

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

JCDC set to make a job offer

Organization hopes to have a new executive director soon

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation hopes to have a new executive director in place soon.

The organization's board of directors voted Tuesday to make a job offer to a candidate after discussing its options during an executive session.

The vote authorized board president Angela Paxson to extend the offer. She planned to do so on Wednesday and said after the meeting that she hopes an agreement can be reached with the candidate quickly. Paxson said she believes that if the candidate is hired, they will be able to start in their new role relatively quickly.

Jay County Development Corporation has been without an executive director since Travis Richards resigned in mid-November. He had served in the role for seven years.

Paxson said there were 26 applicants for the position, with the search committee narrowing the field to four. Two candidates were brought in for interviews.

She said no changes were made to the job description but that the search committee emphasized working with local government officials.

Jay County Development Corporation and Jay County Commissioners reached a contract agreement early in 2025 — it runs through June 30 — after they had been at odds for more than two years. The rift started when county and municipal government officials began pushing for more control of the organization's executive committee beginning in fall 2022. Commissioners at one point called for Richards' removal from the executive director role before pulling back on that demand days later.

See JCDC page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Wild west

Bandits (above) in Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School's production of "Wagon Wheels West" take the stage Tuesday during dress rehearsal. Students performing as bandits in the show include Korbin Wuebker as Straight Shooting Sam, Logan Gaerke as Dallas, Gavin Gaerke as Cisco Kid and AJ Roessner as Arizona Kid. At right, saloon girls and Anna Niekamp (right) as Sue Flay perform "Anything Can Happen." Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Bader hired to manage water park

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The water park has a new manager.

She's a familiar face from a familiar family.

Portland Park Board hired Mara Bader on Tuesday to be the manager of Portland Water Park for the 2025 season.

She follows her mother Missy, who was its first manager, and her sister Eliza, who was its leader for the last two summers.

"Of course, she's been a guard since 2019, so she's very familiar with the daily operations," said park board president Brian Ison on Wednesday morning. "She's been kind of in the head guard role when the assistant man-

Mara becomes third in family to lead facility

er and manager were not available on the pool deck for a specific day. She's got that experience."

Board members Shauna Runkle, Michael Brewster, Jennifer Weitzel and Ison voted unanimously to approve her hiring. (Board member John McFarland is serving a voluntary suspension. He was arrested last month for four felonies, but charges have

not been filed against him.)

The board and Bader will work together on hiring an assistant manager and lifeguards for the year.

Ison said work to prepare the water park will begin in the next couple of weeks. The planned opening is Memorial Day weekend.

Also Tuesday, the board approved the use of Hudson Family Park for a Jay

County Conservation Club fundraiser from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 24, a Jay County HAMM Radio Club fishing derby from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 7, and a wedding from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

The park board also discussed the need to replenish fish in the park's pond. It received a quote of \$2,000 to restock the pond and is asking for donations to help with that effort.

Addressing a request from the Portland Rockets to add a storage building, the board learned there is sufficient space to do so. (At its previous meeting, members had asked about proximity to property lines.) The board tabled a decision

on the issue until after their annual park tour that will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field.

The board also tabled a request from the HAMM radio club for use of a building that was set to be demolished at Milton Miller Park and a decision on quotes for upgrades to a press box at a baseball/softball diamond at Weiler-Wilson Park.

Parks manager Ronnie Reynolds informed the board that new playground equipment for 2 through 5 year olds has been installed at Haynes Park (see photo on page 2). Mulch was put down around the new equipment Wednesday morning.

Senate committee merges four local tax bills

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A jam-packed agency bill became even more behemoth and wide-reaching on Tuesday after a Senate committee crammed in dozens of other provisions that largely deal with local taxes.

The move drew a range of questions from Democrats, all of whom voted against the merge. Some Republicans were also hesitant — and a GOP budget leader was opposed altogether.

House Bill 1427, now more

Move draws criticism for adding dozens of provisions to measure

than 150 pages in length, was originally focused on Department of Local Government and Finance (DLGF) matters.

Embedded in the underlying legislation was language around DLGF rule-making, as well as administrative policy changes

for various local taxes and assessments.

But a massive amendment approved by the Senate tax committee wrapped in all or parts of three other bills: House Bill 1080 and Senate Bill 304, dealing with innkeeper's and food and

beverage taxes, and Senate Bill 290, which mostly addresses local property tax levies.

Multiple other new changes and provisions — like for professional sports and convention center developments — were additionally included.

The amended bill advanced 8-5 to the full chamber, despite unfavorable votes from Democrats and top Republican Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka.

Sen. Eric Bassler, R-Washington, one of the bill's Senate sponsors, discussed the amendment before the tax committee and expressed concerns, too.

Because he is not a member of the committee, the senator did not participate in Tuesday's vote.

"I'm always a little bit leery to have substantive policy changes for the state in agency bills. If the state is going to make a policy change, I'd rather those bills kind of be standalone language," Bassler said.

"I think that's even more so in this bill, because this is a 117-page amendment to a 79-page bill, and it deals with literally dozens and dozens of dozens of issues," he continued.

See Merges page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 50 degrees Tuesday. The low was 30.

Rain is expected tonight with a low in the upper 40s.

Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with a chance of show-

ers and a high in the upper 50s. There is a chance of thunderstorms Friday night, with rain in the forecast every day through Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Tickets are on sale for two performances by a Cincinnati Circus duo that will close the Eric R. Rogers Performance Series at Arts Place. Performances are scheduled for 3 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. Tickets are available at myarst-place.org, by calling (260) 726-4809 or by visiting Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Coming up

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

Tuesday — Results from Saturday's JCHS softball game against Winchester.



JCDC ...

Continued from page 1
JCDC and the county failed to reach a contract agreement for 2024, leaving the organization without the bulk of its projected funding.
Also Tuesday, the board elected members to new terms.
Newly elected to the board were Carolyn Carducci, Adolfo Solis and Josh Stewart. Re-elected were Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins, Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake, Jay County Council member Cindy Bracy, Chad Towell, Barb Street, Trent Paxson and Pete Byrum. Filling vacated board seats will be

Aaron Clark in place of Matt Minnich and Josh Miller in place of Alicia Corwin. Street and Paxson were retained for one-year terms as secretary and treasurer, respectively.
All of those were approved unanimously.
JCDC administrative assistant Jodi Hayes provided an update on the organization's recent efforts, noting that 517 locations were identified as eligible for potential funding through the Broadband Equity and Access and Deployment program. Local officials attended a "listening session" regard-

ing the program. Street pointed out that Jay County was recognized there for its efforts to identify gaps in high-speed internet availability.
"We owe some debts of gratitude there," said Street, noting Hayes, Richards, Bracy and others who were part of the effort.
Hayes also mentioned work on various projects for the City of Dunkirk, including improvements for downtown buildings and a planned housing development on the south side of the city. She added that former Portland Police Chief Nathan Springer has purchased a

downtown building in Pennington and is in the process of restoring it.
Angela Paxson and many other board members thanked Hayes, JCDC's only employee for the last four and a half months, for her efforts in keeping the organization going.
In updates provided by board members:
•Mark Leavell noted that Redkey Volunteer Fire Department will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the fire station.
•Mary Adair of Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau

said plans are in the works for activities for the National Day of Prayer on May 1. She also offered a reminder regarding Jay County Cancer Society's Dueling Pianos event scheduled for 7:30 p.m. April 12 at Jay County Fairgrounds.
•Trent Paxson, assistant superintendent of Jay School Corporation, encouraged participation in a public input survey — it is available at jayschoolcorp.org/page/school-board — regarding a potential capital improvement project at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

CR almanac

| Friday 4/4 | Saturday 4/5 | Sunday 4/6 | Monday 4/7 | Tuesday 4/8 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | |
| 56/48 | 56/40 | 44/33 | 51/24 | 40/27 |
| Mostly cloudy, with a 60% chance of rain. Temperatures may hit the upper 50s. | More rain in the forecast for Saturday with highs in the lower 60s. | Sunday's weather looks to be rainy and cool, with a 70% chance of showers and lows near freezing. | Mostly sunny on Monday with a slight chance of rain or snow. | Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday, when the high will be in the upper 40s. |

Lotteries

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$30 million

Mega Millions
11-12-21-29-49
Mega Ball: 3
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$43 million

Hoosier
Tuesday
Midday
Daily Three: 5-1-5
Daily Four: 4-0-8-6
Quick Draw: 2-6-7-16-20-23-25-34-36-37-40-44-47-52-54-63-66-67-70-75

Evening
Daily Three: 2-1-7
Daily Four: 6-7-8-2
Quick Draw: 2-6-7-8-22-26-31-36-46-47-50-53-58-63-65-72-74-75-78-79

Ohio
Tuesday
Midday
Pick 3: 6-7-2
Pick 4: 1-2-9-7
Pick 5: 9-1-2-9-4
Evening
Pick 3: 1-3-4
Pick 4: 8-7-8-8
Pick 5: 2-0-6-1-3
Rolling Cash: 15-18-23-26-37
Estimated jackpot: \$174,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.64
May corn.....4.69
June corn4.74

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.82
May corn.....4.82
June corn4.81

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn4.73
May corn.....4.73
Beans10.34

May beans10.34
Wheat 4.97

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.67
May corn.....4.69
Beans10.32
May beans10.35
Wheat5.02

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.59
May corn.....4.64
Beans10.06
May beans10.06
Wheat4.84

Today in history

In 1837, John Burroughs was born in Roxbury, New York. A writer, he formed nature essays about the world around him. Some of his best-known works are "Birds and Poets," "Locusts and Wild Honey," "Signs and Seasons" and "Ways of Nature."
In 1860, the Pony Express began, delivering mail by horse between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California.
In 1948, president Harry Truman signed the Marshall Plan, which aimed to rebuild Western Europe in the aftermath of World War II. Approximately \$5 billion was granted to aid the 16 countries by the U.S. in the plan. — The CR

In 1953, "TV Guide" published its first issue with Lucille Ball's newborn son, Desiderio Alberto Arnaz IV, on the cover.
In 2012, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Bill Bradley outlined proposed changes in rules and procedures for members of the group's board of directors. The changes — they still needed to be approved by Jay County Commissioners — would have virtually eliminated direct loans and grants to private entities and would have established more levels of oversight on major EDIT expenditures.

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday
6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire department, 302 N. Walnut St.

Wednesday
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Equipment installed

New playground equipment has been installed on the east side of Haynes Park in Portland, with mulch added around the playground area Wednesday morning. The new equipment is recommended for 2 through 5 year olds.

Capsule Reports

Hit trees

A Portland man crashed his car into a woods off county road 350 East about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.
Blake A. Alig, 24, was driving his 2012 Dodge Ram east on the road near its intersection with Indiana 1. He appeared to be driving at a high rate of speed, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, and went off the north side of the road. His vehicle continued for 260 feet, going into a ditch and a woods and crashing into several trees and other brush, the report says.

Alig sustained facial injuries, and his passenger, 21-year-old Shelbie L. Petre of Hamilton, complained of leg pain. They left the scene and were later found at IU Health Jay.
Alig was administered a blood alcohol test with results pending. He was cited with a misdemeanor for leaving the scene of an accident. His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Lost control

An Albany man went off the side of Indiana 67

and overturned his vehicle about 10:10 a.m. Tuesday.
Colten L. Johnson, 18, was driving a 2002 Pontiac Grand Prix northeast on the highway near its intersection with county road 1150 East when his car went off the side of the road. Johnson overcorrected, causing him to lose control of his vehicle and go into a ditch on the southeast side of the road. His car flipped onto its top.
Colten's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000

SERVICES

Today
Upp, William: 4 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
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progressiveofficeproducts.com

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Merges ...

Continued from page 1
"I think we need to be very careful when we're starting to change state policy in such a complicated bill."
Democratic Sen. Andrea Hunley, of Indianapolis, raised questions about a child care facility portion of the amendment that would create a partial property tax exemption for employers who provide child care for their employees on company property.
Hunley worried that the tax benefit would do little to increase services for parents, given it only applies to care for children under the age of six. Child care facilities that do not have a formal agreement with a business also would not qualify.
"To me, it's not really solving the child

care issue that we have ... but it's really about subsidizing businesses to provide a service to their own employees," Hunley said.
"There's so much in here dealing with taxes that are going to impact our local communities. And that has been a theme this session, in a variety of ways, and in a variety of pieces of legislation," she added. "We have to think about — not just these pieces of legislation in isolation — but the myriad of ways that we are impacting locals with these policy changes."

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

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Photo provided

Elks award

Portland Elks recently awarded two Portland nonprofits with grants. Pictured above, West Walnut Church of Christ received \$5,000 for its food pantry initiative. The church offers a pantry box in front of its fellowship hall for those in need of assistance and those willing to assist in donations.

Redkey alumni banquet slated for end of month

Redkey Alumni Association's banquet is coming up.

Redkey alumni banquet is slated for April 26 at Redkey Elementary School, 500 W. Main St. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the meal to be served at 5:30 p.m. and a program to follow. Special classes recognized this year include alumni from 1945, 1955, 1965 and 1975.

The meal is \$20 per person. Alumni are also asked to pay \$3 for annual dues.

Reservations and dues are required no later than April 12. They may be mailed to Redkey Alumni Association, PO Box 571, Redkey IN 47373.

For more information, contact Karan Baugher at (765) 744-7651.

Preventative care

Mercer Health's next preventative health care community education event is slated for this month.

Doctor Jayanth Gutta, a pulmonologist at Mercer

Taking Note

Health Medical Group, will discuss sleep disorders and related heart diseases at 6 p.m. April 22 in the Opulence Meeting Room at Mercer Health's Galleria Campus, 909 E. Wayne St., Celina, Ohio.

Reservations are not required. To learn more, contact Mercer Health at (419) 678-5247 or email myhealth@merc-health.com.

Brick Street Market

It's that time of year for another Fort Recovery tradition.

Psi Iota Xi will host Brick Street Market from 10 to 2 p.m. April 26 in downtown Fort Recovery.

More than 30 vendors will be set up along Wayne

Street, including food trucks and booths for children. Friends of the Fort Recovery Library will also host a puppet show from 10 a.m. to noon in front of the library, and an art show with Fort Recovery Middle and High School students' work will be on display at the library. For more information, contact Psi Iota Xi at theta.zeta.fortrecovery@gmail.com or visit Fort Recovery Psi Iota Xi on Facebook.

Program offered

ReSprout Therapy is launching a program to provide free developmental checkups to newborns and toddlers.

The program, a partnership with The Portland Foundation and the Early Years Initiative, will provide free checkups for children younger than 4 years old. Parents will receive a report card on their child's skill mastery and areas for improvement during checkups.

Wife tires of spouse's cracks over liquor

DEAR ABBY: I've been married to "Chuck" for 40 years. We've had a fairly decent life together, even though Chuck drank heavily for 35 of those years. Now, as we enter our twilight years, he has experienced various medical problems, which have prompted him to stop drinking altogether. Although this is a good thing, I still would like to have a drink once in a while.

When I imbibe (no more than two or three), Chuck becomes irritable and starts fights. There is no violence, but he snaps, swears and then gives me the silent treatment. Please advise me about how to handle this. I've been trying to "sneak" my drinks behind his back, but why should I?

By the way, I have con-

Dear Abby



tributed more than my fair share financially and have taken on all domestic responsibility in this relationship, pretty much since Day One. Am I stuck with Chuck? — LIGHT DRINKER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR LIGHT DRINKER: Have you not read anything the former surgeon general posted on the internet about alcohol consumption? More than ONE drink a day for women may increase the

likelihood of cancer of the breast, esophagus, stomach, pancreas and colon. You may want to consider curtailing YOUR alcohol intake.

The fact that seeing you imbibe has such a negative effect on your husband may be an indication that his own sobriety is shaky. If you really feel the need to have an alcoholic beverage (or two or three), consider doing it away from the house with women friends.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a wonderful and loving person. She has only one fault, but it drives me crazy. Our house is well maintained, but she is a closet slob. Every closet, every cabinet, every drawer and every storage space is crammed with

junk. Her walk-in closet is piled waist-high with stuff. You can't walk in there. You also can't open a single drawer in the house because of the stuff crammed inside.

These aren't precious belongings. It's simply junk that hasn't been used in 15 years. I can't tell you the number of times I have had to move boxes around to get to something I need or to fix something. I have tried talking to her about it, writing her a letter about my feelings and just getting mad. Nothing works.

My anger has built to the point where I cannot take it any longer. Every time I stumble across the mess, I get angry. It is no longer rational, and I am even losing sleep over it. My wife treasures her posses-

sions more than she treasures me or our relationship. What can I do? — BLOCKED IN MONTANA

DEAR BLOCKED: Because you're losing sleep over this and are ready to throw in the towel, address your concerns to your wife in those terms. Tell her that because you aren't communicating well on this subject, you want the two of you to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist.

People who have the tendency to hoard the way your wife does sometimes suffer from anxiety, depression or some other emotional problem. There is help for it, thank heavens. But you have to ask for it, and your wife has to be willing.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Chris-

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

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby

through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N.

Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the

Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon on Friday, April 4, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Sudoku


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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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


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



SPECIAL

AGRICULTURE

SECTION



Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Deadline for ads is Monday, April 14.

Our agriculture special section will be distributed in

The Commercial Review (Portland)
The News-Gazette (Winchester)
and The News Times (Hartford City)

full-page color — **\$500**
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1/4-page B&W — **\$225**

Big business card (3x3.5) — **\$100**

Business card (2x2) — **\$60**



Contact Lindsey at
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Initiative targets financial waste

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

If Republicans dare broach the subject of waste and fraud in Medicaid or Medicare, it will be seconds before Democrats accuse them of seeking to throw grandma out of her wheelchair or to leave impoverished children to fend for themselves in some dark Dickensian dystopia.

In fact, there are real issues that need attention, as Elon Musk's DOGE initiative has quickly discovered. And the reality remains: The only way to seriously attack the nation's \$37 trillion debt is to craft more financially sustainable safety net and entitlement programs. Ignoring the issue only exacerbates the

Guest Editorial

threat to their long-term solvency. Attacking waste and fraud is one place to start.

Consider a story in last week's Wall Street Journal.

On Friday, the newspaper reported that double billing has cost U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars in Medicaid payments over the past three years. A Journal analysis found that health insurers collected \$4.3 billion for

"patients who were enrolled — and paid for — in other states."

The slipup occurred most frequently when patients who were signed up for Medicare in one state moved to another state. "Most were getting all their health-care services through one insurer in one state," the paper found, "even though Medicaid was paying insurers in both states to cover them."

The five biggest Medicaid insurers received one-third of the duplicate payments, the report discovered.

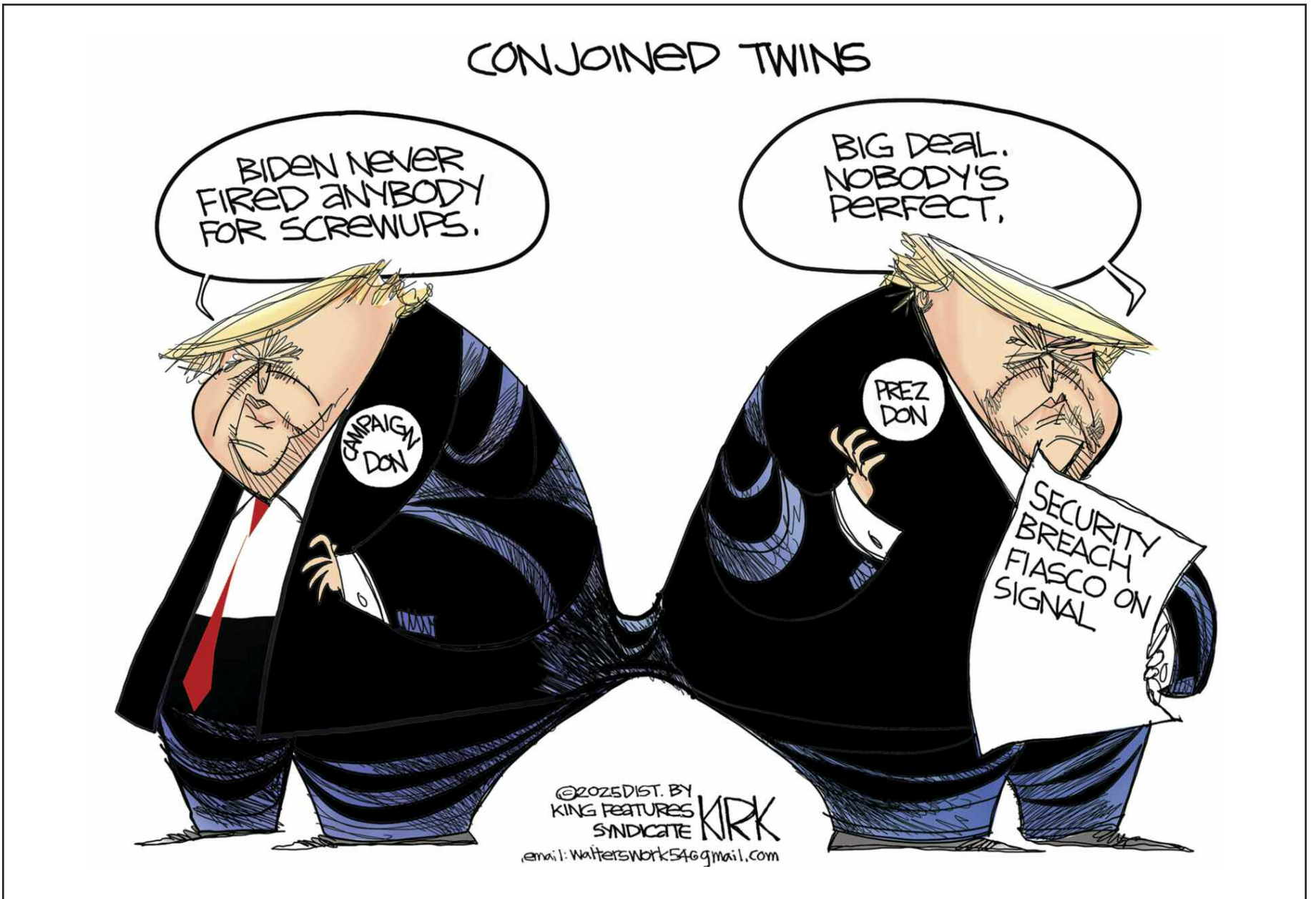
While there's likely some element of fraud involved in the billing process, much of the double billing can be attributed to inertia and bureaucratic sloth.

Under current guidelines, Medicaid recipients who move to another state are supposed to cancel their coverage and re-enroll in their new home state. "But the recipients don't always cancel," the Journal noted, "leaving states to play catch-up." The investigation found "some cases in which individuals were signed up in five or more states."

The problem continues to cost billions even though auditors have known about it for years. The inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services examined double payments in 2019 and concluded that taxpayers were on the hook for about \$1 billion in such outlays each year. "It should be

low-hanging fruit," one government auditor told the Journal. "The data is there showing it is a problem. This is ripe for correction."

In the private sector, such fiscal insanity would be quickly addressed before the company went bankrupt. There would probably be jobs lost. But when you're entrenched in the government bureaucracy — at the state or federal level — and dealing with other people's money, there is no such urgency. This is why the Trump administration's DOGE exercise — while clumsy at times — is such an important endeavor despite Democratic efforts to discredit it.



Education decisions have long impact

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The economic forces that built American cities have disappeared. These fundamental economic changes left in their wake two types of places — those that adapted and those that did not. What caused them to adapt was the education level their citizens possessed, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the Rust Belt.

Before the Industrial Revolution, cities grew along trade routes in places easily defended from armed conflict. Most of the world's great cities were created by the same forces. The Industrial Revolution, which began about 1800, saw some marked changes. Cities then required an ample supply of labor for new factories and sources of energy, such as coal, oil or natural gas. They also needed transportation networks — first rivers and oceans, later railroads.

Many large legacy cities, like New York and Boston, were ideally suited to the industrial revolution and flourished. New cities also emerged from these forces, especially across the Great Lakes. Some, including Muncie, Akron and Toledo, sprang from the prairie or woodland. Others, including Detroit, Terre Haute and Fort Wayne, grew from tiny trading towns into bustling, national cities.

The peak growth of manufacturing jobs in the Midwest ended shortly after World War II. Economic transformation meant that

Michael J. Hicks



Muncie, Toledo, Akron, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne and Detroit were already in decline by 1960. It wasn't apparent to most people until the 1970s, but the demographic and economic evidence was clear by the mid-1950s.

Between 1950 and 1970, the cost of transporting goods dropped by two-thirds. This change was so remarkable it helped usher in an age of globalization. Most goods could be produced wherever they could be made most efficiently, with little regard for shipping costs.

At the same time, the productivity of American workers boomed. What took 1,000 men to make in 1950 is done by fewer than 250 today.

These changes made us prosper. In inflation-adjusted terms, the average American today is 4.3 times more affluent than in 1950. To put this into context, the federal poverty line for a single adult in 2025 is \$15,060 per year. In 1950, the average American earned about two-thirds that amount each year, adjusted for inflation.

There may be reasons to idolize the past — better music, cooler

cars — but greater prosperity is not among them. One must be purposefully ignorant to believe that the 1950s saw Americans materially better off than they are right now.

This growing prosperity also prompted generations of Americans to look beyond a factory for their livelihoods. Higher education, heavily funded by the U.S. government through the G.I. Bill and other programs, was key to this renaissance. It continues today, boosting U.S. productivity growth at levels that dwarf all but a handful of small European countries.

Today, the average American worker produces 2.2 times the value of goods and services each hour worked as does a Russian worker; 4 times that of a Chinese worker and about 32 times as much as the average North Korean worker.

These nations are between 50 and 300 years behind us in productivity. Even given our staggering debt and dysfunctional politics, they can't catch up to us in this century or the next.

The forces that boosted U.S. productivity — higher education, globalization and liberal democracy — have been very, very, very good to us. We would be wise to recognize that.

The economic forces restructuring the Rust Belt are 75 years old, a full lifetime behind us. It has enriched Americans beyond the wildest expectations of well-educated adults in the spring of

1950. But, not everywhere benefited equally.

In 2003, Harvard's Ed Glaeser and MIT's Albert Saiz published what should have been the most widely read study among elected officials in the Midwest. That paper identified a root cause of growth differences between cities during the post-1970 period.

Education alone made the difference.

Cities with better-educated populations in 1970 became more productive — their workers simply produced more goods and services each hour they worked — than did workers in the bottom half of educational attainment. I could go on and on about this research, as some of my students in a recent class on regional economics will attest.

The story it tells, with considerable data and crisp analysis, is clear: If you want to be among the upwardly mobile cities, you must produce, and keep, a high share of college-educated workers.

Glaeser and Saiz named the cities in their study — and it is appalling for the Midwest. However, that study is more than two decades old. Another force has emerged since then as a key reason for the differences between growing and stagnating places: quality of life.

In a paper I am presenting next month, two colleagues and I study the role economic restructuring has played on local quality of life in Rust Belt counties since 1970. We study how the decline of man-

ufacturing might have affected quality of life — or the perceived value of amenities such as clear air; lack of congestion, quality of schools and other local factors that attract people. We find that declines in Rust Belt manufacturing improve quality of life, but only in urban counties and only where the share of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher in 1970 was among the top one-third of counties.

Together, these studies tell a pretty clear story of who thrived and who did not. Glaeser and Saiz found that over the past half-century, the cities that grew incomes, employment and population were only the best-educated cities. The bottom half stagnated.

Equally important, my study found that only those Rust Belt counties within the top third of educational attainment were able to improve their quality of life after losing factory jobs.

These studies used educational attainment data from 1980 and 1970. Thus, the education decisions Hoosier policymakers make today will resonate at least another half-century or longer. That should probably worry all of us.

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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.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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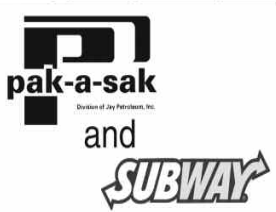
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Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

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

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

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line
Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

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

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

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

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

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

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

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

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

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

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

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

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

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

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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IT'S NOT MY FAULT, OFFICER. IT'S A DESIGN FLAW - I CAN'T SEE SQUARES WITH A TRAFFIC LIGHT IN THEM.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"I'm gonna have an April shower."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q J 5
 ♥ K J 10 8 4
 ♦ 10 9 2
 ♣ Q J

WEST
 ♠ A 2
 ♥ 6 5 3
 ♦ K Q J 5
 ♣ 8 7 4 3

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10 9 8 6 3
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ A
 ♣ A 10 9

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 4 ♠

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Sylvia strikes again

except that he was playing against Sylvia. He took the diamond king with the ace and led a spade to the jack and another spade back, losing to West's ace.

Declarer ruffed West's diamond return and led the nine of hearts. After West followed low, South played low from dummy, whereupon Sylvia took the trick with the ace! This extraordinary play — when she could have won the trick with the queen — was typical of Sylvia's thinking. Perhaps she figured the queen would win later, so what difference could it make in which order the tricks were taken?

Sylvia now returned a club. South naturally assumed West had the queen of hearts, so he went up with the ace of clubs and repeated the heart finesse, intending next to discard his two remaining clubs on dummy's hearts.

But when he played the jack from dummy, Sylvia, to his amazement and consternation, won with the queen and cashed the king of clubs to put the contract down one.

Of course, had Sylvia won the first heart with the queen, South would have had no other choice but to take the club finesse after a club return and so would have made the contract. But Sylvia, in typical fashion, had managed to lull him into a false sense of security.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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4-3

CRYPTOQUIP

BC LQS DTOC RUFOJSOBLSH LU
 DWBX RBJHC, LQX VSOBF VX
 LBNTFO LQSTJ DWBRSC BL LQS

DUJNSJ LBVWS.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A RESEARCH SCIENTIST WHO REALLY LOVES TO SNITCH ON EVERYBODY? A LAB RAT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spirited horse
 - 5 Farm grazer
 - 8 Ella's style
 - 12 Prom rental
 - 13 Commotion
 - 14 Apiece
 - 15 Earth sci.
 - 16 Classic car
 - 17 Sea eagle
 - 18 Crafty
 - 20 Bass-wood tree
 - 22 Outdoor gear brand
 - 23 Predetermine
 - 24 — de gallo
 - 27 Sobriquet
 - 32 Simile center
 - 33 In the manner of
 - 34 Silent
 - 35 Pacifica maker
 - 38 Cincinnati team
- DOWN**
- 1 Pub orders
 - 2 Opulent
 - 3 Roman god of love
 - 4 Ravel composition
 - 5 St. Louis athlete
 - 6 Verse by Pablo Neruda
 - 7 Sweater material
 - 8 Shown to one's seat
 - 9 Gin or bridge, e.g.
 - 10 Teen's woe
 - 11 Subsequently
 - 19 You and I
 - 21 Annoy
 - 26 Song on Taylor Swift's "Folklore" album
 - 28 — -de France
 - 29 Cavalry rifles
 - 30 Wet dirt
 - 31 Type measures
 - 36 Dairy case buy
 - 37 Biol. or chem.
 - 38 Shriveled grape
 - 41 Commercial
 - 42 Scraps
 - 43 Demolish in Dover
 - 44 Bright star
 - 46 "it can't be!"
 - 47 Bistro handout
 - 48 Get lippy
 - 51 Take first place

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | I | D | R | A | H | A | F | A | R |
| H | U | G | E | O | V | O | I | L | S | A |
| I | R | O | N | W | E | E | D | M | A | T |
| A | E | R | I | E | A | L | E | X | I | S |
| S | T | A | B | Y | E | S | | | | |
| L | U | G | E | N | O | N | O | E | S | S |
| O | N | O | A | N | N | A | E | P | A | |
| L | E | O | L | E | E | S | P | D | F | S |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | U | D | E | S | T | H | A | I | | |
| I | S | E | E | N | E | W | S | F | E | E |
| P | E | E | P | U | T | E | E | L | S | A |
| A | D | D | S | T | A | D | R | E | A | M |

Yesterday's answer 4-3

Peanuts

Literature Quiz

When did Mark Twain write Tom Sawyer?

If I know him, probably in the evenings!

Rose is Rose

I've prepared an interpretive dance for park visitors.

HONEST

OPINIONS

YOUR...

I'll interpret that as a positive response.

Agnes

Hi, Miss Amy.

Hi, Agnes! What's in the bag?

LIBRARIAN

A genuine authentic cow dinosaur skull, possibly the only known one in current existence!

WOW.

YES... EXTREMELY WOW... I CAME IN TO DO SOME IN-DEPTH RESEARCH FOR MY REPORT.

YOU'RE IN LUCK! WE HAVE A LOT OF BOOKS ABOUT THINGS THAT DON'T EXIST.

Hi and Lois

HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT SONG?

IT HAS A PLEASANT MELODY.

SCRATCH IT FROM THE PLAYLIST.

Between Friends

I've missed you!

I HATED BEING APART!

THEN WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

YES

MOVE TO FRANCE!

MOVE TO CANADA!

Blondie

GOSH, I WISH I COULD UNSEND THE LAST TEXT I SENT TO MY GIRLFRIEND... BUT IT'S TOO LATE

OH WELL... WE ALL SAY SOME SILLY THINGS WE REGRET WHEN WE'RE IN LOVE...

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Start ...

Continued from page 8

Madison Heitkamp set new career bests in all three of her individual events and won two of them. She highlighted her performance in the 300-meter hurdles, which she won with a time of 52.93 seconds. Heitkamp cruised to the top spot, gaining nearly a full hurdle advantage and beating Coldwater's Mariah Ross by 4.62 seconds.

"I'm proud of myself," Heitkamp said. "I've trained a lot more this summer than what I usually would, so I was kind of expecting some PRs and a better race than usual. I wouldn't say I'm super surprised, but I'm happy about what I raced."

She also took first place in the 100 hurdles, leaning over the finish line to take down Madelyn Lange of Coldwater by 0.02 seconds. Heitkamp beat her previous career best by nearly a full second with a 17.23 run. Her other career best of 15 feet, 4.5 inches earned her third in the long jump.

Roessner also pulled off a pair of first-place finishes in the 100 and 400 dashes. A 12 flat in the 100 dash topped Coldwater's Claire Bertke by 0.72 seconds. She had the only time under a minute in the 400 dash, finishing in 57.35 seconds.

Those two Indians weren't the only ones to have success, as three secured the top spot in an event and two more individuals and two relays earned points.

"It was a real confidence booster for them," Diller said. "It was good for them to see not only one kid having success, but all of them having success."

'It was a real confidence booster for them. ... It was good for them to see not only one kid having success, but all of them having success.'

—Christy Diller, FRHS girls track coach

One major demonstration of the team's depth came in the 800 run as the Tribe swept the top three spots. Kennedy Muhlenkamp won the event with a 2 minutes, 36.36 seconds, while Joelle Kaup and Riley Heitkamp followed with times of 2:46.65 and 2:47.25, respectively.

Kaup and Riley Heitkamp also scored in the 1,600 run, the former winning the event in 5:56.37 and the latter finishing fourth with a 6:02.02.

The other victory came in a career performance from Karlie Niekamp. The senior set a new career mark of 116 feet, 3.5 inches in the discus.

"It was a good first meet to get things going," Niekamp said. "My coach has been pushing me and knows I can do great things this season. He's been fine tuning my form because I haven't been throwing for that long, so I'm excited for that. ... I still feel really raw."

Niekamp also scored in the shot put, finishing fifth with a 30 foot, 6 inch throw.

Other points for the girls team came from:

•Alivia Brunswick, fifth in the 200 dash

•The 4x200 relay team that placed second

•The 4x400 relay team that placed second

Isaac Roessner was the top point getter for the boys team. He claimed third in the long jump (19 feet, 9 inches) and fourth in the 300 hurdles (44.78).

Reese Diller and Carson Fullenkamp matched Roessner for the top individual placement. Diller ran a 5:13.87 to get third in the 1,600 run, while Fullenkamp's throw of 43 feet, 4 inches got him the same placement in the shot put.

Other scores came from:

•Russel Hart, fifth in the 3,200 run

•Troy Post, fifth in the long jump

•The 4x100 relay team that placed third

•The 4x200 relay team that placed third

While the boys didn't get enough points to climb in the standings, they now have a starting point to look to improve upon.

"We're trying to get better each week," Vasey said.

"There's a lot of stuff these guys haven't done a ton of like working on the blocks and some of the fundamentals, so it's kind of developing each week."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS junior Luke Lochtefeld flies through the air during the long jump on Tuesday's meet at Marion Local. The first-year track athlete finished with a distance of 16 feet, 11.75 inches.

NFL ...

Continued from page 8

Because Buffalo didn't get a chance to answer back due to the rules, this led to another overtime change, in which both teams could possess the ball if a touchdown wasn't scored on the first possession.

Fast forward to present day, and both teams will have a chance to even the score in overtime.

Replay assist

Another rule change for the 2025 NFL season relates to penalties being subject to replay review.

There will be an on-site replay official to help

reverse penalties thrown for hits on a defenseless player, facemask grabs, and running or roughing the kicker.

However, this comes with a backend thought.

Penalties for those infractions can only be reviewed if officials throw a flag on the play. So if a coach disagrees with a flag, they can challenge and potentially overturn the call.

But if no official throws a flag, it can't be challenged.

Touchbacks

Kickoff touchbacks will now be placed at the 35-yard line. In 2024, kickoff

touchbacks resulted in placing the ball at the 30-yard line.

The base of the kickoff rules dates back to increasing returns and decreasing injuries.

Ahead of the 2024 season, the NFL decided to implement a "landing zone" between the receiving team's goal line and its 20-yard line on kickoffs. And a "set up zone" is between the receiving team's 35 and 30.

Kickoffs were returned at a 32.8% rate in 2024, which was much higher than the record-low 21.7% in 2023, per ESPN's Kevin Seifert.

With touchbacks placing the ball at the 35-yard line, kickoff returns are projected to rise between 60-70%.

Measuring first downs

Though it was spoken about prior, the NFL officially announced its intent to implement the Sony's Hawk-Eye virtual measurement system, to measure first downs.

The chain crew will remain on the sideline as backup.

The system was tested during preseason games last season, but the NFL decided against regular season use at that point.

In an age of electronic evolution, there had been some criticism over the NFL using an "eye-test" when measuring a first down. And, it was this way for the first 105 years of the NFL ... until now.

Going forward, an official will still spot the ball, but technology will determine if the ball reached the first down marker or not.

Potential addition

The "tush-push" sneak sits in the middle between being banned or legal.

There were 16 teams who supported a potential ban, but nothing has been established at the moment.

It's consistently been a popular topic in the NFL, for better or worse.

Popularized by the Philadelphia Eagles, it's simply a quarterback sneak used to gain the first down in short-yardage situations.

But it comes with an extra push from teammates behind the quarterback, along with a firm offensive line creating an open hole for the first down.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts holds 55 career rushing touchdowns, but 43 of them have come with 1-3 yards needed.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Softball at Marion — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball at Adams Central — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Minster — 5 p.m.; JV softball vs. New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Baseball vs. Eastbrook — 7 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Eastbrook — 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track at Celina Relays — 4:30 p.m.; JV softball vs. St. Henry — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1:05 p.m. — MLB: Colorado Rockies at Philadelphia Phillies (NBC)
7 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: TBD vs. TBD (FS1)
7 p.m. — College baseball: LSU at Oklahoma (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Penn State at Rutgers (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Miami Heat (TNT)
7:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Milwaukee Brewers (FSDN Indiana)

9 p.m. — College Basketball NIT Championship: TBD vs. TBD (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: TBD vs. TBD (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
10 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2)

Friday
2 p.m. — Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix (ESPN2)
1:10 p.m. — MLB: Chicago White Sox at Detroit Tigers (FOX)
2 p.m. — LIV Golf: Miami (FOX)

2:10 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Boston Red Sox (FSDN Indiana)
7 p.m. — NBA: Utah Jazz at Indiana Pacers (FSDN Indiana)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball Final Four: Texas vs. South Carolina (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College gymnastics: Big Ten Championships (BTN)
8 p.m. — UFL: Birmingham Stallions at Michigan Panthers (FOX)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball Final Four: UConn vs. UCLA (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Clippers (NBC)

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.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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MAY 3, 2025
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Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
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Tribe baseball bounces back with 14-7 win over FMHS, see story below

JCHS softball opens season against Marion today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Strong start

FRHS girls track comes away with seven victories in season opener

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

MARIA STEIN, Ohio — The Indians were just looking to “rip off the bandaid” and shake off the dust during their season opener.

Finding a plethora of success was just an added bonus.

The Fort Recovery High School girls track team had seven first-place finishes while competing in a quad meet at Marion Local on Tuesday. The boys team had eight scoring performances as well in the season opener.

The girls totaled 63 points to finish as the runners-up to Coldwater with 94.5. Marion Local and New Knoxville trailed behind with 51.5 and 26 points each.

“How can we not be happy about today?” said FRHS girls coach Christy Diller. “We had a bunch of kids PR in the first meet of the year. Everybody looked pretty solid, vibes were high as the kids say.”

Marion Local ran away with the win on the boys side, totaling 123 points. Coldwater sat comfortably in second with 89, while New Knoxville and Fort Recovery fell to third and fourth with 27 and 17 points, respectively.

“Feeling pretty good,” said FRHS boys coach Charlie Vasey. “We’ve got a lot of new people who did some good things. We’ve got some stuff to learn from too, but overall pretty positive.”

A handful of athletes had success, led by Madison Heitkamp and Anna Roessner, who each claimed a pair of events.

See **Start** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Madison Heitkamp of the Fort Recovery High School girls track team jumps over a hurdle while holding a narrow lead on Coldwater’s Madelyn Lange during Tuesday’s season opening quad meet at Marion Local. Heitkamp’s time of 17.23 seconds set a new career best, while beating Lange by 0.02 seconds.

Tribe bounces back against Jets

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians didn’t start the season the way they wanted to.

They quickly got to correcting the ship in game No. 2.

Fort Recovery High School’s baseball team picked up its first win of the season in a 14-7 route of the Franklin Monroe Jets on Tuesday.

After a healthy amount of early offense, the teams were tied 5-5 heading into the fourth inning. The Tribe (1-1) tore off six runs to take control of the game.

The first three batters all reached base before Caden Grisez smashed a bases-clearing double.

Local roundup

Caden Homan immediately put the next ball in play for an RBI single to right field. Two more runs would score in the frame on a Jacob Foote walk and a groundout by Colson Post.

Grisez led the way for Fort Recovery, putting up offensive team highs in RBIs (four), hits (three) and runs (three). Two of his hits were doubles and he also stole a base.

Foote earned the win over FMHS (2-3) after relieving Gavin Evers. Foote pitched 3 ½ innings, giving up two unearned runs on two hits and striking a pair of batters out.

Still undefeated

RUSSIA, Ohio — While the Fort Recovery softball team didn’t mercy rule the Russia Raiders, the offense provided more than enough comfort in an 11-3 victory Tuesday.

The Indians (5-0) scored one run in the first, fell silent for two innings and took off in the fourth.

FRHS scored five runs on Russia (0-3) in the

fourth on an Alexis Grisez sacrifice fly, a Paisley Hart two RBI single and an Emma Will two RBI double.

The Raiders responded with a run before both teams plated a pair in the fifth inning. Fort Recovery finished the game off with three runs in the top of the seventh to pad its lead.

Grisez’s three RBIs led the Tribe, while Will had the most hits at three including her double.

Jenna Homan went the distance in the circle, striking out nine batters while allowing three runs — only two of which were earned — on six hits and three walks.

NFL owners approve four rule changes

By **IRIE HARRIS**

cleveland.com

Tribune News Service

CLEVELAND, Ohio — There will be further changes to the NFL rulebook in 2025.

During the NFL’s annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, the owners voted and approved some changes ahead of the 2025 NFL season.

From a slight tweak in the overtime format, to adding influence to replay assist, and placing the ball farther up after a kickoff touch-back.

There’s also a potential rule change still in air relating to the “tush-push,” but that is tabled for the moment.

Overtime

From now on, both teams will receive a possession in overtime. It’s pretty much the

same overtime format used this past post-season, but will now apply to the regular season as well.

For a long time, overtime periods were 15 minutes long and whoever scored first won the game.

The overtime period was shortened to 10 minutes in 2017. In terms of possessing the ball, whoever scored first won the game, but an even bigger change came in 2022.

The Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Buffalo Bills in the AFC divisional round in 2022, in a 42-36 overtime win. It was a classic back-and-forth between the squads, until Kansas City won the coin toss and scored first in overtime.

See NFL page 7

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