

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Money focused



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) gestures Saturday while speaking during a legislative update session at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk. Much of the session revolved around financial issues, including legislation on property taxes, health care costs and grant programs. Following a question from Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley, Holdman committed to fixing an issue that saw projected property tax hits for Jay County and some other counties go up from the original version of the bill to a modified version.

Legislative update session Saturday focused on property taxes and other issues regarding finance

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Money.

Whether in the form of taxes, grant programs, healthcare or other issues, money was at the forefront Saturday.

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) and State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) discussed Senate Bill 1 — it focuses on property taxes — as well as various other measures making their way through the Indiana Statehouse during a legislative update Saturday morning at West Jay Community Center.

As was the case during an update last month in Portland, there was extensive discussion about Senate Bill 1. Holdman

opened by presenting information about the bill, which he said was introduced as requested by first-year Indiana Gov. Mike Braun with the understanding that changes would be made. It has already been modified in the senate and is now going through the process in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Holdman expressed concern over spending at the local level, noting \$54 billion in debt through referenda and bonds. He questioned the practice of financing 100% of capital projects rather than having a down payment.

Jay County Council member Bryan Alexander, who previously served two terms on Jay

School Board, pointed out that such an effort was made locally for the auxiliary gym project at Jay County Junior-Senior High School about a decade and a half ago. He said the school corporation got “hammered” by the state for that approach.

Holdman said the ultimate goal of Senate Bill 1 is to be fair.

“We’re up against trying to find the middle ground between being fair to the taxpayer but at the same time keeping local government operating as best they can,” said Holdman.

Prescott also noted efforts in the house to shift to a rate-based rather than a levy-based system and proposals to repeal

the Homestead deduction and replace it with others.

Both legislators said it’s unclear what the property tax legislation will look like in its final version as modifications are continuing to be made.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley addressed the tax issue, pointing out that Jay County was one of a handful that were negatively impacted after the last modification to the bill. (Its projected tax revenue hit went up while most in the state were reduced.)

Holdman committed to that problem being fixed, saying he has already spoken to House Ways and Means chair Rep. Jeff Thompson regarding the issue. See **Money** page 2

Just Treble places second again

Choir group has been runner-up three weeks in a row

The show choirs and color guard closed their seasons strong.

Jay County High School’s Just Treble capped its competition schedule Saturday with a third consecutive runner-up finish, taking the No. 2 spot at the Columbia City Cup. Patriot Edition placed third while the school’s color guard was sixth in its division at the Indiana High School Color Guard Association Week 2 State Event at Mount Vernon.

Competing in Treble Division – Tier II, Just Treble earned second place behind Viking Volume of Huntington North. Jasmine Esparza was honored as the best soloist.

It was the third runner-up finish in a row for the group, which was also second at the Churubusco Show Choir Invitational the previous weekend and the Huntington North Midwest Showcase on March 1. (It took first place Feb. 15 at the Kenton Cup.)

Patriot Edition was second in the Mixed Division – Tier II preliminaries before placing third in the finals behind the first-place Accents of Avon and second-place Varsity Singers of Huntington North. It also won the Andrea Beck Spirit Award.

The group finished third three times this season and was also the runner-up at Churubusco.

Jay County’s winter guard scored 69.48 points for sixth place in the Regional A Class – Wilhoit Division at the state event Saturday. The group had the 15th-highest score overall out of 38 groups in competition.

Bartholomew Consolidated won the division and had the highest score overall at 80.7.

Fund could be limited

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A universally adopted funding program to boost local public health departments is facing a tough budget road, with some lawmakers questioning whether agencies have delivered on their promises or should be further constrained.

The two-year-old Health First Indiana program allocated \$225 million to local public health departments in the last budget cycle, or \$75 million in 2023 followed by \$150 million in 2024. The latest version of the budget earmarks \$100 million each year.

But following a budget presentation before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday, Sen. Liz Brown suggested

Lawmakers question whether health departments have delivered on their promises

local public health departments would simply continue to move the goalposts when it came to meeting their goals.

“When this was proposed to us, we were going to see more immediate results and ... these are all promises. We’re not seeing significant results yet and yet we’re doubling down,” said Brown, R-Fort Wayne.

Committee Chair Sen. Ryan Mishler said he and other mem-

bers had received pressure from their communities to cut or eliminate the program due to questions about the money’s uses.

One particular concern forwarded to the Mishawaka Republican was about an unnamed county using money to provide health care services for undocumented immigrants, which he acknowledged was “a very sensitive issue.”

See **Limited** page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

State Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, asks a fellow committee member a question on March 11. Lawmakers could explore limiting expanded health care funding as they question whether local departments have delivered on their goals.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 57 degrees Sunday. The low was 33.

Tonight’s forecast calls for a low in the lower 50s.

Expect mostly cloudy skies

Wednesday with a chance of showers in the afternoon and windy conditions with gusts up to 45 mph.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library is hosting an NCAA basketball tournament bracket competition. Brackets will be available at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, for both the men’s and women’s tournaments. They must be turned in by 11 a.m. Thursday. Winners will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Coming up

Wednesday — Details from next week’s Jay School Board meeting.

Friday — Coverage of this week’s Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



Money ...

Continued from page 1
“We do not want that to happen,” he added of the negative impacts. “We’re doing our best to basically make schools whole as best we can ... because we realize schools will be under the gun the most because they are the largest taxing unit in most counties.”

During his comments, Gulley indicated that Jay School Corporation is just trying to maintain its schools and that work is needed on items such as heating and cooling systems in order to make buildings viable for the long term. He invited the public to a school board work session on possible capital improvements

scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, March 31, at the General Shanks building in Portland.

Alexander expressed concern about the property tax legislation, saying the county and its other taxing units need to have funding to cover roads, emergency medical service, fire departments, police, schools and other necessities. There is not much fat at the local level, he said. He asked Holdman and Prescott to look out for their rural communities, saying they do not have the resources of larger communities to cushion the blow of major hits to tax revenue. Jay County Commissioners

president Chad Aker and Redkey Town Council member “Watermellon” Jim Phillips both raised questions about the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READD) 2.0. Aker noted that decisions regarding funded projects — Jay County is part of the eight-county East Central Indiana region that was awarded \$35 million — were supposed to happen in October and have still yet to be publicly announced.

Holdman said he will get an answer on the issue.

Blackford County resident John Bartlett, who has run against Prescott twice for District

33 state representative, asked about legislation relating health care costs in Indiana.

Holdman said legislators are “sticking to their guns” on the issue, pushing a bill that would limit non-profit hospitals in the state to charging 250% of the Medicare rate for services. He was critical of the top six non-profit hospital organizations in Indiana, saying they have \$40 billion invested on Wall Street.

Jay County resident Virginia Burkey asked about changes for county hospitals, with Holdman responding that those facilities will be left alone.

Bartlett also questioned state

funding for prisoners housed at county jails, noting that money to pay for those accommodations has run out for the fiscal year.

Prescott also mentioned a bill that would offer options for candidates to select a party or file as non-partisan for school board elections. (Those elections are currently entirely non-partisan.)

He noted his recent vote against a bill supporting term limits in Congress. He expressed concern that such term limits would leave the institutional knowledge in the hands of lobbyists. He added the he feels voting serves as the term limit.

CR almanac

Wednesday 3/19	Thursday 3/20	Friday 3/21	Saturday 3/22	Sunday 3/23
67/41	45/27	55/43	57/33	52/40
Wind gusts may reach up to 45 mph on Wednesday when there's a 50% chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy skies with another chance of rain. The low may hit the mid to upper 20s.	Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the mid 50s.	There's a 50% chance of showers on Saturday when the high may reach 57.	Another slight chance of rain on Sunday with highs in the lower 50s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$398 million	12-21-26-28-33-34-37-42-43-47-51-60-64-67-71-75-80 Cash 5: 2-14-22-26-27 Estimated jackpot: \$125,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$301 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 3-1-1 Pick 4: 9-5-8-0 Pick 5: 3-2-8-0-4 Evening Pick 3: 4-9-2 Pick 4: 5-7-6-5 Pick 5: 8-5-5-7-2 Rolling Cash 5: 5-7-29-30-33 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 3-2-4 Daily Four: 2-1-0-6 Quick Draw: 2-5-6-7-17-24-28-32-33-43-44-47-52-56-57-58-65-73-75-77 Evening Daily Three: 7-6-4 Daily Four: 4-1-6-9 Quick Draw: 6-10-11-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.47 April corn4.53 May corn4.59	April beans10.15 Wheat 5.26
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.73 April corn4.70 May corn4.73	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.52 April corn4.56 Beans10.02 April beans10.05 Wheat5.28
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.71 April corn4.71 Beans10.12	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.48 April corn4.53 Beans9.82 April beans9.87 Wheat5.28

Today in history

In 1325, according to legend, Tenochtitlan was founded on an island in what was Lake Texcoco in the Valley of Mexico. The former capital of the Aztec Empire, it was seized by Spanish conquistadors and an alliance of Indigenous people on Aug. 13, 1521. Present day Mexico City is built on the city's ruins.

In 1792, John C. Calhoun was born near Abbeville, South Carolina. His list of accolades included his time as a congressman, senator, secretary of war, secretary of state and vice president of the United States. He's known for defending the institution of slavery, using the argument that states' rights protected it.

In 1942, the third United States military draft began. Able-bodied men between the ages of 18 to 64 were required to register for military service for the

duration of World War II plus six months. More than 10 million men were inducted through the draft, but most men and women volunteered to join the service.

In 1974, a five-month oil embargo against the United States was lifted by seven countries in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

In 1965, Alexey Leonov became the first person to walk in space when he left his spacecraft for 12 minutes.

In 1990, the world's biggest art heist was successfully completed by two men dressed as police officers at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. They stole 13 pieces worth more than \$500 million, including works by Rembrandt and Johannes Vermeer, which to this day have still not been recovered. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 3:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation executive session, airport, 661	W. 100 North. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
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Felony arrests

Domestic battery

Two Jay County residents were arrested over the weekend for domestic battery.

Caleb M. Schlechty, 19,

131 E. Floral Ave., Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for domestic battery.

He was being held on a

\$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Travis J. Callahan, 31, 190 E. Maple St., Pennville, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6

felony for domestic battery in the presence of a child younger than 16 years old. He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Capsule Reports

Airborne vehicle

An Ohio man suffered upper body injuries after his truck left U.S. 27, struck a culvert and went airborne, causing it to roll several times about 1:40 a.m. Sunday.

Jordon C. Vititoe, 25, Greenville was driving his 2005 Dodge Ram north on the highway when he veered off the west side of the road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. His vehicle went into a ditch and continued traveling north before hitting a culvert at 8758 S. U.S. 27, Portland. The collision caused his vehicle to go in the air and roll several times.

Vititoe was given a blood alcohol test with results pending. He was transported to Reid Health for his injuries, and his truck was towed.

Turning crash

A Kentucky teen crashed his vehicle into a Decatur woman's van at the intersection of U.S. 27 and Main Street in Bryant at 12:50 p.m. Saturday.

Brandon M. Rash, 17, Villa Hills, told police he was driving his 2014 Honda Civic north on U.S. 27 when he began to turn west onto Main Street. He said he didn't see the

southbound 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan driven by 52-year-old Jessica M. Lough in front of him. Lough attempted to veer off the west side of the road but wasn't able to avoid crashing into Rash's car. Her car also hit a porch post owned by Cheryl Gamble of Bryant.

Lough complained of chest pain. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000, and both vehicles were towed.

Intersection accident

A Portland woman drove into the path of oncoming traffic on Indiana 67, causing a vehicle crash about 8 a.m. Monday.

Marcie R. Burk, 27, was driving her 2013 Chrysler 200 west on county road 200 South when she stopped at its intersection with the highway. She continued into the intersection, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, and drove into the path of a northeast 2010 Ford Fusion driven by 16-year-old Wyatt C. Foster of rural Redkey. Burk's vehicle crashed into the front passenger side of the car Foster was driving, causing it to spin before stopping in a ditch on the east side of the road.

Foster's passenger, Parker Moore, 14, rural Redkey, was taken by family to IU Health Jay for a possible arm injury.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Attic fire

A Portland man's attic caught on fire on Saturday.

Portland Fire Department responded to an attic fire at Jerry Stoner's house, 1237 W. Arch St., at 9:13 a.m. Saturday.

Three firetrucks and 16 firefighters arrived on scene to fight the flames, getting the fire under control within 20 minutes. Damage was contained to the attic area of the home.

Tree hit

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Dunkirk woman crashed into a fallen tree near the intersection of Division Road and Indiana 167 in Jay County.

Brooke M. Bailey, 42, was driving a 2018 Toyota Sienna west on Division Road. She told police she didn't see the tree in the road before striking it.

Limited ...

Continued from page 1

“We (said) the locals can make their decisions, but it's still state money. And how can you allow state money to be used?” Mishler told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. “We tried to get flexibility, that's what (local public health departments) wanted, but then people still come back to us because it's state money.”

Mishler declined to share other examples of concerns.

“I don't want to sit here and say that we're going to eliminate it or we're going to cut it. I don't know what's going to happen there,” Mishler told his fellow committee members. “But you may at least see some restrictions on the uses as a happy medium.”

State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver cited research about the return on investment for public health dollars, which can be up to \$14.30 for every \$1 spent. She pointed to the program as a way to reduce health care utilization and Medicaid expenditures “by getting in front of” these issues.

Additionally, she said local economic development organizations reported that people moving into their areas “are looking at those health metrics,” which are posted on the state site.

“This is the program that's going to make a difference in that space,” she said.

One area she pointed to was birth outcomes. Indiana has some of the worst infant and maternal mortality rates in the country but, prior to this funding, only 39% of counties had an evidence-based program to improve.

Now, Weaver said, 84% did.

“I do fully suspect we'll

be at 100% by the end of 2025,” she said.

Brown acknowledged that it took time for the money to be distributed to departments, which then partnered with local organizations to deliver services like prenatal health services and diabetes management.

But Brown pointed to smoking cessation as a concern, noting that such information depended on “imperfect” survey data.

“I could start with 25% of my county smoking and as the smokers age out (and) die from lung cancer or heart disease, I may not have new smokers. So I have a lower smoking rate in my county but I haven't actually reduced the smoking rate in my county at all,” she said.

Weaver noted that such efforts also included vaping, which is disproportionately popular among Hoosier youth.

Many counties have devoted money to smoking cessation programs, as detailed on the state website. However, the state doesn't have an aggregate report on its website.

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

SERVICES

Saturday

Haynes, Vicki: 3 p.m., W.H. Dick & Sons — Hellwarth Funeral Home, 218 W. Market St., Celina, Ohio.

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Roles reversed as trip looms on horizon

By CHRIS SCHANZ

It's like the plot of Freaky Friday.

Except I'm not switching roles with a parent or my daughter.

I seem to have become my wife, and she's turned into me.

There's no sugarcoating it, I'm a procrastinator. Give me months to work on a project or get something done, I'll wait until the last possible minute, so much so that I miss deadlines.

It's a character trait I'm not too proud of, and I have been making valiant attempts at reversing.

But it's a work in progress.

When it comes to any sort of trip I may be taking, I've always been the one to pack for said trip the day, or

Parental Ponderings



a mere few hours, before we embark.

My wife, on the other hand, is the complete opposite in this aspect.

A master planner, she's always making sure important items get handled ahead of time in an effort to ensure they get completed.

When we travel, her bags are packed days in advance. I've never grasped my head around this concept

because there are a lot of items — glasses, contacts, inhalers and other various

medications — I need daily. I'm not going to pack them away just to get them out every day until the trip.

Hence my procrastination when getting ready for travel.

This time around, though, I'm the impatient one — like Chrissy is normally — whereas she is being more nonchalant about it.

Here's the sitch. (Do people even use that slang for "situation" anymore?)

We're getting ready for our fourth trip across the pond to Ireland.

This time, we have our new companion; our soon-to-be 1-year-old daughter.

This is why the roles are reversed.

I am getting anxiety, and I don't normally suffer from

the affliction, that we're going to forget something.

Any parent knows that an infant requires a lot of things. Food and all the accessories (like bottles or utensils). Toys. Diapers and all the accessories (wipes, creams).

The necessity of these items is exacerbated when taking a transatlantic flight. They're not often sold in airports as infants aren't the typical demographic of airline passengers.

Then there's the fact we're traveling with a car seat and stroller.

Needless to say, in addition to packing and accounting for the gear we require as adults, it takes extra care to make sure we have everything for our daughter. This is especially

true considering it's her first flight, it just happens to be six and a half hours long and we are doing this for the first time.

Therefore, I'm hell-bent on making sure we get packed as early as we can so we're not in a hurry and we have everything we "think" we'll need.

When I need my wife's master planning skills to be put to good use, she is in no hurry to implement them.

Instead of her making sure we're packed on time and me being more carefree with the timeline, we're the opposite.

I'm the one stressed to the max ensuring we have everything we need, and she's indifferent to my sense of urgency.

A current colleague of mine who travels often for

work told me this: when traveling, don't stress over forgetting something you can buy when you get there.

Her advice is spot on. If we forget something it won't make or break our trip. It's not like we're going to a remote island or deserted place where there are no amenities.

We're going to a developed, thriving world capital. If we overlooked an item to bring with us, we'll be able to buy it upon our arrival.

I just hope it's not a big-ticket item.

.....
Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor getting ready to travel with an infant for the first time. Send tips ASAP to christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Introvert's 'safe haven' is off-limits to others

DEAR ABBY: How do I politely tell people I don't like having anyone visit me in my home? My home is my safe haven. The energy of the outside world drains me, and I don't want that feeling inside my home. This includes family members, friends, neighbors, church family and anyone else who might come knocking on my door. I have anxiety and some unresolved trauma I'm working through that contributes to this. I'm happy to meet in a public place or visit someone in their home if we are both comfortable with it. My family cannot understand why I'm like this. They think they have a right to my space simply because they are family. I don't mind anyone thinking I'm weird, but how do I respond without feeling like I have to explain myself? — INTROVERT IN TENNESSEE

DEAR INTROVERT: Do not allow anyone to make you feel

Dear Abby



defensive. If you want to get your point across, simply repeat what you told me. It is succinct, it conveys your feelings, and your feelings should be respected.

.....
DEAR ABBY: Is it OK to grieve the loss of an ex-husband from your early 20s if you've been happily married to someone else for 35 years? I'm not sure my present husband wouldn't somehow be hurt by my feelings over the loss. Losing my ex makes me feel bruised inside and represents the end of an era for me. I'm already

dreading the loss of my present husband. We have shared so much in our many years together. — SENSITIVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SENSITIVE: Nobody lives forever, and it is a waste of time to fear the inevitable. Because someone dies doesn't mean the person must be evicted from our heart. People don't necessarily "get over" the death of a loved one. Many learn to live with and manage the ache. My experience has shown me that although death may close a chapter of our lives, it doesn't mean another one won't open.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I'm 25 years old, I have my master's degree and work for a large technology and data company in Georgia. I make great money, live on my own and travel often. All that being said, I am having a really hard time finding guys who match up to that. At

times, I feel like I'm entertaining men who aren't on my level.

I'd like to be "equally yoked" with my partner, but I sometimes settle because some people have told me my standards are too high. Do you have any advice for a young woman who wants to be in a relationship, but only with a guy who checks all the boxes? — YEARNING FOR LOVE IN ATLANTA

DEAR YEARNING: Yes. Start editing that list of yours, because limiting yourself to someone who "checks all the boxes" may make it difficult to find a partner with whom you can be "equally yoked." And that's no "yoke."

.....
DEAR ABBY: When my niece walks into a room, she immediately takes over any conversations in progress. Everyone has allowed this to continue, so I assume they are OK with it. How-

ever, I find it extremely rude and disrespectful. I have often gotten up and gone home rather than confront her, which appears to be condoning her behavior. Is there a way to confront her without her or the family getting mad at me, or should I just keep "going home"? — HURTING EARS IN OREGON

DEAR HURTING EARS: There are two kinds of people in this world. The first are those who enter a room and say, "HERE I am!" The second are those who enter and say, "THERE you are!" The first individuals are self-centered. The second are people who are truly welcomed. Because the family has condoned your niece's behavior for years, I don't think saying anything to her now would help the situation. For a quick exit, make sure your car is parked somewhere accessible.

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 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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.

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

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

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

Wednesday WEDNESDAY MORN-

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions,

will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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

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

CELEBRATE 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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



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Democrats should heed Steven A.

By **KURT BARDELLA**

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Hear me on this: Stephen A. Smith is no joke.

Democrats, do not underestimate him. Do not mock him. Do not take him lightly. Do not ignore him.

Do I think the face of ESPN (who, according to multiple sources, just inked a five-year, \$100-million contract extension) and the most influential man in sports media is going to run for president on your ticket? No, I do not.

But he's not wrong when he boasts that he could wipe the floor in a debate with just about any other prospective Democratic candidate (Pete Buttigieg and New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez being the exceptions).

Kurt Bardella



Is he wrong when he observes that Democrats lack a coherent communications and messaging strategy? No, he is not. The fact that the biggest Democratic Party story coming out of President Donald Trump's address to Congress last week was the now-censured behavior of Texas Rep. Al Green underscores how weak and devoid of leadership the party is now.

So instead of dismissing or mocking or ignoring Smith,

Democrats would be well-served to study him. You heard me.

Every day on his nationally syndicated radio show and on ESPN's "First Take," Smith offers a master class in storytelling, debating, reporting and entertainment. The only other talent I've seen operate at a similar level is pro wrestling's Paul "The Wise Man" Heyman, another communicator anyone involved in political messaging should be paying attention to. But I digress.

Smith effortlessly blends charisma, passion, knowledge, controversy, humor and emotion to provoke conversation and debate. To me, that sounds like a recipe the Democrats could use right now. Ever since Donald Trump came down that golden escalator, the Republican Party has been remaking itself,

putting larger-than-life personalities who can dominate the new media landscape at the tip of the spear.

Meanwhile, Democrats have buried their heads in the sand, holding out hope that legacy media would carry their water for them and falling further and further behind Republicans.

Politics is a reflection of the culture. Smith is the most influential voice shaping sports culture. He commands the attention and respect of owners and players including the Cowboys' Jerry Jones and the Lakers' LeBron James, not to mention the fans. How many Democrats have anything like his cultural capital?

Quite frankly, just by the unapologetically direct way he talks about the Democratic Party's blind spots, Smith has

been propelled into the national political conversation. That's as much a reflection of his potency as a communicator as it is the Democratic Party's impotence.

Voters are sending the message that they are over the status quo. The American people are thirsty for disruption and are abandoning legacy institutions left and right. Communication skills supersede a political pedigree or public policy knowledge.

If Democrats think the best counter to Trump and the MAGA media machine are a bunch of traditional politicians with traditional resumes, well, to quote Smith, they must be out of their damn minds.

.....
Bardella is a NewsNation political contributor.

Bill will siphon \$\$ from schools

The Herald Bulletin

(Anderson)

Tribune News Service

While Indiana Senate Bill 1, which would reduce property taxes, has gotten the lion's share of attention, other pieces of legislation would also have a profound effect on the state's public schools.

Senate Bill 518 is one of the most concerning. Essentially, it would take a portion of funding away from public schools and reallocate it to charter schools.

Specifically, the legislation would redirect some local property tax dollars in any public school district where at least 100 children living in the district instead attend a local brick-and-mortar charter school. Currently, charter schools are supported by state funding and do not receive any property tax distributions.

This bill represents the statewide expansion of a 2023 law requiring school districts in Marion, Lake, St. Joseph and Vanderburgh counties — all of which have relatively high percentages of students attending charter schools — to share a portion of property taxes used for operations with local charters.

Currently in Indiana's 88 other counties, the state sends an extra \$1,400 per student to charter schools to make up for the absence of a property tax revenue stream. Under Bill 518, state grant amounts to a charter school would decrease toward zero as the property tax draw of the charter increases toward \$1,400 per student.

By shifting the funding burden to local property taxpayers, the state would save roughly \$19 million across three years.

Thirty-six public school districts across the state would be impacted.

Initially, the bill would have shifted more than \$150 million from public to charter schools over three years. After it ran into opposition in the state Senate from Democrats and some in the Republican majority, the proposal was revised to whittle that figure all the way down to \$18.6 million, and it passed the

Hoosier Editorial

While charter schools offer attractive education alternatives to some families, more Hoosier school children would be harmed by this bill.

chamber by a narrow 28-21 vote.

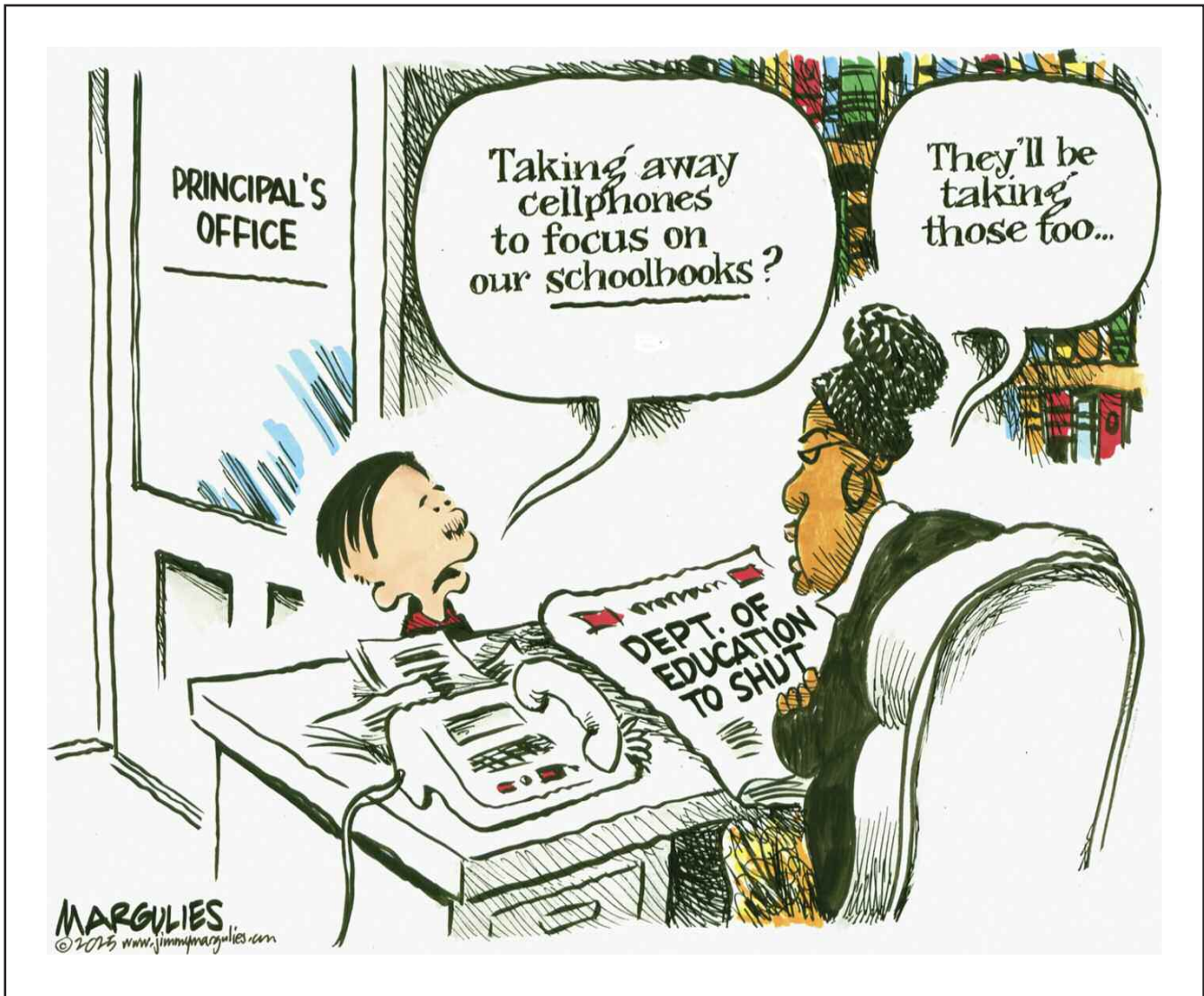
"The clear losers here are the students and the parents who have chosen to send their students to traditional public schools," Senate Minority Leader Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, said in an Indiana Capital Chronicle article.

"We hear people talk about school choice, but it robs tax dollars from the parents of 90% of our future students who choose public schools. Where is the respect for their choice? This bill takes away that local choice. It overrides the rule of voters, the will of voters."

Senate Bill 518 now rests with the House Committee on Ways and Means. It should never reach the House floor.

While charter schools offer attractive education alternatives to some families, more Hoosier school children would be harmed by this bill. Consider this overwhelming statistic: About 1 million attend the state's public K-12 schools; about 50,000 attend charter schools.

The Legislature, in a rush to save money and promote school choice, is jeopardizing the fiscal health of traditional public schools.



Raising tax just makes sense

By **NIKI KELLY**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

When a proposal has both a fiscal and health upside you would think it would be popular. But pushes to raise Indiana's cigarette tax have faltered for years. Now is the time to pull the trigger.

"Indiana is an unhealthy state, and one of the big culprits is Hoosiers' high tobacco usage. This impacts the productivity of our workforce, healthcare costs and future economic prosperity in our state," said Vanessa Green Sinders, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's president and CEO.

"So, it's disappointing that raising the state's very low cigarette tax is again not getting the buy-in needed, especially when you consider that the tax rate hasn't changed in 17 years and the state has the 11th highest adult smoking rate in the nation," she said. This is something that we should all be able to agree on."

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The Medicaid factor

Indiana is drowning in health care costs as its Medicaid budget has

exploded at an exponential rate. One of the key priorities for the session is to try to contain those costs.

Senate Republicans passed a bill to reduce Indiana's Healthy Indiana Plan, which is the Medicaid expansion population added in 2015 under then-Gov. Mike Pence. They have repeatedly implied that these Hoosiers aren't eligible for the taxpayer-paid coverage.

They call it "right-sizing" the program. That's just a nice way to say they are taking insurance away from upwards of 250,000 Hoosiers. Poor Hoosiers.

If this tax increase could keep even some of those Hoosiers covered and out of emergency rooms, it would be a win.

The health factor

But the fact is, a cigarette tax increase wins in more ways.

That's because cigarette taxes have the added bonus of getting people to quit smoking. And this lowers health care costs for all of Indiana.

The American Lung Association said increasing taxes on all tobacco

products, including e-cigarettes, is one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth. Multiple studies have shown that every 10% increase in the price of cigarettes reduces consumption by about 4% among adults and about 7% among youth.

They advocate a \$2 increase per pack.

A 2022 study showed that cigarette smoking rates among adults by state ranged from a low of 6.7% in Utah to a high of 21.0% in West Virginia. Indiana came in at 16.2%.

And what does that ultimately mean? Smoking causes \$3.4 billion in health care costs each year in Indiana.

I could go on, but it's clear Indiana has a real problem. Raising the cigarette tax can reduce that number and help Indiana's financial picture. I don't see the downside.

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

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

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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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Donated

First Bank of Berne recently donated \$1,000 each to the Portland Rockets and Jay County Public Library. At left, Deanna Walker of the bank presents a check to Randy Miller and Dru Hall of the Rockets. At right, Tracy Carpenter (second from right) presents a check to Hannah Elliott, Shana Neuenschwander and Eric Hinderliter of the library.



Photos provided

Signing Day events scheduled

A series of events designed to connect local businesses and industries with students will be held next month.

Jay County Junior-Senior High School's career fair is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 3. Interview day will follow from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, with signing day by appointment.

The events focus on students having the opportunity to meet and interview with local businesses and industries.

For more information, or to be a part of the event, email Kyle Love at kllove@jayschools.k12.in.us.

Ribbon cutting

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon Thursday for ReSprout Developmental Check-up.

The event will be at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Program honored

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Telestroke program recognized Mercer Health for its achievement in the Door to Needle Challenge.

Mercer Health had a best time of 21 minutes from the time a patient arrives to when it was able to administer clot-busting medication for stroke treatment. This marks the second time Mercer Health has received the award.

"The American Stroke Association's Target: Stroke has helped hospitals nationwide achieve improved stroke outcomes through reduced door-to-needle times for eligible ischemic stroke patients," said Dixie Davenport, telestroke program manager at Wexner, in a press release. "One of the most crucial targets is door-to-needle, and the Target: Stroke Phase III goal for thrombolytic eligible patients is achieving door-to-needle times within 60 minutes in 85% or more of acute ischemic stroke patients treated with IV thrombolytics. ... Mercer Health's achievement of a 21-minute

Business roundup

door-to-needle exemplifies their hard work and dedication in providing the very best stroke care to their community."

Hospital honored

Healthgrades recognized Reid Health as one of its 2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award recipients.

The website looks at risk-adjusted complication and mortality rates at hospitals nationwide. The award goes to those that rank in the top 10% for safety.

"There is nothing more important to us than patient safety," said Ben Wells, acting president/CEO and chief financial officer for Reid Health, in a press release. "We take seriously the trust our patients have in us to provide them with the highest quality care when they need it most."

Also, Indiana Hospital Association and state health commissioner Lindsay Weaver recognized Reid with an INspire Category of Excellence honor. It earned the distinction for its focus on best practices in areas such as infant safe sleep and breastfeeding.

Accepting donations

Lutheran Health Network is accepting donations at various locations for the Jars of Love peanut butter drive benefitting area food banks.

Jars of peanut butter can be donated from now through March 24.

"Lutheran Health Network not only supports the patients who come through our doors, we are also committed to supporting better health throughout our community," said Lorie Ailor, Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Hospital. "Food insecurity is an issue in all of our surrounding counties ranging from 10% to

15% which has a profound impact on overall health and well-being. With the Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive, we can help vital community organizations reduce hunger in our area."

Donation locations include Bluffton Regional Medical Center, 303 S. Main St., Bluffton; and Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA, 550 W. Dustman Road, Bluffton.

Airport awarded

The Airports Council International World Airport Quality Service Awards included three top honors for Indianapolis International Airport.

The airport earned awards for Best Airport in North America, Cleanest Airport in North America and Most Enjoyable Airport in North America. The honors are based on surveys of nearly 700,000 travelers.

"We intentionally act on that passenger feedback to deliver customer service amenities like sensory rooms for travelers with additional needs, nursing rooms for moms, pet relief areas for guests traveling with pets," said Brian Eckstein, IAA director of guest services, in a press release. "We also have the largest public art gallery in the city that showcases local artists, as well as a mix of locally owned food and beverage options and retailers. And we leverage sustainability that travelers like, with one of the largest airport electric shuttle bus fleets, and conveniences like water bottle filling stations throughout the terminal."

The airport also began non-stop flights to Nashville, Tennessee, on March 6.

Named AVP

Ball State University has appointed Rodney Nassiri as its new associate vice president for facilities, planning and management.

Nassiri most recently served as senior director of facilities and construction management for Universal Studios Hollywood. He will take his new role March 31.

"We are pleased to welcome Rodney to Ball State to lead our

facilities planning and management operations," said Sue Hodges Moore, Ball State's interim vice president for business affairs and treasurer, in a press release. "As we look ahead, Rodney and his team will be instrumental in advancing key campus initiatives, maintaining and enhancing our physical spaces, and ensuring our facilities support student success, faculty innovation, and community engagement."

Bank honored

First Financial Bank was honored recently with the 2025 Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award.

The honor recognizes engaged workplace cultures. First Financial is one of 62 organizations chosen for the award.

"We are honored to be recognized by Gallup as an employer that values engagement with our team and is a highly desired place to work and build a career," said Archie Brown, president and CEO of First Financial Bank, in a press release. "Investing in our people is one of our top priorities, because our team members empower us to be successful in our goal to help clients, communities and coworkers thrive."

Foundation appoints

Ball Brothers Foundation recently appointed Chris Fisher to its board of directors.

Fisher is the snow sports director at Crystal Mountain in Michigan. He is a fourth-generation member of the Ball Family.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chris to BBF's board of directors," said foundation president and CEO Jud Fisher in a press release. "For nearly a decade, Chris has been actively involved in the foundation's work, bringing his experience with sports, recreation, youth programming and education to our board and staff."

Offering course

Radius Indiana will host its Economic Development for Community Leaders conference from

April 22 through 24 at French Lick Resort Conference Center.

The event will include educational sessions on topics including real estate development, population attraction programs, business retention and attraction, workforce, marketing, business finance and incentives, and community development and business district revitalization. It is open to community leaders and local and state officials interested in learning more about economic development.

"We are excited to once again offer our economic development course to our communities, and we welcome our neighbors from surrounding counties as well," said Jeff Quyle, Radius Indiana president and CEO, in a press release. "Our program features classic elements of economic development and introduces community leaders to new topics that can impact the growth and vitality of cities and towns."

To register, or for more information, visit radiusindiana.com or call (812) 277-9778.

Training offered

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

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

An additional session is scheduled for April 29.

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

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

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.

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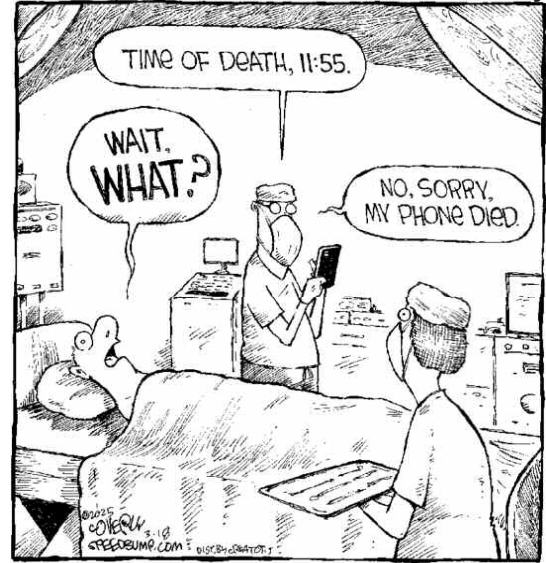
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By Dave Coverly



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith

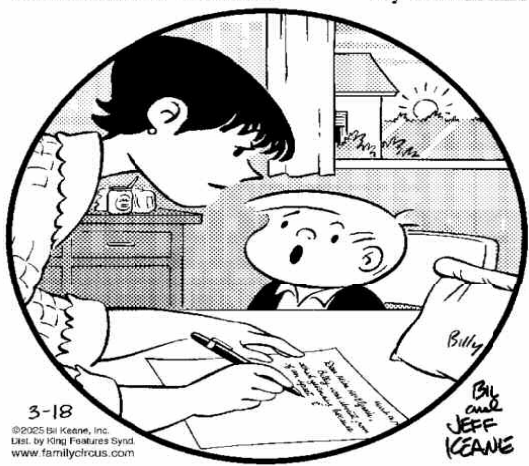


Beetle Bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Pollyanna approach

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 4
♥ A K 4
♦ K J 9 6
♣ K Q J 10 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 5 3 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A 7 6

EAST
♠ A Q 7 6
♥ 6 5 2
♦ A 10 3
♣ 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ Q J 10 9 7 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 8 3

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

Opening lead — ten of spades.
When declarer is playing a hand where the outcome is uncertain, he should assume a distribution of the adverse cards that will permit the contract to be made. To do otherwise would be self-defeating.
The same principle applies to the defending side. A defender must also make favorable assumptions, since it is counterproductive to credit declarer with a hand that renders the contract impregnable.
Take this case where East wins

the opening spade lead with the and must decide how his side score three more tricks. His first step is to conclude that if South the ace of clubs, the contract cannot be defeated. He therefore assumes that West has the club.
This, in turn, gives his side defensive tricks (three aces), leaves the question of where the set trick might come from. Obviously there is no chance of West's winning a trump trick, so the hope of defeating the contract in scoring a second diamond trick.
Since West must have the queen of diamonds for this possibility to materialize, East makes a second assumption by also assigning a card to West. Having thus completed the necessary groundwork East then returns a low diamond trick two!

Declarer is helpless against a well-reasoned defense. West's queen forces dummy's king, and a South draws trump and attacks clubs, West takes the ace and returns a diamond to put the contract down one.
Note that without the low club shift by East at trick 1 declarer can prevail by conceding club to West's ace and then playing the jack of diamonds if West returns a low card in that suit.

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the ball.
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3-18

CRYPTOQUIP

JR FYOBO VOBO E BOTASEFJML
EHMAF FYO NBONEBEFJML MR
UEHHETO GESEZ, VMASZ JF HO

UMSO'G SEV?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS COMIC STRIP GUY WHO WORKED IN CAULKING AND WEATHERPROOFING: POPEYE THE SEALER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Unh-unh"
5 Highland hat
8 Chowder morsel
12 Fearsome dinosaur
13 Nabokov novel
14 Waikiki's island
15 Leak out slowly
16 Windfalls
18 Tuna's kin
20 Raiment
21 Aussie hopper
22 Arthur of "Maude"
23 Comforter cover
26 Adhesive's job
30 Simile part
31 Plant seeds
32 "Alley —"
33 Easter hats
36 Accord maker
38 Vintage
39 Aachen article
40 Horned beast

DOWN

1 Fed. accident investigator
2 Nabisco cookie
3 Hammer part
4 Run out
5 Forbidden
6 Big fusses
7 "Sheesh!"
8 "Lord Jim"
9 Lounge author
10 Cries of discovery
11 Tousele
17 Mideast gulf
19 Nanny's charge
22 Fiddle stick
23 Apply cream
24 GI-entertaining
25 Mover's vehicle
26 Derek and Diddley
27 Bit of physics
28 Doze (off)
29 Transcript no.
31 Norm, for short
34 Like skim milk
35 "The Time Machine" people
36 Coop dweller
37 Planetary paths
39 Medicated
40 Baseball stats
41 Firetruck necessity
42 "To Live and Die —"
43 Alpha follower
44 Baseball's Hershey
45 Director Ephron
46 Cinch
48 Workout unit

Solution time: 22 mins.

U	B	E	R	S	I	A	C	A	D	S	
M	A	Y	A	I	S	M	I	D	E	A	
P	I	E	T	G	R	E	E	N	D	A	Y
S	T	R	E	W	N	S	T	E	I	N	S
D	A	H	L	A	M	T					
S	E	A	G	R	E	E	N	A	I	D	A
A	L	B	D	R	A	B	S	V	E	Y	
C	L	E	O	E	V	A	G	R	E	E	N
R	R	S	E	T	T	E					
E	D	D	I	E	S	E	S	T	E	E	M
G	R	E	E	N	T	E	A	O	R	Z	O
O	N	E	L	A	R	M	O	A	R	S	
S	O	N	S	Y	E	S	L	S	A	T	

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Kubota 2G 327 Zero turn Mower, Snapper Pro ST50 w/ Bagger, Ryan 24i Sod Cutter, Club Car 48 Volt Electric Golf Cart, Pallet Forks, Cement Mixer, (2) Western 2&3 Ton Salt Spreaders, Large Lot of Landscaping Pavers, Blocks, and Bricks. Approximately 150 Trees including Oak, Maple, Elm, and Pine. Rose Bushes. Shrubs. Misc Plants.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction.
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NCAA ...

Continued from page 8
Quadrants date from the days of the RPI, which the NCAA acknowledged did such a poor job of evaluating teams that you had to look at how teams fared against the top 25, top 50, top 100 and so on in RPI just to get a sense of things. With the advent of the NET, an improvement on the RPI but still flawed, the NCAA finally adjusted the quadrants to give more weight to road and neutral-site wins, as they should.

But the demarcations — an opponent NET of 30 or better at a neutral site and 75 or better on the road — draw needlessly arbitrary lines between games of equal value. The difference between a neutral-site win over the 50th- and 51st-ranked teams in the NET is negligible in real life, but apocalyptic in the committee's eyes.
And with the advent of new metrics like WAB,

quadrants are as much an artifact of the set-shot era as jump balls after every held ball. There's a reason we got rid of that, just as there's a reason there's a 3-point line now. When something makes the game better, we should embrace it.
North Carolina was facing the same injustice as N.C. State in 2019, when the Wolfpack was penalized for playing a weak nonconference schedule — but still, famously, beat

Auburn — despite beating the snot out of those teams. There just wasn't the awareness then, among the athletic directors and commissioners on the committee, that it's hard to beat up on even bad teams by those big numbers. N.C. State's performance and its weak schedule were both baked into its strong NET rating, which the committee chose to ignore.
It helped the Wolfpack's opponents, though. They

got credit for beating an NCAA-tournament worthy team by beating N.C. State. Voila: The ACC had three No. 1 seeds that year.
Unquestionably, North Carolina knew the landscape this season and had 13 chances to win more than one Q1 game. The Tar Heels' poor Q1 record was not a failure of opportunity, even in a weak ACC. (Unlike N.C. State in 2019, North Carolina played a brutal non-

conference schedule.) The Tar Heels wouldn't have been able to blame the committee for that.
But we all should thank the committee, as basketball fans. The point of the NCAA tournament is to get the 37 most deserving at-large teams into the field, even if they have to win a game in Dayton to prove it. It's 2025. We can do the math now. We know who they are. North Carolina was, and is, one of them.

Michigan ...

Continued from page 8
The Wolverines chipped away at the deficit as the Badgers went over seven minutes with a made field goal. Will Tschetter canned a 3-pointer to spark a 7-0 run. Cason made two free throws — Michigan's first attempts of the game — to cut it to 38-34.
The Badgers kept the Wolverines at bay until another 3-pointer by Tschetter kick-started a string of stops and made shots. Wolf scored on a reverse layup and a spinning finish in the lane on back-to-back possessions. Michigan knotted it at 45 with 5:50 remaining.
That triggered a back-and-forth stretch and a hectic finish. After John Tonje — Wisconsin's leading scorer who went scoreless in the first half — threw down a dunk to make it a three-point game, Nimari Burnett drained a 3-pointer to even it up. Then after Steven Crowl made a deep ball to break the tie, Donaldson scored at the rim to cut it to 51-50 at the 3:32 mark.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Michael Reaves

The Michigan Wolverines celebrate after defeating the Wisconsin Badgers in the Big Ten men's basketball tournament championship at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on March 16, 2025, in Indianapolis.

Following a pair of stops, Michigan eventually broke through and pulled ahead when Donaldson connected on a 3-pointer for a 53-51 lead.
Wisconsin tied it back up on the ensuing possession when Max Klesmit was fouled during a scramble for a loose ball and made two free throws.
The Wolverines had three chances to regain the lead on their next trip. After missing two 3-pointers and Wisconsin batting the ball out both times, Michigan

made the third opportunity count. Goldin drew a foul in the paint and made two free throws for a 55-53 lead with 46 seconds to go.
Michigan held on from there. The Wolverines got a stop on Wisconsin's next two possessions.

Donaldson and Wolf combined for four free throws in the final 14 seconds to seal it.
John Blackwell scored 18 and Klesmit 12 for Wisconsin (26-9), which shot a season-low 22.1% from the field (15-for-68).
Michigan and Wisconsin both

looked like teams that were playing with tired legs and dealing with fatigue. The Badgers, playing their fourth game in four days, missed one 3-pointer after another. The Wolverines, playing for the third time in 42 hours, had three turnovers and air-

balling a couple of 3-pointers early on.
Wisconsin missed 12 of its first 14 shots, with all but two of those attempts coming from 3-point range. Michigan got off to a 3-for-10 shooting start. The teams were deadlocked at 7 more than seven minutes into the game and went nearly five minutes without a made field goal between them.
Goldin snapped the lengthy drought with a hook shot in the paint and followed that up with a 3-pointer from straightaway during a rare burst of offense that gave Michigan a 12-7 edge at the 11:46 mark.
Blackwell put an end to a six-minute stretch between made baskets for Wisconsin with a corner 3-pointer. That sparked a 10-2 spurt fueled by Blackwell that gave the Badgers a 17-14 advantage.
Neither team could warm up offensively during a chilly first half. Both sides continued to miss shot after shot and go several minutes between baskets. Michigan couldn't get anything to drop from outside or inside, with several layups rolling off the rim. Wisconsin kept chucking away from downtown with little success, even when getting clean looks and multiple cracks at it in a possession.
By the time halftime arrived with Wisconsin holding a slim 23-21 lead, both teams shot below 30% and went a combined 17 for 69 from the field, including a woe-ful 7 for 41 clip from 3-point range.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Softball scrimmage vs. Van Wert - 5:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6:10 a.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Dodgers (FOX)
6:40 p.m. — NCAA Tournament men's basketball: Alabama State vs. St. Francis (TRUTV)

4:05 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Angels (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: Jacksonville State at Georgia Tech (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — TGL golf: The Bay Golf Club at Atlanta Drive GC (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Nashville Predators (FDSN Indiana)
9 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: Wichita State at Oklahoma State (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — NHL: Utah Hockey Club at

Edmonton Oilers (ESPN)
9:10 p.m. — NCAA Tournament men's basketball: San Diego State vs. North Carolina (TRUTV)
11 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: CSUN at Stanford (ESPN2)
Wednesday
6 a.m. — Women's Curling world championship: Italy vs. Sweden (FS1)
1:05 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Washington Nationals (FDSN Indiana)
6:40 p.m. — NCAA Tournament men's

basketball: American vs. Mount St. Mary's (TRUTV)
7 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: Florida Atlantic at Dayton (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)
7 p.m. — Tennis: Miami Open (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Miami Heat (ESPN)
9 p.m. — College Basketball NIT:

Northern Iowa at SMU (ESPN2)
9:10 p.m. — NCAA Tournament men's basketball: Texas vs. Xavier (TRUTV)
10 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)
11 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: Loyola Chicago at San Jose State (ESPN2)
Local notes
Registration open
Registration for the 35th annual

Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.
There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.
The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Belmont high school and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

REAL ESTATE PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 722 E Main St, Portland, IN
Friday Afternoon
April 11th, 2025
5:00 P. M.
REAL ESTATE
This home sits on a 30' x 157' lot with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and 792 sq. ft. of living area.
This home is heated with a Warm Morning stove and has a gas water heater. There is a detached garage and a utility shed. This home has a cement driveway, a covered back porch and a nice size yard.
For more information or private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer at 260-726-5160.
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Josh Atkinson Attorney
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Auctioneers
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PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
LEGAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL BIDS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the office of the Jay County Auditor, at the Courthouse in Portland, Indiana, 47371, Friday, April 11, 2025 until the hour of 4:00 pm local time for Item 1 to be delivered to the county highway department in the amounts and at such time as ordered by the head of the department. Bids are to be from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 with optional escalator clause as an alternate.
Specifications are available in the Jay County Auditor's Office, Portland, Indiana 47371 for the following items:
Item #1Asphalt Emulsions - RS-2, AE-90, AE-150, AE-T, AE-P, AE-PL, Dust Stay
The Board of Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to accept the one which, in their judgment will be in the best interest of Jay County, being the best and/or lowest response and responsible bidder for each line or class of materials by the order of the Board of Commissioners of Jay County, Indiana.
Emily Franks
Jay County Auditor.
CR 3-18,25-HSPAXLP

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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.
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Public Notice
highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com
250 PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM
No. 38C01-2502-ES-00002
In the Matter of the Supervised Administration of the Estate of: Larry M. Nuckols, Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Erika Limbert was, on the 13th day of March, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Larry M. Nuckols deceased, who died on January 10, 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 13th 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
Attorneys for the Estate
CR 3-18,25-2025-HSPAXLP

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highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA JAY COUNTY, SS: IN THE JAY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 38C01-2503-EU000007
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JACQUELINE WHITCOMB, Deceased
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Peggy Manor was on the 12th day of March, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Jacqueline Whitcomb deceased, who died on the 25th day of December, 2024.
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, 3/13/2025
Missy Elliott, Clerk
Jay County Court
John H. Brooke, #4234-18
112 E Gilbert Street
Muncie, IN 47305
(765) 741-1375
Attorney for Estate
3-18,25-2025
CR 3-18,25-2025 HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA JAY COUNTY, SS: IN THE JAY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
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Dated at Portland, Indiana, 3/13/2025
Missy Elliott, Clerk
Jay County Court
John H. Brooke, #4234-18
112 E Gilbert Street
Muncie, IN 47305
(765) 741-1375
Attorney for Estate
3-18,25-2025
CR 3-18,25-2025 HSPAXLP

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located at 722 East Main Street Portland, Indiana on Friday afternoon
APRIL 11, 2025
5:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE: This home sets on a 60' x 157' lot with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and 792 square feet of living area. This home is heated with a Warm Morning stove and has a gas water heater. There is a detached garage and a utility shed. This home has a cement driveway, a covered back porch and a nice size yard.
20% nonrefundable deposit day of auction with balance due at closing. Seller will provide Owners Title Insurance and a Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in November 2025 and thereafter. Any inspections must be done prior to auction day and are at potential buyers expense. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter.
FOR MORE INFORMATION or private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.
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Patriot girls nearly sweep ACAC meet



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Grady Warvel swims the butterfly leg of the 200-yard medley relay for the Jay County Junior High School swim team during the Allen County Athletic Conference championship hosted by the Patriots Friday. After helping the relay team take first place, Warvel picked up a pair of individual victories, including the 100 individual medley, in which he broke the meet and school records.

The Patriot girls have performed at a high level all season.

With both Allen County Athletic Conference opponents in the pool with them, they proved they are undoubtedly the best.

The Jay County Junior High School girls swim team broke four records while nearly sweeping the ACAC Championship that it hosted on Friday. Despite rewriting a few records and securing five first-place finishes, the boys team didn't match but stayed as the runner-up.

The girls won 11 of the 12 events - Bluffton's Kianna Linderwell edged Jordyn Champ in the 1-meter diving by four points - to run away with the title with a score of 485. Bluffton was the runner-up with 358 points, while South Adams trailed behind with 292.

Bluffton claimed the boys title with 461 points. Jay County's 284 still gave it a comfortable advantage on South Adams (115) and Adams Central (111).

Kali Wendel put together a strong performance, breaking the meet record in both the 200-yard freestyle and the 400 freestyle to take first in each event. She swam a 2

minute, 14.40 in the 200 freestyle and finished the 400 freestyle in 4:45.41.

Elly Byrum and Maria Laux each broke an ACAC meet record as well. Elly Byrum's 58.77 second swim in the 100 freestyle took the top spot, while etching her name in the record books, while Laux's 1:09.31 in the 100 backstroke did the same. Each girl had another individual victory on the day, with Elly Byrum taking the 100 individual medley and Laux handling the 50 freestyle.

The Patriot girls won all three relay races, while Isabelle Byrum and Anna Fisher added victories in the 50 butterfly and 100 breaststroke, respectively.

On the boys side, Grady Warvel's time in the 100 individual medley not only broke the meet record, but the school record as well. He put out a 1:01.88 to take the top spot. He also won the 400 freestyle.

Grant Glentzer secured the final ACAC record of the day, swimming a 1:02.90 in the 100 backstroke. Glentzer also won the 200 freestyle.

The only other victories for the boys came from Ben Fisher in the 100 breaststroke and the 200 medley relay team.

Michigan completes turnaround with Big Ten Tournament title

By **JAMES HAWKINS**
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The Wolverines let one Big Ten title slip through their fingers. They weren't going to let that happen again.

Not this time. No. 3 seed Michigan rallied from an 11-point deficit in the second half and reeled off its third

win in as many days, beating No. 5 seed Wisconsin, 59-53, in Sunday's Big Ten Tournament championship game at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

Tre Donaldson and Vlad Goldin each scored 11 points and made several clutch free throws in a closing 6-0 run in the final 46 seconds to help Michigan (25-9) capture its first conference tournament title since 2018 and fourth

in program history.

The Wolverines accomplished the feat in coach Dusty May's first year with a convincing win over No. 6 seed Purdue, a thrilling finish against No. 2 seed Maryland and a gutsy win against Wisconsin, where they shot just 32.2% from the field.

Following an ugly first half that featured little offense and plenty of missed jump shots, the

scoring slowly picked up. The Badgers were the first to find any sort of rhythm and made three consecutive shots, including a wide-open 3-pointer by Carter Gilmore on a defensive breakdown, to grab a 32-24 lead with 15:53 left.

A lid appeared to still be on the rim for the Wolverines. Over the first seven minutes of the second half, Michigan's only offense

came on a pair of 3-pointers from freshman LJ Cason off the bench.

Michigan entered dangerous territory, as fouls and trips to the free-throw line for Wisconsin began to stack up. Danny Wolf and Tre Donaldson both picked up their third foul. The Badgers used a string of six free throws to extend the margin to 38-27 with 13:11 to go.

See **Michigan** page 7

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Death to quadrants: North Carolina let into NCAA tournament



By **LUKE DeCOCK**
The Sun News (Myrtle Beach, S.C.)
Tribune News Service

The bracketologists — the smart ones, the good ones, and all the many rest of them — had spoken. North Carolina's 1-12 record in Quadrant 1 games was utterly and totally disqualifying. The only March drama for the Tar Heels was going to be whether they'd accept an NIT bid or decline for the second time in three years.

Then a funny thing happened on the way to Dayton.

The NCAA selection committee entered the 21st Century, and took the Tar Heels along with it. They'll play San Diego State in the First Four on Tuesday for the right to play Mississippi in the first round.

By any rational or objective metric, in a quadrant-free world, North Carolina deserved to be in. Not by much, to be sure, but in.

North Carolina had a better NET rating than San Diego State, Texas, Xavier, Boise State or Indiana. It ranked higher in Wins Above Bubble, the gold-standard resume rating the NCAA basketball selection committee added to its teamsheets this summer.

And the Tar Heels fared dramatically better than any of those teams in Ken Pomeroy's effi-

Tar Heels were selected as an at large bid over West Virginia, Indiana and others despite 1-12 Quad 1 record

ciency ratings, which aren't supposed to measure how well you've played — the standard for NCAA tournament selection — but how good you actually are.

In any other year, that might not have been enough. The committee has been stuck on quadrants for decades now, a way to sort the field and parse the data when all it had to go by was the obsolete, borderline-useless RPI.

Finally, under the stewardship of committee chairman Bubba Cunningham, it abandoned the old and embraced the new. That is, yes, North Carolina athletic director Bubba Cunningham, but this was no cynical pivot. And it wasn't just UNC: Xavier (1-9 in Q1) got in, too.

Over the course of his term on the committee, Cunningham did as much as any chairman in recent memory to add new, better measurements to the NCAA process, in part because he harbored serious and legitimate doubts about the efficacy of the NET, a sort of Frankenstein's metric that tries to measure how good your wins are with how good we think you are, two very different things.

Under Cunningham's leadership, the NCAA

added WAB and Torvik — a predictive metric similar to KenPom — to the teamsheets, measurements that established Cunningham's own men's basketball team as a worthy at-large selection by any criteria but quadrants.

"WAB really is designed, when you get down to trying to compare these teams across the country, how would they compete against the teams around the bubble, and how would they compete against the nonconference schedule that each of the teams that are being considered have played?" Cunningham told CBS Sports HQ on Sunday. "So it really is an interesting metric that we're using for the first time, and I think we used it, but there's not any singular metric that we all rely on."

It's easy to look at Quadrant 1 record and say, "Well, that's how they did against good teams, so..." but quadrants draw arbitrary lines between wins (and losses) of roughly equal value, turning what should be a nuanced process that accurately evaluates every team and every game into a random party trick of "what's somebody's NET rating today?"

See **NCAA** page 7