

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Council reviews new tax proposal

*Property tax increase proposed to pay for projects*

By RILEY EUBANKS

The Commercial Review

There's a plan to increase Portland property taxes to pay for projects to combat downtown flooding.

Portland City Council at its meeting Tuesday heard about a plan from consultant Baker Tilly and legal firm Ice Miller that would see property taxes increase annually by about one-half of a percentage point to pay for an estimated \$3 million to construct a detention pond to collect overflowing water from Millers Branch and \$1.3 million to overhaul the drainage system under Meridian Street (U.S. 27).

An increase in taxes, projected to cost an extra \$0.1382 annually per \$100 of a property's assessed value, would go toward a 20-year bond that would provide immediate capital to pay for the entirety of these projects, per the plan.

That plan is projected to give the city \$5.3 million to pay for the aforementioned construction cost, engineering fees and other contingencies of the projects. Under the plan, \$326,000 would be paid annually from the tax levy toward that bond with an additional \$24,000 paid annually by the city.

Currently, Portland has a property tax rate of 3.3859%, 236th highest in the state and equivalent to a \$3,385.90 annual cost for a \$100,000 home, according to Indiana University.

The discussion prompted a lingering question of whether Millers Branch flooding is a county or city issue.

"Are we just going to assume and impose a tax on Portland residents ... (on an issue) that could be partly or wholly a county ditch problem?" council member Kent McClung asked Portland Mayor John Boggs during the meeting.

Boggs responded by saying he envisions the detention pond as being "a joint project" between the city and Jay County but that he has yet to discuss it with the newly elected county commissioners.

The mayor, taking a more optimistic approach, said the cost of the tax will decrease with additional funding from the city, and possibly the county, and grants from the state to pay for these projects.

The discussion was the first in what may be several council meetings dedicated to deliberating over the proposed tax.

"I'm sure we're going to have a lot more discussion and a lot more questions ... so everybody can feel comfortable for what we're doing here," Boggs said.

See **Proposal** page 2



The Commercial Review/Riley Eubanks

## New planters in place

Members of the Portland Fire Department and TJs Concrete Construction helped place several planters along Meridian Street (U.S. 27) this morning. Fire chief Mike Weitzel (left) said 21 wide planters like the one pictured and 24 tall planters will be installed as part of Portland Main Street Connect's downtown beautification project.

## Dues has started scheduling cases

By RILEY EUBANKS  
The Commercial Review

There's a new judge in Jay County. And in due time, she'll get through her court's backlog. Jay Superior Court Judge Gail Dues has begun scheduling jury trials in her court following an order from the Indiana Supreme Court pausing all trials until at least March.

Since then, she said she hasn't received word from the Supreme Court on if that order will be extended. Nevertheless, she has begun preliminarily scheduling trials that may be the court's first since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Her court still handles all of its usual business outside jury trials, such as civil cases, most cases involving misdemeanor charges and small claims, all the while navigating around the potential spread of coronavirus.

"We try to not bring anybody from (Jay County Jail) unless we have to," Dues said, noting that most hearings involving defendants who are in prison are conducted electronically.

As it was when Judge Max Ludy held the bench, Dues will mostly hear criminal cases involving defendants charged with misdemeanors and Level 6 felonies while Jay Circuit Court

Judge Brian Hutchison will hear higher level felony cases unless there's a conflict of interest.

Dues, a Jay County native, was a public defender for about 11 years before she defeated Ludy in the Republican primary in June 2020. She ran unopposed in the general election.

Hutchison noted Dues is the first woman to head Jay Superior Court.

"I'm not sure why it's taken this long," Hutchison said.

She first became licensed to practice law in Indiana in 2002 before becoming licensed in Ohio the following year.

In the years since, Dues said she has considered one day becoming a judge before she ran for office.

Just weeks into her six-year term, Dues said Hutchison has helped her transition to the bench.

"There's always kind of a learning curve when you enter a job like this ... but I don't anticipate her needing much help," Hutchison said.

Hutchison may hear cases involving clients Dues represented prior to her new job. If he is unable, those cases would go to Randolph or Adams counties' courts, Dues said.

## Holcomb touts state's rebound

*Governor focuses on pandemic initiatives*

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Gov. Eric Holcomb touted Indiana as rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic and called during his State of the State speech Tuesday for the Legislature to support a new regional development program to spark that recovery.

Holcomb pre-recorded the speech earlier Tuesday before it was broadcast on television and online, rather than before the typical joint session of the General Assembly. He chose the virtual option in light of coronavirus precautions and security concerns over

possible protests across the country related to President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Wednesday.

Holcomb focused much of his speech on initiatives responding the COVID-19 pandemic. He paused for about 10 seconds for a moment of silence for the more than 9,000 Indiana residents who've died from the illness over the past 10 months, saying "It's impossible to calculate the far-reaching ripple effect of the personal and community loss of lives and livelihoods."

The Republican governor, who was elected to a second term by a wide margin in November, strove to cast the state as in the midst of a strong recovery, pointing to state government's top-level AAA credit rating and some \$2 billion in cash reserves as allowing more aggressive action than many other states.

See **Holcomb** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Poster project

Bryson Miller, a student in Holly Farr's fourth grade class, works on his Indiana state history poster during class Thursday.

### Deaths

**Pauline Hartman**, 71, Penningtonville  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature was 35 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 27, and there was a trace of snow overnight.

Expect a low of 27 tonight. Thursday's high will be 40 under partly cloudy skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Portland Redevelopment Commission has scheduled a meeting for 8 a.m. Friday in room 205 at John Jay Center for Learning.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — Coverage of today's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

**Saturday** — Photos from Friday's ACAC wrestling tournament at Jay County.



# Proposal ...

Continued from page 1  
The proposal deviates from a previously discussed monthly charge to Portland residents to the tune of a projected \$6 to \$7 a month.  
But to pay for these projects in their entirety, that rate could've been \$10 to \$11 a month, according to Baker Tilly. The city currently does not have a stormwater tax.  
"That's pretty steep for a first-time stormwater fee coming out

of nowhere," said Ross Hagen of Baker Tilly during the meeting.  
A lack of assurance from a newly established stormwater fee would also make it unlikely the city could secure a bond off of it alone, Hagen said, but rolling the fee into property taxes would give bonders more confidence the debt will be repaid.  
To create a tax levy, Portland would have to establish a stormwater board separate

from the city's board of works, but the board's annual budget and the creation of a tax levy would have to be approved by city council.  
In 2020, Portland awarded contracts to Butler, Fairman and Seufert and Wessler Engineering to engineer the creation of a detention pond and a overhaul of the Meridian Street drainage system, respectively.  
In other business, council members Matt Goldsworthy,

Janet Powers, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Mike Aker and McClung, absent Don Gillespie:  
•Learned from city clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips that \$117,000 of unspent money from the 2020 budget will be rolled over to the current year's budget.  
•Was updated by Boggs on his conversations with city department heads last week on potential public safety projects that they anticipate over the next few years, the most expensive of

which is a new million-dollar ladder truck for the Portland Fire Department.  
•Heard a comment on national issues from McClung, who was re-elected as council president. "It's my firm belief that the elections were free and fair. In all my studies of government — and I consider myself a student of government — (President-elect Joe) Biden won, and anybody that tells you different is wrong."

## CR almanac

Thursday 1/21	Friday 1/22	Saturday 1/23	Sunday 1/24	Monday 1/25
<b>40/24</b>	<b>29/16</b>	<b>29/22</b>	<b>36/30</b>	<b>37/25</b>
Warmest temperatures all week under mostly sunny skies with a west wind of about 15 mph.	Cooler with temperatures in the teens at night. Mostly cloudy, 10 to 15 mph north-west wind.	Cool during the day but warmer at night under mostly sunny skies. No snow projected.	Warmer under cloudy skies with a 40% chance of a rain-snow mix between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.	Warmer during the day but cooler at night under mostly cloudy skies.

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
Estimated jackpot: \$730 million  
Daily Four: 00-4-5-3  
Quick Draw: 6-7-12-27-28-30-31-33-34-50-54-55-60-61-67-68-72-77-78-80  
Cash 5: 5-9-31-35-43  
Estimated jackpot: \$364,000

**Mega Millions**  
10-19-26-28-50  
Mega Ball: 16  
Megaplier: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$970 million

**Hoosier**  
Midday  
Daily Three: 4-6-4  
Daily Four: 2-1-5-2  
Quick Draw: 12-16-17-21-26-32-38-42-50-51-52-55-58-59-64-68-73-77-78-79  
Evening  
Daily Three: 2-1-9

**Ohio**  
Midday  
Pick 3: 8-3-1  
Pick 4: 3-9-4-5  
Pick 5: 8-7-7-4-9  
Evening  
Pick 3: 9-1-2  
Pick 4: 2-0-9-6  
Pick 5: 6-8-5-7-1  
Rolling Cash: 5-10-22-32-39  
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....5.21 Wheat .....6.39	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....5.06 Feb. corn .....5.08 Beans .....13.52 Feb. beans .....13.52 Wheat ..... 6.54 March wheat ..... 6.56
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.24 Feb. corn .....5.24	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.87 Feb. corn .....4.89 Beans .....13.27 Feb. beans .....13.37 Wheat .....6.39 Feb. wheat .....6.39
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....5.10 Feb. corn .....5.15 Beans .....13.55 Feb. beans .....13.55 Wheat ..... 6.63 Feb. wheat ..... 6.63	

## Today in history

**On Jan. 20, 1986,** the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.  
**In 1265,** England's first representative Parliament met for the first time.  
**In 1801,** Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States. (Marshall would be sworn in on Feb. 4, 1801.)  
**In 1887,** the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.  
**In 1937,** President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.  
**In 1942,** Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference,

during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.  
**In 1961,** John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.  
**In 1964,** Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"  
**In 1971,** a fire destroyed a barn on the property of E.M. Southwood in Noble Township. Items lost that were inside the barn included a camping trailer, boat and farm machinery.  
**In 1981,** Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Today**  
4 p.m. — Portland Aviation Board, airport conference room, 661 W. county road 100 North.

**Thursday**  
1 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, commissioners' room, court-

house, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

**Friday**  
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, room 205, John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St.

# Obituaries

**Pauline Hartman**  
April 22, 1949-Jan. 11, 2021  
Pauline Hartman, age 71, a resident of Pennville, passed away Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, at her home.  
Pauline was born April 22, 1949, in Pennville, Indiana, the daughter of Ralph and Margaret (Romine) Hartman. She was a member of the Pennville VFD Auxiliary.  
Pauline worked for Copeland Corporation in Sidney, Ohio, for 24 years and retired from Tyson Foods in Portland after 15 years. Pauline enjoyed riding on her golf cart and spending time with her dogs.  
Survivors include:  
One daughter — Arvilla Howe (James), Tavares, Florida

Two brothers: Roger Hartman (wife: Barbara Patrick), Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Russell Hartman (wife: Roxanne), Pennville, Indiana  
Three sisters: Lelia Jones (husband: Romer), Sidney, Ohio, Rose Davidson, Hartford City, Indiana, and Ruby Imel (husband: Carl), Pennville, Indiana  
Four grandchildren  
She was preceded in death by a daughter, Tuesday Pattison; and her parents, Ralph and Margaret Hartman.  
Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2020, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod



Hartman

Funeral Home in Pennville. A service to celebrate Pauline's life will follow at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.  
Memorials may be directed to Pennville Volunteer Fire Department.  
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.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 of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# Capsule Reports

**Failed to stop**  
Snow on the roads led to a Portland man failing to stop and eventually driving into another vehicle on Meridian Street in Portland at 6:18 a.m. Saturday.  
Brian A. Blount, 48, was westbound on Arch Street when he attempted to stop at the stop sign at Meridian Street. He failed to do so, and drove into the passenger side of a westbound 2007 Hyundai Elantra being driven by Brannon W. Shortt, 30, Portland.  
Blount was driving a 1998 Buick Century registered to Alisa A. Blount, Portland. Damage was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

**Cat-crash fever**  
A Portland woman attempted to avoid driving into a cat and ended up

driving into a parked car at the Pier-Mac Plastics Inc. parking lot at 1000 N. Morton St., Portland, at 5:44 a.m. Thursday.  
Tyra Bait, 34, was northbound in the parking lot in her 2008 Ford Escape when she missed the cat and drove into a parked 2013 Toyota Tacoma registered to Ralph W. Dennis, Economy.  
Damage was estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

**Circle K accident**  
Damage was estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500 after a Dunkirk man drove into a guard post at the Circle K gas station at 325 N. Meridian St., Portland, at 5:55 a.m. Saturday.  
Michael O. Conatser, 58, was pulling into the parking lot in his 2015 Ford F150 when he drove into the pole.

**Failed to yield**  
A Pennville woman failed to yield to oncoming traffic, driving into the side of a Portland man's car at the intersection of Arch and Commerce streets in Portland at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.  
Andrea N. Wentz, 22, stopped while northbound on Commerce Street and proceeded through the intersection and into the passenger side of a westbound 2004 GMC Sierra being driven by Timothy W. High, 61, who had the right-of-way and did not have to stop at the intersection.  
Wentz was driving a 2005 Chevy Cobalt. Damage was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

**Walmart accident**  
Damage was estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500 after a Huntington man

backed into a parked car in the parking lot of Walmart, 950 W. Votaw St., Portland, at about 5 p.m. Tuesday.  
Aaron M. Franks, 24, was backing his 2005 Chevy Trail Blazer out of a parking spot when he backed it into a parked 2016 Chevy Malibu registered to Denise D. Stewart, Ridgeville.  
**Felled limb**  
A tree limb fell on an eastbound semi south of East Jay Elementary at 9:30 a.m. Monday in Portland, causing an estimated \$1,000 to \$2,500 in damage.  
Michael A. Hughes, 59, Muncie, was eastbound on River Road approaching Wayne Street when he drove into a low-hanging limb, which fell on the passenger-side of the 2007 Freightliner he was driving registered to Perfection Distribution LLC in Lansing, Michigan.

# Felony arrests

**Possession**  
A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday on an alleged charge for unlawfully possessing a syringe.

Cheryl A. Johnston, 46, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for the crime, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance

and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Her bond from Jay County Jail is \$3,000.

# Jay Superior Court

**Judge Gail Dues Fined and sentenced**  
Krysta L. Graft, 20, 6121 E. 500 South, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor — She was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail with all but 10 days of her sentence suspended. She was placed on probation for 170 days, assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay \$350 for a substance abuse program and \$200 in drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fees. As part of her plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor charge of possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.  
Zachary T. Ingram, 32, 633 W. 200 North, Portland, pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana, a Class A

misdemeanor — He was sentenced to 268 days in Jay County Jail and given 268 days credit for 134 days served. He was assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay \$200 in drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fees.  
**Deferrals**  
Indiana v. Chasen A. Dibattiste, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, Class C misdemeanor  
**Cases filed**  
The Farmers & Merchants State Bank v. Kenneth Moriarity, civil collection  
Shonda L. Scott v. Bryan L. Scott, dissolution  
LVNV Funding LLC v. Tonya T. Timmons, civil collection

Indiana v. Mark A. Binegar, criminal misdemeanor  
Indiana v. Austin L. Smith, criminal misdemeanor  
Indiana v. Preston M. Gillum, criminal misdemeanor  
Indiana v. Antoine R. Whitfield, Level 6 felony  
Indiana v. Joseph E. Byrley, Level 6 felony  
Indiana v. Michael R. Coleman, criminal misdemeanor  
Hannah M. Lykins v. Chad Lykins Jr., dissolution  
Sonnek and Goldblatt Ltd. v. Theresa Hurst and Ruby Maynard, civil collection  
Indiana v. Damian C. Lautzenheiser, criminal misdemeanor  
Indiana v. Heather N. Bilbrey, criminal misdemeanor

# Pence set to head home

COLUMBUS (AP) — Outgoing Vice President Mike Pence was set to return to his Indiana hometown this afternoon following the inauguration of President Joe Biden.  
The Republican former Indiana governor and his wife Karen are expected to attend Biden's inauguration and will then fly into the Columbus Municipal Airport, where they will be greeted by some supporters, the Indiana Republican Party said Tuesday.  
That group of about 50 people is expected to include Pence's brother, U.S. Rep. Greg Pence, and some state lawmakers, said Barbara Hackman, the Bartholomew County Republican chairwoman.

Pence grew up in Columbus and some family members still live there. But Pence hasn't owned an Indiana home for at least the past eight years, during which time he lived in the Indiana governor's residence in Indianapolis and then at the vice presidential residence on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington.  
Pence hasn't announced where he plans to live during his post-vice presidency.

## SERVICES

**Thursday**  
**Guntle, Donald:** 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

**Friday**  
**Jobe, Billy:** 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Hartman, Pauline:** 11 a.m., 190 S. Union St., Pennville.

Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

**Sheriff's Department will be taking applications for the following positions**

- Full time Merit Deputy
- Full & Part time Correction Offices
- Part time Dispatcher

Will be accepting applications until 1/22/21

# 1950s cold case rehashed

The murder of Garnett Ginn of Portland has been unsolved for 71 years. A new look at the case is scheduled for next month. Mike Medler, a Portland resident and retired Indiana State Police officer and director of the Indianapolis — Marion Forensic Crime Lab, will discuss the case as part of John Jay Center for Learning's Senior Learning series. The discussion will be held via Facebook Live at 1 p.m. Feb. 4. Ginn, a Portland High School teacher, was found dead in her garage in 1950.

## Scholarship offered

Helena Agri-Enterprises announced recently that it will award a \$1,000 Helena Home-Grown Scholarship. The scholarship is open to a 2020-21 high school senior who will pursue a degree in agriculture or science. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31, and winners will be announced by the end of March.

## Taking Note

For more information, visit [helenahomegrown.com](http://helenahomegrown.com).

## Beatles art in Blackford

You won't need a "Ticket to Ride" into Blackford County to see some John Lennon art for free. A new exhibit at the Blackford County Arts Center titled "Only Imagine" will feature art from the famed Beatles guitarist and Hartford City native John Knox daily until Feb. 18. The original art from Lennon were donated to the center by David Hodges. The Blackford County Arts center located at 107 W. Washington St., Hartford City, is open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday

through Thursday except Tuesdays, when it is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## New workout for seniors

Just in time to satisfy New Year's Resolutions, there's a new workout program designed for older adults. LifeStream Services has a new video-based workout program from Geri-Fit that is designed to help seniors build strength. Videos last 45 minutes and can be downloaded and followed along from the safety of their home. The Geri-Fit program can increase muscular strength, improve balance and coordination, boost motor skills and reaction time, enhance flexibility and gait, lessen arthritic conditions, and help manage chronic disease, according to a LifeStream press release. To learn more about the program, visit the website [lifestreaminc.org/wellness](http://lifestreaminc.org/wellness) or call (800) 589-1121.

# Little things remembered

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate

Arizonan Alberto Rios probably observed this shamel ash often, its year-round green leaves never changing. On this particular day, however, he recognizes a difference — a yellow leaf. In doing so he offers us a glimpse of how

## American Life in Poetry

something small yet unexpected may stay with us.

### A Yellow Leaf

A yellow leaf in the branches  
Of a shamel ash  
In the front yard;  
I see it, a yellow leaf  
Among so many.  
Nothing distinguishes it,  
Nothing striking, striped, stripped,  
Strident, nothing  
More than its yellow  
On this day,  
Which is enough, which makes me  
Think of it later in the day,  
Remember it in conversation  
With a friend,  
Though I do not mention it—  
A yellow leaf on a shamel ash  
On a clear day  
In an Arizona winter,  
A January like so many.

*Editor's Note: This column (40) is a reprint from the American Life in Poetry archive. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.*

*Reprinted from The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body, Copper Canyon Press, 2002, by permission of the author. Introduction copyright ©2021 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.*

# Son may be rushing fatherhood

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old son has been dating a girl for two or three months. She seems very nice. She has two children and is pregnant with her third child. She's due in three months. The child is not my son's.

I was told by some friends of my son that he's planning to sign the birth certificate as the father. He understands the implications. How do I convince him that, although he feels like he and this girl will be together for the long haul, this is a poor decision to make, especially because of the short length of time they have been dating? — TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

DEAR TOO MUCH, TOO SOON: Although it can be difficult to convince someone in the throes of new love, you and your son's friends should urge him to discuss this with a lawyer before signing ANYTHING. He needs input from someone who is not emotionally involved and can explain the legal ramifications of what he's considering.

Not all romances have storybook endings, but if this relationship leads to marriage in the future, he can always adopt or provide financially for the child if he wishes. I sincerely hope you and the others who care about him can get through to your son.

DEAR ABBY: My college-aged granddaughter is no longer speaking to me, answering my phone

calls or allowing her other grandmother (who raised her) to post anything on Facebook where I can see what she is doing.

My granddaughter came to live with me last summer because she worked a summer job here. I asked her if she was gay, not because I think she is but as a prelude to a conversation about not allowing other girls to recruit her into a same-sex relationship as I saw in college and while teaching public school. Although I tried to explain, things have grown progressively worse.

My son and her mother married when she was 7 and divorced when she was 13. Over the years, I worked hard to develop and maintain a relationship with her. Now, she has told the other grandmother that she will never speak to me again. Was what I did so bad, and what should I do now? — OTHER GRANDMOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR OTHER: What you said wasn't "bad," but it was misinformed and heavy-handed. While same-sex relationships do happen in high school and college, young people don't usually indulge unless they are



Dear Abby

already at least bi-curious. Even then, straight people don't suddenly "turn gay."

Your granddaughter may still be trying to figure out her sexual orientation, which could be why she has reacted so strongly. If you are wise, you will allow her the time she needs to sort it out, rather than push or panic.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and I have a wonderful relationship. But I am very upset because she listens in on the speaker phone to every conversation I have with my 11-year-old grandson. I really believe we should have privacy, and I think it's strange that she does this. Is she justified, since she knows I'm disturbed by speaker-phones in general? — CONCERNED NANA IN THE EAST

DEAR CONCERNED: You wrote that you have a wonderful relationship with your daughter. Have you asked her why she feels monitoring your calls to your grandson is justified? From my perspective, her behavior may be hypervigilant, but whether it is justified isn't a question that someone who isn't familiar with your family dynamics can answer.

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 [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.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](mailto:news@thecr.com).

Today AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Begin-

nings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229. A BETTER LIFE - BRI-

ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (206) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

Thursday 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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI- ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Kevin Culy at (260) 251-2843.

SENIOR CITIZENS CARD CLUB — Will meet at 1 p.m. on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

# Fresh Start!

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# Winter sports? Nah, grab a broom

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

The term “winter sports” has always struck me as something of an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

After all, winter is supposed to be spent inside, by a roaring fire if possible, cuddled under multiple blankets if that can be arranged, and preferably with a warm mug of something nearby.

Oh, sure, I confess to enjoying the act of shoveling snow now and then. (My enjoyment tends to peak with the first real snowfall of the season and trend downward, sometimes sharply downward, from there.)

I also love a hike in a quiet woods after a big snow, when there are no other tracks on the

## Back in the Saddle



trail and the silence is like something out of God’s biggest cathedral.

And I’ll admit to throwing my share of snowballs over the years.

But sports? In winter? That’s something I’ve always filed under “Things Other People Do.”

Part of that is a result of growing up in the Midwest.

My big brother, Steve, who fell in love with a young woman from Minnesota and who has lived in Minneapolis most of his adult life, has a theory about this.

Steve figures that the love of winter sports is all about having enough winter.

In Minnesota, they have plenty. More than enough.

So the ponds freeze over early and stay frozen. The skates come out, the hockey sticks and pucks come out, and they stay out for months.

The same with snow. An investment in cross country skis in Indiana or Ohio might seem a little iffy, but in Minnesota there’s enough winter to make those dollars well spent.

For those of us south of Chicago,

my brother’s theory goes, there’s not enough consistent winter to justify hockey or skiing or figure skating.

Instead, we’ll have snow for several days, then gray skies and gloom, then a thaw, then a puny snowfall. Back and forth.

It’s enough to drive you inside. Into a barn.

A barn with a basketball hoop. In other words, a gymnasium.

So kids who might otherwise be icing the puck — or whatever the heck it is they do with the puck — grab a basketball instead.

And Hoosier Hysteria is born.

It may be a cultural thing, but it’s also a climate thing.

While I understand all that, I still have not been able to fathom my wife’s fondness for winter

sports, particularly the Winter Olympics.

This is a woman whose skiing career ended at the bottom of the bunny slope with an injury that put her on crutches.

But when the Winter Games arrive, she is there.

Assuming there are enough blankets and there’s a warm mug of something nearby, I’ll be with her, feigning interest in competition after competition: Ski jumps, slaloms, hockey, speed skating, even figure skating.

Until it’s time for curling.

And that’s when I check out. While the Olympians will be sweeping snow off the ice to let the stone slide as far as possible, I’ll grab a broom and sweep the kitchen floor.

## Good information is the best antidote

The Washington Post

Fifty-seven vials containing more than 500 doses of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine were removed from a pharmacy refrigerator by an employee in a Wisconsin medical center last month — inadvertently, officials said at first, and then they revised their statement. The act was intentional.

The inoculations against the coronavirus rolling out around the country are the targets of intense disinformation campaigns that have spurred concerns about safety and efficacy, even among health-care workers. Leaders of long-standing anti-vaccine groups see this pivotal moment as a prime opportunity to leverage the rumor-mongering infrastructure they’ve built over the course of years.

The Post reports that members of the National Vaccine Information Center are coordinating a “master narrative” that the virus isn’t a threat and that the safeguards against it are. They’re ballooning isolated instances of side effects into proof of general dangerousness; homing in on prominent online health influencers to spread their propaganda; and targeting African American communities whose fraught history with the medical community has primed them for skepticism.

The best antidote to bad information is good information. Trickier is figuring out how to administer it. Removing false claims is nigh impossible for platforms to do at scale without too much slipping through the cracks, and studies show the practice sometimes only makes people more eager for what they start to see as suppressed knowledge.

Applying fact checks and reducing algorithmic spread can help. Yet at the core of this conundrum is the question of trust. Experts suggest “pre-bunking,” or anticipating lies and filling the void before their arrival with facts. They also emphasize the need for honesty about where the vaccine is imperfect, such as with adverse reactions, unanticipated side effects and imperfect efficacy.

Members of the public need to be assured ahead

## Guest Editorial

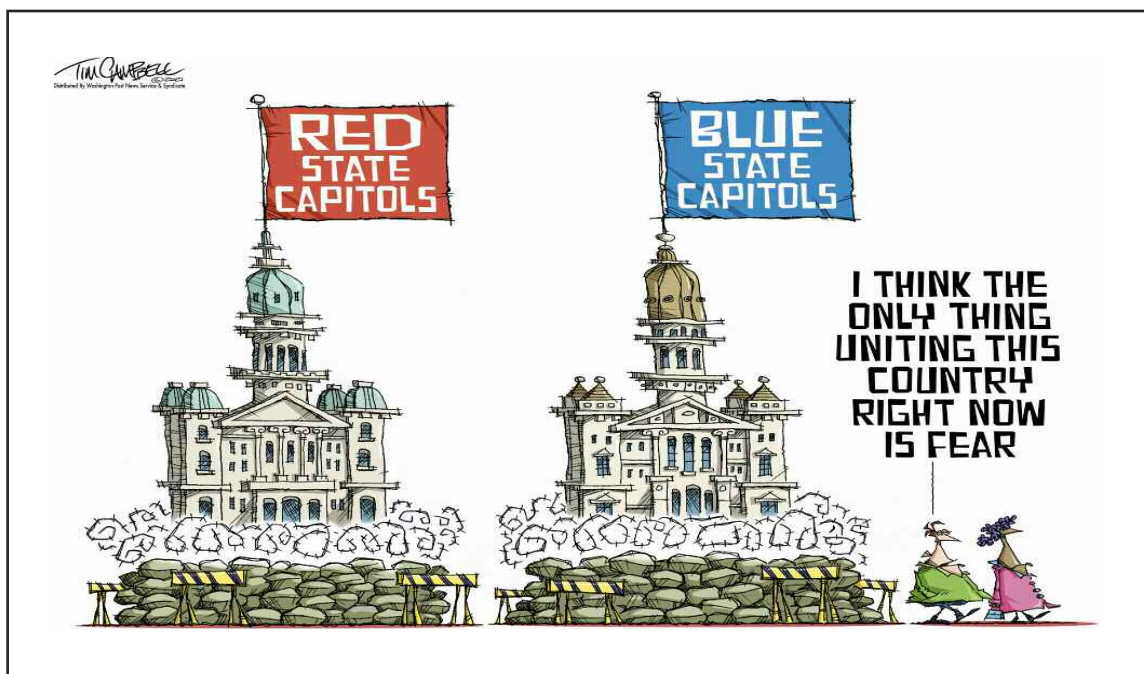
*Members of the public need to be assured ahead of time that these issues do exist, that they aren’t evidence of widespread harm and that no one is trying to hide anything from them.*

of time that these issues do exist, that they aren’t evidence of widespread harm and that no one is trying to hide anything from them.

The public also needs to hear all this in the right places, from the right people. That means responsible reporting from media outlets, whether it comes from a national newspaper’s editorial page or a local daily’s lead story. The messenger can matter as much as the message, especially in insular communities suspicious of vaccines in particular or the government generally.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can probably do much less to persuade an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community to get its shots than can a nearby synagogue with whom the agency might partner. Physicians should be trained in how to assuage patients’ fears; individuals should be taught how to assuage the fears of their loved ones. The forces that seek to sow doubt are determined and disciplined.

Those who hope to build faith in these life-saving vaccines must be similarly committed.



## It was not a protest or an accident

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The essential basis of an economy is trust. As the founding father of economics, Adam Smith noted an economy “... can seldom flourish in any state in which there is not a certain degree of confidence in the justice of government.” Our modern world subsists almost wholly on a high degree of trust in the justice and capacity of government, business and households.

Thus, among the many crimes committed by the insurrectionists of January 6, 2021 was a full-fledged attack on the American economy. It was an assault upon the ‘confidence in the justice of government’ not only by a few tens of thousands of protestors, but among far too many elected officials, including members of Congress and the president. It is they who must reckon with an event whose lawlessness demands terse retelling.

On January 6, 2021, our Congress and vice president met to fulfill a solemn, if mostly symbolic, Constitutional duty to certify election results from states. Outside, on the streets of our Capitol, the president caused to assemble a crowd of many tens of thousands. This angry crowd was fueled by dozens of political groups and members of Congress. These people were carefully groomed for weeks to believe the Big Lie, that the 2020 election was fraudulent or stolen.

Nearly every elected official of the Republican Party participated in this Big Lie. For many, the support amounted to no more than what first seemed a banal statement about electoral fraud. For others, including the president, a dozen senators and two-thirds of the House, it was a full-throated, unambiguous, immoral and deeply anti-American falsehood.

Filled with the deceptiveness of this Big Lie, stoked by the fiery rhetoric of the president, this crowd attacked Congress. They stormed the physical center of American democracy with calls to kill the vice president and members of Congress. They paraded both NAZI and Confederate flags through the halls of Congress, something Hitler’s generals could never imagine. They disgustingly tore down Old Glory, replacing it with a Trump banner. They hunted members of Congress, stole classified information and defecated upon the walls of Congress. Meanwhile, others amused themselves by bludgeoning a dying police officer with the American flag. This was not a protest, nor

Michael J. Hicks



was it an accident. In the words of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, it was sedition and insurrection.

The U.S. election of 2020 was not fraudulent or stolen. Every elected Republican leader knew this when they awoke on January 6th. They knew it in November, and they know it now. Some Hoosiers, like Vice President Pence, Senator Young and Rep. Bucshon backed away from the Big Lie and its anti-American message before the insurrection started. Against what we now know were threats of terrorism they fulfilled their duty and oath of office. Others scurried away from the Big Lie only after Congress was stormed.

But, amid the stench-filled, bloody and battered Halls of Congress, four Hoosiers were among the more than 100 members of Congress voted to sustain the Big Lie. They must now explain how this vote was consistent with their oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I do not believe they can do so convincingly.

As I write, the assault on our Republic and our economy continues. Due to this insurrection, nearly a full infantry division has been deployed to defend the Capitol. This is the result of the Big Lie and the inability of the Republican Party to confront the historic lawlessness of President Trump. It is time to do so, and make clear to every American citizen of the historic danger this insurrection brought to our nation.

Now, I don’t wish to draw any false equivalence between this insurrection and other dark days in American history. When compared to 9/11, Nixon’s resignation or Pearl Harbor, this insurrection is a far graver risk to our Constitution. The Big Lie brought to Washington, D.C. a violent mob, a president and members of Congress willing to sustain a pernicious and vividly obvious lie to thwart a peaceful transfer of power. Not since Gettysburg has our Constitution been more at risk.

It is too early to judge the damage this insurrection has done to our

economy. The dark forces that assembled a crowd to attack the Capitol remain among us, damaging “confidence in the justice of government.” No one understands the risk to our economy better than American businesses. Rarely, if ever, has the America’s private sector responded as quickly and forcefully as they have done so this week.

Those who propagated lies about the election find themselves shedding financial supporters. Eli Lilly, Walmart and General Motors have all suspended support for those who voted against the certification of the 2020 election. More will follow suit, eviscerating future political campaigns. A number of insurrectionist groups, masquerading as conservative organizations will disappear in the weeks to come. America’s businesses are keenly aware that our Constitution provides the platform for free commerce.

Likewise, those platforms of insurrection on social media find themselves unwelcomed from the marketplaces that enabled their communications. Those who stoke insurrection find themselves without access to social media accounts. The same Constitution that protects their right to speak does not obligate the rest of us to do business with them. They deserve the same commercial consideration an Al Qaeda propagandist or Joseph Goebbels would receive — none.

I am guardedly hopeful we can contain the economic fallout of this insurrection. It comes at a difficult time, with the nation battered by a global recession and pandemic. The best way to limit damage is to punish traitors and demand that those who spread the Big Lie renounce their dishonesty. We must acknowledge that the Constitution — not race, ethnicity or religion — must be central to our identity as an American. And finally, we must all acknowledge the results of a just and fair election that brought Joe Biden into office. We must also never forget this terror-fueled attack on the United States of America and its aim to damage “confidence in the justice of government.”

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.

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In review

Cases down

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana health officials reported fewer new coronavirus cases and related hospitalizations Tuesday as the state's downward trend that began late last year continued into 2021.

Indiana recorded 2,756 new cases of COVID-19, the second straight day health officials have reported fewer than 3,000 cases, the Indiana State Department of Health said Tuesday in its daily statistics update. That brings the number of Hoosiers known to have had the coronavirus to 595,436.

The state agency also reported that 2,332 Indiana residents were hospitalized with COVID-19 on Monday — the fewest since early November, after the state saw a steep increase beginning in September for coronavirus deaths, hospitalizations and new infections. Of those being treated, 525 were in intensive care, marking a nine-week low.

Arrested

NEW YORK — A U.S. Army soldier was arrested Tuesday in Georgia on terrorism charges after he spoke online about plots to blow up New York City's 9/11 Memorial and other landmarks and attack U.S. soldiers in the Middle East, authorities said.

Cole James Bridges of Stow, Ohio, was in custody on charges of attempted material support of a terrorist organization — the Islamic State group — and attempted murder of a military member, said Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for Manhattan federal prosecutors.

The 20-year-old soldier, also known as Cole Gonzales, was with the Third Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, when he thought he was communicating with the Islamic State online about the terrorism plots, Biase said.

Killed

MADRID — A powerful explosion apparently caused by a gas leak ripped the facade off a residential building in central Madrid on Wednesday, killing two people and injuring at least two more, according to the mayor.

The first images and footage shared on social media showed a tower of smoke coming out from the six-story building and rubble scattered in Toledo Street, near the city center. Emergency crews could be seen aiding several people on the ground.

—Associated Press



Bloomberg/Al Drago

President Trump and Melania Trump exit the White House on Wednesday before boarding Marine One on the South Lawn in Washington, D.C. Trump later gave his farewell address from Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. "It's been something very special," he said. "We've accomplished a lot."

Trump bids D.C. farewell

By JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — His term at an end, President Donald Trump said farewell to Washington today but also hinted about a comeback despite a legacy of chaos, tumult and bitter divisions in the country he led for four years.

"So just a goodbye. We love you," Trump told supporters at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland where he walked across a red carpet and boarded Air Force One to head to Florida. "We will be back in some form."

Trump refused to participate in any of the symbolic passing-of-the-torch traditions surrounding the peaceful transition of power, including inviting the Joe and Jill Biden to the White House for a get-to-know-you visit.

He did follow at least one tradition: The White House said Trump left behind a note for Biden. A Trump spokesman, Judd Deere, declined to say what Trump wrote or characterize the sentiment in the note, citing privacy for communication between presidents.

Members of Trump's family gathered for the send-off on the military base along with the president's loyalists, who chanted "We love you!" "Thank you, Trump" and "U.S.A." Four Army cannons fired a 21-gun salute.

Speaking without notes, Trump said his presidency was an "incredible four years." He told the crowd that he and first lady Melania Trump loved them and praised his family for its hard work, saying they could have chosen to have

an easier life.

"It's been something very special. We've accomplished a lot," Trump said, citing the installation of conservative judges, creation of the space force, development of coronavirus vaccines and management of a robust pre-pandemic economy. "I hope they don't raise your taxes, but if they do, I told you so," he said of the incoming Biden administration.

He acknowledged that his was not a "regular administration" and told his backers that he would be returning in some form. He said the Trump campaign had worked so hard: "We've left it all on the field," he said.

Without mentioning Biden's name, Trump wished the new administration great luck and success, which he said would

be made easier because he had laid "a foundation."

"I will always fight for you," he told the crowd. "I will be watching. I will be listening."

Before arriving at the airport, Trump told reporters on the South Lawn of the White House that being president had been the honor of his lifetime.

"We love the American people, and again, it has been something very special," he said over the sound of the Marine One helicopter. "And I just want to say goodbye but hopefully it's not a long-term goodbye. We'll see each other again."

Aides had urged Trump, the only president ever impeached twice, to spend his final days in office trying to salvage his legacy by highlighting his adminis-

tration's achievements — tax cuts, scaled-back federal regulations, normalizing relations in the Middle East. But Trump largely refused, taking a single trip to the Texas border and releasing a video in which he pledged to his supporters that "the movement we started is only just beginning." In his final hours, Trump issued pardons for more than 140 people, including his former strategist, rap performers, ex-members of Congress and other allies of him and his family.

Trump will retire to Florida with a small group of former White House aides.

White House cleaning crews worked overnight and were still going as the sun rose to get the building ready for its new occupants.

Holcomb ...

Continued from page 1  
"Coming off 2020, I'm convinced 2021 can be the best ever," Holcomb said. "So the central question before us all is, how can we seize this day?"

In a new initiative, Holcomb called for creation of a Next Level Regional Recovery program aimed at improving quality of place and economic development efforts among groups of cities and counties around the state.

It resembles the Regional Cities Initiative that then-Gov. Mike Pence pushed for in 2015 and awarded \$42 million grants toward three regional plans. Supporters lauded its success, but Holcomb and leaders of the Republican-dominated Legislature didn't pursue more money for it in the two-year state budget adopted in 2019.

"We are just at the beginning of developing this initiative and will work with members of the General Assembly and our mayors, our county elected officials, economic development officials and other stakeholders, so we're ready to

rock and roll when we have the green light," Holcomb said.

Holcomb also called on lawmakers to approve \$100 million toward improving internet service in rural areas of the state and highlighted the state's commitments to completing the Interstate 69 extension project between Indianapolis and Evansville that's been under construction since 2011 and upgrades to the South Shore commuter rail line in northern Indiana.

Holcomb last week proposed a modest increase in school funding for the new state budget — 2% during the first year and 1% in the second year — while leaving for later discussions with legislators on taking up a report from a commission he appointed two years ago to recommend steps toward boosting the state's lagging teacher pay.

"When — not 'if' — when we do this, we will be one of the best in the Midwest for teacher pay, and we'll be better able to attract and retain teacher talent, including attracting more minority candidates," Holcomb said.

Democrats faulted Holcomb and legislative Republicans for not taking more aggressive action on the issue that has festered since Republicans took full control of state government a decade ago.

"This is a third State of the State in a row that I've heard the governor make promises to Hoosier educators that an increase in pay is on the way," said House Democratic leader Phil GiaQuinta of Fort Wayne. "I know Hoosier educators are tired of empty promises."

Holcomb only briefly referenced the warnings about possible violent protests at state capitols across the country that prompted him to close the Indiana Statehouse until Thursday and for legislative leaders to call off all business this week. He didn't discuss last year's protests in Indiana and across the country against racial injustice and police brutality even while mentioning his hiring of a state equity officer and plans for all state police troopers to wear body cameras.

Senate Democratic leader Greg Taylor of Indianapolis said that

Holcomb should have talked about calls from Black leaders for steps such as banning police use of chokeholds, along with ways the state's \$2 billion in reserves could help people suffering financially during the pandemic, especially those working in places such as grocery stores and nursing homes.

"Many were paid wages that they can't even live on, they have to have several jobs to make ends meet," Taylor said. "How does it seem fair that we're going to still have Hoosiers after this pandemic and people in these essential jobs that can't get paid a living wage of living wage?"

Holcomb recorded the speech earlier in the day, after previously planning to give the speech live in the Indiana House chamber before a small audience. But that plan was reconsidered following last week's protest warnings from the FBI, said Earl Goode, Holcomb's chief of staff.

"Out of that came the decision that the simplest thing to do then was to move to the studio, so it was a combination of both," Goode said.

Businesses open after earthquake

By NINIEK KARMINI and YUSUF WAHIL  
Associated Press

MAMUJU, Indonesia — Grocery stores, gas stations and other shops were reopening Wednesday in a quake-hit Indonesian city where debris still covered streets and searchers continued to dig in the rubble for more victims.

Immediate food and water needs have been met and the local government has started to function again in the hardest-hit city of Mamuju and the neighboring district of Majene on Sulawesi island, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson

Raditya Jati said in a statement.

Thousands of people are sleeping outdoors, fearing aftershocks, and the streets of Mamuju were still covered in debris. Security officers toured the city in a patrol van with a loudspeaker, urging people to observe COVID-19 health protocols as reopened gas stations and markets attracted large crowds.

Disaster Task Force Commander Firman Dahlan said a navy hospital ship, a university floating hospital and field health centers were providing care to help overwhelmed hospitals.

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# Sports

## Tribe D dominates Starfires

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review  
FORT RECOVERY — The Indians' defense was too much for the Starfires.

And once the visitors found their groove, the hosts already had an insurmountable advantage.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team allowed just six points on two field goals in the first half on its way to a 51-25 victory over the South Adams Starfires on Tuesday at Fort Site Fieldhouse.

"I thought the girls came out and they were ready to get going in a game that started an hour, hour and a half earlier than normal," said FRHS coach Holly Gann, noting the fact there was no junior varsity contest. "Kind of a different type of warm up."

"I thought the girls executed well. Defensively we knew we could put a struggle on what they do a little bit."

South Adams coach Brett Freeman, whose team has lost three in a row and six of its last nine games, said the offensive woes were no surprise.

"These last few games we've been struggling," Freeman said. "Struggling to get some shots. With (second-leading scorer Peyton Pries) not out there tonight it obviously makes a difference of how we played and what we could do."

"They're a strong team starting five seniors. We're awfully young so it was a big wakeup call."

South Adams (6-11) was just 1-of-10 from the field in the first half, which allowed Fort Recovery (11-4) to race out to a 21-4 lead at the break. The Tribe ended the first period on a 10-0 run, and scored the first two points of the second.

The Starfires' only points of the second quarter came on a right side drive from Kristen Wynn — the junior's only two points of the game — which stopped a span of nearly eight scoreless minutes for South Adams.

Wynn's bucket made it 23-6, and then the Indians closed the half with eight more points, six of which came from freshman Mara Pearson.

"She's an athlete," Gann said of Pearson, who scored all eight of her points in the second quarter. "Even though she hits the varsity floor she's still learning. The best thing we can do for Mara is continue to get her those minutes so that she can learn and grow."

"Athletically she can always play, but basketball knowledge will come with more time."

South Adams was just 1-for-6 from the field in the second quarter and went into halftime down 31-6 and shooting just 12.5% (2-for-16).

See **Dominates** page 7



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Fort Recovery High School senior Paige Fortkamp, right, tries to stop a pass from South Adams' Cora Baker during the second quarter Tuesday at Fort Site Fieldhouse. Fortkamp and the Indians limited the Starfires to just six points in the first half of a 51-25 victory.

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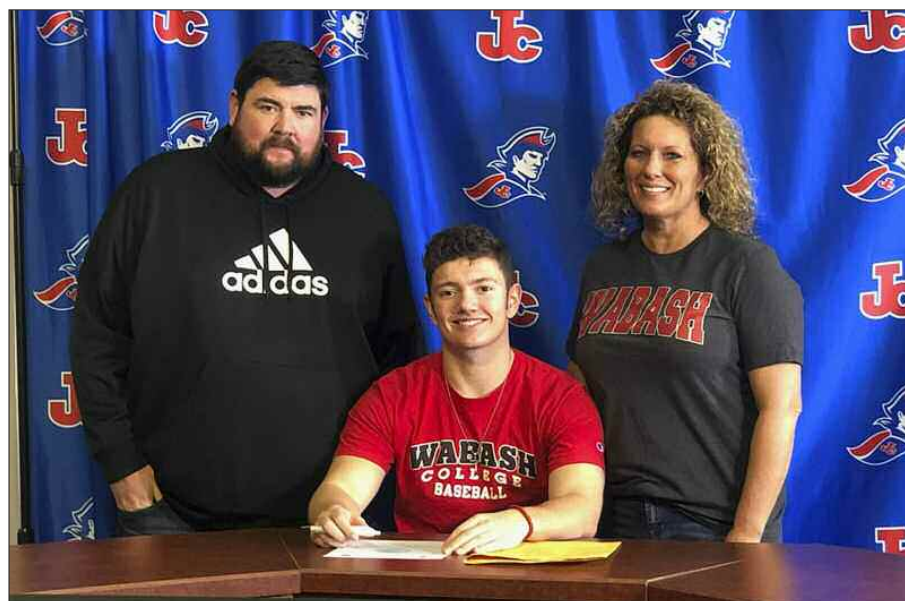


Photo provided

### Caldwell inks with Wabash

Jay County High School senior Blake Caldwell (seated) signed his national letter of intent Tuesday to play baseball for Wabash College. Pictured with Blake are his parents, Tyler Caldwell and Kristi Sibray.

## Jay girls dominate MC

MUNCIE — The Patriot girls had a dominating performance against a sectional rival.

The boys weren't as fortunate. Jay County High School's swim teams split with the Muncie Central Bearcats on Tuesday. The Patriots girls won 11 of the 12 events for a 120-66 victory, and the boys lost 113-72.

Ashlyn Dow and Eliza Bader both had two individual wins for the JCHS girls. Dow won the 200-yard individual medley, then won the 100 butterfly. Bader took first in the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

Mara Bader (50 freestyle), Lauren Brewster (diving), Rieley Brewster (100 freestyle) and Elayna Paro (100 breaststroke) had individual victories as well.

The Patriots also won all three relays. Kyle Sanders picked up wins in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke for the JCHS boys, who also won the 200 medley relay. Josh Monroe (200 IM) and Griffin Mann (100 butterfly) had individual victories as well.

Aaron Funkhouser joined the 50-second club in the 100 freestyle, taking third in 59.92 seconds.

### Tribe girls beat Delta

MUNCIE — Fort Recovery's girls swim team topped the host Delta Eagles on Tuesday, 84-64.

The Tribe boys lost, 128-19. Teigen Fortkamp was the lone dual win-

### Local roundup

ner for either Tribe team. The freshman earned the top spot in the 200-yard freestyle and 100 backstroke.

Audra Bubp was first in the 200 individual medley, Autumn Burk won the 100 butterfly and Ava Bubp beat the field in the 500 freestyle.

Fort Recovery's girls also won the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay races.

### Jay seventh wins

The Jay County Junior High seventh grade girls basketball team moved to 3-0 on the season with a 25-4 victory against the Adams Central Jets on Tuesday.

The eighth graders fell short in a 28-27 loss.

Mya Kunkler scored 10 points to lead the Indian seventh graders, who did not allow a point through the first three quarters. Raylah Newton contributed four points.

Daisy Muhlenkamp's 10 points led the Jay County eighth grade squad. Cassie Petro scored nine points, while Jasmine Esparza and Meredith Dirksen had three points each.