

Prices set



The Commercial Review/Caleb Bauer

Portland Park Board voted Tuesday to keep the daily admission price for Portland Water Park (above) at \$5, the same rate as when the facility opened in 2016. It reduced fees for passes for families of four or more and increased the rental rate. The water park typically opens on Memorial Day weekend.

Single-day admission to water park will stay \$5; prices for passes for larger families are reduced

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
Single-day prices will stay the same.
Season pass prices for larger families will be reduced.
Rental prices are going up.
Portland Park Board approved ticket, pass and rental prices for the 2025 Portland Water Park season during its meeting Tuesday.
The board reviewed water park attendance data that shows the facility averaged 9,165 general admission visitors per year from its opening in 2016 through 2019. After a few years of seasons impacted by the COVID-19

pandemic, a lifeguard shortage and repairs, the facility had 9,918 general admission visitors in 2023 and 9,442 in 2024.
At February's meeting, park board member Michael Brewster requested that the board consider the possibility of increasing the daily admission rate, which has been \$5 since the facility opened nearly a decade ago. Data provided by board president Brian Ison showed that such an increase would bring in an additional estimated \$9,500 in revenue, assuming no change in attendance.
"I'm not sure if that increase would impact your attendance,"

said Ison. "Would that drop your attendance and then impact your income at the end of the year?"
Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver noted that the pool heater will be in use for its first full season, which could help to boost attendance.
Park board member Jennifer Weitzel said she wasn't sure if the \$1 increase was worthwhile, with Brewster agreeing that it would not have a significant impact.
Board members John McFarland, Ison, Brewster and Weitzel, absent Shauna Runkle,

then voted to approve 2025 prices as recommended by Ison last month.
The only changes are as follows:
•Reducing the annual passes for families of four and five individuals by \$25 to \$200 and \$250, respectively
•Reducing the annual pass for families of six or more by \$50 to \$275
•Increasing the pool rental fee to \$150 per hour
Daily admission will remain at \$5 before 5 p.m. and \$3 after 5 p.m. Ten-day passes will be available for \$50.
See Prices page 2

Mayor, council member at odds again

Westlake, Hilfiker clash over ordinances, enforcement

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
Another city council meeting turned contentious.
The mayor accused a council member of making an issue personal while the council member expressed frustration over the administration being selective about enforcing city ordinances.
Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake and city council member Ashley Hilfiker sparred again Monday during a discussion about the city's noise ordinance.
Council members also commented on illegal immigration and Indiana Senate Bill 1.
Council member Dave Golden brought up the noise ordinance, an issue originally introduced last month in a resident's letter to council member Matt Goldsworthy. Golden indicated there had been little response to an email he sent about the issue and expressed his feeling that the council should be responsive to reviewing resident concerns.
City attorney Wes Schemenaur suggested he meet with the mayor and police chief, noting concerns about enforcement, objectivity and practicality. He would then present thoughts and options to the council.
Westlake noted that one of the exemptions to the ordinance is for religious practice, functions or celebrations.
The mayor and Hilfiker then started a back-and-forth, with Hilfiker accusing the mayor of picking and choosing what ordinances he wants to enforce.
"Well, who's the mayor?" Westlake responded.
See Odds page 2

Bills advance in Senate

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
Indiana's thousands of law enforcement officers were the focus of a Senate corrections committee on Tuesday, as legislators parsed through concerns about red flag laws and "buffer zones."
The Hoosier State's red flag law allows police to temporarily remove firearms from people considered "dangerous," with an aim to curb gun violence. But Rep. Ben Smaltz, R-Auburn, said the designation doesn't disappear after a case is resolved, leaving a "scarlet letter."
Under House Bill 1137, records will be sealed and expunged if a court later decides someone isn't dangerous. The measure passed the House unanimously in January.
But, Smaltz clarified, "there's no double jeopardy. This person

Committee moves legislation on red flag law, buffer zones

can (again) be found to be dangerous later."
The committee questioned whether law enforcement officers could see expunged red flag records, similar to how they can access expunged criminal records. Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, vowed to file a second reading amendment if such language appeared to be unclear in order to codify law enforcement access to expunged red flag records.
The bill had unanimous support from the committee and testimony, which focused on the

adverse impact a lingering red flag designation can have on someone.
"I've handled a lot — dozens and dozens and dozens — of red flag cases over the years," said Guy Relford, an attorney who focuses on second amendment issues. "This is a civil proceeding ... therefore there's currently no expungement process. And in real situations, with real cases and real people, this has cost people jobs. It's cost people volunteer opportunities."
See Bills page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Devoted vocal

Grace Lochtefeld sings "Hopelessly Devoted to You" from "Grease" on Sunday during the Fort Recovery junior high and high school cabaret concert. The three-hour event featured performances of popular songs by individuals, duets and small groups.

Deaths

Rose Fennig, 97, Portland
Linard Stephens Sr., 85, Eaton
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature hit 62 degrees Tuesday. The low was 39.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 20s. Snow is expected Friday with little to no accumulation and a high in the lower 40s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The annual Jay County Fiber Arts Festival hosted by Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Jay Community Center, 115 E. Water St., Portland. The event will feature children's activities, demonstrations, vendors and classes related to fiber arts.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

Tuesday — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

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Obituaries

Rose Fennig

April 27, 1927-March 3, 2025
Rose E. Fennig, age 97, of Portland passed away on Monday, March 3, 2025, at her residence.
She was born in Fort Wayne on April 27, 1927, the daughter of Ferdinand and Frieda (Hofacker) Meyer. She was married on June 25, 1994, to William Fennig and he preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 2024.
Rose had worked for American Steel Dredge, Hillman China and General Electric, all in Fort Wayne. She was a Concordia High School graduate, member of Zion Lutheran Church, Jay County Hospital Auxiliary, Community and Family Services, Jay County Mental Health Association and Compre-



Fennig

hensive Mental Health Services.
Survivors are one son, Gary Mock of Union City, Indiana; one stepson, Dale Fennig of Angola, Indiana; one daughter, Kathy McCabe (husband: Jonathan Greenberg) of Hartford City; and one stepdaughter Ann Jennings (Tom) of Englewood, Florida; three nephews; one niece; five grandsons; three step-granddaughters; and several great- and step-great-grandchildren.
She was preceded in death by her husband, William Fennig; and sister Erna Schwartz.
Private funeral services will be held in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with burial in the Green Park Cemetery.
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the World Hunger Appeal at Zion Lutheran Church.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com

Linard Stephens

Dec. 4, 1939-March 3, 2025
Linard Curtis Stephens Sr., 85, Eaton, passed away on Monday, March 3, 2025, at his residence.
He was born in Pine Knot, Kentucky, on Dec. 4, 1939, to Raymond and Alberta (Worley) Stephens. His parents preceded him in death.
Linard married the love of his life, Dianna R. (Bennett) Stephens, on July 2, 1961 in Hartford City. She passed away on March 27, 2020.
He retired from Rock-Tenn in Eaton after 36 years of service. He enjoyed being outdoors with hunting, fishing and camping being some of his favorite things to do. He loved to watch NASCAR racing.
Linard will be sadly missed by



Stephens

his children, Vickie (husband: Jeremy) Twigg of Pennville, Tina Stephens of Eaton, Leonard Stephens (companion: Kristi Donahue) of Upland and Patricia (husband: Joe) Gee of Hartford City; 25 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren; siblings Lindel (wife: Judy) Stephens of Nottingham, Charlie Stephens of Kentucky, Leamon (wife: Patty) Stephens of Portland, Larry (wife: Kathy) Stephens of Kentucky, Lonnie Stephens of Pennville, Link Stephens of Texas, Leoma Leffingwell of Hartford City and Nona (husband: Howard) Fisher of Kentucky; and several nieces and nephews.
In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his son, Ricky Lee Bennett; daughter, Debra Johnson; and brother, Ray Stephens.
Funeral service will be at 4 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025, at

Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City. Visitation will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025, at the funeral home.
Linard will be cremated.
Memorials may be made to Blackford County Community Foundation-Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 327, Hartford City, IN 47348.
Condolences may be sent to the family at keplingerfuneralhome.com or utilize our Keplinger Funeral Home Facebook page.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 3/7	Saturday 3/8	Sunday 3/9	Monday 3/10	Tuesday 3/11
42/28 Mostly cloudy on Friday when there's a 60% chance of snow during the day.	44/30 Another day of mostly sunny skies. The low temperature may dip to 30 degrees late.	54/34 Mostly sunny on Sunday, when the high may reach the 50s during the day.	65/45 Monday looks to be sunny with a high around 65 degrees.	72/48 Sunny skies are in the forecast for Tuesday when the high may hit a balmy 72.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$295 million	Evening Daily Three: 2-2-2 Daily Four: 0-3-0-6 Quick Draw: 1-6-11-13-17-18-23-25-28-38-39-49-52-54-63-64-67-71-78-79
Mega Millions 14-19-47-52-70 Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$233 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 5-9-4 Pick 4: 9-1-5-8 Pick 5: 6-6-6-2-7 Evening Pick 3: 0-1-2 Pick 4: 5-5-6-1 Pick 5: 7-5-9-3-9 Rolling Cash: 1-20-24-29-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 4-3-1 Daily Four: 6-5-9-1 Quick Draw: 13-15-20-26-28-32-37-41-46-47-51-52-53-54-62-66-67-74-75-77	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.37 April corn4.49 May corn.....4.55	April beans10.07 Wheat 5.05
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.57 March corn4.63 April corn4.67	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.48 April corn4.51 Beans.....9.92 April beans9.96 Wheat5.09
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.55 April corn4.57 Beans10.03	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.42 May corn.....4.47 Beans9.80 April beans9.85 Wheat5.04

Today in history

In 1836, San Antonio de Bexar and the Alamo garrison were recaptured by Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna from Texans after a 13-day battle. About 600 Mexican soldiers died, and each of the 189 Texan soldiers on the official historic list — the true number of defenders is debated — were killed.
In 1899, Aspirin was registered as a trademark.
— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	department, 302 N. Walnut St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Wednesday 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff’s Office Merit Board, training room, sheriff’s office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County Council and Commissioners joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Tuesday 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire	

Prices ...

Continued from page 1
Board members also asked that water park staff track closures because of inclement weather.
Ison also noted that he plans to schedule interviews for the pool manager and assistant manager jobs with a goal of making a hire next month.
The board also heard a request from Dru Hall for the Portland Rockets to place a new storage building in the area behind home plate at Portland Memorial Park’s Runkle-Miller Field. He indicated that the team has raised funds for the building and materials and requested that the city provide the labor.
Park staff expressed concern about the proxim-

ity of the building to property line.
The board took no action on the request, instead asking Shauver to work with Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips on having the property surveyed.
Hall said while the Rockets would like to have the building in place as soon as possible, the ultimate goal is to have it in place Aug. 1 to be available to store equipment following the team’s 2025 season.
In other business, the board:
•Heard an update from parks manager Ronnie Reynolds, who noted that vents have been added to some park restrooms, water park equipment is out for repairs, the fountains have been installed in the pond at Hudson Family

Park, work is underway on roofing at Runkle-Miller Field, work is planned to fix the exhaust fan in the concession stand at Weiler-Wilson Park and new playground equipment is scheduled to be installed at Haynes Park next week.
•Discussed a request from Portland resident Luke Darby to purchase 0.7 acres from the park board to the east of the former Community and Family Services property he owns at 521 S. Wayne St. The board tabled the issue to seek feedback from city attorney Wes Schemenaur regarding the proper process for making such a sale.
•Heard a brief update from Ison regarding planning for a possible park at the former site of the Bai-

ley Building, 211 W. Main St. He said he is still receiving feedback and has been in contact with community coordinator Darlesia Lee regarding possible grants. He added that he has talked with Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake about getting the property leveled out and seeded with grass.
•Approved a request to use the softball fields and restrooms at Portland Memorial Park beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 3, for a benefit tournament for the family of Alysia Mann.
•Discussed plans to hold its annual park walk-through at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. Ison asked board members, Shauver and Reynolds for input about what parks to visit this year.

Odds ...

Continued from page 1
Westlake added that he attended one of the religious services in question and he has talked to residents in the area. Referencing a rental property owned by Hilfiker’s father, the mayor asked if the issue is “a personal thing.” She responded that it is not.
The conversation continued with questions about what constitutes a religious service and comments on other issues.
Schemenaur said he will talk with the mayor and police chief and report to the council.
The confrontation was not the first between the mayor and Hilfiker, who have also argued in meetings over topics including the city’s trash collection ordinance and its recreational vehicle ordinance.
Also Monday, Hilfiker asked that the council review the city’s ordinance regarding door-to-door sales, saying she has had a few issues with the practice and would like to see the ordinance strengthened.
Council member Ron May asked the mayor about his approach to illegal immigrants, saying he had heard Westlake had issues with his approach. The mayor responded that the city and its police department are required to follow proper guidelines.
McClung later commented on the issue, referencing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
“We just have to follow the Consti-

tution and we can’t racially profile,” he said. “I’m not saying that people here illegally have a right to stay, but we also have to be careful that we don’t take away anyone’s rights in the process.”
He noted that speaking Spanish or having brown skin does not mean someone is in the country illegally.
Westlake and Golden voiced their agreement.
McClung and Golden also expressed concern about Senate Bill 1, a tax reform bill authored by State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle). (Holdman represents Jay County).
The bill would result in tax revenue losses of \$142,330 in 2026, \$290,050 in 2027 and \$382,360 in 2028 for the City of Portland, according to estimates from the Legislative Services Agency. Jay School Corporation would be hardest hit in the county, with losses of \$338,560 in 2026, \$675,250 in 2027 and \$914,500 in 2028.
“It could mean millions of dollars to our school system and hundreds of dollars to our city and to the county,” McClung said.
Adding to the discussion, Golden noted a legislative update session with State Reps. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) and Matt Lehman (R-Berne) and Holdman is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk. He suggested attendance

to express displeasure about the bill’s impact on small municipalities.
“The state needs to provide us ... an opportunity to make up funds that we’re gonna lose at the city and county levels,” he said.
In other business, council:
•Approved contracts for fire protection with 3% increases for Wayne, Greene, Jefferson and Pike townships. Those contracts total \$99,136.42. The townships have already approved the contracts. McClung thanked Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel and the townships for working together.
•Agreed to contribute \$2,500 to help support the corn/sunflower maze at Jay County Fairgrounds. Westlake agreed to contribute an additional \$2,000 from the mayor’s promotional fund. Council members suggested asking Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau for assistance with the \$7,000 event.
•Approved closing Main Street between Commerce and Ship streets from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 14, for a benefit for the family of Alysia Mann, who recently died from cancer.
•Heard May thank Weitzel and other firefighters who have undergone additional training recently.
•Learned from the mayor that a code enforcement officer has been hired and will start work next week.

Bills ...

Continued from page 1
Another bill before the committee sought to fix “vagueness” in the state’s 25-foot “buffer zone” law, under which a law enforcement officer can order someone to stand back during police duties.
Author Rep. Wendy McNamara, R-Evansville, said House Bill 1122 was a direct response to conflicting court decisions related

to the 2023 law. One federal court concluded that the law was constitutional while another federal judge called the law unconstitutionally vague.
“It requires law enforcement that is legally engaged in their duties,

who reasonably believes the presence of a person interferes, they may order a person to stop. And after that person has been asked to stop, or warned to

stop, and that person knowingly, intentionally approaches, can be charged with a Class C misdemeanor,” said McNamara.

SERVICES

Today
Howell, Becky: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Stephens, Linard: 4 p.m., Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City.

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Felony courts

Pointing firearm
A Bryant man was arrested Tuesday for pointing a firearm at another person.
Shannon P. Kuhn, 22, 208 N. Malin St., was charged Monday in Jay Superior Court with the Level 6 felony.
He was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

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Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary School kindergarteners pictured above were recently recognized for demonstrating caring. In the front row are Jesse Tapley, Noah Fifer and Jackson Ingram and in the second row are Annabelle Elchert, Isaiah Spahr, Evelyn Vela and Santos Hernandez-Tziquin. Not pictured is Ezekiel Langenkamp.

Mercer Health offers mom group

Mercer Health has a support group available for moms of young children and expecting mothers.

Led by staff at Mercer Health Childbirth Center, the group meets twice a month at 6:30 p.m. Mondays in the meeting rooms at Mercer County Community Hospital, 800 W. Main St., Coldwater, Ohio. The initiative intends to provide a supportive environment for mothers to share their experiences, discuss challenges and successes and connect with other moms.

The next session is slated for 6:30 p.m. Monday. Other upcoming sessions are set for March 24, April 14, May 12, May 19, June 16

Taking Note

and June 30. Sessions are free to attend. For additional information, please contact the Mercer Health Childbirth Center at (419) 678-5670 or visit mercervhealth.com.

Volunteerism award

The Portland Foundation is accepting nominations for the Jack Cole Award for Volun-

teerism. The award was established by the foundation's board of trustees to honor Cole's work as its first executive director.

Nominations should be by letter of recommendation and include the nominee's name, address and a brief background describing why the nominee deserves the award.

The winner will receive a commemorative plaque and a nominal cash award to be presented to the volunteer's charity of choice. The award will be presented at the Foundation's annual meeting on May 28. Deadline for nominations is March 14 and should be submitted to the foundation office in Portland.

Class reunions reopen wounds

DEAR ABBY: This year was our high school class's 50th reunion. My husband and I graduated together from the same school. We have attended every reunion, and at each one of them received the same reactions from classmates. They always talk to my husband, shake his hand or hug him, but look at my name tag and photo and ignore me like they did in high school.

I'll be the first to admit I'm nothing to look at. The only people who spoke to me were the teachers and my husband. I tried hard to be social, but my classmates just glared at me and walked away. One even said to a group of students, "The dog tried to talk to me."

My husband and I recently celebrated our 49th wedding anniversary, so I asked him why he dated and married me when I was invisible to his co-workers and classmates. He replied: "It's all in your head!" He has seen the reactions from co-workers and classmates, yet it has never bothered him that I've never been acknowledged.

It hurts so bad I finally told him I wouldn't attend any more reunions because I thought after 50 years, our classmates should have grown up. He told me I was being paranoid. It has never been in my head, Abby, especially when I extend a hand and tell the classmate it's good to see them, only for them to then walk away. What is your opinion on this? — REALLY INVISIBLE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR REALLY INVISIBLE: I cannot believe that you have tolerated this for 50 years. My opinion is that your former classmates lack class and compassion, and your husband is no better than they are to have ignored their rudeness. For heaven's

Dear Abby



sake, suit yourself when that reunion rolls around again. Skip it and do something that YOU would enjoy!

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a guy for 10 years. We are both divorced with no desire to get married. We are comfortable with our living arrangements. We live in different towns an hour and a half apart and spend a significant amount of time together at each other's houses.

A single woman lives a few houses down from him, and they are friends. Theirs is a very small, secluded lake town. When I'm not around, they have an occasional drink together. He says it doesn't happen often. I have never been formally introduced to her.

I have told him I'm uncomfortable with this and have asked him to stop. I even suggested he invite her over when I'm there. Your thoughts? — SUSPICIOUS IN ALBERTA, CANADA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: My thought is that after 10 years, it's time you met the competition, if there IS any competition. The next time you are in that "small, secluded lake town" invite her to drop by so you can finally get to know her. Her reaction (and this guy's) will tell you all you need to know. (If they react like two scowled cats, you may have reason to feel suspicious.)

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions

Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

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

Friday

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

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

building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, March 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

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

Monday

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

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

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St, Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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Ads must run in March.

Rates do not apply to special sections.

GRAPHIC
PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Don't wait, schedule colonoscopy

Journal-Advocate (Colorado)
Tribune News Service

The National Cancer Institute estimates that 152,810 people in the United States received a diagnosis of colon or rectal cancer in 2024. Approximately 53,010 died of it.

With March being Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, we'd like to take this opportunity to urge you not to put off scheduling a colonoscopy screening because many cases of cancer of the colon or rectum are preventable.

Screening by colonoscopy can prevent this cancer because precancerous polyps found during the procedure can be removed at the same time. Furthermore, colonoscopy can also detect the

Guest Editorial

cancer at early stages, when treatment is more likely to be successful.

According to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, 1 in 24 people will be diagnosed with colorectal (colon or rectal) cancer in their lifetime. This disease affects men and women of all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people 50 years or older. Incidence in those younger

than 50, or young-onset colorectal cancer, is on the rise. The incidence rate of colorectal cancer is rising by about two percent annually in people under age 50.

This form of cancer first develops with few, if any symptoms. If symptoms are present, they may include:

- A change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea, constipation, or narrowing of the stool that lasts for more than a few days;
- A feeling that you need to have a bowel movement that's not relieved by having one;
- Rectal bleeding with bright red blood;
- Blood in the stool, which might make the stool look dark

brown or black;

- Cramping or abdominal (belly) pain;
- Weakness and fatigue;
- Unintended weight loss

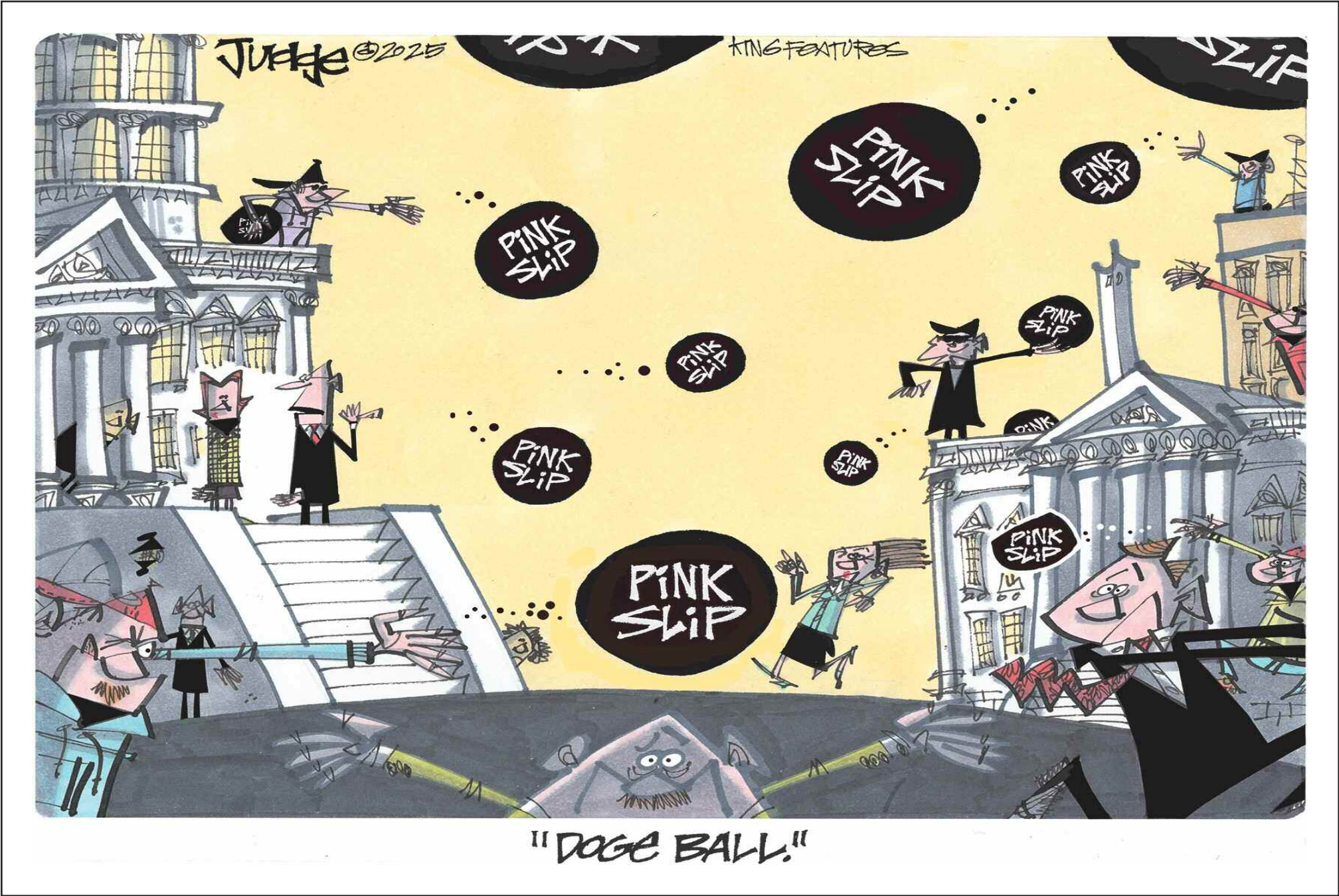
The American Cancer Society recommends that people at average risk of colorectal cancer start regular screening at age 45. This can be done either with a sensitive test that looks for signs of cancer in a person's stool (a stool-based test) or with an exam that looks at the colon and rectum (a visual exam).

Some people with a family history will be able to follow the recommendations for average-risk adults, but others might need to get a colonoscopy (and not any

other type of test) more often, and possibly starting before age 45.

People who are in good health and with a life expectancy of more than 10 years should continue regular colorectal cancer screening through the age of 75. For people ages 76 through 85, the decision to be screened should be based on a person's preferences, life expectancy, overall health, and prior screening history. People over 85 should no longer get colorectal cancer screening.

You can find more information about screening and prevention, at www.cancer.org. Don't put it off, head to your doctor now for a screening, it may just save your life.



What is government efficiency anyway?

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Over the years, I've written frequently about government efficiency and inefficiency. I even wrote a book that, among other things, measured types of efficiency across 38,000 local governments in the U.S.

We now live in a time when lots of folks complain about government efficiency. Some of them have experience in government and some have built large private sector firms, while others haven't been in charge of anything important—often for good reason.

It is helpful to think about what might cause government efficiency or inefficiency, and whether it is really the problem that we think it is. I'll begin with a simple observation that there a number of things governments shouldn't be doing. The real standard for this is whether the private sector does it somewhere.

By that standard, governments shouldn't run airports or sports arenas. They shouldn't own or operate hotels, restaurants or hospitals.

Governments shouldn't buy land for private development or operate loan funds for businesses. There may be rare exceptions to all these rules, and misuse of public funds in all these examples is a real concern. However, that isn't the point of this column.

Here in the U.S., we employ a

Michael J. Hicks



federalist form of government. That means different levels of government concern themselves with different problems. The federal government should be minimally involved with local schools, perhaps collecting data or paying for research that everyone can learn from. City councils should be silent on foreign policy.

There are three clear causes of government inefficiency.

The first is scale. In my 2012 book (with colleague Dagny Faulk), we found considerable inefficiencies due to government operations being stuck at an inefficient size. Economists since Adam Smith have noted that there is an optimal size for most production processes. It changes over time, and with technology, but there is always a range of maximum efficiency.

The best example of this is in fast-food restaurants. No matter where you go, in any city, town or country, fast-food restaurants are always built and operated in similar sizes. This isn't an accident. Businesses choose the optimal

size of operations to maximize profits and make investment and hiring decisions accordingly. That's the benchmark for efficiency.

Public sector entities don't really have that freedom.

Across most of the country, there are lots of tiny school districts that are inefficiently small and big ones that are inefficiently large. The same is true with police, fire, administration, parks, libraries and other functions. The people making budget decisions in these places largely have no meaningful say in the scale of their operation. So, that inefficiency is baked into the facts surrounding their jobs.

What is most interesting is that the small-scale inefficiencies of this type are mostly clustered in rural places, and rural voters seem perfectly happy to let them continue that way.

Inefficiencies in larger-scale operations—like big-city schools in New York or Chicago—appear to be the result of legislative action. So, inefficiencies in these places aren't about scale, but are about city councils or state legislatures making rules that create inefficiencies to protect special interests. I don't like them, but voters seem content to allow them to persist.

The second source of inefficiency in government operations is their complexity in compari-

son to the private sector. In most U.S. cities, the largest fleet of vehicles is operated by the local school. The largest restaurant service is the high school or elementary, and the most highly attended paid venue is the local basketball game. That same school corporation has the largest local maintenance contracts, the largest computer array, the largest library and the largest HVAC system in the county.

That same school system has the most challenging physical security requirements in the county and must make weather-related cancellation decisions about 50 days a year—before 5:30 a.m. And these decisions are calibrated by complex concerns beyond safety. For example, a large share of students get their only breakfast at school.

I have enormous respect for the private sector and the great wealth it creates. We all should. But there are precisely zero examples of private sector firms doing anything like this today.

The third source of inefficiency in government is the absence of a profit to measure success. Government measures of success, from the battlefield to the classroom, the public pool and the library, are fuzzy and imprecise. Not so for a bank or restaurant.

We may not know how good our schools are, how important

USAID spending is, or even if we have successfully prosecuted a war, for decades. Not so for a manufacturing or logistics firm, or a fast-food restaurant.

Indeed, how do you measure how good a rifle battalion of 800 soldiers is? How useful is foreign aid in country that might otherwise become a hotbed of terrorists? Or how good the parks department might be, or the library or police department? It is easy to generate metrics for each of these. We do so, everywhere, to a stunning extreme. That is what 100 percent of school testing is about.

Improving government efficiency is an important goal that requires serious thinking from serious people. When you hear an elected official or media personality rail on about government inefficiency, but they cannot explain how and where it is systematically occurring, and how it can be remedied without cutting tax, you might conclude they aren't serious.

.....

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 University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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"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

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

Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
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 p.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 Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago 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 p.m.

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

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

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., Redkey
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 a.m.
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. Wednesday
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 p.m. Thursday

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

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. 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
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 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., 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., Portland
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.

Praise Chapel 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, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
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.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

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

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

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

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., 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. Sunday

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

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. 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
templebaptistin.com

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

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth 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 Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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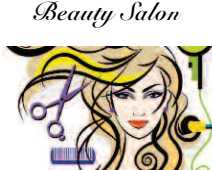
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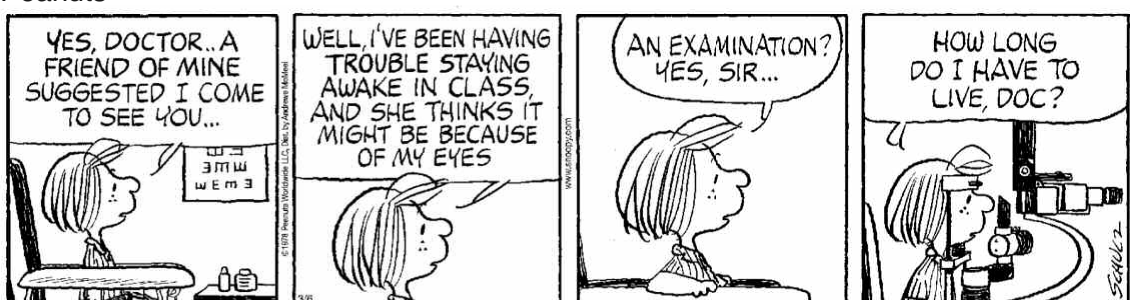
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Keep your eye on the ball

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 8 4 2
♥ Q 7 4
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ 2

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

EAST
♠ K J 6 5
♥ A 8
♦ J 10 8 5 4
♣ 9 3

SOUTH
♠ 3
♥ K J 10 9 6 5
♦ A
♣ K Q J 5 4

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

Opening lead — three of hearts.
Declarer should not allow himself to become so distracted by a minor aspect of the play that he fails to see the deal as a whole.

Consider this case where South got to four hearts as shown and West led a trump. East took the trick with the ace and returned a trump to declarer's king.

South was quite pleased with this development, since the defenders had failed to cash their spade trick while they had the lead. Not the type to disregard such good fortune, declarer quickly cashed the

diamond ace, led a heart to the queen and disposed of the spade three on the diamond king. He then turned his attention to the club suit, losing the king to West's ace.

Had the clubs broken 4-3, South would have gotten home safely, losing only two clubs and a trump. As it was, though, West's five clubs proved too great a hurdle to surmount, and declarer finished down one, eventually losing three club tricks to West. In all, he scored five heart tricks, two diamonds and two clubs.

Considering that South had started with 10 ironclad tricks, this was not a good result. Had he not been so anxious to get rid of his spade loser and instead taken the time to properly assess his prospects, he would have seen that the spade discard was, in reality, a red herring.

The critical misplay came at trick four, when declarer, in his desire to reach the diamond king, led a heart to dummy, depriving himself of the ability to ruff a club later on. Had he simply led the king of clubs after cashing the diamond ace, he could not have been stopped from scoring five hearts in his hand, the A-K of diamonds, two club winners and a club ruff in dummy for a total of 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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3-6

CRYPTOQUIP

J W X N A H L W N I P B I Y P Z X Y Y
U B A P C X C V C Q O O H P U N W X N
J P M P M P Z P O N Y V C B M O H O

M X C C H N I P O U ? W Q N Z W Y H O L U .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE MALICIOUS DOG WAS CELEBRATING HIS BAR MITZVAH, WHAT DID EVERYBODY CRY? "MUZZLE TOV!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Formerly called	DOWN	21	Chances, for short
1	Clock radio toggle	40	Hog haven	2	Trumpet muffler
5	Hardly any	42	Tinsel-town	3	Oxen's burden
8	Epi-dermis	45	Willow	4	City of India
12	Hum-dinger	49	"Les États- —"	5	Predicted
13	"La-la" lead-in	50	Sashimi fish	6	A billion years
14	Actress Hatcher	52	Par	7	"Pow!"
15	Teensy bit	53	Fan	8	Collar stiffener
16	Genetic letters	54	Diarist	9	Lantern fuel
17	Asia's — Sea	55	Landed	10	Nest egg choices
18	Rookie	56	Pundit's piece	11	Cleo-patra's river
20	Gloomy	57	"Gosh!"	19	Freudian concept
22	Bill-boards	58	Easy targets		
23	Mac alter-natives				
24	Laptop connection				
27	Off-white				
32	Standard				
33	Sushi choice				
34	Auction signal				
35	Big snake				
38	Make well				

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 3-6

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN

March 8th, 2025

9:30 A. M.
ANTIQUES-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
CAST IRON: Wapak #9, Griswold #8 & #9, Wagner chicken fryer and Sidney griddle;
GRANITE AND PORCELAIN: coffee pots, pans, roasters and other pieces, Carnival Glass, Milk Bottles to include Union City, McCoy pitcher, Fiesta plates, Green Depression Glass, tobacco tins, Edison records, wood pulleys, Pepsi and Coke cases, Quaker State oil can, wood Barrel, CROCKS AND JUGS; #8 Clover, #5 UHL, #3, crock bowls, metal signs, wood spigots, feed sacks including Haynes Milling, pulleys, printer trays; and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing of the many items to be sold.
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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Swim ...

Continued from page 8

Byrum hit the wall first in the 100-yard individual medley and the 100 backstroke, Laux claimed the 100 freestyle and 100 breast and Wendel was victorious in the 50 butterfly and 400 freestyle.

The girls also got wins from Jordyn Champ in the 50 freestyle, Gabby Gibson in the 200 freestyle and all three relay teams.

Despite falling in the meet, Grant Glentzer and Grady Warvel both picked up a pair of

first-place finishes. Glentzer’s success came in the 200 and 400 freestyle events, while Warvel won the 100 IM and 100 breaststroke.

Ben Fisher’s top finish in the 50 freestyle was the only other individual victory for the boys. They also won the 200 medley relay and the 300 freestyle relay.

The girls won by default against Adams Central on Monday, as the Jets couldn’t carry a full team, while the boys bounced back for a 105-81 victory.

Once again, Glentzer and Warvel were dual event winners. Warvel topped the same events as he did against Norwell, while Glentzer replaced the 200 freestyle for the 100 freestyle.

Noah Wentz had the only other first-place finish for the boys in the 200 freestyle.

Swimming against their own teammates, winners for the girls were Elly Byrum (50 butterfly and 100 breaststroke), Isabelle Byrum (100 freestyle), Champ (1-meter diving), Gibson (100 backstroke), Laux (100 IM and 400

freestyle), Kali Wendel (200 freestyle) and Lila Wendel (50 freestyle).

Both teams beat Blackford as the girls racked up 199 points to the Bruins’ 72 and the boys put up 129 to edge out the 110 points of their opponents.

The girls swept all 12 events in the meet.

Kalie Wendel (50 butterfly and 400 freestyle), Elly Byrum (200 freestyle and 100 freestyle) and Laux (50 freestyle and 100 backstroke) all posted two victories for the Patriots.

Champ once again won the diving, while Isabelle Byrum finished first in the 100 IM and Gibson claimed the 100 breaststroke.

Fisher also joined the dual-event winners club by taking first in the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Warvel also picked up a pair of wins in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

Glentzer claimed the 100 IM, while Arman Solis hit the wall first in the 400 freestyle. Jay County’s 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay teams also came out on top.

Sports on tap

Local schedule	Today	Friday	TV sports
Jay County — Junior high swim at Bluffton – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Bluffton – 5:30 p.m.	3:50 p.m. — AFL rugby: Geelong Cats at Brisbane Lions (FS1) 1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: St. Louis Cardinals vs. Washington Nationals (FDSN Indiana); New York Yankees vs. Minnesota Twins (ESPN) 6 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Atlanta Braves at Miami Marlins (NBC) 7 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at UAB (ESPN2) 7 p.m. — NHL: Buffalo Sabers at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN)	7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks (FDSN Indiana); Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics (TNT) 8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan State at Iowa (FS1) 9 p.m. — College basketball: Charlotte at North Texas (ESPN2) 9:30 p.m. — NHL: San Jose Sharks at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN) 10 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)	11 p.m. — LIV Golf: Hong Kong (FS1)
		Friday 11 a.m. — Women’s college basketball: ACC Tournament (ESPN2) 12 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN); SEC Tournament (ESPN) 12:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Arnold Palmer Invitational (NBC) 2:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN); SEC Tournament (ESPN)	

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 48½ pole barn/garage. Partial basement. Pole barn has cement floor, 3 overhead doors and 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.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
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9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 ½ miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South.
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STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS.:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2502-EU-000004
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JANICE S. STUCKY (deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Herb Hummel was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Janice S. Stucky, deceased, on 2/19/2025, who died on the 15th day of January, 2025. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated this
Melissa Elliott
CLERK
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
940 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-4220
CR 3-6,13-2025- HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS.:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM
No. 38C01-2502-EU-000005
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: TIMMIE BELL, Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Deanna Cline was, on the 27th day of February, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Timmie Bell deceased, who died on February 5, 2025. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 3rd day of March, 2025.
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana
HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
CR 3-6,13-2025 - HSPAXLP

Tigers trounce in opener

Yorktown controls both sides of the ball to beat Jay 69-45 in sectional

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

NEW CASTLE — The Patriots felt good about the way they finished the regular season. A three-game winning streak coupled with a six-point victory over the Tigers 17 days prior had the Patriots feeling confidence about their postseason opener.

But a revitalized Tiger defense never let the Patriots get comfortable and a balanced offensive attack became too much.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team got outplayed on both sides of the ball by the Yorktown Tigers in Tuesday's 69-45 loss in the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 opener.

Coming into the sectional tournament, Jay County (13-10) had won the final three games of the regular season, including a 26-point victory over Bellmont in the finale. It had also picked off Yorktown (7-16) on Feb. 15 by a score of 42-36, making Tuesday's loss a 30-point swing in favor of the Tigers.

"This one stings from many different levels and aspects," said JCHS interim coach Brogan Gary. "Coming into this game, we felt that we were prepared. We felt the way we finished the regular season that we were on a high note and really wanted to build off of that. Obviously, you can't have off nights in the sectional and unfortunately we did."

The win advances Yorktown to Friday's semifinal game against the defending sectional champion Delta Eagles.

In the Feb. 15 matchup, the Patriots jumped on top of Yorktown 11-5. The Tigers completely flipped the script in the rematch, sprinting out to a 18-3 lead at the quarter break. A high-pressure defense held Jay County to 1-of-12 (8.3%) from the field in the period, with its only bucket coming on a Tucker Griffin triple, assisted by Eli Petro from an offensive rebound.

"It starts with defense," said YHS coach Matt Moulton. "We've made a total recommitment to defense the past three weeks. ... We ratcheted up the defensive drills in practice

quite a bit and it's showing right now. ...

"We didn't want them to feel comfortable for a second. That's why we were in a full-court press. To our guys' credit, they were down in a stance, playing hard and that's what it takes."

Jay County's offense never fully got going until the fourth quarter, when the Tigers already had a 21-point advantage at 43-22. Jay County scored 23 points in the final period, outpacing the other three quarters combined. (Gradin Swoeland and Griffin powered the late offense, scoring 17 and 16 points, respectively, for the highest offensive totals between both teams.)

The Tigers didn't suffer from the same offensive struggles. They scored 18 points in the first two quarters apiece before pouring in 26 in the fourth.

YHS found success in their flex offense through strong ball movement. Outside of regular open looks they would find in the offense, the Tigers scored 25 points by driving past their defenders and reacting to the defense by either kicking the ball out for a three or dropping it off to an open forward on the block.

Yorktown recorded 20 assists on 27 field goals accounting for 74.1% of its made shots. The Tigers' ball movement resulted in five players reaching double figures — Connor Rowray led with 14, followed by Nate Tyler with 12, Ryan Burkholder with 11 and Mason Trammel and Austin Kates both with 10 — as well as eight points from Jabin Barnes.

"It's all assistant coach Chris Van Pelt," Moulton said. "He's taken over our offense this year and he's just done a fantastic job. ... It's been a process implementing the new offense. The boys practice it every day and are getting a little better and more comfortable every day."

Down 36-14 at halftime, the Patriots made an adjustment to go small by inserting Benson Barnett and Eli Dirksen into the lineup to start the third quarter, giving YHS a taste of its own medicine with the pressure defense.

See **Opener** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Eli Dirksen goes up for a layup against Evan Manor of Yorktown during a 69-45 loss in the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 opener at New Castle on Tuesday. The senior started the second half to ramp up the defensive pressure on the Tigers in an attempt to erase a 22-point deficit.



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The Commercial Review

JH swim starts season strong

The girls have been on fire to start the season and the boys have been getting stronger each meet.

The Jay County Junior High School swim team split with Norwell on Feb. 24 before the boys picked off Adams Central on Monday and sweeping

Blackford on Tuesday.

The girls managed a 187-110 victory against the Knights, while the boys fell 195-92.

Elly Bryum, Maria Laux and Kali Wendel led the way for the Patriots, each securing a pair of wins for the girls.

See **Swim** page 7



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