The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Enchanted FR



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cinderella (Leah Wuebker) meets the prince (Zach Schoenlein) and his steward (Gavin Heitkamp) as they search for the girl whose foot will fit the glass slipper during Tuesday's rehearsal for the Fort Recovery High School production of the musical "Cinderella." Performances are slated for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditeria. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults.

Students will bring humorous, heartwarming 'Cinderella' musical to the stage this weekend

By RAY COONEY The Commercial Review

love.

Helpful animals.

Cackling stepsisters. A prince in search of his true

Fort Recovery High School will bring a classic fairy tale to the stage this weekend with its production of the musical "Cinderella."

"The kids have been working hard," said director Reid Knuth. "There's so many different versions of Cinderella out there that each one's a little different. ... It's not just like the Disney movie."

Fort Recovery will be performing the Enchanted version performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditeria — which has the same songs as the original Rodgers and Hammerstein show but is based on the 1997 film with Brandy performing as Cinderella. Songs and the script have been updated



The cast of Fort Recovery's production of "Cinderella" was responsible for costumes. set design and choreography for the show. "All of it is kid-driven," said director Reid Knuth.

for more of a pop and contempo-

rary feel. The story is well-known.

Cinderella is left to live with her stepmother and two stepsisters following the death of her father. She is treated more as servant than daughter.

wife for the prince, she is able to attend through the help of her magical fairy godmother and some woodland friends. She and the prince make a connection, but she rushes to leave before the magic wears off at midnight

When a ball is called to find a leaving only a glass slipper behind.

With only the slipper to go by, the search for the prince's one true love ensues.

That search is Knuth's favorite part of the show.

See **Enchanted** page 2

State leaves counties on the hook

DOC out of money to pay jails for holding prisoners

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Department of Correction has run out of money to pay county jails for holding low-level felons and state prisoners.

County jails haven't received payments in months, and there are still four months left in the Julyto-June fiscal year.

"It's very disappointing," said Tippecanoe County Sheriff Robert Goldsmith, who is also president of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association. "As far as on their end, and why they're not able to pay, I don't understand that part of it enough to even get mad.'

Indiana Department of Correction Spokeswoman Annie Goeller confirmed Monday that "funding for this expense has been exhausted for State Fiscal Year 2025. IDOC is working with the State Budget Agency on available options. We are continuing to communicate with counties about this issue.'

The appropriation in the current state budget, which ends June 30, was \$34 million annually for the county jail maintenance contingency fund. The fund reimburses sheriffs for two groups of offenders: anyone convicted of a Level 6 felony, as well as anyone being held on higher felonies or parole for IDOC.

Of that amount, up to \$25.3 million was set aside for the Level 6 felons at a rate of \$40 per day. This group of offenders used to be sent to state prisons until a criminal justice overhaul in 2013. After that, low-level felons were kept in local jails at state

ÎDOC said it spent \$34.6 million in fiscal year 2024 and \$34 million already in fiscal year 2025.

Rep. Greg Steuerwald, R-Avon, said he was surprised to find out Monday, during a committee hearing for unrelated legislation, that IDOC had run out of money. He told that Capital Chronicle on Tuesday that lawmakers will offer back pay and increase the per diem rate.

"Everything owed will be paid," he said.

See **Hook** page 2

Tensions with Ukraine are on the rise

Tribune News Service

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused U.S. President Donald Trump of "living in a disinformation space" created by Russia, as tensions between Kyiv and Washington escalate.

His pointed remark, made at a press conference on Wednesday, came a day after Trump falsely blamed Ukraine for Russia's invasion and suggested Zelenskyy could have already ended the war if he had wanted to.

Trump also implied that Zelen-

Trump implied that Zelenskyy should be removed from power

skyy should be removed from Zelenskyy said, citing approval tial law since Russia's full-scale power, echoing a Kremlin narrative that seeks to undermine the Ukrainian leader's legitimacy. "If someone wants to replace me that Russia and the United States right now, then it won't work,"

ratings above 50% in opinion

The comments follow reports discussed the possibility of elecholding elections amid ongoing Ukraine's pre-2014 borders.

level talks in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had exchanged views on the matter but added that the decision "cannot be made in Moscow or Washington.

'Ukraine has been under marinvasion, postponing presidential and parliamentary elections and restricting political activity. Many in Ukraine believe that

tions in Ukraine during high- conflict would be impractical and unfair, as it would be difficult to ensure the participation of sol-

diers and displaced civilians. However, for Moscow, pushing the narrative of elections could be a way to delegitimize Zelenskyy and sway Trump's administration into minimizing his role in any future peace negotiations.

Trump has recently taken positions aligning with Russia's stance on ending the war, including ruling out NATO member-ship for Ukraine and dismissing the possibility of returning to

Deaths

David Wendel, 68, Portland

Details on page 2.

The low in Jay County dipped to 5 degrees Tuesday.

The high was 16. Tonight's low will be 12. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with a high in the mid 20s. The low will be around 10 on Friday night.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review Weather

Jay County Public Library will host an adult puzzle team competition at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25. Teams of up to four will compete to put together a 300-piece puzzle.

To register for the competition, call (260) 726-4890 or stop in at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game at Norwell.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



David Wendel

Feb. 14, 1957-Feb. 17, 2025 David A. Wendel of Portland, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, at the age of 68.

Obituaries

He was born Feb. 14, 1957, in Jay County.

He is survived by his wife of 46 vears. Christa (Barga) Wendel: his sisters Becky Timmerman (Mike), Nancy Moser (Scott), Jane Kaup (Kenneth) and Amy

Durham (Steve); sister-in-law Jackie Gerber; brother Andy Wendel (Katy); and his inlaws Gary Barga Carol (Jane), Petske (Steve), Minch Janette (Joe), Cynthia Lin-

der (Bill) and Jerry Barga (Leigh

Wendel

Ann). Dave was preceded in death by his parents Orville and Joann

Tuesday's

shows mostly

cloudy skies

with highs in

the mid 40s.

forecast

Wendel; mother- and father-inlaw Ivan and Ella Mae Barga; brother Edward Wendel; and nephew Jonathan Wendel.

Dave owned and operated Wendel's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning. He also owned and operated the Padua Pub for 7½ years.

Dave loved to go fishing and especially loved to pick on all of his nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. He also found joy in getting the

kids to pick on Christa with him. He will be deeply missed by all that he came in contact with.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, Feb. 24, at 10 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Fr. Marty Sandhage presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. and Monday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be for Masses

or Jay Emergency Medical Serv-

The Commercial Review

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

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

time/date/location of services.

CR almanac

<u> </u>									
Friday 2/21	Saturday 2/22	Sunday 2/23	Monday 2/24	Tuesday 2/25					
29/11	30/18	37/30	44/35	45/33					

Another day

sunny skies on

Sunday, when

the high will be

mostly

Lotteries

Saturday

mostly sunny

with lows at night around

20 degrees.

around

Powerball

Friday's

shows mostly

sunny skies in

with lows at

morning

forecast

Estimated jackpot: \$195 million

Mega Millions

1-20-25-58-61 Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 2 jackpot: Estimated \$165 million

Hoosier

Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 9-5-4 Daily Four: 8-9-4-5 Quick Draw: 3-6-7-12-20-21-23-28-30-42-45-47-51-61-67-69-75-78-79-80

Evening Daily Three: 6-4-7 Daily Four: 3-4-6-7 Quick Draw: 3-6-7-24-34-35-36-39-40-41-45-48-51-54-56-58-69-70-73-76

Monday's

looks to be

mostly cloudy

highs in the

lower 40s.

with

skies

Ohio

Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 1-7-5 Pick 4: 3-3-0-7 Pick 5: 9-0-0-8-2 Evening Pick 3: 8-9-5 Pick 4: 7-1-3-9 Pick 5: 9-0-2-9-9 Rolling Cash: 31-32-34-35-38

Estimated jackpot:

\$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms	
Fort Recovery	
Corn	4.96
March corn	5.02
April corn	
1	

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn	5.02
March corn	5.10
April corn	5.22
_	

The Andersons	S
Richland Town	ship
Corn	5.0

Corn	5.02
March corn	5.02
Beans	10.34

March beans10.39 Wheat5.55	
w neat 5.55	

Montpelier

Corn	4.98
March corn	5.00
Beans	10.30
March beans	10.34
Wheat	5.69

neartiand St. Anthony

Corn	4.90
March corn	4.90
Beans	10.14
March beans	10.19
Wheat	5.50

Today in history

City's Museum of Art opened to the public for the first time. Now known as one of the most popular museums, "The Met" presents more than 5,000 years of art from around the world today.

In 1943, a volcano erupted in Mexico, burying two villages in its wake. Hundreds of homes were destroyed from the eruption, which started in an open field.

In 1944, during the Battle of Eniwetok, United States forces the Enewetak took Atoll. The action cost 37 American lives and wounded another 94. Approximately 800 Japanese soldiers were killed and 23 taken pris-

In 1962, John Glenn

rium, courthouse, 120 N.

land.

In 1872, New York became the first Ameri-Metropolitan can to orbit Earth. Glenn was the oldest of seven astronauts selected by the National Aero-

Space

for

nautics and

Administration

flights between 1961 and 1963. In 2014, Jay County High School boys swim team members picked up five No. 1 seeds in the

sectional finals, with

two coming from Josh

Lykins and James Keen.

Project Mercury, a

series of crewed space-

In 2018, the Jay County High School boys basketball team dominated the Woodlan Warriors in a 62-32 win, keeping the Patriots at that time undefeated in the Allen County Athletic Conference.

— The CR

Enchanted

Continued from page 1

"I kind of gave free rein to the actors," he said. "They just kind of go and do their thing. It's a little different every night and it's always funny.'

While "Cinderella" is a love story at its heart, there's plenty of humor throughout.

The steward, played by Gavin Heitkamp, brings his own dry brand of humor, often while trying to fight off the advances the stepmother (Megan Weitzel).

The stepsisters, portrayed by Carley Buckland and Ashlyn Cantu, offer the more in-yourface variety of the laughs with their constant cackling and general lack of self-awareness.

"It's so fun," said Buck-

something I'm not used to and just getting to boss her around, boss Cinderella around, eye roll, it's amazing. I love it.'

"You get to react more and be as dramatic as you can, and I like that a lot,' added Cantu.

In between the humorous moments, both Cinderella and the prince (Zach Schoenlein) struggle to find themselves. They long to break free from their boring everyday lives and find that possibility in each other.

"There's a lot of really funny moments but there's also a lot of really heartwarming moments," said junior Leah Wuebker, who portrays the title character. "It really covers all the bases."

Wuebker gets to make land. "I love it. It's like the progression for the includes Finley Thomp-

girl tucked in her own little corner to a princess ready for the spotlight. Her favorite moment in the show is when that transformation happens with the help of Fairy Godmother (Grace Lochtefeld), as Cinderella sheds her drab dress for a dazzling ball gown in front of the audience's

"It's amazing. It's really great being able to portray all her different emotions," Wuebker said. "She's very submissive to her stepmother, but then she really starts to break out of her shell once she realizes what she's worth and that she's worth more than what her stepmother says. It's really just fun to play that part.'

The cast — it also

son as Young Cinderella, Chase Fiely as King Maximilian and Cora Kremer as Queen Constantina is responsible for much more than just their lines and songs on stage. Just about everything the audience sees comes from the students.

"The kids have been putting in a lot of work,' said Knuth. "One of the things that we do at the high school that I don't think is standard is the kids do a lot of the design. All the set, all the costumes, all the choreography were done by kids. All of it is kid-driven."

Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults and will be available at the door. Children ages 5 and younger will be admitted for free.

Hook

Continued from page 1

Goldsmith just found out about the lack of money last week. The last time his county was paid by the state was in August, which was the March billing.

He said on Tuesday that his jail currently has 30 offenders waiting to be transferred to IDOC or serving their Level 6 sentence — and the county is getting no reimbursement.

Goldsmith said he is glad to hear lawmakers are considering an increase in the per diem rate of \$40 in the next state budget. The House Republican version hikes the rate to \$43 a day.

willing to sit at the table and have these conversations," he said.

Steve Luce, executive director of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, said he is focusing on getting a new billing system in place for the next fiscal year. Luce said the current system involves a formula instead of a true billing system using actual counts.

He's also seeking an increase. Luce noted it costs the state \$79 a day to house a prisoner, so IDOC is saving money by leaving prisoners in county jails.

He said that overall, there are

"I'm just appreciative that they're about 2,500 IDOC holds annually, and they stay for varying lengths of time depending on their sen-

"I don't think they underestimated it. I think they did, but not on purpose, because we have had some changes," Luce said. "We haven't had a consistent formula.

The association will continue to push for an increase in the budget "because we are still losing money, and it's coming on the taxpayers. So, what we're trying to do is be fair and also work with them through the things that need to be fixed.

Felony arrests

Resisting law

A UIIIUII was arrested Tuesday for Level 6 felony. resisting law enforcement.

Jessica M. Lewis, 41, 625 Jail.

N. State Line St., was pre-

She was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County

Felony courts

Conspiracy

A Dunkirk man was sentenced to more than a year in jail after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit theft.

Seth N. Mills, 28, 216 East Commerce St., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior

Court to two counts of conspiracy to commit theft, both Level 6 felonies. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail and given 28 days credit for time served.

Mills was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs.

Capsule Reports

Pole hit

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after an Ohio man lost control of his vehicle and struck a pole about 8:10 p.m. Monday. Brent M. Sutter, 21, Saint

Henry, was driving his 2004 Honda Pilot east on Division Road just west of county road 300 East when he lost traction with the road. He crossed over the westbound lane and went into a ditch on the north side of the road then crossed county road 300 East, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. His front passenger side struck a utility pole registered to Jay County REMC.

His vehicle was towed.

Failed to stop

A Portland man failed to stop at the intersection of Votaw and Meridian streets, causing him to crash into the back of another Portland man's vehicle about 9:24 p.m. Saturday.

Stephen M. Jenkins, 71, was driving a 1988 Volvo 760 Series east on Votaw Street. He failed to stop, according to a Portland police report, and struck the back of a 2024 Honda CR-V driven by

53-year-old Jason Phillips.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

SERVICES

Thursday Wendel, Melvin: 10:30 a.m.,

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

Mann, Alysia: II a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Friday Jackson, Larry: 2 p.m.,

Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. Monday

Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

Wendel, David: 10 a.m.,

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

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



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309 West Main Street Portland, IN 47371

260-726-8141

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Today Dunkirk 6 p.m. — Board of Works, city 3 p.m. – Jay County building, 131 S. Main Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. 6:30 p.m. — Fort

Citizen's calendar

Court St., Portland. Recovery School Board, Community Room, high **Monday** school, 400 Butler St. 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audito-

Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay Countv Solid Waste Manage-Tuesday ment District board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Port-

7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main Št.

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

It's time to focus on heart health

By KERRY TORRES

February is American Heart Month, a time to focus on heart health and also raise awareness about the risks of heart disease and the importance of identifying and managing heart conditions. According to the Center for Disease Conand Prevention (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death in men, women and most racial and ethnic groups. In addition, high blood pressure is the lead-

Your Health **Matters**



which puts nearly half of adults in the United States at risk for heart disease and stroke.

What causes high blood pressure?

There are numerous ing cause of heart disease factors that can cause on ways to control it.

blood pressure. Some factors cannot be **high blood pressure?** controlled such as age and genetics, and other health conditions such as pregnancy and diabetes. However, there are factors that can be controlled such as physical inactivity, obesity or being overweight, consuming large amounts of alcohol, consuming large amounts of caffeine, and smoking. If you have high blood pressure, it is important to talk with your health care provider

While there are factors that contribute to high blood pressure which cannot be controlled, there are numerous things you can do to improve not only high blood pressure but your overall health. Some of these include eating a low-sodium healthy diet, staying a healthy weight, getting at least 150 minutes a week of physical activity and not smoking. It is also important to limit how much alcohol you drink, get enough or stroke, aneurysm, heart

How can I prevent sleep and manage your failure, kidney problems, stress.

> Why is it important to manage high blood pressure?

High blood pressure, or hypertension. causes excess pressure on the artery walls which can damage blood vessels and organs. The higher the blood pressure and the longer it goes unmanaged, the more damage that can be done. Some complications of high blood preseye problems, metabolic syndrome, changes in memory or understanding, and dementia.

It is important to regularly get your blood pressure checked to ensure it is within normal range. According to the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, normal blood pressure is 120/80 mm Hg

or lower.

Kerry Torres is a nurse sure include heart attack practitioner at IU Health Jay Family Practice.

Bride wants mother, aunt to walk down aisle

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old niece is getting married in four months. Five years ago, she lost her father in a tragic accident while her parents were on vacation. Since that time, she has come out as gay and grown closer to me than to her mom (my sister).

I was always close to my sister they were growing up and helped out financially when times were tough. My sister recently remarried and plans to move to another state with her new husband prior to the wedding.

My niece has asked me to walk her down the aisle along with my sister. My sister said it's disrespectful to her since she is the it's my niece's wedding and she

Dear Abby



and both of her daughters while mother. I don't want to hurt my sister or my niece. My niece says it's both of us or neither one. (There are no grandparents.)

I told her I want to sit with my husband for the wedding and that her mom should walk her down the aisle. The other bride's parents will be walking their daughter down the aisle. I know

I feel stuck in the middle. Any suggestions? — TORN IN TWO IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR TORN: I do have one. You have already told your niece you would prefer to sit with your husband rather than cause resentment from your sister. Your niece feels strongly about having you walk with her, and it is her wedding. You might suggest walking her halfway down the aisle and then handing her off to her mother. But leave the final decision where it belongs — which is with the bride.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 19-year-old my dad. Now he has started tex- attitude with him.

should have what she wants, but guy and live with my parents. We have this neighbor, "Ed," who, until recently, was friends with my dad. We've hung out with him several times and have even gone over to each other's houses to watch sports games and eat dinner.

> The problem is, Ed has become very overbearing and strange. He has always been a little off the wall, which, at first, we both found hilarious. But since then, his foul language and vulgarities have rubbed us the wrong way. He's disrespectful to his wife and son, which I know isn't my business, but Dad and I are over it. Lately, Ed has been constantly calling and texting father's or your change in

ting me asking why my father isn't responding. I don't know how he got my number. Last month, Ed walked into our house through our sliding glass door while I was home alone watching TV.

Dad seems to want to just ignore the issue, but I think it's the wrong move. Should I approach this nosy and indignant neighbor? — UNEASY IN **ILLINOIS**

DEAR UNEASY: No. you should not. Keep that sliding glass door locked. And, if you receive any more texts from this man, block him. You are not required to discuss your

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in news@thecr.com.

Today

STITCH AND CHAT-CLUB QUILT — 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-

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 100 North.

recovery program meets at space is available. To sub- Thursday at A Second mit an item, email 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, $(260)\ 251-3259.$

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will 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.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A Community Calendar as 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each 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

CAL SOCIETY — Is open based recovery group for from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the forcontact mer W.E. Gaunt Jewelry lowship Baptist Church, Stephanie Patterson at building, 113 S. Main St., 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Dunkirk.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addicmeet at 3 p.m. on the third tion Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

CINCINNATUS

next meeting at noon Friday, Feb. 21, at Harmonv Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-DUNKIRK HISTORI- ANNA'S HOPE — A faithall kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fel-Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-Friday at the Jay County FAST 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 Com-LEAGUE — Will hold its munity Center.

Home Idea Center 901 Industrial Dr. Ft. Recovery, OH 419-375-4951

www.ehomeidea.com

Baird Freeman Funeral Home 221 N. Meridian St.

Portland, IN 260-726-7171

Sisters Sweet Escape 41 W 275 S Portland, IN 47371 260-202-9591

Fortkamp Foam 3216 Wabash Road

Fort Recovery, OH 45846 419-852-1390 Fortkampfoam.com

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Auto & light truck repair Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm Call Scott Hopkins 260-251-0459

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Vormohr Family Dentistry 1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: jcdpccontact@gmail.com

> **Dunn Family Dental Care** 110 W. North St.

Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8007

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This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50. Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included

Perhaps penny's time has passed

Enid News & Eagle (Oklahoma)
Tribune News Service

It probably is time to stop making pennies.

President Donald While Trump and Department of Government Efficiency czar Elon Musk have been turning off federal spending taps left and right without congressional approval, they may have stumbled into something that works for almost evervone.

We've heard for a long time that from circulation.

Guest **Editorial**

the penny costs more to make than what it's worth. While that's also true of the nickel, the penny could be more easily removed denomination can't happen all at

There would be: •a point in which the Trea-

sury stops minting pennies. a point in which retailers and the like start rounding to five. •a point in which the penny is

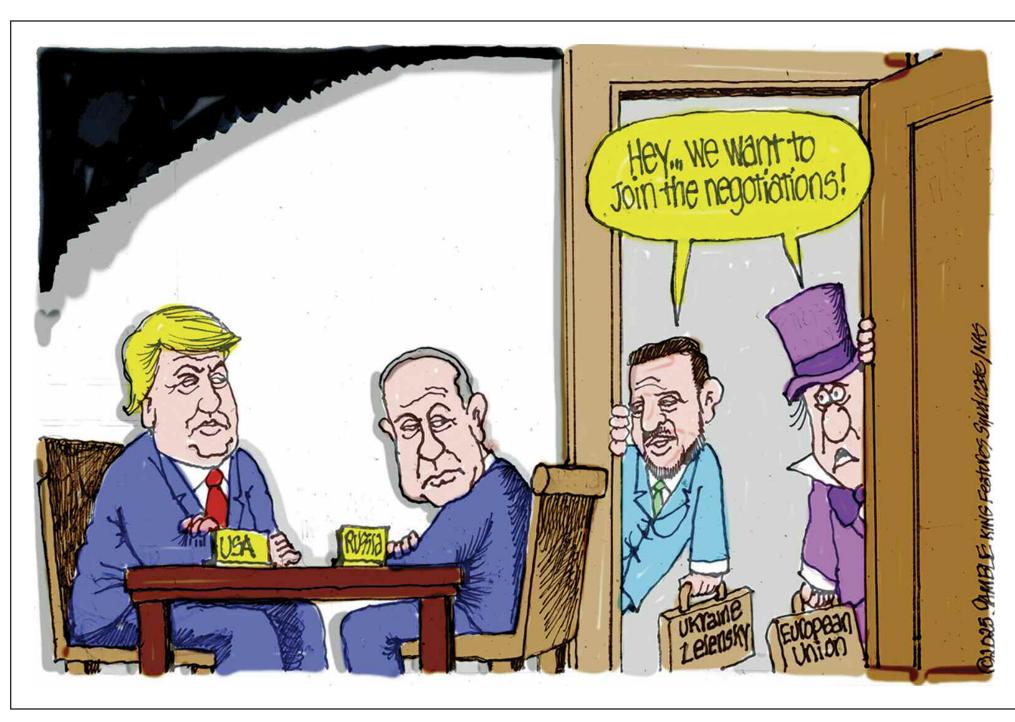
pulled from circulation. And, a lot of people still aren't sure if it's another one of these things that can be completed by executive order. Many of the ning. When you're having to

The elimination of the one-cent moves from Trump, Musk and scrape your cents together, a sudenomination can't happen all at the Department of Government den rounding could diminish Efficiency may not stand up to legal scrutiny in the short term, but who can say if a lot of the cuts they're making won't be supported by Congress the Supreme Court by the time it's all over?

> And, it will run into hurdles. Like many of these cuts, this will disproportionately affect poor people, at least in the begin-

den rounding could diminish buying power. But, at some point, the rounding would even out for everyone.

Many other countries have cut out lower denomination coins and even the United States got rid of its half penny almost 200 years ago. If we got along without a half penny for 200 years, we know inflation has certainly outpaced the need for a penny.



Turn focus to improving access for the poor

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

I am thankful that the U.S., and especially Indiana, finds itself at a turning point in diversity, equiand inclusion policies. Gov. Mike Braun signed an executive order ending DEI in state government, because much of it has been rightly adjudicated as unconstitutional. No doubt it will soon be extinguished in state universities and local government.

At the same time, President Donald Trump illustrated the dangers of a DEI hire by appointing a ridiculously unqualified Christian nationalist to become the secretary of defense. This might lead us to suppose that deepest intentions of many DEI opponents are less motivated by the Constitution than by the types of people who benefit. We

must do better. It's necessary to think about DEI in a constructive way and consider what policies are both constitutional and might occasion more equal opportunity for all Americans. It's also useful to revisit the ugliness of what DEI has become.

Students v. Harvard, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that will effectively end DEI in government-funded activities, exposed raw discrimination by Harvard against Asian students. This is something that every Asian-American knows is ubiquitous in college admissions. Harvard is a private school, so it is free to discriminate, as long as it doesn't likely to have more resources to take federal money. It has chosen to take the money.

Most public universities have a similar track record, whether or by income, so kids from more lege admissions. The use of stan-certain that these programs mhicks@bsu.edu.

Michael J. Hicks



not it has reached the courts. They must comply with Students v. Harvard.

DEI training in many workplaces and universities devolved from honest efforts to explain differential outcomes by race or gender — things most Americans would benefit from learning — to racialist propaganda. Thankfully, in most places, the worst of that is behind us. But, it also should make us ask some questions. How can we ensure that everyone has equal access to schooling, health care and economic opportunity?

The end of DEI should make those of us who distrusted it push for legal and fair policies to improve access to opportunity for all Americans. We should begin by admitting some facts.

I'll focus on educational opportunity. Life is easier for kids and young adults who were raised by parents with some affluence. Those kids are more likely to receive good health care and are more likely to live in better school districts. They have access to more academic support when they struggle, and they're more participate in, and excel at.

exposure to career and educational options and all other types of

advantages. These advantages accrue to kids regardless of their race. However, income is not distributed equally across_races, or indeed within races. The income gap between ethnic groups of whites is actually larger than the income gap between white and Black Americans. Self-identified Appalachian ancestry (Scots-Irish) do worse than those of Ethiopian and Haitian ancestry.

It was lazy for DEI programs to focus on race when worried about equal access. Race is a covariate of income, but income differences dominate our access problems. So, what policies might offer more opportunity for poorer

First, we should boost academic requirements for all kids at a very early age. Poorly performing schools shackle kids to a culture of low expectations. I'm with Thucydides, who said, "There is no need to suppose that human beings differ very much one from another; but it is true that the ones who come out on top are the ones who have been trained in the hardest school."

It's worth noting that harder schools, whether K-12 or colleges, are enjoying record enrollment. while those with softening standards are losing students.

Second, we should use the American communities cluster PSAT and SAT as a tool for col-

policies have no effect. At worst, they pressure down standards for college admissions and merit non-academic factors that favor high-income students. Time to end this fad on campus.

Third, we should offer unconditional acceptance to all state universities for students in the top 15 percent of their class. Texas does this (at 10 percent) and it means good kids from bad schools get to attend college in state.

Fourth, we should charge school corporations state tuition for any of their graduates who have to take remedial English or mathematics at state universities. This will provide a financial carrot for schools to ensure everyone who might go to college is ready out of high school. And yes, this will require a statewide exam and some exemptions (say, for kids who don't attend college right

Fifth, we should redirect DEI money to summer supplement programs for new students from low-income households. These summer bootcamps should pay low-income students to take two months of math and writing courses and provide them with room and board at the college they will attend.

These, and many other programs that focus on family income and local economic conditions, offer the possibility of improving access to education for low-income students. It is almost *versity*.

affluent families are more likely dardized tests was designed to would be offered to a higher share to be surrounded by more people mitigate the effects of poverty of Black and Hispanic students with higher education and and have been rigorously than white students. But, they income. This gives them more researched. At best, SAT-optional treat a poor white kid from rural Perry County the same as a poor Black kid from Gary.

That's the point of the 14th Amendment's equal protection

To be fair, Indiana already does some of this well. Take our school funding formula, for example. There's no racial component to the formulas. We provide a base level of funding per student, then supplement it based on measures of poverty, need for special education and places with high levels of people who didn't learn English at home. Nearly all the variation between schools is because

of the poverty formulas. In this wholly colorblind formula, the average Black student receives \$1,013 more per year for education than the average white student, and the average Hispanic student \$623 more. This may not be the right amount to address poverty, but it is a goodfaith attempt by the legislature to provide better educational outcomes to lower-income students without regard to their race, gen-

der or national origin. It is time for more good-faith efforts to live up to the broad promises of our founding.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State Uni-Emailhim

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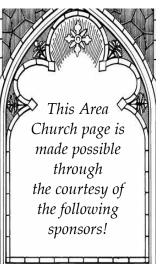
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Asbury United Methodist

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

Bellefountain United Methodist

440 S. 600 East Pamela Freeman Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends 80 E. 650 South Services: 10 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300

East Ava Gannon (260) 726-2373 Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan 209 S. Hendricks St.

Paul VanCise (260) 997-6231 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 a.m.

bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist

301 N. Main St., Dunkirk Susan Durovey-Antrim (765) 499-0368 Services: 10:30 a.m. susan.duroveyantrim@ inumc.org

Christ Chapel

2535 Wabash Road, Fort (419) 733-1469 christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)

8472 S. 800 East, Union City Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy

Nanette Weesner (260) 766-9334

Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.

nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the **Brethren**

Floral and avenues, Portland Kevin McClung (260) 729-7295 Services: 10 a.m.

Church of

the Living God South Broad Street,

Dunkirk Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene

450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27 Billy Stanton (260) 251-2403 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

Cornerstone Baptist 211 E. Main St., Portland Wayne Ward (260) 726-7714 Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of

Pennville David Davidson

190 W. Main St., Pennville

(260) 202-9718 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene

St., 226 E. Center Dunkirk Tom Fett (765) 768-6199 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

Evangelical Methodist

930 W. Main St., Portland Steve Arnold (260) 251-0970 Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 Immaculate

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County

2875 E. 200 South Pamela Freeman Lay leader: Beth Stephen (260) 726-9184 Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community 9560 W.

Dunkirk Joe Schmit (260) 251-5254 Services: 10 a.m.

Ronald Willis (260) 726-4844 Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday thefamilyworshipcenter.org urday, 9 a.m.

Fellowship Baptist

289 S. 200 West Hugh Kelly (260) 726-8873 Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Sunday school: 10 a.m. pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First Church of Christ

1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery David J. Nicholson (419) 375-2860 Services: 10:30 a.m. fccftrecovery.org

First Community **Baptist**

341 S. Meridian St., Red-Everett Bilbrey Jr. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist 12369 W. 600 South,

Dunkirk Sunday school: 10 a.m. Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian

402 N. Ship St., Portland Rev. M. Rex Espiritu (260) 726-8462 Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene

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

Fort Recovery United Methodist

309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery Rev. Carol McKay (304) 617-0101 Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel **Lighthouse Tabernacle**

468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk **Robert Thomas** (765) 348-4620 Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 797 N. Creagor Ave., Porp.m. Thursday

Geneva First **United Methodist**

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

Chicago Geneva Nazarene

225 Decatur St., Geneva (260) 525-8609 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday school: 9 a.m. Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. land Wednesday

Gilead Church County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec

Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the **Brethren**

Indiana 1 and Indiana 26 Praise Chapel Earl Doll (260) 731-4477 Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street

United Methodist 435 High St., Geneva Rev. Joseph Hampton (260) 368-7233

Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic 7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant Fr. Peter Logsdon Fr. Martin Sandhage Services: 8 a.m., 4:30

p.m. Saturday Hopewell of

Life Ministries

County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1 Rev. Ruth Funk (260) 251-8581 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 Christian

Conception Catholic 506 E. Walnut St., Port-

Fr. Peter Logsdon Fr. Martin Sandhage (260) 726-7055 Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Šunday Kingsley Full Gospel

4030S. 700 200 South, Dunkirk Stuart Phillips Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6

(419) 375-4153

Services: 4:30 p.m. Sat-

redkeynaz.org River of Life Rev. Alexander Witt 722 W. Main St., Portland

Mount Tabor Community Church

216 W. Pleasant St., tland Dunkirk Scott McClain (765) 768-7273 Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist

County roads 600 East and 200 North Rev. Darrell Borders (260) 726-4786 Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine

4017 W. 200 South Randy Smith (260) 251-2406 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship

1238 W. 450 South Chuck Myers (260) 251-0063 Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries

415 S. Helen St., Portland Dr. Kay Fairchild (260) 223-2961 Services: 4 p.m. drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant **United Methodist**

5905 S. Como Road Neil Butcher (765) 499-7838 Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian

1964 N. 800 East Aaron Huey Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove **United Methodist** 829 S. Indiana 1

Neil Butcher (765) 760-9085 Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill

9945 N. 800 East, Union City Bruce Bryan (765) 964-3664 Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m. mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ

1217 W. Votaw St., Portland **Bob Graham** (260) 726-7777 Bible class: 9:15 a.m. Services: 10:20 a.m. Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene

920 S. Shank St., Port-Steve Cecil (260) 726-8040 Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends

226 E. Main St., Portland Herb Hummel (260) 202-9732 Services: 10 a.m. Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Church of God 4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line) Rev. Josh Canfield (765) 584-7045

Services: 10:30 a.m. **Redeemer Lutheran**

Malin and Elm streets,

Bryant Father Dan Layden (260) 997-6787 Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries

9811 W. Indiana 67, south- p.m. west of Redkey Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman (765) 369-2920 Services: 10 a.m. RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First

Union and Malin streets Jeff Hammers (765) 468-6172 Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist 122 W. Main St. Lori McIntosh

(765) 369-2085 Services: 10:30 a.m. East, Redkey Church of the Nazarene

801 W. High St. Fred Stevens

Susan Hathaway

Services: 10:30 a.m.

(260) 729-1095

The ROCK

1605 N. Meridian St., Por-Matt Ransom (260) 726-7474

Salamonia **Church of Christ**

Services: 10 a.m.

matt@therockjc.org

3900 S. 600 East Bruce Phillips (260) 335-2017 Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries

228 S. Meridian St., Portland Dave Keen (260) 251-8792 Mike Eads (260) 703-0733 Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort

Recovery Rev. Alexander Witt Services: 7:30 a.m. Sun-

St. Mary's Catholic

346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk Rev. Kevin Hurley Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic

St. Peter Catholic

517 Meiring Road, Fort Rev. Alexander Witt Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery Rev. Alexander Witt

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene 3984 N. 550 West, Portland Pastor Mike Heckman (615) 517-1017

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Services: 10:30 a.m. Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church

County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk Scott McClain

Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist 17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk John Elam (765) 768-7708 Sunday school: 10 a.m. Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday 7pillarsdirector@gmail.com

The Church

at Westchester 4487 E. 400 North (260) 726-6311 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Services: 10:35 a.m. churchatwestchester.org

templebaptistin.com

Trinity Lutheran

301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery Robin Owen (419) 375-4498 Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)

pastorrobino@gmail.com **Trinity ArchBridge**

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

portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel 6200 N. 375 West, Bryant Interim Pastor Chris Kruchkow (260) 849-0687

Services: 10:20 a.m., 6

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene

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

Walnut Corner County roads 200 North

West Walnut

and 500 West **Steve Rogers** (260) 251-1113 Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of Christ 204 W. Walnut St., Portland

Gil Alicea (260) 726-4691 Services: 10 a.m. westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

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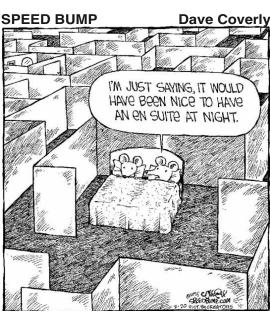
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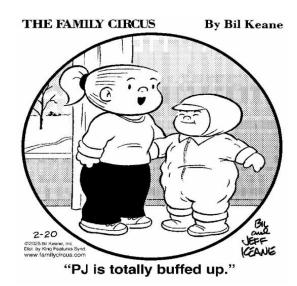
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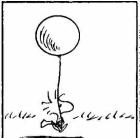
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p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday (765) 369-2676 **Zion Evangelical** Mary Help Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 **Family Worship Center** of Christians **Lutheran Church** p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Robin Owen 200 E. Elder St., Portland 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery



















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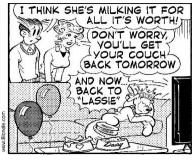




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Contract 🚓 Bridge 🏖 By Steve Becker

Good play overcomes bad luck

South dealer. ruffs, draws trump and later goes down one when a diamond finesse loses to West's queen. Both sides vulnerable NORTH

♣ Q J 10 8

♥ 9 8 3

♠ A 9 4 Without a doubt, South was very unlucky. The ace of clubs, ace of hearts and queen of diamonds were all badly placed. Had any one of those cards been in the opposite ♠KO5 hand, South would have made the ♥QJ1072 contract easily.

Nevertheless, South should have

made four spades. His error occurred on the very first trick, SOUTH ♠ A K 7 5 4 2 ♥ K 4 ♦ K J 6 3 ♠ 6 occurred on the very first trick, when he should have played the five of clubs from dummy rather than the queen! Once East is credited with the ace of clubs after West leads the jack, playing low from dummy is clearly correct.

West's jack will presumably win the trick but whatever he plays The bidding:
West North East Pass

the trick, but whatever he plays next, South has the situation fully under control. Let's say West shifts Opening lead - jack of clubs. Luck plays a big part in many deals, but there are quite a few occasions when good play can overcome bad luck. Consider this case where the East-West cards are to a trump. Dummy wins and leads the king of clubs through ruffing East's ace and establishing a club trick on which declarer can later discard a heart. South thus loses badly stacked against declarer in four spades.

only a club, a heart and a diamond.

Note that East cannot stop the contract by overtaking West's jack of clubs with the ace at trick one and returning a heart. If he does that, South loses a club and two hearts right away, but later discards two diamonds on the K-O of clubs. Let's say South covers West's jack-of-clubs lead with the queen, losing to East's ace, and back comes the queen of hearts. South's king is taken by West's ace, and a heart is returned to East's ten, followed by a third round of hearts. Declarer two diamonds on the K-Q of clubs to finish with 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz

CRYPTOQUIP

2-20

AGPQ LPM HIB LPTT P KWIBO

OGVH

APOLGYMK P OIOPOI UPLN

WPLV? UOVL-QPQVWU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'VE GOT A HEAVY AND MUSCULAR BUILD, WHAT MIGHT PEOPLE CALL YOUR TEETH? BURLY WHITES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 U.K. fliers	55 Body pics	21 Rainbo
1 A deadly	35 Golf prop		shape
sin	36 Elizabeth	DOWN	23 Nerd
5 "O Sole	of	1 "Livin' La	24 Lavish
	cosmetics	Vida —"	party
8 Bar fight	37 Game	2 Russian	25 Spanisl
souvenir	show	river	custard
12 Sandwich	contes-	3 Antitoxins	26 Sweet
treat	tant, often	4 Tennis	wine
13 "Bow-	40 On deck	tactic	27 On —
wow!"	41 Hockey	5 Showy	with
14 Ginor-	needs	parrot	28 Oil com
mous	45 Afrikaner	6 Roth	panies
15 Kvetch	47 Big Apple	svgs.	32 Tidy
16 Half- —	sch.	plan	type
(latte	49 TV's	7 Quirky	33 Handy
option)	"Warrior	8 Pointy	guy
17 "Roots"	Princess"	9 Like	35 StubHເ
author	50 Rotate	some	buys,

51 Suffix Haley pearls slangily 18 Largest with hotel 10 Candle 36 Astern U.S. state 52 Privy to count 38 Nemo's 20 Homer's 53 Saga-11 Actor creator Harrison 39 Loan 22 Makeup 19 Decks in 54 Lock shark's applicator opener the ring crime 26 Seine city 42 Wrestler Solution time: 24 mins.

29 WWII service person IBERIA 30 Seminary subj. SLSPATIOCAD 31 Serving customers SNAGSNBA 32 Volleyball TRIPLETOELOO barrier OUTRE RODDY 33 Self-

referential

TSA FED Yesterday's answer 2-20

10 13 14 12 15 16 18 20 19 22 23 24 29 30 32 34 35 36 37 38 39 43 40 45 46 48 50 51 52 53 55

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS senior Karlie Niekamp takes contact from West Liberty-Salem's Ava Asorino during Tuesday's 40-31 playoff win at Covington. Niekamp scored 15 points as the Indians advanced to their first district finals in 14 years.

Continued from page 8 Homan found the bottom of the net from deep two more times early in the third quarter to put the Indians up 26-16 and force a West Liberty-Salem timeout.

The FRHS sophomore also scored on a pair of drives late in the period en route to a career-high 17 points that led all scorers. She shot 7-for-12 (58.3%) from the field to bounce back from a rough game against Triad in the sectional final, in which she had three points on 1-for-9 shooting $(\bar{1}1.1\%)$.

"It exciting," was Homan said. "When I hit that first three I just thought, 'Let's go now.' And then I hit two more and that just brought my confidence up. ... Those threes were super big and it forced them to call a timeout after.'

With the Tigers forced to abandon their zone for fourth quarter, Niekamp was able to take Fort Recovery across the finish line. The senior scored all six of the Indians' points with a threepoint play on a coast-tocoast bucket and then three more free throws.

"Her leadership and ability and mindset to take control of the game (is important)," Dietsch said. "She had just kind of

Box score

West Liberty-Salem Tigers vs. Fort Recovery Indians

Girls varsity summary

OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District opener Fort Recovery (12-12)

FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS CMhlnkmp 1-1 Niekamp 5-9 Schoenlein 0-1 0-0 Homan 7-12 0-0 KMhlnkmp 2-10 **Totals** 15-36 5-13 40 .385 .417

Def. rebound percentage: .750 FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS Weaver Johnson 2-2 6 2 13 McGill 3-3 0-2 2-4 2-2 Poppe

5 0

0-0

6-10

10-45 .222 .600 Def. rebound percentage: .654

0-0

Wallen

Sarver

Totals

Astorino

Score by quarters: Ft. Rec. 4 16 14 6 —40 W. Lib-Sal. 4 12 11 4 —31

3-point shooting: Fort Recovery 5-7 (Homan 3-7, CMuhlenkamp 1-1, KMuhlenkamp 1-5, Niekamp 0-4). West Liberty-Salem 5-26 (Wallen 3-11, Johnson 1-3, Astorino 1-10,

Weaver 0-2).

Rebounds: Fort Recovery 36 (Team 10, Niekamp 8, Homan 6, KMuhlenkamp 5, Schoenlein 3, Schmitz 3, CMuhlenkamp). West Liberty-Salem 26 (Poppe 9, McGill 6, Team 5, Astorino 4. Johnson, Wallen).

Assists: Fort Recovery 7 (Niekamp 4, CMuhlenkamp 2, KMuhlenkamp). West Liberty-Salem 6 (Astorino 6).

Blocks: Fort Recovery 5 (KMuhlenkamp 3, Homan 2). West Liberty Salem 2 (Johnson, Poppe).

Personal fouls: Fort Recovery 7 (Homan 3, Niekamp 2, KMuhlenkamp 2). West Liberty-Salem 15 (Johnson 4, Poppe 4, Astorino 3, McGill 2, Wallen 2).

Turnovers: Fort Recovery 18. West Liberty-Salem 11.

grown into her role here and is looking forward to down the stretch and taken advantage of it."

The Tribe will take on Arcanum (15-9) for the chance at its first regional appearance since the 2011 run to the state finals. Fort Recovery lost to the Trojans 34-33 on Nov. 23 after being up eight points heading into the fourth quarter.

Deitsch is confident in his team's growth since the early season matchup playing like anymore."

the rematch.

"It's just the growth we've had throughout the year and being able to stay more consistent offensiveand defensively," Deitsch said of what could be the key to beating the Trojans. "We had a fourth quarter where we didn't score and kind of melted at the end and handed them the game back. That's not the team we're

Cubs reach agreement with Justin Turner

By PAUL SULLIVAN

Chicago Tribune

Tribune News Service

MESA, Ariz. — After striking out on signing premier free agent Alex Bregman, the Chicago Cubs are in agreement on a deal to bring in 40-year-old Justin Turner, infielder sources told the Chicago Tribune on Tuesday.

The one-year agreement is for \$6 million, according to The Athletic, which first reported the deal.

Reaction in the Cubs clubhouse Tuesday morning was positive, as expected.

Turner's reputation as a winning player and a grinder makes him a good fit for a mostly veteran team.

"He's been a really good player for a long time," snortstop Dansby Swanson said. "He's someone we can really learn a lot from, his experience and (the fact) he's such a pro at what he does. I think it will really impact this group, especially from a position player's standpoint and an offensive standpoint."

Left fielder Ian Happ lauded Turner's situational hitting and ability to stay consistent into his late 30s, saying Turner has "reinvented himself and played forever and had success hitter and an experienced bat



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Brandon Sloter

Justin Turner of the Seattle Mariners celebrates after scoring a run on a single by Mitch Haniger, not pictured, in the first inning against the New York Mets at T-Mobile Park on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Seattle.

at the highest level."

Turner's arrival seemingly would take some pressure off rookie Matt Shaw, who is expected to start at third base. But Turner primarily will be a backup to first baseman Michael Busch, a designated

off the bench. Nico Hoerner is mending from offseason flexor tendon surgery, but Turner is not expected to play second base unless there's an emergency.

While Turner has played mostly third in his career, over the last two seasons he played third, 10 at second and 185 at

"It's not just good for Matt, it's good for all of us," Swanson said.

The low-risk signing would bring another proven veteran to the clubhouse and end any speculation the Cubs might bring back fan favorite Antho-Rizzo, who remains unsigned.

Turner is a career .285 hitter with a 124 OPS+ and proved in the second half of 2024 that he wasn't ready to retire, hitting .297 with an .818 OPS for the Toronto Blue Jays and Seattle Mariners. Overall he finished last season with a .259 average, 11 home runs and 55 RBIs in son things.' 139 games.

A two-time All-Star, Turner a 23-homer, 96-RBI season for the Boston Red Sox.

He spent nine of his 16 seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, where Cubs fans knew him well.

Turner was named MVP of the 2017 National League Championship Series, which the Dodgers won 4-1 over the Cubs. His walk-off, three-run home run off John Lackey in Game 2 at Dodger Stadium gave the Dodgers a 2-0 series

84 games at first base, 13 at lead and in effect spelled the end of the Cubs' hopes for a repeat of their 2016 World Series title.

> Lackey, a starting pitcher, was added to the bullpen for the NLCS, and Cubs manager Joe Maddon inserted him in the ninth inning when closer Wade Davis was reportedly not available. The Cubs haven't won a postseason series since beating the Washington Nationals to advance to the 2017 NLCS.

> man, who signed a three-year, \$120 million deal with the Red Sox, Cubs President Jed Hoyer said they had some money left in the budget "for small in-sea-

After missing out on Breg-

The Turner signing would quality as a "small" move, and is only two years removed from it could be the last key addition of the offseason.

> Adding roster depth has been one of Hoyer's main objectives, especially after the Cubs opted to let go of role players Mike Tauchman, Miles Mastrobuoni, Patrick Wisdom and Nick Madrigal.

> "I feel like we've made big gains," Happ said of the additions.

"The construction of the roster ... from a position player's side is really well set up."

gan State at Michigan (FOX)

Sports on tap

Local schedule Today

Jay County — Boys swim sectional hosts preliminaries - 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Northside - 5:30 p.m.

Friday Jay County - Boys basketball (including freshmen) at Norwell - 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today 6:30 p.m. -

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Northwestern at Ohio State (FS1) 7 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana); Boston Celtics at Philadelphia 76ers (TNT) 7 p.m. - Women's college basket-

ball: Louisville at Duke (ESPN2) 7:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland is Northwestern (BTN) - Four Nations hockey: Cana

da at USA (ESPN) 8 p.m. — Shebelieves Cup Women soccer: United States at Colombia (TBS)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: USC at Maryland (FS1) 9 p.m. - College basketball: Wichita

9:30 p.m. - NBA: Phoenix Suns at

State at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)

San Antonio Spurs (TNT) 9:30 p.m.

college bas ketball: Illinois at UCLA (BTN) 11 p.m. — College basketball: Loyola Marymount at Santa Clara (ESPN2)

Friday 3 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck

Series: Atlanta (FS1) 3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Leicester City at Brentford (USA) 6 p.m. — College hockey: Penn State

at Michigan State (BTN) 7 p.m. - NBA: New York Knicks at

Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN) 7 p.m. — College basketball: Mar-

quette at Villanova (FS1) 7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Lunar

Owls BC at Rose BC (TNT) 8 p.m. - College basketball: Michi-

8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Mist BC at Vinyl BC (TNT) 9 p.m. — College Gymnastics: Florida

at Oklahoma (ESPN2) 9:30 p.m. - NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

tap," email details to sports@thecr.com

To have an event listed in "Sports on

90 SALE CALENDAR

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9:00 A. M. ANTIQUES-OLD & COLLECTORS-HOUSE-**HOLD GOODS** Oak curved glass china cabinet with leaded glass, Oak Sellers

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ing sticks, Quaker State

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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FRHS boys bowling earned first ever trip to state, see story below

Sports

Jay hosts boys swim sectional prelims tonight, see Sports on tap

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

District lockdown

Fort Recovery earns first district finals berth in seven years behind Muhlenkamp's defense and a career night from Homan

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

COVINGTON, Ohio — The Indians knew Ava Astorino and Addie Wallen like to fire away from beyond the arc.

With that knowledge, Cameron Muhlenkamp made sure to lock down Astorino the entire night while Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Karlie Niekamp held down Wallen.

Bridget Homan found a way to drop three of her own triples en route to a career night and the victory

The fourth-seeded Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team held the No. 2 seed West Liberty-Salem Tigers to just 19.2% from 3-point range to pull out a 40-31 OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District semifinal victory on Tuesday night at Covington.

The victory earns the Tribe (12-12) its first trip to the district finals, which will be held Saturday at 5:30 p.m. against third-seeded Arcanum at Monroe, since it fell to Minster in 2018.

"It feels great," said FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch, noting his team's growth after a slow start that included losing four of the first five games. "It's one step at a time and now we're at that goal step. It's awesome the work that these girls have put in. ...

They were definitely the higher seed, but we felt we had the athletes and players to be able to go out and handle ourselves. ... They had three really good guards that gave us some trouble. We were really expecting (Astorino) to do a lot against us and that's why Cameron was on her and shut her down most of the night which was awe-

The junior leads West-Liberty

Salem (16-8) with 12.2 points per

Astorino does a majority of her damage from behind the arc, but Cameron Muhlenkamp stayed home on the shooter to try to prevent her from getting high-quality looks. As a result, the Tiger shot just 1-of-10 from beyond the arc and 2-of-13

Astorino's lone triple came in On the other end of the floor, the third quarter, when the Indian sophomore got switched off.

"We knew that her go-to move was a stepback three, so I knew that if I was up on her the whole night and didn't give her any space, she wouldn't be able to hit it," Cameron Muhlenkamp said. "I had my hand in her face the whole time, so she didn't have much room to get it off. ... It felt really good to lock her up."

Astorino's backcourt mate, Wallen, didn't do much better. While the freshman, who averages 11.5 points per game, finished with a team-high 13 points, she shot 4-of-19 (21.1%) from the field with Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Niekamp taking turns guarding her.

As a team, WLSHS shot 5-of-26 from deep.

While the Tigers struggled from deep, Fort Recovery got a few key threes in the second and third quarters.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp put the first 3-pointer home after the ball was passed to Niekamp at the free-throw line and then kicked out to the senior at the 5:58 mark. Cameron Muhlenkamp and Homan hit triples on back-to-back possessions that gave FRHS a 13-11 advantage and forced the Tigers out of their 2-3 zone that was giving Niekamp and Kennedy Muhlenkamp problems getting to the

See **Team** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Bridget Homan of the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team splits West Liberty-Salem's Addie Wallen (13) and Ava Poppe during the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District opener Tuesday. Homan scored a career-high 17 points to lift the Indians past WLSHS 40-31.

Tribe bowlers earn state berth

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio — The move on to compete at H.P. Lanes as they would have liked in the Midwest Athletic Conference, but the Indians still had their postseason goals in front of them.

realized.

The Fort Recovery High School boys bowling team clinched its first trip to the state tournament after knocking down a total of 4,164 pins to place fourth at the OHSAA Division II Southwest District meet at Beaver-Vu Bowl on Tuesday

The Indians claimed the final not already on advancing teams 618 series.

Tribe didn't finish quite as high in Columbus at 10:45 a.m. on March 1. Northwestern won the Southwest District with 4,499 total pins. Clinton-Massie was the runner-up with 4,327 and Benjamin Logan had 4,228 to Those goals have now been move on as well. Shawnee was the first team left behind as their 4,089 came up 75 pins short.

Riley Grieshop had a career day, rolling games of 223, 226 and 253 for a 702 series. The senior finished, trailing Cointon-Massie's Mason Keck by only six pins, while Cooper Crouch of Riverside ran away with the crown at 760.

The next-best Indian came in spot at the state, as the top four 31st as Gabe Acheson rolled a teams and top four individuals 217 to start the day en route to a

Freshman Leland Wilson took advantage of his opportunity in the lineup, opening with a 222pin game, followed up by games of 189 and 180 to capture the 37th-best series.

Garrett Diller placed 118th with a 402 series. (He didn't bowl in the first game, but

rolled a 234 in the second.) Bowling one game each, Eli Lennartz, A.J. Siefring and Reece LeFevre finished 136th, 137th and 138th with scores of 178, 177 and 173, respectively.

Fort Recovery got just enough from the six Baker games, racking up the fourth-most pins at 1,187. It shot above 200 three times, including a pair of 235s in the third and fifth games.

Knapp puts

against the resided in trying to contain Rees Knapp.

County High Jay School's boys basketball team gave up 25 points to Knapp as it fell to sectional-foe Hamilton Heights 72-64 on Tuesday.

Husky The junior scored at least five points in each period, including eight to power a 14-point fourth quarter to stave a Jay County (10-9) comeback.

JCHS gave up 22 points in the first quarter, as three Huskies (12-8) scored at least two buckets, including Gavin Saunders who had eight of his 13. The Patriots only managed 11 in the period before going down 39-21 at the intermission.

Both teams scored 19 to preserve HHHS' 18- chester and Bellmont.

ARCADIA — The Patri- point lead. Jay County ots didn't have any trouble managed to put up 24 points in the final period, Huskies. The problem but the deficit was too much to overcome. Tucker Griffin hit a trio of 3pointers to lead JCHS in the period.

Gradin Swoveland was Jay County's leading scorer with 18 points, followed by Griffin and Eli Dirksen with 13 each. (All of Dirksen's buckets came in the second half.)

Cole Forthofer was the only other Patriot in double figures, scoring 10 points, while Jayden Comer had eight and Brock Wasson hit one

Along with Knapp and Saunders, Jack Kakasuleff reached double figures with 14 points.

Jay County will travel to Ossian to take on Norwell tomorrow before finishing the final week of the regupoints in the third quarter lar season against Win-



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