

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Redkey moves toward a new website

Town plans to utilize state office of technology program

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

REDKEY — With a new website, a new town council member and new police officers, Redkey will see some changes this spring.

Redkey Town Council heard about plans to migrate to a state-affiliated website and approved a related purchase Tuesday. Council also met its newly appointed member, Jennifer Staver, and hired Chris Jack and Alex Heath as town marshal and deputy, respectively.

Council terminated a contract with its former web design company, Emerald Business Solutions, in January. Town utility worker Ted Kolodka explained to council members that his wife, Sara Grady, looked into alternative solutions for the town. She learned about Indiana Office of Technology's state web design and development program.

The state department now offers free subdomain and Domain Name System services to Indiana local governments, giving governmental entities access to a website under IN.gov. According to its website, IN.gov offers extra security protections.

Grady met with Indiana Office of Technology representatives on March 9. She learned Redkey qualifies for a free website under the state domain, allowing Redkey to create a unique web address (TownofRedkey.IN.gov).

The free version, according to documentation provided by Grady, allows four support requests per month and can migrate up to 100 pages of data from the previous website. (The town's current website only has nine pages.)

It also offers online and group training and access for up to 10 administrative users.

The new website could offer an option for residents to pay their utility bills online. In addition, it could provide access to a town calendar, ordinances and reservation forms for the park cabin. Grady suggested the town could also feature Redkey businesses and Redkey history on the site.

"We'd just like to bring explosion to the town," said Grady. "We're just trying to bring light to Redkey with this website. And since it's free, we might as well utilize what we have."

Plans are to begin creating the website April 1, with Redkey representatives to gain access and begin training April 16. Hopes are to launch the website May 8.

See Redkey page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Oreo blast

Eight-year-old Hadley Adams of Indianapolis, loads a Nerf dart gun in preparation for shooting at Oreo-themed targets Tuesday at Jay County Public Library. Hadley Adams and her brother, 10-year-old Jase Adams, visited the library with their grandparents for "Mission Expl-OREO-ation," an Oreo-themed family night hosted by the library and Jay County Farm Bureau.

Nuclear bill heads to governor

By ERIN BRUCE
TheStatehouseFile.com

On Tuesday, the Indiana Senate concurred with the House's adjustment to Senate Bill 424, which removed the sunset date from the bill, clearing its path to the governor.

The bill would fund the project development costs of small modular nuclear reactors. The technology is experimental, and no energy sources of this kind have been successfully built in the United States.

"Project development costs" are defined in the bill as engineering, costs

Measure would fund development costs for small modular reactors

for licensing and permits, costs for environmental assessment, and equipment purchases.

With the removal of the sunset date, which was initially July 1, 2035, the development costs can continually be incurred

and project timelines are unrestricted.

"Essentially, what this is doing is creating a blank check for folks to charge our rate payers for project development costs for as long as they would like to. This is really concerning.

We are all concerned about the increasing utility costs, and I want to remind us that this is experimental technology at best," said Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis.

Hunley noted that the House could have extended the sunset date but opted for complete removal. She said removing the date does not reflect fiscal responsibility.

During the presentation of the concurrence, Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, questioned bill author Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, about the technology and the sunset date removal.

Koch said this technology will likely first be active in Canada.

"There are none yet in the United States, but there are many states just like us who are doing the very same things to be ready when the designs are approved," said Koch.

Taylor expressed concerns about paying for development costs as opposed to the costs of the technology. In addition to uncertainty around the technology, he emphasized that there is uncertainty around the long-term cost efficiency.

See Bill page 2

Atlantic releases Signal text chain

By NICK WADHAMS
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The Atlantic released the transcript of a group chat between top U.S. officials on Signal that inadvertently included its top editor, revealing how Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth shared details of timing and weapons systems to be used in attacks against militants in Yemen.

The transcript included a text message from Hegseth to the full group — which included Vice President JD Vance, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz and others — giving precise times for two waves of U.S. attacks against the Houthis, including with details of what weapons system would be used.

The magazine said it had come to believe that "people should see the texts in order to reach their

Transcript includes times for pair of U.S. attacks

own conclusions" after President Donald Trump and other officials including Hegseth and Waltz played down the severity of the incident. It was Waltz who had apparently added Atlantic editor Jeffrey Goldberg to the chat — dubbed "Houthi PC small group" — before the attacks by mistake.

See Releases page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Andrew Harnik

U.S. President Donald Trump, U.S. National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, listen to a question from a reporter during a recent meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C. The Atlantic has released the transcript of a group chat between top U.S. officials on Signal that inadvertently included its top editor, revealing how Hegseth shared details of timing and weapons systems to be used in attacks against militants in Yemen.

Deaths

Marilyn Smith, 93, Portland
Thomas Eley, 78, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 49 degrees Tuesday. The low was 33.

Rain is expected tonight with a low in the upper 40s. Friday's high will be in the lower 70s with rain likely, thunderstorms possible and winds gusting to 30 mph.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District is offering a new scholarship. The district will award two Jay County High School seniors with \$250 scholarships. To qualify, students must have volunteered manning recycling drop off centers in Jay County during their high school career. Applications are due before March 31.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Results from the Fort Recovery softball team's season opener.

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



Obituaries

Marilyn Smith

April 20, 1931-March 23, 2025
Marilyn J. Smith, age 93, a resident of Portland, passed away on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at IU Health Jay in Portland.
Marilyn was born April 20, 1931, in rural Ridgeville, the daughter of Virgil and Ina (Bourke) Platt. She was a member of the Ladies of the Moose in Portland and enjoyed playing bingo.
Marilyn married Williard Smith on December 6, 1952, and he passed away on March 2, 2002.

Survivors include:
One son — Terry Smith, Portland, Indiana
Her companion — Frank Hogle, Portland, Indiana
Two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren
She was preceded in death by two children, Ronnie Smith and Pamela Dennis; and one grandchild, Shane Dennis.
Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025,



Smith

at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.
Memorials may be directed to the Jay County Cancer Society or Jay County Heart Fund.

Thomas Eley

March 2, 1947-March 24, 2025
Thomas Eley, age 78, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, March 24, 2025, at his home.
Thomas was born March 2, 1947, in Portland, Indiana, the son

of Martin and Ruth (Evans) Eley. Thomas was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne from 1966 to 1968. While in the Army, he earned his National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign medal, Combat Infantryman metal and Parachutist Badge.
Survivors include:
Two children — Jackie Baughman (husband: Jack), Portland, Indiana, and Michael Martin
Two brothers — Dick Eley, Portland, Indiana, and Albert Eley (wife: Delores), Dunkirk, Indiana

Two grandchildren
No services are scheduled.
Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
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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 3/28	Saturday 3/29	Sunday 3/30	Monday 3/31	Tuesday 4/1
75/60	69/58	69/41	45/29	48/38
Friday has a 70% chance of showers with highs in the lower 70s.	Saturday looks to be rainy with a 60% chance of showers.	Sunday has an 80% chance of rain with thunderstorms also possible.	Monday with another 70% chance of showers.	Tuesday looks to be mostly sunny with highs in the mid 40s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$484 million	Evening Daily Three: 7-2-0 Daily Four: 1-0-4-3 Quick Draw: 1-6-10-11-14-15-20-25-27-28-31-34-35-40-47-53-56-65-67-77
Mega Millions 1-5-17-39-62 Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 7-9-5 Pick 4: 8-3-1-0 Pick 5: 8-9-9-6-0 Evening Pick 3: 5-1-0 Pick 4: 7-9-6-1 Pick 5: 7-5-6-3-2 Rolling Cash: 13-18-19-31-38
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 6-7-0 Daily Four: 0-4-7-9 Quick Draw: 1-10-12-14-15-17-26-27-37-41-50-52-53-63-64-65-69-72-77-79	Estimated jackpot: \$351,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.57 May corn.....4.61 June corn.....4.71	April beans10.03 Wheat 4.97
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.77 April corn4.77 May corn.....4.77	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.68 April corn4.70 Beans10.05 April beans10.07 Wheat5.08
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.69 April corn4.69 Beans9.99	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.52 April corn4.52 Beans9.75 April beans9.75 Wheat4.84

Today in history

In 1863, Frederick Henry Royce was born in the United Kingdom in Alwalton. An English engineer, he co-founded the Rolls-Royce vehicle company, which offered luxury British vehicles and aero-engine manufacturing.
In 1912, first lady Helen Herron Taft and the viscountess Chinda, the Japanese ambassador's wife, planted two Yoshino cherry trees on the northern bank of the Potomac River Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., celebrating Japan's gift of 3,000 trees to the United States.
In 1944, approximately 1,000 Jews left Drancy, France, for a concentration camp in Auschwitz.

In 2013, Jay County Hospital Board of Trustees OK'd a \$9,500 payment to MSKTD & Associates to do an engineering study for replacement generators at the hospitals.
In 2019, Jay County High School graduate Casey Kenney defeated Vince "The Anomaly" Cachero to become Legacy Fighting Alliance's first dual champion. Kenney competed the next day against Ray "The Taxmexican Devil" Borg in Philadelphia, his first Ultimate Fighting Championship match. (Kenney knocked off the third-ranked UFC flyweight by unanimous decision.) —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6:30 p.m. — Portland City Council executive session, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	

Redkey ...

Continued from page 1
Grady and Kolodka asked for volunteers to help prepare for the new website, noting they don't need to know specific coding languages.
Kolodka also noted issues in the past with redirecting email addresses after town employees stopped working for Redkey. He suggested investing in access to 10 email accounts — per a state contract, they are provided by information technology company SHI International Corporation — at a cost of \$16 per month each.
Council members Brenda Beaty, "Watermelon" Jim Phillips and Staver, absent Floyd Life and Dave Dudelston, OK'd spending \$160 monthly for email address access.
Also Tuesday, Beaty introduced Staver, the new town council member. She's taking over the spot left by former council member Gavin Grady, who resigned in February. Council wasn't able to make a quorum at its last two scheduled meetings since Grady's resignation.
Relatedly on Tuesday, council heard grievances from a few town residents regarding Dudelston and Life's absence from meetings.
"This town board needs to put aside any differences they may have when you walk in here and sit down," said Brad Grady. "You need to have the focus of the Redkey, and 'We the People,' that's what your focus needs to be on."
Council members briefly discussed potential action the board could take against other members for not attending meetings — Staver suggested passing an ordinance if possible — with attorney Steve Murphy saying the matter would need to be looked into.
Council also hired Chris Jack as

town marshal and Alex Heath as a full-time officer.
The town has been without police since former town marshal Jon Cave left the department in February. Council members scheduled a special meeting earlier this month to approve hiring Jack but were unable to make a quorum.
Jack has more than a decade of experience working in the field, having previously served at Portland Police Department. Heath was hired previously as a reserve officer.
In other business, council:
•Heard updates from utility worker Ted Kolodka related to the water, wastewater and street departments, including:
—Indiana Department of Environmental Management has approved the town's updated long-term control plan for addressing combined sewer overflows. Redkey was required to submit an amended version of the plan to the state department by Dec. 31 last year. Kolodka put together the document, which shares information about utility projects planned in the future. Kolodka noted he and others are looking into grants to help pay for the work.
—Utility worker Seth Fugiet is spearheading plans to repair or replace street signs around town, including pedestrian crosswalk signs near Redkey Elementary School
—Indiana Department of Environmental Management will be doing a regular inspection at the water department June 17
—Utility workers replaced an electrical panel near the water tower recently
—Miller Pipeline and town representatives met March 21 to discuss protocol for future natural gas line projects in town. (Concerns cropped

up last year amid installation of new gas lines, specifically addressing the location of new lines, dumping and street damage.)
•Learned about the following events coming up in Redkey: a pancake, sausage and egg breakfast fundraiser for Redkey Fireworks Committee from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. April 5 at the fire department; an Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. April 19 at Redkey Elementary School; Culpeper and Merriweather Circus performing shows at 5 and 7:30 p.m. June 3 at the tractor pull grounds on Indiana 1; fire department truck pulls June 14; Independence Day fireworks July 5; and annual Redkey Gas Boom Days festival Aug. 9 and 10.
•OK'd installing a naloxone (NARCAN) dispenser behind Redkey Town Hall.
•Learned Indiana State Board of Accounts audited the town recently, with results to be released to the public in April.
•OK'd wrapping red LEDs lights around light poles in downtown Redkey for decoration. The lights will be donated by an anonymous local resident.
•Gave permission for Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers to use the park cabin restrooms during tailgates in the winter months. Leavell noted 100 cars went through the tailgate last week in Redkey. (The organization is now hosting monthly tailgates in Redkey on the third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the park.)
•OK'd approximately \$500 in detailing work on the town's police vehicles, with Beaty explaining the vehicles have cigarette burn marks in them.
•Approved \$3,014.67 in water bill adjustments.

Releases ...

Continued from page 1
The magazine had withheld some details when it disclosed on Monday that Goldberg was added to the text group. Goldberg recounted how he watched in real time as top officials including Vance and Hegseth debated the strike, which went ahead exactly as they'd detailed.
On the chain, Hegseth said the effort would include strikes by F-18 Hornet fighter jet and MQ-9 Reaper attack drones.
"1215et: F-18s LAUNCH (1st strike package)," reads one text from Hegseth.
"1345: 'Trigger Based' F-18 1st Strike Window Starts (Target Terrorist is @ his Known Location so SHOULD BE ON TIME - also, Strike Drones Launch (MQ-9s)."
The Atlantic said the White House had asked it not to disclose the plans. On Wednesday, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt called the reporting a "hoax," arguing that the magazine had described the content as "war plans" in its original story but "attack plans" in the subsequent post.
"The Atlantic has conceded: these were NOT

"war plans," Leavitt wrote on X. "This entire story was another hoax written by a Trump-hater who is well-known for his sensationalist spin."
Goldberg, in an interview with MSNBC, said Leavitt was playing a "weird semantic game."
The texts touched off a firestorm of accusations from Democrats and national-security experts who argued that top officials should not have used Signal, a publicly available messaging app, for such high-level and sensitive discussions. Calls grew louder on Wednesday for Hegseth and others to resign.
"Pete Hegseth put our war plans in an unsecured signal chat," Representative Robert Garcia, a California Democrat, wrote on X. "He lied yesterday and so did the White House. He must be fired or removed from office immediately and there must be a serious investigation."
In Senate testimony Tuesday, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard said she didn't "recall specific weapons systems being named."

Bill ...

Continued from page 1
"I don't know what my savings are, but I know I paid for your research. I paid for you to go out to D.C. and get approved for the small models and small modular thing. And now you're telling me, 'Oh, you're gonna get savings'—savings for who?" Taylor asked. "Are you giving me my dollar back?"
In addition to Hunley and Taylor, Sen. Michael Young, R-Indianapolis, raised concerns on the removal of the sunset date.
The concurrence passed with 32 yeas and 15 nays. It now heads to Gov. Mike Braun's desk.

SERVICES

Thursday
Atkinson, Lucy: 10 a.m., Lighthouse Church, 201 S. Van Buren St., Monroe.

Monday
Smith, Marilyn: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

FRMS releases honor roll

Fort Recovery Middle School recently announced its third nine weeks honor roll.

Making the list with straight A's were sixth graders Aaron Brunswick, Tyce Dilworth, Heidi Dues, Kayla Dues, Leonard Faller, Addison Fortkamp, Calan Fortkamp, Rachel Fortkamp, LaMicheal Heitkamp and Blake Homan.

Also Conner Homan, Anna Niekamp, Violet Roessner, Addison Schoenlein, Garrett Siefiring, Kaitlyn Stammen, Tyler Steinbrunner, Peyton Weitzel, Zoey Wendel and Georgia Wuebker.

Earning a spot on honor roll with all A's and B's were sixth graders Rhett Albers, Lillian Alig, Jackson Barga, Rachel Boeckman, Ziva Brown, Kelly Casillas-Sanchez, Easton Diller, Rozlyn Diller, Conrad Dues, Gavin Gaerke, Wade Gaerke, Mitchell Geier, Hailey Grisez, Joshua Grube, Riley Guggenbiller, Lane Homan, Jordan Honeycutt, Maverick Huel-

skamp, Ellee Kremer and Hannah Link.

Also Walker Link, Brandon Martinez, Whitley Overman, Charles Roessner, Theodore Schmitz, Adaley Shuttleworth, Finley Thompson, Kolten Timmerman, Xavier Tobin, Hailey Wenning, Marcus Wenning, Natalie Wenning, Evan Willmann and Rihanna Wuebker.

On the list with straight A's were seventh graders Kyle Andrews, Logan Gaerke, Miley Hardwick, Mason Jutte, Camden LeFevre, Eloise Niekamp, Aubrey Stammen, Makayla Wehrkamp, Aubrey Wendel, Kenzie Wendel, Julia Westerges and Mya Will.

Making the honor roll with all A's and B's were seventh graders Mason Alig, Jacob Bergman, Alexandra Bihn, John Bihn, Molly Boeckman, Lukas Brackman, Skylee Grafmiller, Brayden Grisez, Mason Grisez, Lauren Hart, Alex Heitkamp and Jesse Homan.

Also Tucker Huntsman,

Ryan Jutte, Victoria Jutte, Eli Kremer, Owen Lamm, Quinn McCain, Aubrey Post, Katelyn Siefiring, Rayla Staugler, Koby Timmerman, Rielle Wendel and Gavin Willmann.

On the list with straight A's were eighth graders Chloe Brockman, Brinley Fortkamp, Yoselin Juarez-Gomez, Alexander Roessner and Lana Wuebker.

Making the honor roll with all A's and B's were eighth graders Kaiser Albers, Tenley Albers, Jenna Bertke, Kali Brunswick, Kale Diller, Emmitt Dues, Jordan Dues, Anthony Evers, Hope Evers, Stetson Fullenkamp, Kayla Gaerke, Claire Grube and Ella Hahn.

Also Addyson Heitkamp, Gavin Heitkamp, Brynn Huntsman, Addison Jutte, Carter Kaiser, Andrew Martinez, Isaac Niekamp, Courtney Overman, Kayden Ranly, Andrew Rehmer, Ethan Schmitz, Gunnar Thompson, Jett Tobe, Ben Vogel, Mara Wendel, Claire Wenning, Vincent Wenning and Lydia Will.

New friendship ripping at seams

DEAR ABBY: I met an acquaintance a few months ago during a brief work situation. We struck up a friendship (or so I thought) and have had lunch or dinner together a few times. She's recently divorced, and she has a fancy house, lots of expensive clothes, purses and a mega-expensive vehicle, all of which her ex paid for:

I have now gotten the distinct impression that she judges me for my modest home, etc., which I paid for myself, while putting my son through exemplary schools all on my modest income. I don't think I'm wrong about this. It's a combination of little things, like not posting our outings on social media as she does with other friends, for example, as well as coming around only when it suits her.

At this point, I almost don't even want a relationship with her because she appears to be superficial. If and when she comes around, how should I politely decline? Or would it be wrong to state what I feel is going on? — INCOMPATIBLE IN TEXAS

DEAR INCOMPATIBLE: I can think of no polite way to tell people their values are misplaced and superficial. The woman is not likely to change them at this late date. A polite way to decline would be to tell her you are not available. If she presses you further, tell her you don't think the two of you are compatible.

P.S. Before you brush her off, examine your motivation for wanting to do this. Could it be that because she has so many more material things than you, you feel self-conscious about it? Just asking ...

DEAR ABBY: I have been mar-

Dear Abby



ried 17 years, and we have had our ups and downs. Lately, I have noticed my husband no longer wants to go on trips together. He went on a weeklong vacation with his sisters shortly after I had surgery, and he took another weeklong trip to visit them and his nieces and nephews. When I spoke to him about it, his excuses ranged from "It will be too crowded" to "It's too much money."

This morning, I put my foot down. I said I'm going away for a weekend trip, and he can come with me or stay behind. He got upset. I work from home, long hours, and I haven't had a break in close to a year. I'm starting to get fed up with his attitude and unwillingness to travel with me. Am I wrong for wanting a week-end away from home? — GETTING OUT OF TOWN

DEAR GETTING OUT: Not in my book. You deserve to know the reason for your husband's change in attitude, which I suspect has little to do with it being too crowded. Could there be money problems you're not aware of? If that's not the case, you and hubby need an honest conversation or two about what may be wrong. If he isn't forthcoming, it may be time to call in the help of a licensed marriage and family therapist to help you both better communicate. In the meantime, go on that trip.

Know what to do about lumps

Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

A sarcoma is a term for a broad group of cancers that start in the bones or soft tissue, such as muscle, fat, blood vessels, nerves, tendons and joints. One of the signs of a sarcoma is a lump that can be felt through the skin that may or may not be painful. So if you feel one of these lumps, what should you do?

"Many patients will wonder: 'I have a lump on my arm or my leg. Should I have this evaluated? Who should I see, and when are these symptoms concerning?'" says Doctor Krista Goulding, a Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon.

She explains when you should seek medical care: "If you have a lump on your arm or your leg that is growing rapidly or is bigger than the size of a golf ball,

this needs rapid attention."

The first step in diagnosing a lump is to get advanced imaging, typically starting with a radiograph or X-ray.

"The next step is to get cross-sectional imaging, which means either an MRI or a CT scan," says Goulding.

Imaging is then followed by a biopsy to remove a sample of tissue for testing.

Community Calendar

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

Today

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

MISSISSINewa CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at Jay County Historical Society. Contact regent Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678 for questions.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recov-

ery 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.

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.

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

Tuesday

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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

Wednesday

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

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

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

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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Guest Editorial

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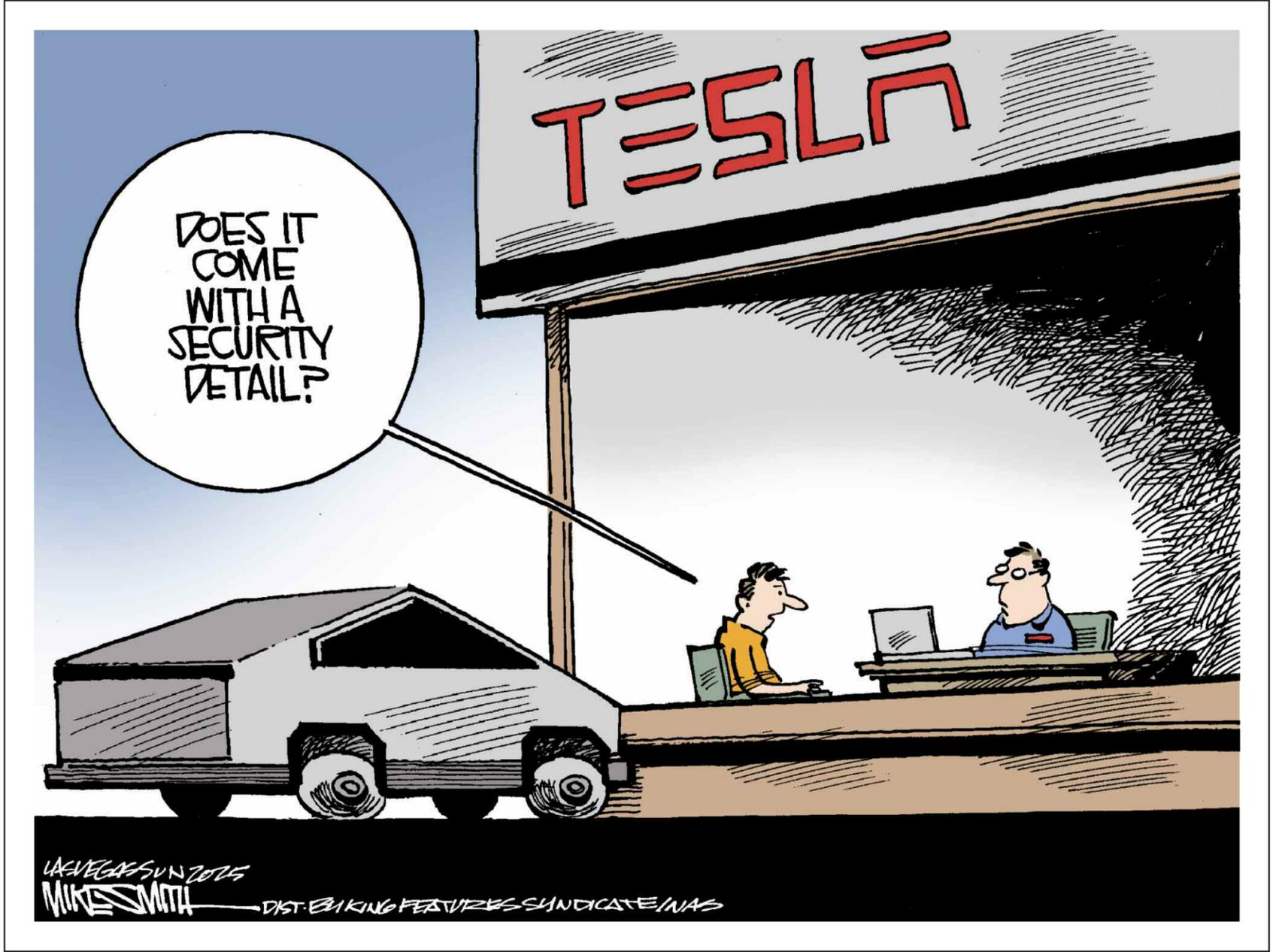
tion it can enlighten and empower us all.

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Let the sunshine in.



The choices are to grow or to decline

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The most recent Census population data tell a pretty important story about Indiana's future. Some of it is great, but not for most of the state.

Overall, population growth was tepid. We added 44,144 residents—slower than Kentucky, but a tad bit faster than Michigan, Illinois or Ohio. The composition of this growth is most telling. A whopping 69.9 percent of growth was from international migration—immigrants. Less than 10 percent of the change was due to net in-migration from other states, and just under 21 percent was from natural population change (births minus deaths).

The geography of these changes is startling.

A total of 62 of our 92 counties experienced natural population decline last year. The worst of these are familiar: Delaware, Wayne, LaPorte, Howard, Harrison and Fayette. These communities are literally dying off. Of those, 31 counties didn't have enough domestic in-migration to have population growth. There are 11 counties that suffered natural population decline, but were saved by immigrants moving in.

One encouraging aspect of the data is the wider geography of migration that has been taking place since COVID-19. Between 2010 and 2019, 56 Hoosier counties experienced net out-migration of residents. Last year, only 28 counties did.

A full quarter of college gradu-

Michael J. Hicks



ates are now working remotely for most of the week. These work-from-home opportunities breathed new life into communities that have built the amenities people want. This trend is slowing a bit, but I expect it to remain strong for some time.

I know many Hoosiers don't care about this. Many folks like where they live and wish for those places to remain unchanged. I certainly understand that desire, but keeping things the same really isn't an option. You either grow or shrink.

Growing places face problems, but these are happy problems. These places need to expand schools, roads and water service with tight budgets. They need to plan for new residential construction that will appeal to mobile residents, yet still be affordable to public servants—like teachers and police officers. It's unfortunate we have to plan affordable housing for public employees, but that is the road we've taken and is best saved for a later column.

Growing places appeal to new residents and typically attract private amenities, such as restau-

rants, grocery stores and other businesses people like to live nearby. Growing places already have good schools and low crime rates. That is one of the reasons people move there. So, the challenge for these places is how to keep the schools good, the roads paved and the neighborhoods safe.

Shrinking places also face problems, but they are unhappy problems. In the nearly one-third of Indiana counties where more Americans left than moved in, there are already deep local concerns. The most typical problem causing out-migration is underperforming schools. Good schools are a magnet for domestic migration. Poor schools repel new residents and offer a red flag to most employers.

Shrinking places lose the most mobile residents first. These people tend to have higher potential incomes and better educational attainment. The long history of migration in the U.S., Europe and Asia reports that movers possess, on average, the highest levels of human capital in any place. That's why out-migration is called brain drain.

The loss of such residents means declining demand for restaurants and grocery stores. Loss of high human capital residents also injures public institutions. There are fewer well-educated residents to run for city council or school board.

Shrinking places tend to have a shortage of volunteers for private

institutions, too, such as not-for-profit boards and community foundations. Churches lose membership and have fewer people to help run youth ministries, deliver meals to the elderly or bag groceries for food banks.

Declining places suffer from higher overhead costs of operating everything from schools to local churches. I find it puzzling that many people who bemoan the decline of churches, or worry about losing their local school, don't connect the dots to population growth.

Growth and decline are largely a matter of choice and have been for a half-century.

In 1970, places like Seymour, Connersville, New Castle and Logansport were relatively bustling, prosperous places. Carmel and Fishers were hardly more than crossroads, together boasting fewer than 10,000 residents. The two Hamilton County communities focused on schools as a source of growth. They've grown more than 20-fold in the half-century since.

I don't mention this to encourage anyone to become like Carmel or Fishers. I simply wish to illustrate the power of a good school system to grow residential population. Again, the choice is to grow or decline.

I don't wish to make that choice for any community. We live in a wonderfully heterogeneous nation, and the opportunity to choose from among a wide variety of places to live is among the

greater gifts our prosperity offers. It is a majestic luxury, the result of more than two centuries of representative democracy.

The ability to make a choice to grow on your own terms, or decline, should be carefully guarded and nurtured by elected officials — particularly at the state level.

Still, any column about growth and decline needs to be honest about the future. Six of the 10 fastest-growing counties are in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. Nine of the 10 fastest-growing counties are urban, and nine of the 10 fastest-shrinking counties are rural.

There is room to grow in all the fast-growing places. There is little room to shrink in communities that are in decline.

I know many residents in small Hoosier towns want lower property taxes and are wary of immigration. Just be clear-eyed about the consequences of those choices, and make sure you are planning for smaller, less prosperous towns, school consolidation, longer response times by fire and police and continued brain drain. Those are all policy choices.

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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—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

Bellefontain 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@in.umc.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 Bilibrey 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.
firstpceportland.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@therockkjc.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
Randy Smith (260) 703-0733
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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NORTH
♠ A K
♥ 8 7 3
♦ K Q J 10
♣ 10 7 6 3

WEST
♠ J 9 8 3
♥ 6 4 2
♦ 4
♣ J 9 5 4 2

EAST
♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ A 5
♦ A 9 7 3 2
♣ K 8

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 5
♥ K Q J 10 9
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A Q

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

Opening lead — four of diamonds.
The defenders would find their task much more difficult if they had no signals to guide each other to the best method of defense. One of the more valuable signals available to them is known as the "trump echo."
When declarer is playing in a suit contract, it is often critical for a defender to know how many trumps his partner has. This problem can in many cases be solved by making use of the trump echo.
Here's how it works: Let's say a defender has the 6-4-2 of trump. To indicate that he has an odd number of trumps — usually three — he

plays the four the first time a trump is led, and the two the next time. (He would follow the same procedure if he were trumping a trick, ruffing with the four first.) As a corollary, if a defender plays the two first and later plays the four, he indicates holding an even number of trumps.
The trump echo can be very useful, as illustrated by today's deal. West led the four of diamonds, which East had no trouble reading as a singleton. Accordingly, East took his ace and returned the deuce, ruffed by West with the four.
West returned a low club, East's king losing to the ace. Declarer then led the king of trump, West playing the two as East won with the ace. Without the trump echo, East would have had to guess what to do next.
If declarer, who had opened and rebid hearts, had started with six hearts, the only remaining hope was that West had the club queen, in which case East should return a club. But if South started with only five hearts, West could trump another diamond.
West's trump echo — he had ruffed with the four and then played the deuce — resolved that problem. So East returned a diamond, knowing full well that his partner had another trump, and the contract went down one.

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ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE FOR OUR EVENING MEAL...

I BROUGHT THE HOT DOGS... WOODSTOCK BROUGHT THE BUNS...

CONRAD BROUGHT THE MUSTARD... BILL BROUGHT THE CATSUP...

AND OLIVIER BROUGHT THE TV GUIDE!

Rose is Rose

AFTER A FEW STRETCHES...

WE'LL BE READY TO BEGIN...

OUR...

MAYBE STRETCHING SHOULD BE OPTIONAL

WILD TURKEY FLOCK ACTIVITIES

Agnes

OK... WE SMASHED A MAGNET. WHAT DO WE SEE?

UH... MAGNET CRUMBS.

ME, TOO. I SEE MAGNET CRUMBS.

NO GIZMOS, NO GEARS, NO WIRES... JUST DIRTY BLACK MAGNET CRUMBS.

SO... WHAT DOES THAT TELL US ABOUT MAGNET FUNCTION?

THAT IT'S ONE OF GODS MANY MYSTERIES. LET'S GO EAT.

Hi and Lois

IT'S OPENING DAY!

THE START OF A NEW BASEBALL SEASON!

THURSTON IS TAKING THE DAY OFF?

HE THINKS IT SHOULD BE A NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

Between Friends

HI, SUSAN! DID YOU HEAR JILL IS LEAVING FOR A NEW JOB?

YES... I'M HAPPY FOR HER, BUT I'M SAD TO SEE HER GO... I GUESS YOU'LL BE LOOKING FOR A NEW RECEPTIONIST

I ALREADY FOUND ONE

OH? WHAT'S THEIR NAME?

KEY CARD ACCESS

Blondie

WE SHOULD TRY TAKING A MORE SCENIC ROUTE TO WORK FOR A CHANGE

GREAT IDEA!

WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?

THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE!

BY THE WATER!

I WAS THINKING WHICHEVER WAY HAS THE MOST DRIVE-THRUS!

Snuffy Smith

IF PIGS COULD TALK, WHATTA YA THINK THEY'D SAY, AUNT LOWEEZY?

WELL... PROBL'Y SUMPIN' LIKE...

"HEY !! QUIT CLEANIN' YORE PLATES!! YO'RE BARELY LEAVIN' US ENNYTHIN' !!"

Beetle Bailey

SARGE AND BEETLE HAD A FIGHT?

YEAH, SARGE REALLY TRASHED HIM

AT LEAST HE PUT HIM IN THE RECYCLING BIN

CRYPTOQUIP

UQ QWY GSTC BY RBCTYKICQP,
JUBP IQRLYBQI OCXX YBKSSX
CB QWY GUICD JUQW DXUII

DUXXYL DSO-DRXRI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHERE MIGHT POLAR BEARS GO SHOULD THEY NEED TO DEPOSIT OR TAKE OUT MONEY? SNOW BANKS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

42 Naughty child potation
1 Fire sign?
4 Actress Reid
8 "Funny!"
12 Tax prep pro
13 Burden
14 PC picture
15 Very sharp turns
17 — Alto, CA
18 Knock native
19 Belgrade native
21 Some-what
24 Uncle, to Raul
25 Roof ornament
26 "Mangial"
28 Marshlike
32 Dance partner?
34 Yoga pad
36 Genealogy chart
37 "Skyfall" singer
39 Twitch
41 Altar in the sky

DOWN

1 German
2 Hotel amenity
3 Tiny, as a fracture
4 Over-throw
5 Blackbird
6 Operates
7 Plus
8 Angler's wear
9 "Super-food"
10 Spanish greeting
11 Shortly
16 "Way cool!"
21 Small plateau
22 Apple product
23 Orange tuber
27 Make lace
29 Sign of natural aging
30 "Arbitrage" actor
31 Revolution period
33 Quiet planes
35 Up to
38 Moody music
40 Hurtle
43 Juice
45 Nursery cry
46 Barbie, e.g.
47 Life story?
48 Incite
49 Anger
53 MLB stat
54 Hosp. area
55 Brink

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-27

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

60 SERVICES

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Hours:
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USC star suffers season-ending injury

By RYAN KARTJE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Galen Center crowd sat in hushed disbelief, every cardinal-and-gold soul struggling to process a scene that seemed ripped straight from their worst nightmares: USC's superstar lying crumpled on the court, clutching her right knee, her cries rising to the rafters where she hoped a banner would soon hang.

JuJu Watkins, for the better part of two seasons, seemed nothing short of invincible. The sophomore surpassed every sensible expectation with stunning grace, never wavering even as she bore the weight of an entire program. She already captivated the college basketball world, and in the process, dragged the Trojans back from the depths of obscurity to the doorstep of tournament glory, just a few short steps away from a Final Four.

That pursuit felt well within their reach through 30 wins this season and just over five minutes of Monday's first quarter, before Watkins barreled toward the basket in transition and her right knee buckled inexplicably beneath her. Right away, she fell to the court, writhing in pain. Right



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Robert Gauthier

USC Trojans guard JuJu Watkins (12) crumbles to the ground in pain as she is fouled by Mississippi State Bulldogs guard Chandler Prater (5) in round two of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament at the Galen Center, in Los Angeles, on March 24, 2025.

away, hope took a sharp turn into dread.

The devastating confirmation from USC wouldn't come until later, hours after the team stamped its ticket to the Sweet 16 in a bittersweet 96-59 win over Mississippi State: Watkins sustained a season-ending knee injury, and the Trojans were dealt a blow to their championship hopes.

Though, as Watkins lay screaming on the hardwood, clutching her knee, the grim reality seemed plenty clear in the moment.

Her teammates surrounded her, doing their best to block her anguish from the view of nearby photographers, before trainers arrived to help her.

But there was little solace anyone could offer, then or in the game's aftermath.

Watkins was unable to stand on her own, so USC's trainers carried her to the locker room. She was taken immediately to Keck Medical Center, where an MRI confirmed the worst-case scenario.

Still, there was a game to play and a Sweet 16 bid to secure. As Watkins was carried up the tunnel, coach Lindsay Gottlieb gathered her team to regroup.

But Rayah Marshall, the Trojans' senior leader, could see that their coach, too, was shaken up. She tried to console her.

"I'd be lying," Gottlieb said later, "if I said I wasn't rattled seeing JuJu lying on the floor, crying."

She steeled herself as best she could in the huddle, knowing how critical the coming hours would be without Watkins.

"I just tried to look people in the eye and say we can do this," Gottlieb said. "We've got this. We need everybody. Stay focused and locked in on the task at hand."

That refrain will surely become a rallying cry in the coming days, as USC does its best to move forward without Watkins, on whom the Trojans' entire operation has hinged. But for one night, at least, that cry appeared to resonate.

When the game continued, boos rained down from every corner of the arena whenever Mississippi State touched the ball. An already physical game grew increasingly chippy. With every escalation, the crowd roared on in a raucous crescendo.

"They fed into that," point guard Talia von Oelhoffen said of the crowd, "and we fed into that. It gave us energy."

None proved as uplifting as Kiki Iriafen, the bubbly senior forward who transferred to USC knowing she would take on a supporting role behind Watkins. But in her absence, Iriafen looked every bit like a star, scoring a season-high 36 points on 16-for-22 shooting.

She wasn't the only one who stepped up to fill the

void. Marshall added four blocks, as well as an unexpected buzzer-beating 3-pointer that left her raising her arms in elation. Kennedy Smith had 10 points and five steals, and backup guards Avery Howell and Kayleigh Heckel combined for 31 points.

"Respectfully, nobody cares on this big stage that we lost [Watkins]," Iriafen said. "For us, it's just that we want to make sure we got the job done [and] our season to be extended."

That part was never really in doubt, as USC will face No. 5 seed Kansas State on Saturday in Spokane, Wash. But as the Trojans continued to increase their lead, even without Watkins, a night that might have otherwise felt like a funeral instead became something different entirely.

"I always thought, throughout the year, that if we had something to work on, which would be when things didn't go right right away, sometimes we [got] stressed out," Gottlieb said. "But how about this? Something didn't go right for us. You never want anyone to go down, especially someone like JuJu, that we all lean on in so many ways."

"But this team rallied. They rallied for her. They rallied for each other."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Memorial — 5 p.m.; Baseball scrimmage at Parkway — 5 p.m.

Friday
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Bradford — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2 p.m. — Alpine World Cup: Women's Slalom (USA)
3 p.m. — World Figure Skating Championships (USA)
3:05 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at New York Yankees (ESPN)

4:05 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals (NBC)
6 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Ohio State at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards (FDSN Indiana)
7:09 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: BYU vs. Alabama (CBS)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Los Angeles Dodgers (ESPN)
7:39 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Maryland vs. Florida (TBS)
8 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Northwestern at North Carolina (BTN)
8 p.m. — World Figure Skating Championships (USA)
8:30 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota vs.

UMass Amherst (ESPN2)
9:39 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Arizona vs. Duke (CBS)
10 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN); Edmonton Oilers at Seattle Kraken (NCS)
10:09 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Arkansas vs. Texas Tech (TBS)

Friday
2 p.m. — PGA Tour: Houston Open (NBC)
2:30 p.m. — Women's NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: North Carolina vs. Duke (ESPN)
3 p.m. — World Figure Skating Championships (USA)
4 p.m. — College softball: Oregon at Rutgers (BTN)

5 p.m. — Women's NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Maryland vs. South Carolina (ESPN)
7:09 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Ole Miss vs. Michigan State (CBS)
7:30 p.m. — Women's NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: LSU vs. N.C. State (ESPN)
7:39 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Kentucky vs. Tennessee (TBS)
8 p.m. — UFL: St. Louis Battlehawks at Houston Roughnecks (FOX)
8 p.m. — Free skating (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: NCTS Race at Martinsville (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — College hockey: Maine at Penn State (ESPN2)
9:39 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Michigan vs. Auburn (CBS)

10 p.m. — Women's NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Ole Miss vs. UCLA (ESPN)
10:09 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Purdue vs. Houston (TBS)

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 Bellmont high school and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday April 5th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 9514 N 100W,
Ridgeville, IN
SUV-GOLF CART-TRACTOR-TOOLS
2011 Ford Escape XLT w/ 80,000 miles. Club Car Gas Golf Cart w/ Carryall. Ford Golden Jubilee Tractor. Bush Hog 5i 3pt Mower. Craftsman Table Saw, Planer, and Radial Arm Saw. 200 gallon Overhead Fuel Tank. Hog Panels.
ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-MISC.
(2) Street Lights. Cast RR-W Sign. Chambers Gas Cooking Stove. Steamer Trunks. Forge Horse tie-down. Large lot of Deer Antlers and Mounts. Four Compartment Chicken Nester. Dress-making Mannequin. Tigerwood 2 door Chest. Oak Ice Chest. Handmade Doll Collection. Portland Forge and Ridgeville Silver Coins. Hotpoint Refrigerator. Large Cedar Chest. Sofa. (3) Recliners.
Playground and Spring-Loaded Ride-On Play Ground Set.
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Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

90 SALE CALENDAR

loader w/ CHA high flow, 765 hours. International 354 Tractor w/ Bush Hog, International 15i Disc., Kil Brothers 24i Rolling Basket, (2) J&M 250 bu. hopper wagons. TRUCKS-TRAILERS-AUTOS
2021 Dodge 3500 Single Axel Dump w/ 6.7L Cummins, 2005 Ford Single Axel Dump Truck 56,000 miles, 6.0 Diesel, 2000 Freightliner Semi FL112 w/ C13 CAT Engine, 2013 Chevy Traverse LT 4x4, 18i Car Hauler Trailer, 16i Enclosed Trailer. MOWERS-RTVS-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT-MISC.
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.
AREA CONTRACTORS

90 SALE CALENDAR

& FARMERS OWNERS AUCTIONEERS
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260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com
Auctioneer ID #4243

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 30i x 157i 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.
Personal property to sell immediately following real estate.
JANICE STUCKY ESTATE
by Herb Hummel Per-

90 SALE CALENDAR

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 9th day of April, 2025 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

COUNTY GENERAL	Amount Approved
1000-068-30-0051 Commissioners-Professional Services	\$3,760.00
LIT- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$3,000.00
1112-001-30-0027 Contractual Services- ECI Regional Planning	\$3,000.00
ARP-2021 CLFRF	\$1,288,646.13
8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services- REA	\$2,200.06
8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services- Ritter Strategic	\$4,500.00
8950-001-30-0239 Jay County Redevelopment Commission- 68 Acres	\$1,281,946.07
Total	\$1,295,406.13

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action time.
Emily Franks
Jay County Auditor
CR 3-27-2025-HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

sonal Rep.
Josh Atkinson Attorney
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608

90 SALE CALENDAR

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38D01-2410-MF-000021 wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Shaun Hines was the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 17th day of April at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as is possible at the Jay County Sheriff's Department 120 North Court Street; 3rd floor Courthouse; Portland, IN 47371 in Jay County, Indiana, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana. A part of the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 13 East, Jay County, Indiana, as shown on a survey completed by Farber Surveying, Inc., File #0123-06, dated January 24, 2023, being more particularly described as follows:
Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 13 East, Jay County, Indiana; thence N 87 degrees 35 minutes 11 seconds E (assumed bearing), along the North line of said Northwest Quarter, a distance of 353.16 feet for the point of beginning of the tract herein described; thence S 02 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds E, a distance of 134.99 feet; thence S. 87 degrees 35 minutes 11 seconds W, a distance of 176.56 feet; thence S 00 degrees 53 minutes 16 seconds E, a distance of 140.96 feet; thence S 88 degrees 58 minutes 09 seconds E, a distance of 398.78 feet; thence N 01 degrees 35 minutes 37 seconds W, a distance of 299.89 feet to the North line of said Northwest Quarter; thence S 87 degrees 35 minutes 11 seconds W, a distance of 221.84 feet to the point of beginning, Containing 2.08 acres, more or less. More Commonly Known As: 3903 W 200 S, Portland, IN 47371
Parcel No. 38-06-35-200-001.000-022
CR 3-13-20,27-2025-HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: John Jay Real Estate, LLC has filed with the Portland City Council a petition requesting a certain alley be vacated, to wit:
The alley located between 905 N. Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371 (Parcel No: 38-07-16-303-031.000-034) and 915 N. Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371 (Parcel No: 38-07-16-303-024.000-034).
A public hearing will be held by the Portland City Council on Monday, April 7th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1616 N. Franklin Street, Portland, IN 47371. At that time, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard in reference to matters set out in the petition. The petition and file on this matter are available for public inspection at the Portland Clerk/Treasurer's Office, 321 N. Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371.
Joshua A. Atkinson
CR 3-27-2025 -HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

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100 JOBS WANTED

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

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PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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130 MISC. FOR SALE

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190 FARMERS COLUMN

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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JANICE STUCKY ESTATE
By Herbert Hummel Personal Rep.
Josh Atkinson Attorney
LOY AUCTION AC31600027
AUCTIONEERS
Gary Loy AU 01031608
CR 3-18-2025

190 FARMERS COLUMN

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

Sports

Warvel works

Grady Warvel of the Jay County Winter Swim team competes in the 200-yard butterfly during the state meet at the IU Natatorium on March 21. Warvel climbed up nine seed lines in the event to finish 26th with a time of 2 minutes, 11 seconds.



Photo provided

Bronny James scores 39 points in G League game

By **CHUCK SCHILKEN**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Four days after playing the best NBA game of his young career, Bronny James repeated the feat in the G League.

Starting for the Lakers' South Bay affiliate Monday night, the rookie scored a career-high 39 points in a 122-118 win over the Santa Cruz Warriors at UCLA Health Training Center in El Segundo.

James made 14 of 21 shots, including four of eight from 3-point range, and added four assists, four steals and one block in 38 minutes. He also committed

seven turnovers, which is tied for his most in the G League.

After the game, Lakers superstar LeBron James posted a clip of his oldest son clearly enjoying himself on his big night.

"SMILE THROUGH IT ALL YOUNG [prince]!!!" the older James tweeted, using an emoji for the final word.

On Thursday, Bronny James played a season-high 30 minutes

for the Lakers in the absence of several of the NBA team's top players — including his father and Luka Doncic — and finished with a career-best 17 points and five assists during a 118-89 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks.

That performance prompted ESPN personality Stephen A. Smith to say he "might have been wrong" when he stated on multiple occasions that Bronny James

belongs solely in the G League this season.

The younger James returned to his more limited role with the Lakers on Saturday night, scoring two points on 0-for-4 shooting in seven minutes during a 146-115 loss to the Chicago Bulls. After he returned to South Bay on Monday, the NBA squad continued to struggle with a 118-106 loss to the Orlando Magic.

With the Lakers losing three straight games, it will be interesting to see if they call up Bronny James and give him more minutes. He has averaged 2.3 points and 5.9 minutes in his 23 games with the Lakers.

James' previous high for South

Bay was 31 points during a 122-110 win over the Rip City Remix on Jan. 24. He has averaged 22.4 points in 10 regular-season games in the G League.

After his performance against Santa Cruz, James was asked on Spectrum SportsNet what he had been trying to prove on the court.

"Just that I belong out there," James said. "That's all I'm trying to prove. A lot of people say I don't, but I just come out, work every day, try to get better every day and prove myself every day."

He added: "All the criticism that's thrown my way, it's just amazing to shut all that down and keep going."

'I belong out there. That's all that I'm trying to prove.'

—Bronny James

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• Chocolates	• Snacks
• Cakes	• Dairy
	• Cleaning products
	• Hygiene

Statues, Gifts & SO MUCH MORE!

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