

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Funds OK'd for recovery home

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Recovery is within reach. Jay County Commissioners approved a \$13,150 request Monday from Jay County Drug Prevention to pay for work related to creating a recovery home in Portland.

The request will be taken from National Opioid Settlement dollars. As of Monday, the county had more than \$403,000 available, approximately \$75,000 are unrestricted funds.

Jay County Council will also need to approve the funding at its next meeting in March.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition executive director Kimbra Reynolds explained the feasibility study on The Vision on Votaw recovery home — its name, decided in July, incorporates the

Opioid settlement dollars will go toward The Vision on Votaw

location's address at 422 W. Votaw St. — has been completed.

"It is very feasible for us to move forward with the plans there," she said.

Commissioners approved initial funding for a preliminary engineering report on the facility in July. Bruns Consulting of Fort Recovery completed a feasibility study on the nearly 4,000-square-foot house and the 1,500-square-foot garage on the property. Muhlenkamp Building Corporation

of Coldwater, Ohio, has also helped with work on the project.

Plans had been to shift the house into a residential area and the garage into a community center for the facility. Renovations tentatively included adding on more square footage, reconfiguring bedrooms and communal living spaces, updating safety features, improving accessibility and ensuring compliance with state guidelines.

See Funds page 2



The Commercial Review//Bailey Cline

This house at 422 W. Votaw St., Portland, is slated for conversion into a recovery home. Jay County Commissioners approved \$13,150 in national opioid settlement funds Monday for work related to the project.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Coaches console

Cameron Muhlenkamp of the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team hugs assistant coach and mother Mandy Gerlach, while Karlie Niekamp is consoled by assistant coach and father Brent Niekamp in the background after their season-ending loss on Saturday at Monroe. The second-seeded Indians fell to the No. 3 seed Arcanum 44-25 in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District Final. For the full story, see page 8.

LEAP spending is near \$1 billion

Gov. Braun remains committed to project

By ARNOLT CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM STAFF and LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana has poured almost \$1 billion into a contentious technology park with few tenants and a mystery budget, reporters with the Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism and the Indiana Capital Chronicle have found.

The Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace (LEAP) Research and Innovation District, led by the Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC), is among the costliest economic development projects Indiana has attempted. But the agency's quasi-private structure obscures its spending and who benefits. And it's withholding the project's budget from public disclosure.

Throughout a six-month investigation, reporters tallied spending on land, water and more — accounting for \$985.1 million. They reviewed business contracts across multiple agencies, environmental reports, property data and responses to public records requests, in addition to speaking with public officials.

The IEDC said it has received \$693.9 million in state-appropriated money for LEAP since 2022. Of that figure, \$574.1 million has already been spent, \$41.1 million is dedicated to land under contract and \$78.7 million remains in the coffers for additional property and infrastructure. The agency's figure doesn't include LEAP-related spending by other state departments.

Outcry from concerned residents, elected officials and environmental groups has shadowed LEAP since it went public nearly three years ago.

Now, campaigns to toughen water regulations are gaining momentum within the Indiana General Assembly even as proposals to increase oversight of IEDC teeter. And lawmakers on opposite sides of the

aisle describe different levels of access to information about the agency's activities.

"Communication comes from relationships, from trust, (when) both parties know that you're willing to work with one another, even if you don't agree all the time. ... And passing a bill doesn't really make that happen," Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, said of IEDC. "So, ... whether there's more legislation on this or not, we'll continue to try and make sure that communication is really good."

But Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, wants more.

"We don't have a mechanism for the Legislature to conduct any oversight," he said. "... We know what the schools are doing; we know what the National Guard is doing. We know what the Department of Transportation is doing, but we don't know what IEDC is doing."

New Republican Gov. Mike Braun, meanwhile, "remains committed" to the project, according to spokeswoman Molly Craft.

"Future development on the site, as well as elsewhere in the state, will be mindful of existing resources and as transparent as possible in the planning," Craft wrote. "As he has made clear previously, Gov. Braun's strategy for the IEDC is an increased focus on helping existing Indiana companies grow to their fullest potential while empowering entrepreneurship."

Inspired by North Carolina's Triangle Innovation Park, Indiana leaders hope LEAP will boost the state's competitiveness for big, job-rich developments by making thousands of acres of land "shovel-ready" for manufacturers, researchers and corporate headquarters.

The Boone County district is close to three interstate highways and the Indianapolis International Airport, and lies between university research hubs in Indianapolis and West Lafayette. According to its website, IEDC expects the district to house hundreds of companies and employ over 50,000 people focusing on life sciences, microelectronics, clean tech, and electric innovation.

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

Germany's Merz faces narrow path

By MICHAEL NIENABER, ARNE DELFS and CHRISTOPH RAUWALD
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Germany's conservative leader Friedrich Merz emerged as the winner in Sunday's election, but the results gave his bloc just one clear path to power with intense pressure to move quickly to form a government.

While Merz's CDU/CSU alliance won 28.6% of the votes, the only centrist two-party option for a majority in the Bundestag is to partner with Chancellor Olaf Scholz's battered Social Democrats. Despite finishing third with 16.4% — its worst result since World War II — the center-left party will have

significant leverage in coalition negotiations.

The far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, doubled support to become the second-strongest party with 20.8%. While the nationalist movement will be the dominant opposition party in the lower house of parliament, it will have little concrete power after Merz ruled out an alliance — and fell short of a blocking minority on its own.

Merz vowed to move quickly and avoid protracted coalition talks, which can often take months as parties wrangle over policy details and seek to secure control of key posts, such as the finance ministry.

"There's no reasonable alternative to forming a government in Germany in a reasonable and timely

manner," Merz said late Sunday, adding that he wanted to form a coalition within the next two months. "The world isn't waiting for us."

The election comes at a delicate moment as Europe's biggest economy contends with two years of contraction, Russia's war in Ukraine and U.S. President Donald Trump threatening a global trade war that could hobble Germany's struggling industrial sector.

During the campaign, Merz warned that if the incoming government fails to revive the economy and get immigration under control, then the AfD could well take power at the next election, putting Germany's position in the European Union at risk.

Deaths

- Herbert Heston, 100, Red-key
 - Hunter Lairson, 23, Portland
 - Jereldene Fuller, 79, Portland
 - Debbie Wilhelm, 60 Portland
 - Daniel Schwartz, 79, Geneva
- Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Sunday. The low was 22.
Tonight's low will be in the lower 30s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high in the mid 50s and a 50% chance of rain.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School's Patriot Edition show choir placed fifth in Finals - Tier II at Saturday's Homestead Classic Showcase 2025. Just Treble earned the award for best crew while competing in Treble Division - Tier I. The JCHS choirs will be in competition again Saturday at the Huntington North Midwest Showcase.

Coming up

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

Thursday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game at Winchester.



CR almanac

Wednesday 2/26	Thursday 2/27	Friday 2/28	Saturday 3/1	Sunday 3/2
55/37 There's a 50% chance of rain Wednesday under mostly cloudy skies.	44/30 Thursday has a 20% chance of rain also under mostly cloudy skies.	50/36 Mostly sunny on Friday, when the high may reach the 50s.	39/23 Another day of mostly cloudy skies on Saturday, with the low dipping into the 20s.	38/25 Mostly sunny on Sunday. The low temperature may hit the mid 20s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$230 million	22-23-25-26-31-32-34-45-46-48-49-53-54-57-64-66 Cash 5: 7-20-31-36-42 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$181 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 3-5-6 Daily Four: 4-8-5-6 Quick Draw: 10-14-16-18-23-25-27-33-34-41-42-46-49-56-59-60-71-74-75-78 Evening Daily Three: 6-5-9 Daily Four: 3-7-6-6 Quick Draw: 4-5-9-17	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 2-1-6 Pick 4: 9-8-8-5 Pick 5: 4-9-6-3-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-2-5 Pick 4: 6-1-4-3 Pick 5: 7-2-6-0-7 Rolling Cash 5: 4-11-12-35-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.75 March corn4.91 April corn4.97	March beans10.37 Wheat 5.26
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.87 March corn5.90 April corn5.01	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.82 March corn4.82 Beans10.21 March beans10.25 Wheat5.44
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.88 March corn4.88 Beans10.37	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.71 March corn4.71 Beans10.05 March beans10.10 Wheat5.21

Today in history

In 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated England's Queen Elizabeth I from the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1779, Lt. Col. George Rogers Clark accepted British Lt. Gov. Henry Hamilton's unconditional surrender of Fort Sackville located along the Wabash River in Vincennes.

In 1841, artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir was born in Limoges, France. He was part of the Impressionist movement, with "Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette" and "Madame Charpentier and Her Children" among his most famous works.

In 1870, Hiram Rhodes Revels became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress as he was sworn in to the Senate. He was a Republican representing Mississippi.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment, which allows for a federal income tax, went into effect. The Supreme Court in 1895 had declared the federal income tax unconstitutional, and the amendment was meant to address the issue.

In 1943, George Harrison, the lead guitarist for The Beatles, was born in Liverpool, England. Among the songs he wrote for the group was "Here Comes the Sun," and he went on to a solo career beginning in 1968.

In 1964, Cassius Clay, later known as Muhammad Ali, became boxing's world heavyweight champion when he knocked out Sonny Liston in the seventh round in a fight in Miami.

In 1986, Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines fled his country under pressure from the United States following his fraudulent election "victory" over Corazon Aquino, who replaced him in office.

In 2005, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team shot 68.4% in the first half, rolling out to a 26-6 lead on the way to a 73-62 victory over New Bremen in a Division IV sectional championship game at Coldwater.

In 2021, The Portland Foundation announced that it received a \$100,000 gift from the estate of Timothy Joe Uhrick to establish the Herman C. Uhrick, Dorothy Uhrick and Timothy Joe Uhrick Literacy Fund to provide support for the advancement of literacy for Jay County residents.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.	Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	

Obituaries

Herbert Heston

Nov. 19, 1924-Feb. 21, 2025
Herbert L. Heston, 100, of Redkey, Indiana, passed peacefully on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, wrapped in comfort and surrounded by love at The Waters of Dunkirk.

Herb was born in Ridgeville, Indiana, on Nov. 19, 1924, a son of the late Mary (Carrier) and Russell Heston. He was a 1943 graduate of Governor IP Gray School, proudly served in the United States Army during World War II under Gen. George Patton and was the loving husband of the late Frances (DeVoss) Heston who he shared over 73 wonderful years with.

A lifelong resident of Jay County, he devoted countless hours as a life member of the Redkey American Legion Post #401, Ridgeville American Legion Post #507, Dunkirk VFW Post #7081, Disabled American Veterans Chapter #24, Local Carpenters Union #1016 as well as their oldest member, Portland Moose Lodge #417, office volunteer and helped with BINGO for the Portland DAV 40/8, worked for Hagerman Construction for 25 years and was superintendent on many of the area jobs.

Herb was a proud supporter of Jay County sports, everything his grandchildren were involved in, farm life and the heritage it represented and summers getting the fields ready at the Redkey Junior League with a dip of his favorite Mail Pouch Tobacco.

We are forever grateful for his service to our country, local veterans, the many organizations he was a part of and keeping the traditions, beauty and integrity of Jay County alive in any way he could.

Herb is survived by two children, Randy Heston and Luann Fugiett (Rodney); five grandchildren, Greg Heston (Yvonne), Amanda Campbell (Rory), Brooks Fugiett (Cassie), Adam Fugiett (Cathy) and Jaima Logan (Brandon); 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Frances; son Danny Joe Heston; two daughters, Diana Jo Heston and Terri Lynn Heston; brother George Heston; two sisters, Martha Stephen and Vivian Heston; and daughter-in-law Joyce Heston.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, from 2 to 7 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025. Funeral services will follow on Friday at 11 a.m. with Pastor Craig Cotherman officiating. Burial and military honors will be held in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Redkey Volunteer Fire Department and thank them for their continued support and service to the community.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Hunter Lairson

Oct. 4, 2001-Feb. 22, 2025
Hunter Lairson, age 23, a resident

of Portland, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, following an automobile accident.

Hunter was born Oct. 4, 2001, in Muncie, Indiana, the son of Aaron Lairson and Jennifer (Shawver) Dalrymple. Hunter worked at Velco in Coldwater, Ohio.

Hunter enjoyed watching Duke's of Hazard, taking walks and spending time with family. Hunter's family considered him an "old soul" — he enjoyed talking with older people and listening to their stories.

Survivors include: His mother — Jennifer Dalrymple (husband: Tony), Portland, Indiana
His father — Aaron Lairson, Portland, Indiana

His siblings — Nick Lairson (wife: Devin), Redkey, Indiana, Koda Lairson (Lilly), Portland, Indiana, Coltin Bowlan, Portland, Indiana, Journi Dalrymple, Portland, Indiana, Jalee Lairson, Union City, Indiana, Kendrick Lairson, Union City, Indiana, Natahsa Wilson (husband: Ryan), Pennville, Indiana, and Nate Dalrymple (wife: Lexis), Portland, Indiana

Grandparents — Jack and Cheryl Shawver, Portland, Indiana, Carole Lairson, Geneva, Indiana, and Kathy Dalrymple, Portland, Indiana

Nieces and nephews — Lucy and Lyla Lairson, Ethan, Ella and Eevie Wilson and Ollie Dalrymple

He was preceded in death by a grandpa, Odis Lairson.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Hunter's life will follow at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed towards the family of Hunter Lairson, in care of Jennifer Dalrymple.

Jereldene Fuller

Sept. 16, 1945-Feb. 23, 2025
Jereldene Fuller, age 79, a resident of Portland, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at IU Health Jay hospital in Portland.

Jereldene was born Sept. 16, 1945, in Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Louis and Lela (Bollenbacher) Myers. She worked at Burger Chef and Fort Recovery Industries for many years. Jereldene was a member of the Portland Moose Lodge and VFW.

Survivors include: Her children — Janet Rife (husband Chuck), Chapmanville, West Virginia, and Jeannie Loper (husband: Jeremy), Portland, Indiana

Her siblings — Joyce Reed (husband: John), Fort Wayne, Indiana, Helen Kreider, Fort Recovery, Ohio, Judy Muhlenkamp (husband: Ted), Coldwater, Ohio, Peg Schoen (husband: Dan), Celina, Ohio, Deb Bonifas, Fort Recovery, Ohio, and Kenny Myers, Fort Recovery, Ohio

Eight grandchildren — Nikeya Riferson, Kailey Lavender, Justin



Lairson



Heston



Fuller

Rife, Darric Rife, Donavon Bentz, Aundraya Shrack, Geneva Bentz and Jeremiah Loper.

Fourteen great-grandchildren She was preceded in death by a son, Jesse "Joe" Bentz.

Visitation will be held on Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Pastor Phill Jellison will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home.

Debbie Wilhelm

March 19, 1964-Feb. 20, 2025
Debbie Wilhelm, age 60, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Debbie was born March 19, 1964, in Rensselaer, Indiana, the daughter of Richard and Earlene (Rowe) Lovely. She earned her master's degree in teaching and taught locally for several grades.

Debbie married Joseph Rushing on July 4, 2013.

Survivors include: Her mother — Earlene Lovely, Ridgeville, Indiana

Her husband — Joseph Rushing, Portland, Indiana

Her children — Kelly Jones, Jennifer Betz, Portland, Indiana, Michael Malyska, Portland, Indiana, Dawn Wilhelm, David Wilhelm, Portland, Indiana, Dakota Wilhelm, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mikayla Rickard, Bryant, Indiana, and Brittney Shewmake, Portland, Indiana

Step-children — Crystal Finch (husband: Troy), Elizabeth Vorce, Toledo, Ohio, and Stacy Rushing, Tipton, Indiana

Her siblings — Randall Lovely, Rita Brock (husband: Rick), Chris Lovely and Harrison Lovely

Grandchildren — Emmett, Bennett, Emma, Madalyn, Lyndon, Hazel, Landen, Camden, Amelia, Jade and several more grandchildren and great-grandchildren

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Douglas Lovely and Brian Lovely; nephews Randy Lovely, Andy Lovely, Ricky Brock, Tyson Wireman and Brandon Wireman; her father Richard Lovely; and son-in-law Andrew Betz.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, from noon to 2 p.m. at Goodway Baptist Church, 14065 W. 400 North, Medaryville, Indiana. Services to celebrate Debbie's life will follow at 2 p.m. on Friday at the church. Pastor Dean Rowe will officiate and burial will follow in the Goodway Cemetery in Medaryville.

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Daniel H. Schwartz, Geneva, June 17, 1945-Feb. 23, 2025. Services will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Graber residence, 1730 E. 900 South, Geneva.

SERVICES

Today

Fennig, Karl: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Kemp, Ruth: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Huston, Roselyn: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Wednesday

Schwartz, Daniel: 9 a.m., Graber residence, 1730 E. 900 South, Geneva.

Lairson, Hunter: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday

Fuller, Jereldene: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday

Heston, Herbert: 11 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Wilhelm, Debbie: 2 p.m., Goodway Baptist church, 14065 W. 400 North, Medaryville.

Saturday

Evans, Robley: 10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 215 E. Dustman Road, Bluffton.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE

DEL TORO

OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.

Portland, Indiana 47371

(260) 726-9201

progressiveofficeproducts.com

Funds ...

Continued from page 1
Hopes are to have architectural designs completed and submitted to Indiana Department of Homeland Security by March 29. Once the state department has approved building plans, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition can move forward with seeking bids for construction.

Reynolds shared hopes to move forward with the project by summer. She expressed her excitement after the commissioners' meeting Monday with taking one step closer to the recovery home's completion.

"We're excited for it to be moving forward — I feel like we've been at a standstill for a bit, but that's partly because there was so much energy and items that had to be put into this to make sure it was a feasible home and location," she said.

Jay County Opioid Settlement Taskforce, which was created to look into options for putting the county's opioid settlement funds to use, preliminarily selected a Redkey house in December 2023 as a potential location for a sober living facility. Commissioners subsequently approved a \$35,000 request for opioid settlement dollars for a feasibility study and earnest money on the house. Commissioners later rescinded that decision in response to backlash from Redkey resi-

dents, who cited a lack of amenities and resources as well as safety concerns regarding the facility. The task force pulled its offer on the Redkey home and began looking for another location.

IU Health Jay donated the house on Votaw Street in Portland in May for the purpose of converting it into a recovery home. The Vision on Votaw will serve between 15 and 17 male residents, including one house manager in long-term recovery overseeing the facility.

Commissioners president Chad Aker spoke in favor of the project, noting the small amount requested Monday compared to the amount of opioid funds available currently.

"This money should be going to fight the opioid problem that we have," he said. "I commend you guys for taking the forefront, taking the initiative, to do this. I'm fully supporting this."

.....
For more commissioners' news, see Wednesday's newspaper.

PART-TIME

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Insertor

Hours vary each week

Apply at

The Graphic Printing Company • The Commercial Review
309 West Main Street • Portland, IN 47371
Office Hours: 10 am - 4 pm, Tuesday - Friday
Equal Opportunity Employer
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

Daughter is at the perfect age

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review
I've discovered the perfect age.

As we near Baby Schanz's first birthday — how has it almost been a year already?! — I've determined she's at the perfect age.

She's cruising around the house now on all fours. (Previously, she would army crawl, but she's picked up the natural crawling motion and loves to make her way around.)

Our daughter is discovering her favorite foods. Top of the list is blueberry pancakes, followed by macaroni and cheese, lunchmeat and sweet potato.

She's currently got her

Parental Ponderings



bottom two front teeth and is cutting all four front teeth on the top. Her two-toothed smile, at the moment, is adorable. Once those others come in, I'm sure it'll be even more joyous.

I once thought it was impossible to have too many toys.

"You can't spoil a baby," or so I've read.

Baby Schanz has a ton of toys. So much so that

we recently went through

the toys in her nursery to cut down on the amount, but also to make the room less crowded.

We put some away that she's just not quite old enough to play with yet, and sequestered others to have a "rotation" of toys so she can have "new" toys every so often. We don't want her to get bored with what she's got and start playing with non-toys (like the cords and wires hanging down from the desk in our home office).

Despite the wide array of options, one type of toy has reigned supreme for her 11-month-old self: Squishmallows.

And, as expected, we have plenty of those as

well. There's a pig, an avocado, a small blue monster, a Pokémon and even a mini keychain Squishmallow.

Her favorite of all, though, is a mallard drake that's as big as she is. The waterfowl hunter in me knew as soon as I saw it in the store that I had to get it for her. Perhaps it'll start her love for waterfowl and she'll want to hunt them just like her dad.

She's developed quite the personality, as well. She loves to "fake cough" and mimic her parents when she does it.

She gets excited when she hears her voice echo in rooms. It helps that we have hardwood floors and

very few decorations on the walls, so her voice can carry throughout our house. Because of that, she'll babble loudly just to hear her own noises.

If she's in a small public bathroom with one of us and she discovers how her voice will carry, it is borderline embarrassing as she tries to make sure people in parking lots can hear her.

If Chrissy or myself are away from her for a handful of hours, she lights up with excitement when she recognizes us. Picking her up from day care is a prime example of this, and no matter how stressful my day might have been, seeing her light up when she

notices us makes our days instantly happier.

I know there are probably "better" ages than where she's at now. Once she figures out how to walk, I'm sure it will be my new perfect age. And then when we can finally have conversations, THAT will be my new perfect age.

I also know there's no way she will stay this age forever.

For now, though, we're enjoying this chapter.

.....

Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor who wants his daughter to stay around a year old until the end of time. Please send to christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Loss, heartbreak continues for family

DEAR ABBY: Over the last few years, my family has faced a lot of loss, especially my mother. In the span of three years, she has lost her parents, my father and my brother. We had a little joy with my son being born. He brought a lot of happiness when everybody was heartbroken.

Right after my brother's death, we found out we were unexpectedly pregnant again. We thought this would bring more joy for Mom, but we are getting bad news from the doctors, and the baby may not make it to term or survive very long after birth. I'm not sure how to break this news to Mom, and my wife is getting to where we can no longer hide that she's pregnant. We are getting a second opinion, but although we are holding out hope, I'm not sure it will change the situation. We know we have to tell Mom something. Any advice on how to tell her without breaking her heart?

Dear Abby



— WITHHOLDING IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR WITHHOLDING: My condolences to your mother, who has experienced a lot of loss in recent years. However, she is an adult and deserves to be a full participant in your lives and treated as such. For her sake (and yours), tell her what is going on and give her the chance to be supportive of you. If you do, of course the news will be sad, but she won't be deprived of the chance to do for you what you have been doing for her.

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law is never on time for anything. He's in charge of driving his young son to elementary school and is consistently late by four or five minutes. He and my daughter have gotten letters reminding them of the importance of being on time. I witness this because we share a home. He was fired from his last job due to lateness.

I am a punctual person, so his lateness drives me crazy. My husband and I are retired, and I suggested to my husband that I could offer to take our grandson to school, but my husband says I should stay out of it. How do I cope with this? — PUNCTUAL IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR PUNCTUAL: Your grandson should not have to suffer because of his father's irresponsibility. It is important that he get to school on time, with no black marks for

tardiness on his record. If that means your daughter, you or your husband sees that he gets there in a timely fashion, so be it. Of course, this does not solve the problem of your son-in-law's habitual lateness. But perhaps he will learn better habits when word gets around that he can't punch a clock on time when prospective employers ask for references.

DEAR ABBY: My brother just got engaged to the "WOAT" (Worst of All Time). They have been dating for 2 1/2 years, and nobody in the family has anything good to say about her. In the past, he always had stable relationships with girls we really enjoyed. But now he's getting older, his friends are getting engaged and it seems like he's settling and feeling pressure. They are always arguing, and things he never did before he is doing now

— multiple job changes, making less time for family, etc. Everyone thinks that, as the oldest brother, I should be the one to voice our concerns about her. Would it be too drastic to tell him it's a bad idea? I was going to say I support him if he can find three redeeming qualities in her because none of us can find one. — NO FAN OF HER IN THE EAST

DEAR NO FAN: I do not think telling your recently engaged brother that his fiancée is the "worst of all time" and no one in the family can find any redeeming qualities in her would be welcomed. I do think, however, that as the oldest sibling you could point out that you are concerned because he and this woman argue a lot, which is why you are suggesting they seek premarital counseling to head off any problems down the line. Then cross your fingers.

Community Calendar

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

Today

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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.

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER

SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIGANNA'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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES

— Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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 - BRIGANNA'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

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

WHAT'S REALLY IN YOUR WATER?

Leaf Home Water Solutions will test your water for contaminants and make recommendations to ensure you get the cleanest, crispest water possible in your home.

15% OFF
Entire Purchase*

AND 10% OFF
Seniors & Military

SOLUTIONS FOR CITY & WELL WATER - INCLUDING SALT-FREE OPTIONS

CALL FOR FREE WATER TEST
855-966-4836 | Promo Code: 402

*One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. License/Registration# MI 262100627, MN PC799379, NC 87823, L33946, PA PA172050, TX 44085, WI 1423690.

Call today and receive a

FREE SHOWER PACKAGE

PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
1-855-743-1911

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

MARCH SPECIALS

Run a mid-sized ad in all of our newspapers, The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk), and get MASSIVE DEALS (75% off)!

2x5 - \$90

2x7 - \$125

3x6 - \$160

4x5 - \$175

4x6 - \$210

5x5 - \$220

Add color for \$80

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

Braun's tax plan would cut too deep

Kokomo Tribune
Tribune News Service

It's always popular for a politician to promise tax cuts, but the repercussions from the loss of revenue can be devastating.

Such is the case with Gov. Mike Braun's property tax relief proposal. He's not wrong in stating that some Hoosier homeowners are struggling to pay bills, but slashing property taxes to the tune of 21% for the average property owner is too much for even his Republican colleagues to support.

Senate Republicans signaled an unwillingness to move forward with Braun's plan, yet

Hoosier Editorial

they have signaled their intentions to address taxes. The Senate plan could include limiting property tax levy growth and making it more difficult for school systems to bring forward referendums for certain expenses.

Braun's plan would be bad news for local government units

including school systems, municipalities and counties. Whether it comes from state or local funding, roads still need to be paved, students and staff need adequate school buildings and snow must be plowed off the streets. Schools and local governments rely primarily on property taxes to fund such efforts and other needs in their communities.

The state government also relies on tax funds to foot programs and departments that Hoosiers depend upon. Such a significant cut in tax revenue would come on the heels of the expiration of federal American

Rescue Plan funds, which bolstered state and local coffers with millions of dollars for infrastructure and other projects. Even in conservative Indiana, such a twofold blow to funding is too much to ask.

While no one particularly enjoys paying taxes, few of us want to navigate around potholes, see schools close or worry if a bridge will fall into the water because of lack of maintenance. Waste exists but the bulk of our tax dollars are spent on critical needs like educating our youth, public safety and road improvements. Police officers, firefighters and teachers don't

pay themselves, but we'd all pay a high price without them.

Indiana property owners also enjoy lower rates on average than most other states. Indiana has a lower average property tax rate than all four of its closest neighbors — Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois. Caps protect Hoosiers from substantial property tax increases, and those should remain in place.

Practical property tax relief should always be considered by lawmakers, but Braun's plan goes too far. Senate Republicans are right for wanting to go a different path, and they must be mindful of cutting too deep.

It's a high price for crying fraud

By LLEWELLYN KING
Tribune News Service

Seminal is a strong word. It means that when an event is seminal, nothing will ever be the same again.

Elon Musk and his marauding young minions will leave the United States damaged in ways that won't be easily put right, toppling the country from the position it has held so long as the world's pillar of decency, generosity and law. As former President Ronald Reagan said, "a shining city on a hill."

Every day, the small but deadly Musk force, authorized and encouraged by President Donald Trump, is tarnishing that image.

Once you have established yourself as a capricious and unreliable partner, you won't be trusted again; trust lost defies repair. It doesn't come back with an apology, a course correction or a change of administration. It is gone, sometimes for centuries. Distrust is enduring.

Treaties torn up today are treaties that won't be written tomorrow. Disavowing America's commitments is a Trump hallmark. Tearing up these commitments is more than an indication of instability; it is a burden on the future and a doubt about the sincerity of our handshake.

We have left the World Health Organization amid a new wave of incipient pandemics and abandoned the Paris Agreement without reason. We are about to damage in grotesque ways our good relations with Canada and Mexico, our family in North America.

Trump has drummed up an inexplicable animus to our good neighbors and best trading partners. With tariffs, he is planning to violate our trading agreement with them. Trump signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement into law — with praise for his handiwork — in his first term.

For me, the immediate excess of the administration has been the destruction of the U.S. Agency for International Development. I have seen the agency at work in Pakistan, Bolivia, and, especially, in Central Africa. My wife, Linda Gasparello, has seen its work in Egypt and the Middle East, helping to save and enhance lives and stabilize those countries.

First, USAID was lied about and then it was

Llewellyn King



shuttered. In that shuttering, America withdrew its helping hand to the world, its most potent and effective marquee for its values of caring, helping, educating and uplifting.

Musk's blind and ignorant closing of USAID has blacked out our billboard to the world of what America is about. Women, especially, will suffer.

The immediate effect of shutting down USAID is that thousands of people who would have eaten today won't. People who would have received their HIV treatment won't. Children who would have learned to read and write won't. Uneducated populations are putty in the hands of extremists, from Marxists to jihadists. In damaging the recipients of USAID assistance, we are damaging America and its global interests.

"Fraud," says Trump. "Fraud," says Musk. "Fraud," say their supporters. If there is so much fraud, where is the evidence, and where are the prosecutions? Why are there no arrests?

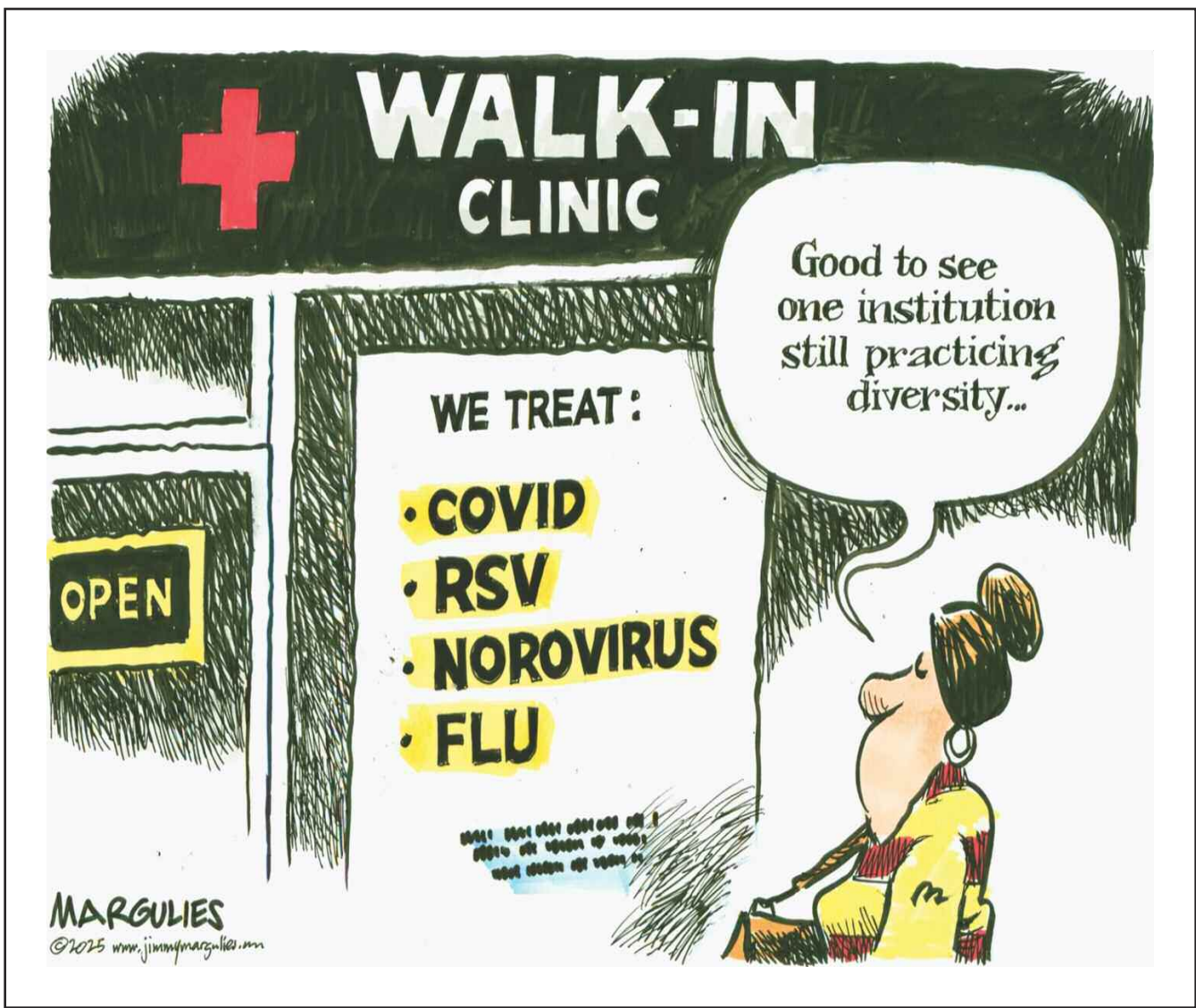
In fact, for a relatively small agency, USAID has been examined, audited and inspected by the machinery of government and by Congress more than any other agency.

Steven Hendrix, who retired last year as the USAID coordinator for foreign assistance in the State Department, said on the television program "White House Chronicle," which I host with Adam Clayton Powell III, that when he was working with USAID in Iraq, "We instituted a very rigorous performance evaluation and monitoring of all of these investments. We were also very responsive to the State inspector general and other authorities. I've got to tell you, in Iraq I had simultaneous audits from all of them."

The toughest of these, he said, was the USAID's own inspector general.

The fraud may be that the Trump-Musk duopoly is defrauding America of its potent soft power.

King is the executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle" on PBS.



Election change isn't needed

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I think everyone agrees that Indiana's elections are safe and secure, which makes a move by Senate Republicans to hamper voting even more perplexing.

The chamber collected three bills that would've made significant changes to Indiana's election system without a convincing explanation why.

The trio of bills sat collecting amendments day after day — indicating their support was tenuous at best. Two died on Wednesday after sitting for two weeks on the calendar.

The legislation would have made it harder or more complicated for voters to cast ballots, at the same time the state is scraping the bottom of the barrel in terms of voter turnout. And I haven't seen any similar efforts to ease voting.

The company line for the bills is that they make Indiana elections more secure, but they already are. Sure, an occasional person steps out of line and gets arrested — caught by systems already in place to block fraud.

One of the bills is still moving, though: Senate Bill 10.

There is no reason to suddenly block use of student IDs from public colleges and universities that meet requirements in current law. They have been accepted for decades and now Republicans have a problem with them — without a single example of misdeeds offered up.

The IDs are used simply to make sure the person voting is indeed the person registered. Poll workers look at the name to make sure it matches the poll book and then glance at the photo to match it

Niki Kelly



with the person in front of them. That's it.

The IDs have nothing to do with registering to vote, and college students still must meet those requirements.

Now these students will have to go get a driver's license or ID card from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to vote. Some students don't have an Indiana license because they are from out of state.

According to the Indiana Secretary of State's Office, that is fine.

"NOTE: The intent of where students plan to return after attending college, or during summer and winter breaks, is not to be factored into the decision to approve their registration. They may register at school, if they so choose," the agency's website says.

Now let's talk about the bills that were halted this week.

Senate Bill 284 would have cut the period of in-person early voting from 28 days to 14 days. Again, the month-long early voting has been around for years. Many people stop at their county office and vote during the week and some counties have satellite locations on the weekends.

For years, lawmakers have resisted allowing more mail-in voting by saying Indiana leads the nation in the opportunity to vote early in person. Now they want to take that away too. Why?

The reasons given were mixed.

First was that most of the early voting is in the second half of the period. But that still means thousands voted in the first 14 days. And in some counties, there are so many people voting that they wait in line for hours.

There was anecdotal evidence that a few counties struggle to find poll workers, and that the measure could save money.

I, for one, don't want minimal cost savings to be the reason to take away voting options.

The other bill to die was Senate Bill 201, which would've closed Indiana's primary system. Right now, Indiana's is partially open, meaning you can ask for whichever partisan ballot you want when you vote in a primary. No one registers specifically as a Democrat or a Republican. But a move to get Democrats to vote in the Republican gubernatorial primary last year riled up the GOP and they want to close the primary completely.

I really don't have a dog in this fight. I just believe that the change would be chaotic at best as tens of thousands of Hoosiers no doubt would be unaware of the change and show up to vote — only to be told they can't cast the ballot they want.

House Speaker Todd Huston said recently that he likes the current election laws and doesn't see the need for major change. Let's hope cooler heads prevail in the House.

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

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

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair

TONIA HARDY
Business manager

BRIAN DODD
Production manager

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

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

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 214
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

www.thecr.com

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

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



Photos provided



Donations made

First Bank of Berne (above) recently donated \$1,000 toward upgrades at the Jay County Junior-Senior High School pool. The effort will include replacing record boards and outdated signs, creating a new Wall of Fame and developing a team wall. Meridian Health Services (left) raised \$21,353.57 for the Hope and Healing Comfort Kit project through its Child Advocacy Center.

Gillespie appointed to committees

Donald Gillespie has been appointed to serve on the Indiana Credit Union League's Examination Advisory Group and its Bylaws/Resolutions Committee.

Gillespie is president and CEO of CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union. He will serve one-year terms on the committees for the credit union league, which represents all credit unions in Indiana.

Gillespie has worked at CrossRoads since 2011 and was named president and CEO in 2020. The credit union represents about 8,900 members with officers in Portland, Dunkirk and Winchester.

Adams named

Kari Adams has been named the new director of community-based services for Bowen Health.

Adams will oversee Bowen Health programs in Jay, Blackford, Delaware, Wells, Adams and Henry counties. She has served as an assistant director in the region for six years.

Awards presented

Winner's Meats of Darke County picked up 10 ribbons at

Business roundup

this year's Ohio Association of Meat Processors Product Competition.

The awards for Winner's included grand champion winners for its Winner's Wieners, hot Italian brats and BBQ ribs. It also picked up reserve champion honors for its jalapeno cheddar brat, shredded BBQ pork, honey pork and beef loaf, Winner's Bologna, Meatssa Pizza made with Flank Steak, slab-smoked bacon and beef snack stick.

Firm awarded

US Aggregates received 16 Gold Excellence in Mining Awards and 13 Safety Achievement awards at this month's Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association Winter Workshops.

The Gold Excellence Awards are presented for consistency in strong safety programs, environmental programs and

outstanding community and employee relationships. The safety awards go to sites that have had not reportable injuries for at least one year.

Also, US Aggregates director of quality Eric Woodings received the Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association's President's Distinguished Service Award.

Project approved

The Indianapolis Airport Authority board of directors has approved a project to build a new hotel connected to Indianapolis International Airport.

The project is projected at \$206 million for a 253-room hotel on the west side of the terminal parking garage. The board also approved amendments to existing contracts for construction, a franchise agreement with Marriott, operations management and professional services.

"This will be a long-term investment in public value for the community," said Mario Rodriguez, airport authority executive director, in a press release. "The hotel will be the 'front door to the front door' of the airport, adding elegant

architecture mirroring the world-class terminal and delivering a top customer experience that aligns with the airport's reputation as the Best Airport in North America."

The project has been considered since the early 2000s. The board directed staff to determine scope and feasibility in 2021.

Agreements reached

Invenergy has reached power purchase agreements with Verizon for 640 megawatts of solar energy.

The deals cover projects across four states, including Cadence Solar in Ohio and Maple Flats solar in Illinois.

Invenergy is developing Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay County.

Center opens

Dollar General celebrated the opening of its new distribution in North Little Rock, Arkansas, on Saturday.

The \$160 million facility will support the company's traditional supply chain as well as its DG Fresh network for perishable products. It is expected to have 300 new employees.

"We are excited to celebrate

the grand opening of our first Arkansas distribution center in North Little Rock, together with our team and their families," said Rod West, Dollar General's executive vice president of global supply chain, in a press release. "This facility looks to better support our store teams and customers by combining the functionalities of our traditional, DG Fresh and Private Fleet distribution channels. We are honored and humbled by our partnership among federal, state and local officials, as well as local non-profit organizations that continue to support our investment and continued service in the Natural State."

Drop off food

Menards stores are serving as drop-off sites for food banks from now until the end of March.

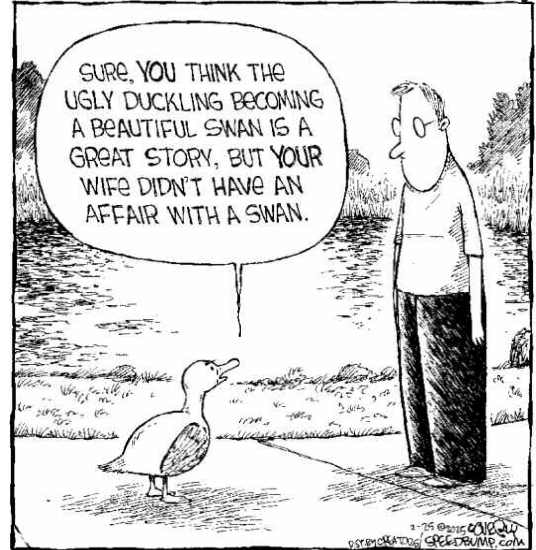
Participating stores include those in Muncie, Anderson and Richmond in Indiana as well as Celina, Ohio.

.....
Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

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

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	Hopkins Repair, LLC Auto & light truck repair Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm Call Scott Hopkins 260-251-0459	J Wood Products For Sale Sawdust & Firewood Call or Text 260-251-1154. 415 W Water St. Portland. 7:00 am-3:00 pm.
All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning (260)726-4822 24 hr Emergency Service Serving Portland & Surrounding Areas	Vormohr Family Dentistry 1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822	Brigade You're safer with us 1976 W. Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371 (260)766-4343 brigade-electronics.com/en-us	All Circuit Electrical, LLC 5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN 260-997-8336 www.allcircuitelectrical.com	Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition 100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: jcdpcontact@gmail.com	Ohio Valley Gas 129 E. Main St., Portland 260-726-8114 www.ovgc.com
Display Craft Signs 630 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN 260-726-4535	Dunn Family Dental Care 110 W. North St. Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8007	Williams Auto Parts, Inc. 1127 Detroit Ave. Portland, IN 8-5:30 Mon-Fri. Closed Sat & Sun. Used auto parts since 1951 (260) 726-8001 www.williamsautoparts.com			

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A rare finesse

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 2
 ♥ J 10 9 2
 ♦ 7 3 2
 ♣ K Q 9

WEST
 ♠ Q 6 4 3
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ A K Q J 10
 ♣ 8 2

EAST
 ♠ 10 7 5
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ 8 5 4
 ♣ 10 7 6 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 9
 ♥ K Q 8 5 3
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ A J 5

The bidding:
 West 1♦ North Pass East 1♥ South 3♥
 Pass 2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass

Opening lead — King of diamonds. The "backward" finesse is a play that is rarely used because it is much less likely to succeed than an ordinary finesse. However, when a backward finesse offers the only realistic chance to make the contract, it must be risked.

Consider this deal where South gets to four hearts as shown and West leads the K-Q-A of diamonds. Declarer ruffs the third diamond and loses the king of hearts to East's ace. South wins East's trump return and, having already lost three tricks, must avoid a spade loser.

With this spade combination, declarer would normally lead to the ace and then back to the jack, hoping East had the queen. This would win about half the time.

In this deal, though, declarer knows from the bidding that the normal spade finesse is doomed to fail. East has already shown up with the ace of hearts and presumably would not have passed his partner's opening bid if he also held the queen of spades. Furthermore, West would not have had enough points for an opening bid without the spade queen.

Fortunately, South has the necessary spot cards in spades to make a backward finesse feasible. So he initiates the suit by leading the jack from his hand. If West ducks, the jack is allowed to ride, and the contract is home.

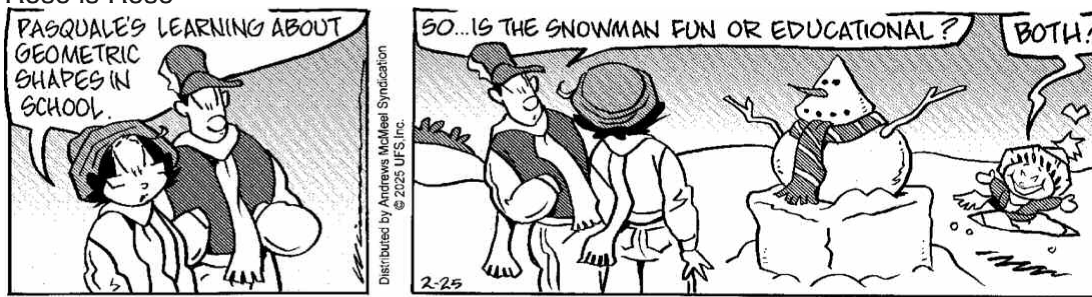
If West covers the jack with the queen, dummy wins with the ace and a spade is returned toward the K-9. After East follows low, the nine is played, and, because East has the ten, again declarer is home.

When the location of a missing queen is not known, a backward finesse in that suit will succeed only 25% of the time, since it depends on two cards — the queen and ten — being favorably placed. For this reason, the play is seldom used. But when the usual approach seems certain to fail, the backward finesse might offer the only hope.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



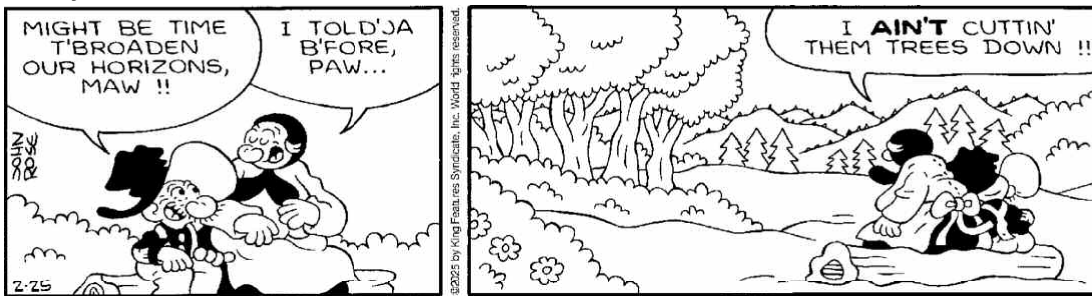
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

2-25

RP XWCSRV'M LWFQL HSRQ
 JRM YQMV CULXQLM S HSFVLN
 MWA UP AUIQN, KUWFO VJSV
 YQ QARL HRVSIKQ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNUSUAL DOCTORS AND NURSES TRAINED TO TREAT SPRITES AND FAIRIES: ELF-CARE PROFESSIONALS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cleaning cloths
 5 Enthusiastic
 9 Texting format, for short
 12 Applaud
 13 Foolproof
 14 Gratuity
 15 Pastry made with Honey-crisps
 17 Enzyme suffix
 18 "Hulk" star Bana
 19 Toss
 21 Oasis drink
 24 Stylish
 25 "Manhattan Beach" author Jennifer

DOWN

1 Sony rival
 2 Jungfrau, for one
 3 Hiatus
 4 Ill will
 5 Spumante source
 6 Avocado dip, for short
 7 Bobby of hockey
 8 "Listen ..."
 9 Map of the night sky
 10 Japanese soup
 11 Gush
 16 Mess up
 20 "— Way" (Sinatra biography)

21 Sob
22 Writer James
23 "Be brave!"
24 Pool sticks
26 Feeder filler
27 Gal. fractions
28 Send forth
29 Pre-scribed amount
31 Sleazy hotel
34 Filch
35 Hit series
37 French article
38 Dazzle
39 Scouting outing
40 Coconut fiber
41 Fine
44 Mouths (Lat.)
45 Santa — winds
46 Tease
47 QB stats

Solution time: 22 mins.

PLED REG AFRO
 MEDITOCRE RAIL
 SETAPART MUNG
 LES UGANDA
 NOBEL SPIN
 TPAD SASSIER
 TEC OWLET ROI
 CHEMIST LAPS
 PENA OATER
 SARONG SAG
 AMEN SETFORTH
 IMAY EPISODES
 DORM TAR NAAN

Yesterday's answer 2-25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15				16					17		
				18				19	20		
21	22	23					24				
25					26	27			28	29	
30					31				32		
33					34				35		
					36				37		
38	39						40	41			
42					43	44			45	46	47
48									50		
51									53		

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS
 260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
 20 Word Minimum
 Effective 07/01/2018:
 Minimum charge....
 \$12.40
 1 insertion.....62¢/word
 2 insertions.....81¢/word
 3 insertions.....96¢/word
 6 insertions.... \$1.14/word
 12 insertions. \$1.52/word
 26 insertions. \$1.77/word
 Includes
 Online.....FREE
 Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch
 No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page
 Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
 In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
 Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication.
 Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

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

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS
 Consignment Auction
 Mercer Landmark,
 Chickasaw, Ohio
 Between U.S. Rt. 127 &
 New Bremen
 on St. Rt. 274
SATURDAY, MARCH 15th
 10 A.M.
PLEASE CONSIGN YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 Cole Luthman n 937-658-1380
 Jacob Wuebker -937-417-8798
 Please call by Feb. 27 to Ensure Advertising WE WILL BE TAKING IN EQUIPMENT THURSDAY & FRIDAY before the sale
 No items Will be Consigned Saturday Morning
COLDWATER AUCTION SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAY FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
 • Life • Health
 • International Medical
 Employee Benefits
 • Dental • Vision
 • Medicare Supplements • Annuities
MATT FRANKS
 your hometown agent
(260) 729-3200
 111 W. Main Street, Portland, IN

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

Trojans ...

Continued from page 8
Bridget Homan put in the first two buckets for the Tribe as she hit a second-chance three on an assist from Cameron Muhlenkamp and converted a three-point play after crashing the offensive glass in transition. Niekamp also had a pair of baskets by driving to the hoop. Cameron Muhlenkamp scored the final point on a free throw. After the 11-point first quarter, the FRHS offense came to a screeching halt, producing only 14 more through the rest of the game. The Trojans switched between man-to-man and zone defenses, putting an emphasis on protecting the paint. As a result, they held Fort Recovery to 20% (9-for-45) from the field. The emphasis on defending the paint also resulted in seven blocked shots — four from Carolina Long, two by Brooke Anderson and one from Faith Wooten. They also

forced 18 turnovers. “They’re scrappy,” said Niekamp, who scored a team-high 10 points. “They were getting their hands on everything. It wasn’t like they would come over all the way, but they’d just get a hand on the ball and that made it tough getting it inside and we just didn’t handle their pressure very well.” While the Trojans put together a strong defense, Gibbons powered the offensive effort. The senior guard scored all eight first-quarter points and put up 10 more in the second to help Arcanum to a 24-17 lead at the intermission. Gibbons outscored the Indians by herself 18-17 in the first half. She’d finish with 22 points, just three shy of the Tribe’s total, on 10-of-12 (83.3%) shooting. “She’s such a smart player,” Dietsch said. “She’s able to take advantage of whatever’s there and then she’s really good on top of it. ... If a team’s

going to take her out, she’ll go stand in the corner and let her teammates do what they need to do and set screens to set them up for success that way.” That’s exactly what Gibbons did when Dietsch had Niekamp start face guarding her. As she stood out of the way, a pair of Trojans took advantage as Long and Josie Schwartz put up nine and eight points, respectively. Long hit four layups off slips to the rim and curl screens. Schwartz drilled a pair of shots beyond the arc on a flair screen and skip passes from Anderson. “The big one in my mind was our freshman, Josie, hitting a couple of big threes,” said AHS coach Abbey Moore. “That’s big for a girl that young to come into an environment like this and do it when we’re in a little bit of foul trouble. So that’s great and gives us

the momentum and energy.” As a team, Arcanum shot 18-for-38 (47.4%) from the field. Of those 19 field goals, 11 came from the result of assists (57.9%). Anderson led with four assists, while Claire Hein, Long and Matty Noe each had two and Schwartz dished out one. Cameron Muhlenkamp’s pass to Homan, who followed Niekamp with eight points, on the first Tribe hoop was the only assist on the nine field goals (11.1%). The Indians will lose its two leading scorers next year as Niekamp and Kennedy Muhlenkamp graduate. “All the time the (younger girls) got to spend with Karlie and Kennedy is huge,” said Dietsch. “We’re going to miss those two a lot. The way they play, the way they practice and just everything they bring to the locker room. It was

Box score			
Arcanum Trojans vs. Fort Recovery Indians		3-point shooting: Fort Recovery 1-12 (Homan 1-7, Schoenlein 0-1, KMuhlenkamp 0-1, Niekamp 0-3). Arcanum 4-12 (Schwartz 2-4, Gibbons 1-1, Hein 1-3, Anderson 0-2, Noe 0-2).	
Girls varsity summary OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District Final		Rebounds: Fort Recovery 32 (Niekamp 8, KMuhlenkamp 7, CMuhlenkamp 6, Homan 4, Team 4, Schoenlein 2, Schmitz). Arcanum 27 (Anderson 6, Team 6, Noe 4, Long 3, Wooten 3, Schwartz 2, Gibbons, Leeper, Hein).	
Fort Recovery (12-13)		Assists: Fort Recovery 1 (CMuhlenkamp). Arcanum 11 (Anderson 4, Hein 2, Long 2, Noe 2, Schwartz).	
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
CMhlnkmp 0-4	4-6	4	
Niekamp 5-22	0-2	10	
Schoenlein 0-1	0-0	0	
Schmitz 0-0	0-0	0	
Homan 3-13	1-1	8	
KMhlnkmp 1-5	1-2	3	
Totals	9-45	6-11	25
	.200	.545	
Def. rebound percentage: .762			
Arcanum (16-9)		Blocks: Fort Recovery 0. Arcanum 7 (Long 4, Anderson 2, Wooten).	
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Gibbons 10-12	1-1	22	
Anderson 0-3	0-0	0	
Schwartz 2-5	2-2	8	
Leeper 0-0	0-0	0	
Hein 1-4	0-0	3	
Long 4-7	1-2	9	
Noe 0-5	0-0	0	
Wooten 1-2	0-0	2	
Totals	18-38	4-5	44
	.474	.800	
Def. rebound percentage: .579			
Score by quarters:			
Ft. Rec.	11	6	4
Arcanum	8	16	13
	4	4	—25
	7	—44	

awesome to have those guys as leaders the last two years. ... Love those girls. Hard working, always doing the right thing at the right time and putting the team first.”

Youth ...

Continued from page 8
“Next year is going to be really fun,” said Glentzer. “I honestly think I could have done better today, but I’m confident I can continue to finish towards the top in the 500 freestyle. Overall, I’m satisfied with my performance, and I know I’ll only continue to get better over the next three years.” Sophomore diver Bryden Carter had the highest individual placement out of all other Patriots, finishing fifth in diving with a score of 246 points. Carter was just 0.35 points behind Bluffton’s Blake Reinhard, who took the final regional spot with a total of 246.35 points. (Damon Light from Adams Central won the event with a score of 386.75 points.) JCHS also had the relay team of Peyton Yowell, Carson Westgerdes, Lincoln Clamme and Glentzer placed fifth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:36.79 and in the 400 freestyle in 3:39.65. “I’ve got to give it up to everyone who swam today,” said Slavick. “Cooper obviously had an outstanding day. Carson and the other freshmen had their first experience at this tournament and held strong — they all posted their best times. Lincoln Glamm dropped time from Thursday and hit the goals he was aiming for. Peyton Yao, in both his 50 and 100, was faster than he thought he’d be at this point. Across the board, all our relays performed well, especially the two freestyle relays. We dropped time, and everyone posted their best times. This is what we’ve been training for over the last three months — the opportunity to compete this weekend and a shot to move on. With where we ended up today, the future looks bright for this program.”



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cooper Glentzer of the Jay County High School boys swim team swims the 500-yard freestyle during the IHSAA sectional preliminaries hosted by the Patriots on Thursday. During the finals on Saturday, the JCHS freshman swam a time of 5 minutes, 6.69 seconds to finish as the runner-up to Delta senior Zachary Baty. Glentzer also placed third in the 100 butterfly in 54.87 seconds and was on the freestyle relays that each placed fifth to earn a total of 89 points for the Patriots. Jay County wounded up in seventh with 164 team points.

The freshman Westgerdes also competed in the championship race, grabbing eighth in the 500 freestyle in 54.87 seconds. Three other Patriots competed in consolation races, and

other placements came from: •Yowell: 10th in the 50 freestyle •Westgerdes: 12th in the 100 freestyle •Clamme: 14th in the 100 breaststroke •Matthew Fisher: 12th in the 100 backstroke •Fisher, Kamdyn Carter, David Keen, Max Klopfenstein: ninth in 200 medley relay

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball at Winchester — 6 p.m.

Wednesday
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball district semifinal vs. Riversides at Troy — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Toronto Blue Jays vs. St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)
2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Crystal Palace at Aston Villa (USA)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Miami (ESPN); Providence at Marquette (FS1); Baylor at Cincinnati (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Orlando Magic (TNT)
1 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Mississippi State at Alabama (ESPN2); Iowa at Illinois (FS1)
9 p.m. — TGL golf: The Bay Golf Club at Jupiter Links Golf Club (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

11 p.m. — College basketball: New Mexico at San Diego State (FS1)

Wednesday
3:15 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool at Newcastle United (USA)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Georgetown at UConn (FS1); Michigan State at Maryland (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Toronto Raptors at

Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana); Philadelphia 76ers at New York Knicks (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Ole Miss at Auburn (ESPN2)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Seton Hall (FS1); Penn State at Indiana (BTN)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Texas at Arkansas (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NHL: Vancouver Canucks at Los Angeles Kings (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Utah State at Boise State (FS1); Ohio State at USC (BTN)
10:30 p.m. — Shebelieves Cup women soccer: United States at Japan (TBS)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday March 15th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 783 S 600E Portland, IN.
OPEN HOUSE Sunday March 2nd & Sunday March 9th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.
REAL ESTATE
30 Acres in Section 21, Noble Twp., Jay County. Sold in parcels and combinations.
Tract 1: 2 Acres with 3 bedroom farmhouse containing 2272 sq. ft. finished living area and 30 x 48i pole barn/garage. Partial basement. Pole barn has cement floor, 3 overhead doors and

90 SALE CALENDAR

office area.
Tract 2: 28 Acres with approx. 20 tillable, balance being wooded and road frontage on CR 600 E.
OWNER: LARRY BICKEL ESTATE By Kent Bickel, PR.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2025
LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 Q miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South.
NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL
NOON, THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2025.
Farm Tractors-Farm Equip.-Construction Equip.-Trucks-Trailers-Vehicles-Riding Mowers-ATV-Attachments-Misc
TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS NOT RESPONSIBLE

90 SALE CALENDAR

FOR NO SHOWS
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction.
AREA CONTRACTORS & FARMERS OWNERS AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com ñ Auctioneer ID #4243

100 JOBS WANTED
AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.
PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.
ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

190 FARMERS COLUMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

THE CLASSIFIEDS
Find it
Buy It
Sell It!
(260) 726-8141

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoregroup.com

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS
WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage

Visit Us At:
theccr.com

Flipsters earn top three finishes

INDIANAPOLIS — Each of the JC Flipsters gymnastics team's divisions finished in the top three on Saturday as it competed in the Game Night Classic in Indianapolis.

The Bronze Xcel team took home first place due to Paxton Hirschey finishing first all-around with 36.875 points. She swept the top spot in all four events putting up scores of 9.375 on the bars, 9.25 on the beam, 9.175 on the vault and 9.075 on the floor.

Emma Robinson (37.25), Carlie Runkle (36.95) and Aubrey Foreman (37.05) claimed second, third and fourth, respectively, to give the Silver Xcel division a second-place finish. Robinson took second on the vault, beam and floor to secure her placement. Runkle earned first on the vault with 9.4 points, while the same score on the bars ended up as Foreman's highest finish, earning third.

Peyton Vance also finished eight all-around by racking up 35.4 points.

Jordyn Champ led the way for the Gold Xcel division, placing third all-around with a 36.55. Her top performance came on the bars, finishing second with a 9.475.

Aubree Shannon and Charli Stephens both captured seventh all-around with scores of 35.475 and 35.4, respectively.

Trojans take out Tribe

Fort Recovery's postseason run ends with 44-25 loss to Arcanum

By ANDREW BALKO

MONROE, Ohio — The Indians knew Alexis Gibbons could cause problems for their defense. But it was the Trojans' suffocating interior defense that ultimately spelled the Tribe's defeat.

The fourth-seeded Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team was held to its third-lowest mark of the season as the No. 3 seed Arcanum Trojans defeated the Indians 44-25 in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District Championship on Saturday at Monroe.

The win advances the Trojans (16-9) to the Region 24 opener at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Springfield, in which they will face the Minster Wildcats, another Midwest Athletic Conference team.

While the season came to an end for Fort Recovery (12-13), it achieved a major goal of reaching the district finals, something it hadn't done since the 2010-11 season.

"That was huge," said senior forward Karlie Niekamp. "Our goal was to make it to districts. At the beginning of the season, we knew that it was a very attainable goal and our hard work got us here."

"I mean, this season has been a great experience for our team," added FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch. "Especially being a younger team. Just two seniors, no juniors and the rest are sophomores and freshmen. Them getting a taste of this will be really good motivation going into our offseason."

The Tribe put together a solid opening quarter, outpacing Arcanum 11-8.

See Trojans page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS senior Karlie Niekamp rises up for a shot while a pair of Arcanum defenders contest during Saturday's 44-25 loss in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District Championship at Monroe. Niekamp led Fort Recovery with 10 points and eight rebounds.

Portland's Largest Selection of FRESH CUT QUALITY MEAT

AWARD WINNING MEATS

While supplies last, no rain checks

Fisher Gift Cards available for purchase! They can be used at either Portland or Muncie locations and never expire.

<p>Pork</p> <p>T-Loins \$3⁶⁹ <small>lb</small> <i>(butterflied & tenderized)</i></p> <hr/> <p>Chunk Pork</p> <p>T-Loins \$2⁶⁹ <small>lb</small></p> <hr/> <p>Whole, Frozen</p> <p>Pork Butts \$1⁸⁹ <small>lb</small></p> <hr/> <p>Fisher's</p> <p>Ham Loaf \$2⁹⁹ <small>lb</small></p>	<p>Boneless</p> <p>Arm Roasts \$6³⁹ <small>lb</small></p> <hr/> <p>Patio Steaks \$6⁶⁹ <small>lb</small></p> <hr/> <p>Top</p> <p>Sirloin Steak \$8⁹⁹ <small>lb</small></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Ground Lamb \$6.99/lb <i>(1 lb frozen, vac sealed pkgs)</i></p> </div>
--	---

Stuffed, Boneless Chicken Breasts
stuffed with a seasoned white bread stuffing \$5.39/lb

Macaroni Salad\$3.39/lb

Pepperjack Cheese\$5.99/lb

From Fisher's Smokehouse

Dinner Franks (13 oz pkg)\$2.99 each

Cracker Bologna (11 oz chub)\$2.99 each

***while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

300 W. Walnut St., Portland, IN
(260) 726-7355
Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm • Saturday 8 am-1 pm • Closed Sunday

Call your order in today!

Freezer bundles are also available. They offer the perfect mix of our most popular cuts of meat in quantities small enough to not crowd your freezer or cramp your budget. Save time and energy with call ahead ordering and have your order ready to go when you arrive.

www.fishermeats.com

Jay County youth powers seventh-place sectional finish

By WILL CASH

PORTLAND — One year ago, Jay County had no one finish within the top three in any event in the sectional meet and ended in 10th place overall.

Behind a youth movement featuring multiple impactful freshmen, JCHS had one swimmer place in the top three in two events, a diver in the top five and two relay teams in the top five.

In the finals of the IHSAA sectional swim meet at Jay County High School on Saturday, the Patriots placed seventh with 164 points.

"I'm so proud of these guys," said Jay County coach Matt Slavick. "They've been working hard all year long. I was hoping we'd finish a little higher, but overall, we've made 80-85% improvements from the day we

Patriots climb to seventh place after finishing 10th last season

started, and they're going faster than some of them thought they could. We're at a disadvantage with the size of our team, but at the end of the day, the guys we have here are putting in the work. They've improved, and they're a super coachable group of kids. That's all I can ever ask for as a coach."

Bluffton dominated the field, scoring a team total of 413 points to win the sectional for the second straight year. Norwell was 97 points behind in second place with Delta in third.

The first-place finisher in each event earned a berth in the state finals at

Indiana University Natatorium at 6 p.m. Friday, while the top four divers moved on to Tuesday's regional meet at Fishers.

Jay County's best results came from freshman Cooper Glentzer, who placed second in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes, 6.69 seconds, and third in the 100 butterfly with a time of 54.84 seconds.

Glentzer was 16 seconds behind Delta's Zachary Baty, who won the 500 freestyle in 4:58.58 marking the senior's fourth straight sectional title in the event.

See Youth page 7

Patriots will face Yorktown in round 1

INDIANAPOLIS — It's a Delaware County road for the Patriots.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team got Yorktown in the IHSAA tournament draw held Sunday and would meet Delta if it can get through that first-round game.

The Patriots (11-9) will play Yorktown (6-15) in the first game of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament at New Castle at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 4. The winner will advance to take on defending sectional champion Delta (14-6) in the semifinal round at 6 p.m. Friday, March 7.

The other half of the New Castle bracket features Hamilton Heights (13-8) taking on Connorsville (9-13) in the opening round at 7:30 p.m. March 4. The winner will advance to play the host Tro-

jans (8-12) in the second semifinal on March 7.

The championship game is slated for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8.

Jay County's game against Yorktown will be a rematch after it won the regular-season game 42-36 on Feb. 15. The Patriots lost 60-44 to Delta on Dec. 20.

Delta, which has made the semi-state championship game in each of the last two seasons, is undefeated against sectional rivals this year at 4-0. Hamilton Heights is also perfect against Sectional 24 at 2-0. (Those two teams do not play during the regular season.) JCHS is next at 2-2, with New Castle 2-3, Connorsville 0-2 and Yorktown 0-3.

The Patriots have not won a sectional championship since 2011.