scorers with 19 points, while Trey Sagester (14), Black (11) and Noah Finkbine (10) reached double digits as well.

Briggs Overman led the offense for Fort Recovery with 14 points. He scored seven in the first quarter, but only had a 3-pointer in the second and fourth periods and split a pair of free throws in the third.

Gavin Evers followed with nine points, while Brody Barga had five.

The Tribe will carry a three-game losing streak into its sectional championship game against sev-

Local roundup

enth-seeded Houston on Thursday.

Seven cuts made

NEW CASTLE — The Jay County Winter swim team made four state cuts and three divisional cuts at the TAC Last Chance Invite at New Castle Middle School on Saturday.

Carsyn Guggenbiller had all four state cuts as she placed first in the 50-yard breaststroke (41.30 seconds), 50 butterfly (36.18), 100 freestyle (1 minute, 10.09 seconds) and the 100 butterfly (1:23.58).

Hayden Guggenbiller, who was the high point winner for 8-and-younger division, made a divisional cut in the 100 butterfly. Other tankers to make divisional cuts were Maddie Theurer in the 100 butterfly and Kali Wendel in the 1,650 freestyle.

Other high point winners

were Grady Warvel from the 12-13-year-old division and Aubrey Millsapugh in the 15-and-older age group.

Hirschy leads bronze

NOBLESVILLE — All 10 athletes from the JC Flipsters gymnastics team made it into the top 10 all-around, while the Bronze Xcel team placed third at the Monkey Madness Invitational on Saturday.

Paxton Hirschy had the top finish of the Bronze Xcel team, placing fifth all-around with 36.45 points. Hirschy's top event was the floor, as she grabbed second with a 9.3.

Jordyn Champ had the best all-around finish of the Flipsters, securing the runner-up spot in the Gold Xcel division with 37.25 points. Champ took first on the vault with a 9.275, finished as the runner-up on the beam (9.125) and placed third in the other events.

Emma Robinson put together the top performance of the Silver Xcel Flipsters. Robinson finished first on the vault (9.5) and second on the floor (9.45) to climb up to fourth overall with 36.95 points.