

Council opposes

Resolution calls for replacing lost revenue

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Don't take away a funding source without providing a way to replace it. That was the message delivered on Monday.

Portland City Council passed a resolution opposing Indiana Senate Bill 1 and any other legislation that reduces funding to local government units without offering an alternative revenue stream.

Addressing changes made earlier Monday to Indiana Senate Bill 1, which addresses tax policy and a variety of other issues, Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said it is not looking good for cities and towns.

"This is essentially advertised by the governor as property tax relief," said council member Dave Golden. "But the downside of it is, it quite frankly reduces services. In other words, we as a city will lose money."

Golden also referenced the impact on school corporations.

He asked Phillips for details about the projected impact of Senate Bill 1, if it is approved.

Phillips said the initial version of the bill called for a reduction in funding for the city of \$150,000 in 2026, \$300,000 in 2027 and almost \$400,000 in 2028. But the updated version of the bill that cleared its House committee Monday on a partisan split — all Republicans in favor, all Democrats against — does not yet have details on a projected impact. (The state's Legislative Services Agency does not provide an analysis on amendments to bills until they are approved.)

"They haven't even given any estimates,"

Phillips said. "That's how new it is."

Council president Kent McClung said he understands state lawmakers' desire to be fiscally conservative as costs rise, "but then how are we going to keep paying for the goods and services that have increased ..."

Council member Matt Goldsworthy said he has expressed concern to fellow Republicans at the state level regarding the legislation.

"I'm just trying to get them to make me understand where do we get it back from," he said of the projected lost revenue. "And I'm not getting good answers."

He noted the importance of the things taxes pay for, such as police, firefighters and roads and expressed concern for the smaller municipalities in the county.

Former mayor and current chair of Jay County Democrats Randy Geesaman addressed the issue, urging residents to contact State Reps. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) and Matt Lehman (R-Berne) as well as State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), the author of the original bill, to express their concerns.

"The State of Indiana is really wanting to look like we're one of the best tax states in the country, at the expense of local government," he said, adding that it will be local officials who look like the "bad guys" when they vote to increase local option income tax (LOIT) in an attempt to replace lost property tax revenue.

Council members Michele Brewster, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Ron May, McClung, Goldsworthy and Golden voted unanimously in favor of the resolution, prepared by the Association of Indiana Municipalities, to "oppose any tax policy that impacts local units of government that does not come with a corresponding replacement revenue stream implemented by the State of Indiana."

See **Opposes** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sewer work

A City of Portland crew removes a section of sewer line Wednesday morning at the intersection of Seventh and Shank streets. The work is being completed in advance of planned paving of sections of both streets via an Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant.

China raises tariffs to 84%

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

China retaliated against new tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump by announcing it would raise duties on U.S. goods, roiling markets and deepening a trade war between the world's largest economies.

The Chinese government will impose an 84% tariff on all imports from the U.S. starting April 10, the Finance Ministry said in a statement Wednesday. China's move came hours after America's steepest tariff in a century went into force, taking Trump's duties on Beijing this year to 104%.

President Xi Jinping's latest moves mirror the extra levies Trump put on Chinese goods as a punishment for Beijing's last retaliation. With tariffs now soaring beyond the level economists say would decimate bilateral trade, any further duties would serve as a political statement rather than a way to apply economic pressure.

"China sent a clear signal today that the government will keep its stance on trade policies, despite the higher tariffs of the U.S.," said Zhang Zhiwei, president and chief economist for Pinpoint Asset Management Ltd. "I don't expect a quick and easy way out from the current trade conflict. Meanwhile, the tariffs have become effective and the damage to the two economies will become visible soon."



Monroe Bush for Indiana Capital Chronicle

State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne), who represents the northern third of Jay County, sponsored Indiana Senate Bill 5 in the House. The bill that addresses transparency of state contracts breezed through the chamber on a 91-1 vote.

Contract bill advances

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

"Financial responsibility," "accountability" and "transparency" for state government are at the heart of a Republican priority bill that inched closer to the governor's desk Tuesday.

Sen. Scott Baldwin's Senate Bill 5 advanced from the House in a bipartisan 91-1 vote. Only Rep. Ryan Dvorak, D-South Bend, was opposed.

Baked in the 21-page measure are new rules for contacts awarded by state agencies — including a ban on non-public, no-bid deals — and steeper expectations for vendors paid with taxpayer dollars. It also mandates "unfilled" government positions be eliminated, and requires state offices to more closely monitor and publicly report on spending, as well as in-flow and out-flow of federal funds.

The measure will need a final signoff from the Senate before it can be sent to Gov. Mike Braun.

Measure calls for greater accountability, transparency

"I think this is a good first step (for lawmakers) to sit at the table, and for us to review those things that we're looking for when it comes to ... fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency," said Rep. Matt Lehman, R-Berne, who sponsored the bill in the House.

The bill is part of a Senate GOP priority bundle and has been coined a "government efficiency" measure by the majority caucus.

The House-passed plan is "paired down" from the Senate's draft, Lehman said. Amendments on the chamber floor and in the Ways and Means Committee removed several earlier provisions in an effort to "refine and streamline" the overall bill, and to avoid unnecessary requirements or "inhibitions" on vendor negotiations.

But at its core, the latest draft of the proposal is the same: increase accountability around state contracts.

Except agreements "solely entered into for licensed legal counsel" by executive branch offices, state agencies would no longer be allowed to grant contracts without a request for proposals (RFP) that is posted on the department's website for at least 30 days prior to the deal.

Deaths

Patricia Stoker, 83, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 42 degrees Tuesday. The low was 24.
There is a chance of showers tonight with a low in the upper 30s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with a high in the upper 40s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Spring Jay County property tax bills have been mailed. Payments are due Monday, May 12. They can be made at Jay County Courthouse, online at jaycounty.net, via the dropbox on the south side of the courthouse or by mailing Jay County Treasurer, 120 N. Court St., St. 203, Portland, IN 47371.

Coming up

Friday — Details from this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from the Jay County softball game against Delta.

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

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Obituaries

Patricia Stoker
Aug. 17, 1941-April 7, 2024
Patricia A. Stoker, age 83, of Portland passed away on Monday, April 7, 2024, in IU Health Jay.
She was born in Lima, Ohio, on Aug. 17, 1941, the daughter of Joseph and Martha (Bates) Osterloh.
Patricia grew up in St. Mary's, Ohio, and moved to Portland as an adult.
She was married to Russell Martin and he preceded her in death. She worked at CTS in Berne for 38 years.
In 1995 she moved to Lafayette, Indiana, where she retired and became a home



Stoker

health aid, helping many people with their end of life journeys. She was a great mom and worked so hard to provide for her four children. Pat was well-traveled and enjoyed her winters in Myrtle Beach the most. We will miss her laugh and her sharp wit.
Surviving is three children, Todd Stoker of Brookston, Indiana, Terri Ashley of Portland and Tamara Stoker-Stoltz of Oak Park, Florida; and one grandson, Trenton Stoker of Brookton, Indiana.
She was preceded in death by a son, Timothy Stoker.
There will be no funeral services.
Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland is handling the arrangements.
Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.
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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, birth/death date and services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

| CR almanac | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Friday 4/11 | Saturday 4/12 | Sunday 4/13 | Monday 4/14 | Tuesday 4/15 |
| | | | | |
| 49/31 Friday looks to be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, cool, with a low around 31. | 58/37 Mostly sunny on Saturday when the low at night may hit the mid to upper 30s. | 63/51 Another day of mostly sunny skies on Sunday when the high will be in the low 60s. | 68/44 Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 60s. | 51/36 Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when highs will be in the mid to upper 30s. |

| Lotteries | |
|---|---|
| Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$65 million | Daily Three: 4-4-1 Daily Four: 1-7-8-9 Quick Draw: 7-13-15-19-23-26-32-34-35-43-45-48-51-61-62-64-65-75-78-80 |
| Mega Millions 10-16-50-60-61 Mega Ball: 17 Estimated jackpot: \$72 million | |
| Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 2-3-5 Daily Four: 9-8-9-7 Quick Draw: 5-8-20-24-25-26-30-33-35-41-42-45-52-55-59-62-69-74-79 Evening | Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-8-2 Pick 4: 1-8-5-2 Pick 5: 6-2-9-6-7 Evening Pick 3: 4-1-5 Pick 4: 2-7-7-3 Pick 5: 0-3-4-2-6 Rolling Cash: 1-6-7-8-30 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000 |

| Markets | |
|--|--|
| Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.79 May corn.....4.82 June corn.....4.85 | May beans.....9.96 Wheat.....4.95 |
| POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.89 May corn.....4.94 June corn.....4.95 | ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.78 May corn.....4.80 Beans.....9.94 May beans.....9.97 Wheat.....5.00 |
| The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.83 May corn.....4.83 Beans.....9.96 | Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.69 May corn.....4.74 Beans.....9.78 May beans.....9.83 Wheat.....4.82 |

Today in history

In 1872, Arbor Day took place for the first time. Nebraska residents celebrated the inaugural holiday by planting what was estimated to be more than one million trees. J. Sterling Morton, former governor of the Nebraska territory and a newspaper editor, had dreamed of the holiday and lobbied for it to encourage folks to plant trees.

In 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald published "The Great Gatsby," a literary classic following a Midwesterner's experience in New York, including escapades with his millionaire neighbor and cousin. The story has been portrayed in film, including the 2013 version starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby and Tobey Maguire as Nick Carraway, the two main roles.

In 1957, "12 Angry Men" was released in the United States. Starring Henry Fonda as a juror, the film follows jurors in a courtroom as they decide the fate of a person accused of murder.

In 1972, the Biological Weapons Convention outlawed developing, producing and stockpiling biological weapons. More than 150 countries signed the measure.

In 1986, Halley's Comet reached the closest point it would reach near Earth, also known as the perigee, during its route near the planet.

In 2001, the Netherlands passed legislation allowing euthanasia.

—The CR

| Citizen's calendar | |
|--|---|
| Today 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. | 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. |
| Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. | 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 Butler St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. |

Felony court news

Domestic battery
Two people were sentenced to jail for domestic battery charges.
Gregory A. Cash, 59, 903 E. Walnut St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail with all but eight days suspended and given credit for time served. Cash was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention fee. As part of his plea agreement, Cash's charge was lessened from a Level 5 felony.
Jennifer J. Morgan, 35, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to domestic battery on a person younger than 14 years old, a Level 6 felony. Morgan was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but four days suspended and given four days credit for time served. Morgan was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. She was placed on probation for 361 days.

Unlawful handgun
A man was sentenced to four years in prison for unlawful carrying of a handgun.
Chad M. Sluder, 28, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit

Court to the Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Sluder was fined \$1 and assessed \$189 in court costs.
As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle with a suspended license were dismissed.

Intimidation
A Portland man was sentenced to jail for intimidation and other charges.
Derek A. Reynolds, 46, 512 North Commerce St., Portland, pleaded guilty in

Jay Superior Court to intimidation, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor.
Reynolds was sentenced to 425 days in Jay County Jail with all but 60 days suspended and given 20 days credit for time served. He was assessed \$189.50 in court costs, fined \$1 and ordered to pay a \$200 alcohol and drug countermeasures fee. Reynolds was placed on probation for one year.
As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.15% or more was dismissed.

Opposes ...

Continued from page 1
Council also returned to a discussion that started at its last meeting regarding the city's transfer policy regarding police officer Jagg Nunez, who returned to the department in December. Mayor Jeff Westlake said he's consulted attorneys and other mayors and indicated he wants to involve the city's board of works in the process.
"So you're wanting to go around us, is what you're saying," Hilfiker said. She added that if there is going to be a change, it should be for all employees.
Goldsworthy pointed out that the mayor sits on the board of works and appoints its other two members. Phillips added that the current transfer policy was approved by both the board of works and the council.
A back-and-forth ensued, with Westlake continuing to say he wants the board of works involved, Goldsworthy calling out the board of works for not having details of Nunez's compensation package in place before hiring him, Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock refusing to speak on the issue and Aker questioning the mayor for not following city ordinances.
Goldsworthy then suggested that the council table the issue in order to be able to consult with city attorney Wes Schemenaur, who was not in attendance. Council supported his motion unanimously.
Also, May asked about the stop signs that were installed last week and removed a day later on Votaw Street at its intersection with Williams Street and the south entrance to Walmart. He asked if the signs would be put back.
As was reported in Saturday's edition of The Commercial Review, INDOT said the signs were installed last week "in error prior to placement of appropriate pavement markings and advance message boards." They are planned to be installed again on or after Monday, April 14, and will be accompanied by advance warning signs, rumble strips and temporary message boards to alert drivers to the change.
In other business, council:
•Heard from the mayor that Goodwill is hoping to open its store in the former Walgreens location on Votaw Street by the end of the month. Chicago's Pizza at 1511 N. Meridian St. is in the final stages of its preparations to open, he said.
•Approved the following:
—An update to the city's solicitation ordinance that calls for solicitors to register with the city for a fee of \$25 for a permit that expires after two weeks. They will be limited to soliciting between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Previously, no timeframe was listed.) They must also have a background check.
—Payment of claims following a question from Hilfiker regarding pay and take-home vehicle policy for the city's code enforcement officer. Phillips clarified that past practice has not been to adjust pay for police officers reassigned to code enforcement. Mock verified that the city does not provide a take-home vehicle for code enforcement.
—The city's redevelopment commission report on its activities from 2024 ahead of it being turned in to Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (the deadline is April 15)
•Discussed the city's noise ordinance in relation to a resident complaint that was brought to the council at a previous meeting regarding a religious service held at Jay Community Center. Portland resident Adolfo Solis spoke on the issue, saying it is a normal church service and that he could not hear noise at a distance of 200 feet from the building. Hilfiker agreed with that assessment but said residents continue to complain. Solis challenged council members to visit and judge the noise levels for themselves.
•Heard Aker ask about the level of manhole covers following the

U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) paving project. Westlake said INDOT has been notified and that the manholes will be adjusted. May also asked about the sidewalks/bump outs related to the project, with Westlake saying those will be addressed as well.
•Referred a pair of tax abatement requests from FCC (Indiana), one for real property and the other for personal property. They total an investment of \$1.6 million and both qualify for a three-year abatement. In presenting the request, Jodi Hayes of Jay County Development Corporation noted that the investments will create two new jobs.
•Heard May relay a complaint from a former council member about the city's tax rate going up. "As a city council, we need to start saying no to some things," May said. Geesaman noted that residents can appeal the assessed valuation of their property.
•Approved the following road closures:
—Race Street for a half-block east of Meridian Street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 12, for the Masonic Lodge's 175th anniversary celebration.
—Main Street between Meridian and Harrison streets from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, May 17, for a Main Street festival.
—Main Street between Meridian and Ship streets from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 21, for a PAST Recovery Services event.
•Heard Golden ask about installing a railing at the front steps at the Hood Building. The building, which is home to The Commercial Review, was purchased by the city's redevelopment commission in December 2023 for potential development. (There has been a railing there in the past but it was ripped out by vandals.)
•Heard Golden ask about vacating the alley between Jay County Democrat headquarters and Freedom Park. Geesaman said he would be happy to work with The Portland Foundation on the process.

Welch was driving is registered to Reliable VQN Rentals of Portland.

Capsule Reports

Turning accident
A Hartford City man turned the van he was driving into an oncoming Muncie woman's car at the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 1 about 1:30 p.m. Monday.
Dustin B. Welch, 36, was driving a 2016 Chevrolet Express south on Indiana 1 when he stopped at its intersection with Indiana 26. He told police he didn't see the northbound 2016 GMC Acadia in front of him and began turning east onto Indiana 26, causing him to crash into the Acadia driven by 27-year-old Shiann M. Fugate.
Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000. The van

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SERVICES

Saturday
Best, Pamela: noon,
Williamson-Spencer and Penrod
Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday
Harriett, Thomas: 11:30 a.m., Pennville Community Gym, 390 W. Pleasant St., Pennville.

Service listings provided by
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Sorority news

Eta Chi Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority met April 3 at Mount Tabor Hall for a business meeting.

President Marsha Eglan opened the meeting with the pledge. Recording secretary Julie Terrell read the minutes and correspondence. Shari Van Nuland gave the treasurer's report and gave a report on the Alpha Province expenses. Marsha Eglan read some emails from province and international officers. During the business it was reported that Jane McKinney, an associate member, had passed away. Abbie Whetsel asked to drop her membership because she has moved to another state. This was granted with a vote of members present.

Easter goodies will be passed out at the Waters Rehabilitation Center April 19 at 10 a.m., and the Easter egg

hunt will be held at the Dunkirk City Park on April 12. Sechler Pickle order sheets will be passed out at the April 15 meeting. These orders need to be turned in May 5.

The next meeting will be the Mother and Daughter Banquet at 6:30 p.m. April 15 at Mount Tabor Hall. Julie Adkins will receive her 50-year membership pin at the international convention. Marsha Eglan and Connie Retter will be our delegates to the international convention to be held in St. Louis from June 18 through June 22.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Those attending were Julie Terrell, Shari Van Nuland, Marlene Clevenger, Connie Retter, Julie Adkins, Reva Childers, Kathleen Inman, Stephanie Faulkner, Kris Cook and Renee Blumenhorst.

Harpists performing

The sounds of harps will soar next week.

Arts Place will host performances by its Harp Ensemble on Tuesday, April 15, and Wednesday, April 16.

The Tuesday performance will be at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. The Wednesday performance will be at Arts Place's Blackford County Arts Center, 107 W. Washington St., Hartford City. Both will start at 7 p.m.

The recitals will feature students with teaching artist Kathryn Fenstermacher.

For more information, email jcc@myartsplace.org or call (260) 726-4809.

The deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Dean's list

A Fort Recovery resident recently made the dean's list at an Iowa college.

Trey Collins was named to the list for the fall trimester at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Police participating

Police in Indiana are participating in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's campaign to curb speeding and distracted driving.

Additional patrols to look for offenders are in place from April 5 through 19.

Taking Note

Applications open

Applications are open for the Indiana Career Scholarship Account program.

The program is open to sophomores through seniors in high school who are interested in internships, apprenticeships or work-based learning. They can provide a \$5,000 annual scholarship for students enrolled in an approved program.

Applications are available at in.gov/tos/csa.

Spouse's retirement kicks off with new schedule

DEAR ABBY: My husband retired three weeks ago, and he has been driving me crazy ever since. I'm a night owl, and he's known it since we met 10 years ago. Today, he told me he'd be playing golf with an old friend tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at a course 45 minutes away and needed to get up at 6 a.m.

I asked if he could be extra quiet in the morning and use the guest bathroom to shower so he wouldn't wake me an hour early. He huffily put his towel and shampoo in the guest shower, stomped back to his easy chair and plopped down heavily. When I asked him what was wrong, he said he was annoyed that he couldn't take his shower in our regular bathroom. I said I was annoyed that it would make me lose an hour of sleep before working an eight-hour day. He

Dear Abby



said, "Sorry you're annoyed, but I'm retired, and things are changing!"

I never expected him to get up earlier in retirement. Is it asking too much that my routine and sleep schedule not be disrupted as long as I'm still working? After that, anything goes, but I still need the structure. — THROWN IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR THROWN: I will assume that your marriage has been a happy one until

now, and that usually involves compromise. I do not think your request that he shower in the guest room so you could stay on your sleep schedule was asking too much. I wonder why he would say "things are changing" unilaterally. Could he miss the unquestioned authority his former job afforded him? I ask because of the tone in which he said what he did. If he decides to punish you for asking him to shower in the guest room on mornings when he has a golf game, suggest that you will sleep in the guest room on those nights.

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DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a guy off and on for the past seven years. "Giorgio" is a won-

derful person and will do just about anything for me. The problems are that he doesn't have much to offer, and he talks too much. He shares a great deal of our private business to family and friends, especially his mother. She'll ask him several questions about me and then make snide comments in return. I have spoken to him more than once about this, to no avail. Giorgio knows I don't want him, but I can't get rid of him. Any advice you can give me would be greatly appreciated. — SEVEN-YEAR ITCH IN GEORGIA

DEAR SEVEN-YEAR ITCH: If you are aware of the snide comments Giorgio's mother has been making, it must be because Giorgio has passed them along to you. (Has he no brains at all?) Her attitude

about you would erode your relationship with her son, even if you chose to continue it.

I don't know why you can't get rid of Giorgio, but try this: Tell him you no longer want to see him and no longer want to be friends. Unless you do, the message won't get across. If he persists, warn him that if he doesn't go away, you will file a police report because at that point what he is doing will be considered stalking. Then do it, if necessary.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

PORTLAND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland. All Auxiliary members are welcome.

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.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

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 Coal-

tion 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 - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

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

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONY-

MOUS — 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.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email

rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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What follows is a very fine example of an issue that simply should not divide opinion, least of all along political lines. And yet.

Early last week, the Trump administration placed the staff of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the single largest source of federal funding for our country's museums and

Guest Editorial

libraries, on "administrative leave."

Without jumping to conclusions, this salvo can be interpreted

ed as the beginning of the end of the agency.

For an agency legally established with bipartisan support to be slashed away at like this is deeply disquieting.

More disquieting is the result that the deprivation of federal funding will have on local libraries' ability to offer information, education and connection to their communities — rural communities in particular.

The Republican disdain for the library is not at all restricted to Capitol Hill.

State legislators' work on cynical, censorious state-level proposals have also sought (with mixed success) to make librarians' work more difficult in recent years.


A recent letter to the editor by a retired town manager laid out just some of what we stand to lose if the administration proceeds with this gutting: public access to

high-speed internet, the powerful interlibrary loan service, digital access to e-books and audiobooks, free large-print books for the visually impaired, professional development for librarians and books by mail for rural and home-bound residents.


Take a second to remind yourself of the vast potential of a local library membership. Our delegates in Washington should be up in arms.

MEMORABLE PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES...


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"THE BUCK STOPS HERE."



"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU..."



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Scientific brain drain is underway

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

As recently as 1900, American colleges and universities educated too few students and did too little research. One way to gauge that is to examine the Nobel Laureates in the physical sciences — chemistry, physics and physiology or medicine. The awards began in 1901, and over the next two decades only two Americans received the prize, one of whom was an immigrant. We won two more in the 1920s, which is a poor showing for a large, prosperous world power.

Then things began to accelerate. We won nine Nobel Prizes in the 1930s and 13 in the 1940s, with 5 immigrants. Americans won 29 Nobel prizes in the 1950s, followed by 28, 35, 38, 40, 48 and 41 in subsequent decades. Since 2020, the U.S. has won 20 Nobel Prizes in the physical sciences. Part of this is due to larger teams winning the award, but most of it is due to the dominance of American science.

Our record in economics is even more astounding. Of the 96 recipients, 63 are Americans. We overrepresent Nobel Prizes in literature and peace as well. Today, the global language of scientific publications is English.

The reason for the ascendancy of American research univer-

Michael J. Hicks



sities is a simple one — brain drain from Europe.

After World War I, much of Europe descended into fascism. Authoritarian governments in Germany, Italy, Spain, Hungary and Romania all caused an exodus of talent, both professors and students. It started with attacks on free speech at universities, followed by the closing of some academic departments and, in some places, the expulsion of Jewish faculty and students. Then genocide.

This helped usher in an American century of science, technology, productivity and creativity. Thankfully, it cost Germany, Austria and Italy a world war.

Authoritarian governments don't like colleges and universities. In college classrooms and laboratories, people are free to think for themselves. Powerful and petty tyrants are terrified of free thinking and will do almost anything to stop it.

I've criticized the stifling

effects of left-leaning campus ideology and written about the failings of DEI. We cannot replace a stifling leftist orthodoxy on campus with one from the right. Universities need to be free, not conformist.

Conservative voices, like the Indiana Policy Review, should loudly criticize these new assaults on free speech. They've been strangely quiet, either through fear or forgetting their mission statement.

Still, the biggest problem for American higher education isn't from wannabe petty tyrants trying to get a professor fired. It's the elimination of billions of dollars of science, medical and engineering funding from the federal government.

I'm the first to say that there is plenty of irrelevant research published every day. But the irony of the Trump administration's spending cuts is that they aren't targeting any weird, woke research like Critical Menstruation Studies. That stuff rarely gets funded. The spending cuts are hitting right at the center of American scientific breakthroughs in medicine, engineering, and the laboratories where the basic sciences — physics, chemistry and biology — are performed.

I don't mean to be alarmist.

The attacks on American higher education do not spell the end of U.S. scientific research. But, it clearly marks a renaissance in research for Canada, Great Britain and western European nations. Unchecked, it will end our global dominance in many fields.

The academic job market is a global affair. One recent job opening in my department attracted 520 applicants from around the world. The global scientific talent is especially footloose, with most professors moving seamlessly between universities in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

For a bench scientist in engineering, medicine, physics, chemistry or biology, a stint overseas can be a real boon to a career. It will be easy for another nation to scoop them up.

There's already been a spike in scientists seeking employment in Canada, and help wanted advertisements in the U.S. that mention Canada for people with a doctorate (Ph.D.) are up 20% since President Trump's inauguration day. Over the same time, advertisements for doctorates in the U.S. are down 13%. Across Europe and in Asia, there are plans afoot to exploit brain drain from the United States.

To be clear, I'm not at all worried about the livelihoods of people with doctoral degrees. Their unemployment rate surpassed 3 % for only six months out of the past 25 years. These are serious people. For every doctoral degree in gender or related studies earned last year, there are 108 in engineering and the sciences.

However, a third of all doctorates awarded in the U.S. went to foreigners, many of whom are now worried about our anti-immigrant sentiment.

Every billion dollars of scientific spending supports more than 5,000 doctorate degrees, so it would be a rounding error in the Canadian budget to hire most American Ph.D. graduates next year. One thing we can all be certain about is that Canadian, British and EU national science strategies are going to be a lot more thoughtful and effective than anything Trump and Elon Musk's DOGE are doing with science.

.....

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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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 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.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

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

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

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

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

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

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockkcj.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.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.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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By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

When to draw trump

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K Q 9 8
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q 6 4
♣ Q 10 5
WEST
♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ J 10 8 5
♣ 4
EAST
♠ 5
♥ 10 9 6 2
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ K J 9 7
SOUTH
♠ A J 10 6
♥ A K Q
♦ 3
♣ A 8 6 3 2
The bidding:
South 1♣ Pass
West 1♦ Pass
North 1♠ Pass
East 4♣ Pass
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

spades. One way of proceeding is to win with the ace and start to draw trump, playing for a normal 3-2 division, and then hope to lose only one club trick.
In the actual deal, this method of play founders quickly. There would be no way to make the slam once South played two rounds of trump.
But declarer can make the contract by adopting a superior line of play. He wins the diamond lead with the ace and cashes the A-K-Q of hearts, discarding a club from dummy. Then he plays the ace and another club.
East wins but can do nothing to stop the slam. Even if East returns a trump, South cannot be prevented from ruffing his three remaining clubs in dummy, and dummy's three remaining diamonds in his hand. All told, South scores seven trump tricks, three hearts, a diamond and a club to finish with 12 tricks.
It may be argued that it is risky to play the A-K-Q of hearts before drawing trump, as either defender might ruff one of the hearts. But this is only about a 1-in-5 possibility, and there is no other approach that comes close to offering as good a chance. The best you can do in bridge is to follow the most promising line of play, and playing three rounds of hearts at the outset conforms to that principle.

Tomorrow: Combinations and percentages.
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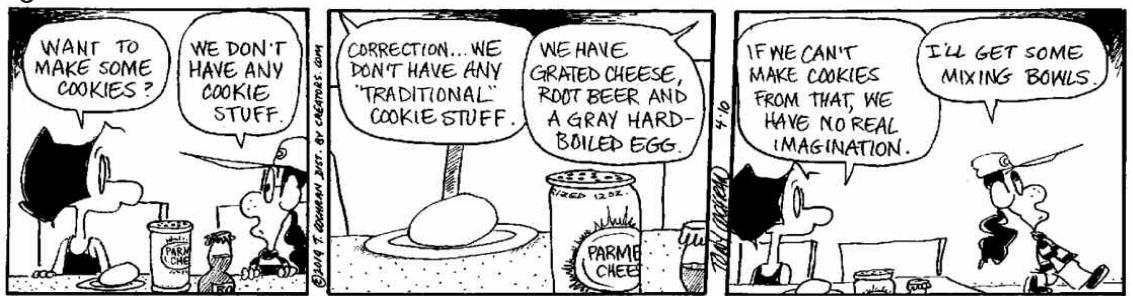
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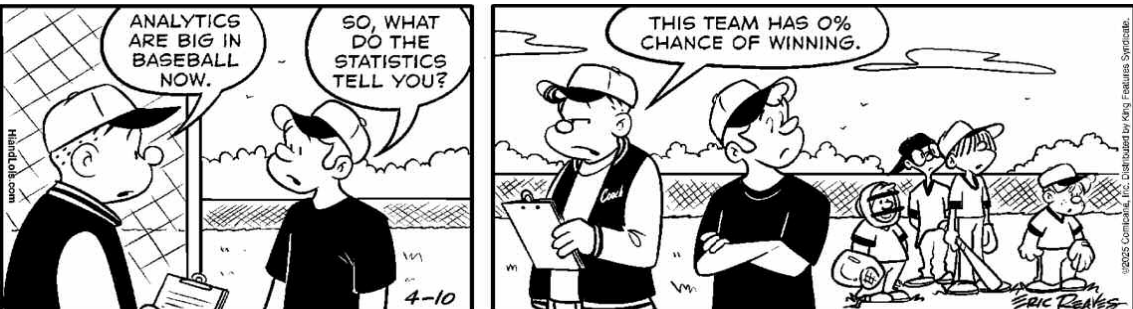
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Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



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Nuggets fire head coach Michael Malone

By BENNETT DURANDO

The Denver Post
Tribune News Service

DENVER — Less than two full seasons after winning their first NBA championship, the Denver Nuggets have cleaned house with three games remaining in the 2024-25 regular season, firing both head coach Michael Malone and general manager Calvin Booth.

Both were informed of the decision by team president Josh Kroenke on Tuesday morning, a source with knowledge of the situation told The Denver Post.

Malone and general manager Calvin Booth were both fired Tuesday with three regular season games remaining

The Nuggets are in the midst of a four-game losing streak that has jeopardized their chances of making the playoffs for a seventh consecutive year.

Malone, 53, was the fourth-

longest tenured head coach in the league and the winningest coach in franchise history with a record of 471-324 in 10 seasons. Lead assistant David Adelman will take over as interim head

coach for the remainder of the season, starting when Denver takes on the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday.

“This decision was not made lightly and was evaluated very carefully,” Josh Kroenke said in a statement, “and we do it only with the intention of giving our group the best chance at competing for the 2025 NBA championship.”

Booth, 48, was in the final year of his contract with the organization. He has worked in Denver’s front office since 2017

and held the general manager title since July 2020, when former president of basketball operations Tim Connelly promoted him to replace Arturas Karnisovas.

Booth took the reins as Denver’s top decision-maker after Connelly left for a job with the Timberwolves in May 2022. The Nuggets benefitted from Booth’s finishing touches on the roster, including the additions of Bruce Brown and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, on their way to the 2023 championship.

May makes it back

Natalie May, a courtesy runner for Jay County High School catcher Jaelynn Lykins, dives back into first base during the Patriots 10-0 win over Blackford on Monday. The Patriots will look to stay undefeated today as they take on sectional foe Delta.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Softball vs. Delta – 5 p.m.; Girls tennis at Bellmont – 5 p.m.; Track vs. Fort Recovery – 5 p.m.; Baseball at Hamilton Heights – 6 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Shenandoah – 5 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. Madison-Grant – 5 p.m.; Junior high softball at Union City – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball at Marion Local – 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Marion Local – 5 p.m.; Track at Jay County – 5

p.m.; JV baseball vs. Marion Local – 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Baseball vs. Marion – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high softball vs. Monroe Central – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. Anna – 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Fort Loramie – 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 p.m. — The Masters golf tourna-

ment (ESPN)
5 p.m. — College hockey: Western Michigan at Denver (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — Women’s college lacrosse: Ohio State at Johns Hopkins (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Indiana Pacers (TNT)
8 p.m. — Women’s college lacrosse: Rutgers at USC (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — College hockey: Boston U at Penn State (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Tim-

berwolves at Memphis Grizzlies (TNT)
10 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at Vegas Golden Knights (NBC)

Friday
3 p.m. — The Masters golf tournament (ESPN)
6 p.m. — IndyCar: Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Orlando Magic at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Weather Guard Truck

Race (FS1)
8 p.m. — UFL: Arlington Renegades at Birmingham Stallions (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Toronto Raptors at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
10 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Phoenix Suns (ABC)
11 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2)

Local notes

Registration open
Registration for the 35th annual

Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.
There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.
The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at 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

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located at 8341 N 400 E, Bryant Indiana (Bearcreek Farms) on Saturday Morning
APRIL 12, 2025
AT 9:30 A. M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
(2) Oak glass sliding door lighted display cabinet, nice; Oak corner lighted cabinet; Berne Haus Furniture sofa, love seat and oversized chair; karaoke machine; THOMAS KINCAIDE: large picture, Wonderland Express tree, iTwas The Night Before Christmas figure, light houses and globes. Large assortment of spittoons; large assortment of metal miniatures; games; toys; cast iron skilllets; Atari Flashback 7 game console; Wagner cast iron pot with lid; Wagner skillet; Tasco telescope; large assortment of Christmas decorations; animated witch; gum ball machine; combo; kids bikes; stroller; sleds; golf clubs; cotton candy maker; CEMENT: angel, guy on tractor, owl, raccoon, bird bath and others; and many other items not listed.
MOWER - TOOLS Craftsman DLT 3000 mower with 18.5 hp engine; Troy Bilt 5.5 hp snow blower with electric start; Troy Bilt 5500 watt generator; Craftsman table saw; 25T floor jack; Century wire feed welder; and many other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing of the many items that will be sold Please note that we will be running 2 rings. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview. Keith Huey Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 505 West Line Street, Geneva, IN Saturday Morning
MAY 3, 2025
9:30 A.M.
REAL ESTATE:
1 Ω story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1426 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas water heater, a water softener and a partial basement. The kitchen has nice oak cabinets with space for a table along with a dining room. There is a 24i x 26i 2 car detached garage with heat and water, a small utility barn with a walk in cooler and a 32i x 48i pole barn that has a workshop with heat and water. This property sits on 2.06 acres. This property has been well maintained and has a spacious yard.
For more information or private showing contact LOY REAL ESTATE KIM LOY BROKER 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160
REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 9:30A.M. Personal property will sell immediately following real estate.
KEN & MARCELLA DOHERTY, Deceased By Lois Debolt and Penny Hirschy Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 8341 N 400 E, Bryant Indiana (Bearcreek Farms) on Thursday Afternoon
April 17th, 2025
5:00 P. M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS
Amana washer and dryer; Frigidaire refrigerator; Mid Century Mod-

90 SALE CALENDAR

ern wardrobe; Lazy Boy recliner; gentlemanis dresser; chrome table with 4 chairs, nice; ; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF RAILROAD MERCHANDISE TO INCLUDE CARS AND TRACK, MOST IS H0 GAUGE WITH MANY OF THEM NIB ñ PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE OVER 10 LARGE TOTES OF RAILROAD ITEMS. Coca Cola bottle bank; wood money display cases; shovels; rakes; aluminum ladder; trimmer; saws; and many other items not listed.
TED & KAREN HORN ESTATE
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday April 19th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3202 W 600 S, PORTLAND IN TRACTORS ñ PICKUP ñ RIDING MOWER Ford 9N Tractor. Ford 8N Tractor w/ Sherman trans. 1989 Dodge D100 pickup truck w/ 318 engine. 25 ton log splitter. Simplicity 4212 mower w/ 38i cut. John boat. Sears 3.5 horsepower boat engine. Cement mixer. Fishing poles and supplies. ANTIQUES ñ FURNITURE - MISC
Oak roll top desk. Oak office chair. Liberty wood stove. Cedar chest. Cast iron lawn sprinkler. Cast iron dutch oven. Cycle mower. (2) Kirby sweepers. Window air conditioner. Dog cage. Squirrel cage fan. Several items not mentioned. OWNER: Mike L Hunt
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE

90 SALE CALENDAR

AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
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.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD ITEMS
Amana refrigerator; Maytag gas cook stove; china hutch; 4 drawer chest; Corelle set of dishes; Fenton basket; boom box; croquet set; and other items not listed.
For more information or private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer at 260-726-5160.
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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 505 West Line Street, Geneva, Indiana on Saturday morning
MAY 3, 2025
9:30 A.M.
REAL ESTATE:

1 ½ story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1426 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas water heater, a water softener and a partial basement. The kitchen has nice oak cabinets with space for a table along with a dining room. There is a 24’ x 26’ 2 car detached garage with heat and water, a small utility barn with a walk in cooler and a 32’ x 48’ pole barn that has a workshop with heat and water. This property sits on 2.06 acres. This property has been well maintained and has a spacious yard.
10% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Seller will provide warranty deed and Owners Title Insurance. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in November 2025 and thereafter. Any inspections must be done prior to sale date and are at potential buyers expense. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral statements. Owner confirmation day of sale.

For more information or private showing contact LOY REAL ESTATE KIM LOY BROKER 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160.

REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 9:30 A.M. Personal property will sell immediately following real estate.

KEN & MARCELLA DOHERTY, Deceased

By Lois Debolt and Penny Hirschy
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The Real deal

Manuel Hernandez will get to play in Real Madrid Foundation World Challenge

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

Everyone has a different relationship with sports and have taken different paths through their career.

Some athletes play through their adolescent years before getting moved off, while some make it to the pros.

Some athletes partake in highly competitive leagues, while others play casually.

Some individuals are born into sports and have some kind of ball in their hands their whole lives, while others don't pick it up until later in life.

Everyone's path is different and the destination varies greatly.

One young Jay County resident has earned a unique opportunity that will help to put him on a career to success.

Manuel Hernandez, a 9-year-old Jay County resident, was selected to compete on one of the United States' 10-and-younger soccer teams at Real Madrid Foundation World Challenge this week.

"I'm a little nervous but mostly excited," said Manuel, who has never been on a plane before but flies out today to Madrid, Spain. "I get to play for my dream club (organization) now."

As part of the experience, there will be an opening ceremony on Sunday and Manuel will be trained by the Real Madrid Club de Fútbol coaching staff Monday through Thursday in the mornings with group play matches in the afternoon on Wednesday and Thursday. (They believe he will be on the USA White team in Group D, with potential matches against Dubai, Spain, Canada Blue, Wallabies Australia and EFP Tulum Mexico.) The closing ceremony and final matches will be on Friday.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured Manuel Hernandez and his family receive a donation on Tuesday from Progressive Del Toro for his trip to Spain to compete in the Real Madrid Foundation World Challenge. Pictured from left are Robin Solis, Stephanie Barrera, Jeanne Houchins, Manuel Hernandez, mother Frida Hernandez, brother Milan Alcantar, grandmother Leticia Duenez, grandfather "Bambino" and Adolpho Solis.

The athletes will also be provided with some gear and get a tour of Real Madrid CF's Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

To get the opportunity, Manuel had to attend one of the Real Madrid Foundation's clinics that was run by Kaptiva Sports and perform well enough for coaches to notice him to get selected.

"My parents signed me up and told me to do my best, so that's what I did," Manuel said. "I used some skills I saw on YouTube, because they've told me to watch some soccer videos. ... I'm pretty confident

and impressed because I wouldn't think I would really make it, but I'm impressed that I did."

The East Jay third grader has been playing soccer since he was four, competing in the Boomer League in Portland before joining the indoor soccer league in Celina this past year. His father and grandfather also are involved in soccer, often going down to Union City to play during the summer months.

Manuel has also grown up watching soccer, specifically Real Madrid when he could and took a liking to the team's former star Cristiano Ronaldo.

"From a young age, we saw that soccer really grabbed his attention," said his mother, Frida Hernandez. "Watching his role model, Cristiano Ronaldo, made him dream of being big one day."

Frida said she noticed Manuel's proficiency in the sport during his second season playing as he started to become recognized by other players and coaches. She was further encouraged by Manuel's coach Devin Lloyd about his talent if given the proper training and opportunities.

She decided to sign him up for the clinic in Indianapolis, knowing it might not turn out, particularly in the first season due to the high level of competition. But it worked out for Manuel, and now he'll get the opportunity to learn from some of the best in the world and take a large first step in achieving his dreams.

"I'm not going to lie, when we signed him up, we knew there would be kids from other states or that probably had more practice," Frida said. "As a mother, I was like 'He'll be selected.' But then I thought 'OK, if he doesn't it's fine. We'll try again next year.'"

So, once I got the email that said that he was selected, I started crying and was really happy. I told him right away and he was really happy."

For the next eight days, Jay County will have some representation in Madrid, Spain, during one of the largest events for youth soccer, hosted by one of the most recognizable brands in the sport.

When reflecting on the work he's already done and the opportunity he has in front of him, Manuel had two simple messages. "Just chase your dreams and love people."

Steady offense provides lift for Tribe

HOUSTON, Ohio — The Indians just consistently chipped away at the Wildcats.

With a steady stream of offense, good pitching took them the distance.

The Fort Recovery High School baseball team picked up its third consecutive win with a 5-1 victory over Houston on Tuesday.

FRHS (3-1) didn't put up any

crooked numbers in the contest, but managed to score one run in the second through the sixth inning.

The first run came on a wild pitch in the second frame that let Brodie Hart make his way around the bases. Houston (1-3) answered with an unearned run in the bottom half to tie the game up.

The Tribe immediately reclaimed the lead as Reece Wendel walked, stole second base and then made his way around on a ground out by Alex Gaerke. Fort Recovery extended the lead in the third after Hart hit an infield single, stole second base, advanced to third on a passed ball and scored on a Cody Klenke sacrifice fly.

The final two runs came on a Caden Grisez double and an Austin Siegreist sacrifice fly.

A trio of Tribe pitchers held the Wildcats to just one unearned run and two hits on the day.

Gaerke tossed the first 1 2/3 innings, giving up the run despite only walking one batter and surrendering zero hits.

Jacob Foote finished off the second inning and pitched the next two as well. He gave up both hits, but struck out four batters in the process and didn't give up any free bases.

Caden Homan took over in the fifth and finished the job for FRHS, only allowing two Houston hitters to reach base via walk.

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Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141