

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

4-H in the face

A pie falls away from Dru Mercer's face after Collin Myron threw it at him Thursday evening in Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds. All 4-H members who were signed up before Jan. 15 were entered into a drawing to get to throw a pie in the face of a 4-H leader. Registration for 4-H is still open by going online to v2.4honline.com, calling the office at (260) 726-4707 or visiting 126 N. Meridian St., Portland. "It's not too late, never too late," said 4-H member Lucas Lyons, who hosted Thursday's pie-in-the-face event on Facebook Live.

Redkey shifting to use Anthem

Insurance change is expected to save \$ for town and employees

By ROSE SKELLY

The Commercial Review

The town's new insurance policy will save Redkey several thousand dollars a year.

Redkey Town Council voted Thursday to switch health insurance companies, which will result in about \$300 savings per month for the town and lower costs for employees.

It also discussed changing its take-home vehicle policy for police after an officer was involved in an accident in his personal vehicle earlier this month.

Redkey previously used UnitedHealthcare's health insurance plan, which cost the town \$4,474.75 per month in insurance premiums. Council decided to look into cheaper plans after changes to the town's employee roster brought its health insurance costs down.

Aaron Walter of Barnum Brown Insurance, the town's insurance provider, told council that a plan from Anthem would cost \$4,184.96 per month — saving \$289.79 per month or about \$3,500 a year.

Changing the plan would also result in savings for the town employees. The Anthem plan's maximum out of pocket cost for an individual is \$1,000, compared to the previous plan's maximum out of pocket cost of \$7,500.

"That's a big deal, and it's something I suggest you take advantage of," Walter said.

Additionally, the calendar year deductible is \$250, compared to \$500 in the old plan.

See Redkey page 2

Commission reviews its options

By RILEY EUBANKS

The Commercial Review

Portland Redevelopment Commission has nearly \$1.4 million in the bank.

Now it just needs to use it.

The commission met for the first time Friday and heard from city clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips that it has \$1,389,203.51 in total funds, with adviser Ed Curtin saying those funds could go toward schools, flood prevention and other initiatives.

"It's beneficial from an economic standpoint to have a good school corporation," said Curtin, a redevelopment expert hired in October to help the commission decide how to spend its money.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley called into the meeting to discuss the ambiguity surrounding how tax increment financing (TIF) district funds can be used toward school corporations that overlap with the district.

He referenced the state's Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission report, which recommended that TIF district governing bodies such as

the redevelopment commission put its money toward school corporations if it has "accumulated more funds than necessary to pay for project costs."

The report continues, "Unfortunately, some TIF districts capture property tax revenue without compelling or well-tailored uses for the funds. This decreases property tax revenue flowing to schools, which shrinks their available finances." See Options page 2

Portland redevelopment has nearly \$1.4 million in TIF funds

State is holding off

By TOM DAVIES

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana health officials aren't ready to start a further expansion of coronavirus vaccine eligibility as they said Thursday that the state isn't receiving enough doses from the federal government to take such steps.

Indiana has made vaccinations available so far to health care workers and those ages 70 and older since the first shots started being given in early December.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box said vaccination appointments will next open up for about 350,000 Indiana residents between ages 65 and 70.

"Right now, we are unable to predict when that will happen," Box said. "We find out on a Tuesday, what our allocation for that week is, and we work based on those numbers. For now, we

Indiana doesn't have enough vaccines to expand eligibility

continue to get about 78 to 80,000 doses weekly."

Many state officials across the country accused the Trump administration last week of deceiving them about the amount of COVID-19 vaccine they could plan on receiving after it became clear no national stockpile was available. President Joe Biden has said he will emphasize boosting vaccine supplies.

Neither Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb nor his top health advisers criticized the Trump administration's rollout during his coronavirus briefing Thursday.

"We had started to make plans to ramp up but hadn't put any of those things into place quite yet, so we just adjusted back to what our original plan was based on what we were expecting which is that close to 80,000 doses a week," said Dr. Lindsay Weaver, the health department's chief medical officer.

About 362,000 people have received at least the first of the two-shot immunization so far in Indiana, according to state health department figures updated Thursday.

See Holding page 5



The Washington Post/Caroline Fernandez

Swiss skiing

Skiers ride the chairlift to the top of the mountain in Morgins, Switzerland, on Jan. 16, 2021. With French resorts closed because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, skiers and snowboarders arrived in a continuous stream last weekend on the Swiss side of the ski mountain region of Portes du Soleil.

Deaths

Betty Evans, 96, Waverly, Ohio

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature reached 44 degrees Thursday. The low was 30.

Tonight's low is expected to drop into the mid teens. Skies will be mostly sunny Saturday with a high of 31.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

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

Wednesday — Results from Tuesday's JCHS swim meet against Blackford and Burris.



Redkey ...

Continued from page 1
 Copays for primary doctor's office visits, specialists, urgent care and emergency room care are also lower. However, the prescription drug copays increased by \$5 to \$10 compared to the previous plan.

Council agreed to change its health insurance provider to Anthem. The dental and vision plans will remain the same.

Also Thursday, council tabled a decision on take-home vehicles for Redkey police officers, along with a proposal to amend the police department's policy on the use of personal vehicles.

Council member Randy May, who was assigned earlier this month to oversee the police department, proposed a policy change that would prohibit on-call police officers from responding to calls using their personal vehicles. Instead, they would be required to drive department-issued cars.

May's proposed policy change was a result of an accident Jan. 1 involving Chad Ridenour, a Redkey police officer responding to a law enforcement call in his personal vehicle. Because he was conducting town business, council voted to pay Ridenour's car insurance deductible, up to \$2,000.

Town marshal Todd Miller expressed concern with the proposed policy change, stating that it might lead to delays in response times if officers were outside of Redkey and had to switch vehicles. With only three police officers, the department is unable to be staffed 24/7 and has to rely on on-call officers.

"This is not normal for police departments," Miller said.

Town attorney Wes Schemenaur suggested that council consider expanding its take-home vehicle policy to avoid questions of liability in any future incidents. That could

mean that officers would be allowed to bring their department-issued vehicles home even if they aren't on-call.

"If they're going to have to respond off-duty, or on-call, I think they should have a town police car so you don't find yourself in a hairy situation where you're fighting over coverage and who's liable," Schemenaur said.

Council decided to table the discussion, asking Miller to draft a take-home car policy to look over at February's meeting.

In other business, council members Erik Hammers, Gary Gardner, John Pierce and May, absent Dottie Quakenbush:

•Agreed to contribute \$25,000 of the town's federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act money toward Redkey's local match for Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Cross-

ings grant program. Redkey Economic Development Corporation will also give \$25,000, bringing the town's match up to \$50,000 for a potential \$200,000 project. The roads included in this round's grant application are Sheridan Street from Meridian to Butler streets, Grandview Avenue from Meridian to Butler streets, Butler Street between Sheridan Street and Grandview Avenue, High Street from Meridian Street to Ash Street, Railroad Street from Ash to Main streets and Oak Street from Main Street to Indiana 67.

•Signed an agreement with engineering firm Fleis and VandenBrink to design a phosphorous removal system at the wastewater treatment plant. The town has a three-year timeline imposed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to begin treating phosphorus at the plant. The first step, an application for

construction, is due Feb. 1, with construction on the removal system to start in November. The engineering agreement with Fleis and VandenBrink was \$12,800.

•Announced departmental assignments for 2021. Quakenbush, who was elected council president, will oversee the parks and fire departments. Hammers, who was elected vice president, will supervise the water department. Gardner was charged with the wastewater department, while Pierce was assigned the street department. May will oversee the police department.

•Decided to look into setting up a retirement plan for town employees, possibly through the Indiana Public Retirement System.

•Granted two water bill adjustments for leaks beneath homes.

•Paid claims of \$218,600.55.

CR almanac

Saturday 1/23	Sunday 1/24	Monday 1/25	Tuesday 1/26	Wednesday 1/27
28/22	33/26	35/25	31/20	32/23
Cool during the day but warmer at night under mostly sunny skies. No snow projected.	Warmer under cloudy skies with a 30% chance of snow during the day. More likely late.	Snow early in the morning turning into a rain-snow mix later in the day. Cloudy.	Cooler with temperatures projected to stay below freezing all day and night. Mostly cloudy.	Warmer at night and mostly cloudy skies during the day. No snow is currently projected.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	22-24-29-37-39-42-44-51-52-56-66-68-69-73-74-75 Cash 5: 6-17-31-32-44 Estimated jackpot: \$402,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$970 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 4-7-3 Pick 4: 1-1-2-8 Pick 5: 4-8-4-0-3 Evening Pick 3: 2-4-3 Pick 4: 1-0-6-2 Pick 5: 2-6-6-0-8 Rolling Cash: 1-11-16-18-33 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 6-00-7 Daily Four: 3-8-3-7 Quick Draw: 13-16-17-22-26-32-33-41-47-48-51-57-61-62-67-68-71-73-79-80 Evening Daily Three: 6-5-6 Daily Four: 8-3-1-1 Quick Draw: 3-7-11-21-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.17 Wheat6.19	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.03 Feb. corn5.05 Beans13.33 Feb. beans13.33 Wheat 6.35 March wheat 6.37
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.19 Feb. corn5.19	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....4.83 Feb. corn4.85 Beans13.12 Feb. beans13.17 Wheat6.19 Feb. wheat.....6.19
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.06 Feb. corn5.11 Beans13.36 Feb. beans13.36 Wheat 6.44 Feb. wheat 6.44	

Today in history

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, declared a nationwide constitutional right to abortion. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

In 1907, the Richard Strauss opera "Salome" made its American debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York; its racy content sparked outrage and forced cancellation of additional performances.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6 1/2 hours later.

In 1971, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team won its ninth straight game, 96-67 over the Marion Local Flyers. Kevin Dilworth led the Indians with 22 points.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Tuesday 5 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	

Obituaries

Betty Evans

Sept. 19, 1924-Jan. 21, 2021
 Betty Ruth Evans, age 96, of 502 Walnut St., Waverly, Ohio, died on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, at her residence.

She was born on Sept. 19, 1924, in Ridgeville, Indiana, to the late Herb and Edith Adams. On Aug. 3, 1943, she was united in marriage to Carl David Evans who preceded her in death on May 6, 2010.

She was the mother of one son, John Evans of Waverly, Ohio, who preceded her in death; two daughters, Nancy Shea of Waverly, Ohio, and Linda and Rod Hardwick of

Dunkirk, Indiana. In addition to her daughters, surviving are one daughter-in-law, Susan Evans; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, son and parents, Betty was also preceded in death by one sister and a son-in-law, Rodney Shea.

Betty was a precious blessing of the family. She was a faithful member of Sovereign Grace Church in Chillicothe.



Evans

Funeral services and calling hours will not be observed.

Arrangements are under the direction of Botkin Hornback Funeral Home in Waverly.

Condolences may be expressed at botkinhornbackfuneralhomes.com.

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.

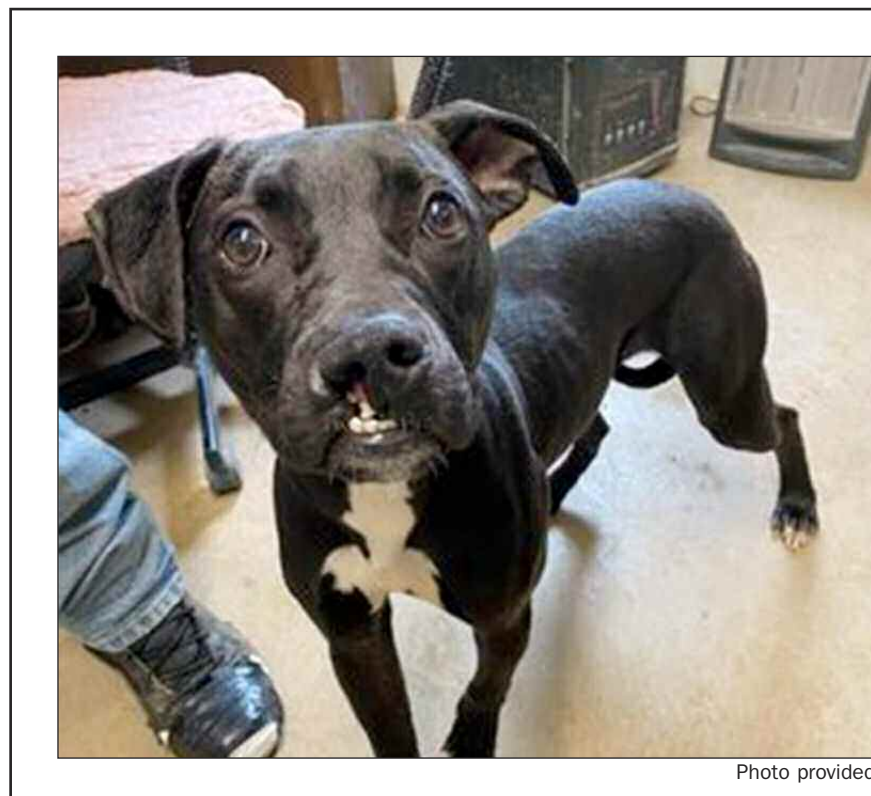


Photo provided

Pet of the week

Baby, a young lab mix that has been spayed and is up to date on her shots, is available for adoption for \$100 from Jay County Humane Society, 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland. The shelter can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Options ...

Continued from page 1
 The report, which is available in full at in.gov/gov/teachercompensation, requests for up to 15% to go toward schools if enough money is available.

"That won't happen until the (state) legislature acts on that," Gully said. Redevelopment commission member Rusty Inman said money going toward schools is a worthy cause while recognizing the commission hasn't always been as efficient as it could have been.

"When I first started here, it seemed like we weren't spending much money," Inman said. "But now we are."

Curtin was hired in part to draft a long-term economic development plan that would list for years projects that the commission's TIF dollars could be spent on either inside of or benefiting the district, which encompasses parts of downtown Portland.

He added that TIF money could go toward projects to address downtown funding since it benefits infrastructure and, ultimately, business and quality of life.

"In this case, protecting your infrastructure makes perfect sense to me," Curtin said.

Commission member and Portland Main Street Connect president Reda Theurer-Miller raised concerns that the looming threat of flooding keeps some businesses from moving downtown into vacant buildings.

One solution to Portland's growing number of vacant or dormant buildings, she said, would be for the commission to buy and rehabilitate those buildings and eventually sell them to an interested business, something Curtin said can be done with TIF dollars.

Theurer-Miller also gave an update on Main Street Connect, saying the group is meeting with a representa-

tive of the state's Office of Community and Rural Affairs to discuss the group's path to being OCRA certified.

Once certified, the group would be eligible for OCRA's Main Street Revitalization Program grant, which awards up to \$600,000 for a city's downtown revitalization efforts. According to OCRA's website, a city has to match 20% of any funds provided by the state.

In other business, commission members Joe Johnston, Mike Simons, Dave Teeter, Inman and Theurer-Miller:

•Approved \$59,772 for Main Street Connect for additional Christmas lights, plants to go in the recently installed planters and new LED lights for downtown street poles.

•Re-elected Inman as president, Theurer-Miller as vice president and Johnston as secretary.

•Scheduled quarterly meetings for April 23, July 23 and Oct. 22.

Capsule Reports

Into a ditch

A Hartford City resident drove off county road 400 South and into a ditch about 1:06 p.m. Thursday.

Melissa J. Reese, 54, was driving west on the road when she veered off the north side. Her 2004 Lexus RX330 fell into the ditch and struck a utility pole, causing between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in damage. The vehicle was towed.

Postal problem

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Redkey woman attempted to pass a United States Postal Service worker about 2:40 p.m. Thursday. Edna R. White, 82, was

driving west on county road 200 South when she got behind a 2000 Jeep Cherokee with a flashing orange light driven by Cindy J. McGraw, 61. McGraw was stopped and delivering to a mailbox near the intersection of county road 200 South and Lutes Central Drive. White started to pass McGraw as the postal worker began to turn left onto Lutes Drive.

See page 5

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

SERVICES

Today

Jobe, Billy: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Green, Rick: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Essex, Sabrina: 5:30 p.m., The Salvation Army Church, 1101 S. Madison St., Ludington, Michigan.

Saturday

Hartman, Pauline: 11 a.m., 190 S. Union St., Pennville.
Retter, Carol: 3 p.m., Green Park Cemetery, Portland.

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

FRMS honor roll announced

Fort Recovery Middle School recently announced its honor roll students for the second quarter of the school year.

Making the All A honor roll were 8th graders Drew Backs, Layla Bihn, Nicole Braun, Kassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Ava Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlene Niekamp, Benjamin Reinhard, Ella Schoen and Emma Will.

Also 7th graders Gabriel Acheson, Evvian Briner, Aiden Brunswick, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Brodie Hart, Aubrie Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Cora Kremer, Megan Weitzel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.

Also 6th graders Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Makenna Huelkamp, Meredith Jones, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Kiera Stump and Brynn Willmann.

Making the A-B honor roll were 8th graders Alivia Bergman, Mitchell Bertke, Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Kaleb Coleman, Mason Diller, Brennan Dues, Gavin Dues, Gavin Evers, Marlee Fiely, Jacob Fortkamp, Sarah Fritz, Riley Grieshop, Caden Grisez, Brooke Hart, Ethan Hartnagel, Eva Kahlig, Joelle Kaup, Cody Klenke, Gabriel Knapke, Emily Lauber, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Aleigha Overman, Brigham Overman, Kylie Post, Olivia Rammel, Adam Schoenlein, Zach Schoenlein, Kruiise Siefring, Eowyn Vela, Mara Wenning and Gage Zehringer.

Also 7th graders Elijah Albers, Ella Bechtol, Ryker Brunswick, Davian Coleman, Garrett Diller, Kyla Dues, Zoe Dues, Zackary Ervin, Joshua Evers, Lucas Fortkamp, Carson Fullenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Raymond Grube, Elijah Hawk, Jameson Heitkamp,

Cayson Kaikala, Dylan Klenke, Olivia Knapke, Brylee Kremer, Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Luke Lochtefeld, Russell Pohlman, Colson Post, Anthony Roessner, Danielle Schmitt, Hayden Siefring, Andrew Stammen, Reece Wendel and Tyler Wendel.

Also 6th graders Brody Barga, Kendall Buckland, Reese Diller, Cadence Eber, Destiny Ervin, Brady Evers, Carter Fourman, Ava Fullenkamp, Sophia Guggenbiller, Russell Hart, Adyson Homan, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Hudson McAbee, Ian McCain, Jake Meyer, Coby Schmitz, Madelyn Schoenlein, Cara Shoemaker, Riley Stammen, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Jennifer Wendel, Kaylor Wendel, Ethan Wenning, James Westgerdes, Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes and Jase Wuebker.

Diagnosis given

DEAR ABBY: I'm responding to the letter from "Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia" (Oct. 20), who complained her son-in-law was "disrespectful" because he didn't close cupboard doors, cereal boxes, etc.

My guess is that "Kirk" is displaying classic symptoms of Adult Attention Deficit Disorder (AADD).

Multistep tasks may be difficult for him to complete because he is easily distracted.

My husband has this. (It was not diagnosed until he was in his 50s, and I had nearly torn all my hair out.) He still occasionally leaves cabinet doors and drawers open.

I tease him that he can't remember to walk from one side of the room to another if he forgets to take his medication.

I strongly recommend that Kirk be evaluated by a behavioral psychologist for AADD.

Treatment may save the relationship between Kirk and his in-laws. — WIFE OF A MAN WITH A.A.D.D.

DEAR WIFE: Thank you for your letter. I received a deluge of responses about the letter from "Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia," and the vast majority of the writers mentioned ADD,

ADHD and AADD. Many of them recommended patience on the part of the in-laws and volunteered that Kirk may be able to manage the disorder if he is diagnosed.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 73-year-old retired woman who still maintains contact with a number of old and new friends for



Dear Abby

movies, dinner, museum visits, etc. Until the COVID virus, we did things often. Now, not so much.

Someone in this group told me that on a couple of occasions, a few of them were not very nice when my name came up.

("Why doesn't she see her grandkids more often?" "She goes out more than most, yet doesn't want to eat in certain restaurants.")

My husband and I have a good marriage, but many of these ladies are widowed or divorced. How do you handle backstabbing at this age? — MYSTIFIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Try not to take it personally. Obviously, these gossips have less to occupy their minds than one would hope. You might also consider seeing these particular individuals even less often than you already do in the age of COVID. If you do, it may give them less ammunition concerning what you do (or don't do) with your time.

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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 www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

How to keep those floors clean

By MARI-JANE WILLIAMS

The Washington Post

Search #mudroom on Instagram, and you'll get more than 100,000 hits showing perfectly organized and styled spaces with cabinets, cubbies and hooks to house everyone's backpacks, coats and shoes.

Those pictures are dreamy, but what if you don't have the space for a dedicated mudroom, where all the clutter of everyday comings and goings can be neatly stowed out of sight? The entry spaces in apartments, rowhouses and other smaller homes get a real workout — and often look the part.

We asked designer Shawna Underwood of Shawna Underwood Interior Design in D.C. for advice on how to tame your entryway clutter and which products she would suggest to store shoes, coats, keys and more.

Having designated places for everything is the key to avoiding a mess, she says. "If you have a place to put your keys, your purse, your hat, and you train yourself to put things where they're supposed to go, they can always stay kind of neat."

Here are Underwood's suggestions for a beautiful but functional home entry.

A dedicated coat closet is nice, but not everyone has the space for that, and even if you do, what are the odds that everyone's coats make it there every day? Hooks, such as the Eames Hang-It-All (\$195-\$295) from Design Within Reach, are a good entryway solution for those stray jackets and backpacks. This steel, wall-mounted rack with solid wood balls comes in several colors, including a fun multi-color option.

Underwood also likes the Barker vertical wall-mounted coat rack (\$29.95) from CB2. Made of iron, it comes in either a matte black or warm gold finish. The vertical design is particularly well-suited to small spaces, Underwood says, and family homes, because the lower hooks are easier for kids to reach.

Clutter can accumulate quickly near the home entry, so consider adding a catchall tray or dish to corral keys, wallets and mail. The square quartz stone catchall (\$69) from Pottery Barn is eight inches wide and

would add an elegant, modern touch on a console table in the entry.

CB2's Trek oval horn bowl (\$19.95) is a less expensive alternative, made of water buffalo horn that has been heated and molded into a glossy brown 8-by-3-by-11/2-inch oval.

Underwood is a fan of closed storage in an entryway to conceal visual clutter, she says. To keep shoes and other everyday items organized, she suggests the Tatum entryway shoe storage cabinet (\$999) from Crate & Barrel. The cabinet is made of acacia wood and metal in a brown-and-black finish. It has a shelf at the bottom for shoes, removable hooks on the sides, and drawers, open cubbies and doors that conceal additional shelves.

Underwood suggests using baskets to add storage and texture. For storing hats, gloves, scarves and other miscellaneous items, she recommends the Baba Tree Pakurigo basket (\$200) from Goodee. The 17-by-17-by-12-inch baskets made of vetiver grass come in natural, black and white, red, and multicolor, and they're made by Ghanaian artisans.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

Monday

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

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PING PONG — Will be

played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

WEST JAY COMMUNITY CENTER GROUP — Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Bingo will begin at 11 a.m. Euchre begins at 1 p.m. There is a \$1 donation for center's expenses. For more information, call (765) 768-1544.

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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



We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss them.

Cars

Friday, February 19 (ad deadline Feb. 12)

Spring Home Improvement

Friday, March 19 (ad deadline Mar. 12)

Spring Sports

Wednesday, April 7 (ad deadline Mar. 31)

Ag Outlook

Friday, April 23 (ad deadline Apr. 16)

The Commercial Review
260-726-8141 • ads@thecr.com

They're real people, with real lives

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

"Murder the media."
That's a haunting phrase to repeat.

Someone etched those words into a door at the U.S. Capitol building during the insurrection a few weeks ago. To fully grasp the weight of this statement, put yourself in someone else's shoes for a moment.

Imagine you're a journalist at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 covering either Donald Trump's rally or the Senate joint-session for certifying Joe Biden as the next president.

Trump's speech starts at noon at the White House Ellipse, but not halfway through, a crowd begins to form in front of the U.S. Capitol. By the time Trump's speech ends — a little after 1 p.m. — an angry mob has amassed. People soon begin forcing their

On the Line



way past barriers. Against your better judgment, you stay. This is your job.

Those attending the speech are encouraged to march down Pennsylvania Avenue to the U.S. Capitol. More and more people arrive, and eventually, they begin spilling into the building.

You continue coverage. This is your job.

There are a few ways your day might continue.

If you're inside the building, perhaps you're live-tweeting the insurrection.

Maybe you're Olivia Beavers, a Politico Congress reporter. You're in the room with House representatives, who are now being told to evacuate. You hear crying and banging on doors. Someone gives you a gas mask, and you're moved to an undisclosed location. Your hands are shaking.

Maybe you're Igor Bobic, a HuffPost journalist. You watch a single officer unsuccessfully attempt to hold back the crowd at different stairwell entrances. You capture photos of the mob clambering through hallways and breaking into the Senate chamber. You snap a picture of someone standing at the dais shouting "Trump won that election!" Guns are drawn.

If you're in the crowd outside, you're watching the angry mob scale walls and break windows. Perhaps your boss has told you to

stay away from the building. Perhaps you can't get through the mob.

Maybe you're William Turton, a Bloomberg News reporter. People begin screaming at you and some Associated Press reporters to leave. One person pushes over some of the AP team's camera equipment while another bashes the equipment with a flagpole. You use your own cell phone to capture footage.

Maybe you're John Minchillo, an AP photographer. You're dragged through the crowd and over a ledge. Some call you "antifa." Someone else screams, "We'll f--ing kill you!" One man wearing a red Trump hat helps you on your feet and identifies you as press.

This is your job.

Olivia Beavers, a journalist who hid in the building with House representatives, posted a

screenshot of a text from her mother about a week later. Her mother asked if they needed to invest in a bulletproof vest for her. "(This is) my mom's level of concern over my safety the last week," Olivia tweeted.

Imagine if Olivia was your daughter.

"Murder the media" is a haunting phrase because "media" refers to more than just the logo of your least favorite news source. It also refers to real people, like Olivia, Igor, William and John, all of whom stayed in D.C. to provide first-hand accounts during the insurrection.

"Murder the media" doesn't stand for justice or democracy — it stands for hatred and inhumanity. It's horrific.

Those in the media are human. At the very least, they deserve to be treated as such.

2019 provides measuring stick

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The "normal" economy of 2019 is our launching pad for the post-pandemic world.

We'll be able to measure changes with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data on wages for 725 occupations in each of the 50 states.

In 2019, the average (mean) annual wage in Indiana, for all occupations, was \$46,770. The median wage was \$36,960 which tells us half of Indiana's the workers made less and half more than that amount. In 2019, our average wage was 27% (\$9,810) higher than the state's \$36,960 median wage.

The average wage is almost always higher than the median wage. A few high-paid executives and managers can boost the average wage way over the median. Many companies boast of their average wages giving the impression they pay their workers well.

Indiana's average wage in 2019 was 9.7% (\$5,004) below the average for all states; our median wage was 8.2% (\$3,320) below the median for all states.

When we break out the Indiana figures for 22 occupation groups, Management tops the list with an average wage of \$102,280 and a median wage of \$87,340. This spread of \$14,940 between the average and the median fell behind the \$22,550 differential in the legal occupations and \$17,430 in the health practitioners and technical occupations.

For those concerned with the wage disparities in a given occupation, the average versus median comparison might be a useful tool.

Among Indiana's 22 major groups, sales and related occupations led with a 49% differential between the average and median wages. Ranking 22nd (last) with a 5% difference was the computer and mathematical occupations group. Is this low difference because of the relative newness of the field and/or the comparative youth of the workers?

Yet it is foolhardy to use one number alone to signal inequity among workers. It might be an inequality, not an

Eye on the Pie



Some familiar occupations may disappear with the adaptation of technologies and new management approaches.

inequity, because of hours or weeks worked in a year, seniority or productivity.

Occupational groups are quite diverse. Consider the arts, design, entertainment, sports and media group. Indiana's 470 athletes and sports competitors have an average wage of \$166,100 and a median wage of \$118,460. The same group includes 7,590 Hoosier coaches and scouts whose average wage was \$38,170 with a median of \$27,510. Some readers might find this disparity between coaches and competitors unconscionable. Should/can we lower one or raise the other?

As lower paid workers are let go, average and median wages rise. Some familiar occupations may disappear with the adaptation of technologies and new management approaches.

None of us know how the labor market will look A.C. (After COVID). But D.C. (During COVID) is already different from B.C. (Before COVID) and we cannot ignore the adaptations being made all around us. Today's data may resemble sepia tone photos of the past.

.....
Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.



Country needs a uniter

By TIMOTHY SHRIVER

Special To The Washington Post

After the shocking attack on our Capitol on Jan. 6, many Americans feel it's time for payback. That former president Donald Trump, his Republican enablers and the white supremacist, conspiracy-minded seditionists all deserve the contempt of the nation and a lifetime ban from dignity.

In these circumstances, the word "unite" — a word on which Joe Biden ran for president and a vision in which many of us believe — has itself drawn contempt. Unites are seen as wishy-washy and spineless.

Nothing could be further from the truth. No one I know who hopes to wear the label of "uniter" is suggesting that those responsible for sedition and violence should not be held accountable. Shallow calls to unite from Republicans responsible for one of the most divisive days in U.S. history won't work either.

Here's what makes a uniter approach distinctive — and why uniting the country remains the essential and urgent challenge of now: When facing polarizing forces, uniters make the high-risk step of crossing divides. Think of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Think of Nelson Mandela inviting his former jailer to dinner. Think of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. In each of these instances, enormous division and injustice was transformed by avoiding contempt. When facing factions and hostile interests, uniters search for creative solutions that create common purpose grounded in transcendent principles such as truth, goodness, justice and peace.

For uniters, justice is often a condition in the human heart. Mandela was a uniter who spent his entire life while opposing racism

Timothy Shriver



that he saw deep in the hearts of his oppressors. Mahatma Gandhi opposed colonialism, but he did so with a vision of a free and nonviolent Indian democracy without demonizing the British. Mother Teresa opposed the caste system but rarely scapegoated Indians. Abraham Lincoln opposed slavery but sought a country with "malice toward none."

I can tolerate a lot of debate about the qualities of a uniter, but being told that trying to unite our country is a coward's path is too much. On the contrary, being a uniter is the more difficult path because uniters risk the hatred of all those — on the left and the right — who have become convinced that hatred and destruction of the other side is the only path forward. Lincoln offered malice toward none and was murdered a month later. King offered a world where love defeats hate and gave his life for it. My uncle Robert F. Kennedy said that what our country needed in 1968 was love, and eight weeks later, he was gone. Too frequently, uniters pay with their lives, because when hatred and contempt rage out of control, the one who calls us to the self-sacrificing work of uniting is often the victim.

Biden ran to be a uniter. People may oppose him, but at least they ought to understand the enormity of what he is trying to do. Does he have to respect the vote from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, to overturn the elec-

tion? No. Should he invite McCarthy to join him in rushing resources to schools and children in crisis around the country? You bet. Should he invite Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, to dinner at the White House? Not until Cruz faces the truth of his actions and offers to change. But can Biden treat him with dignity and ask him to join in generating new solutions to the challenge of immigration that affects so many Texans? Let's hope so. And instead of exhausting his political capital to drive a stake through the heart of Trump, should Biden use that same energy to convince Trump's 74 million voters that there is an American future in which they belong and to which they can contribute, full of the faith, freedom and justice that they espouse? For sure.

Will he win them over? Time will tell. But that's the best outcome — not defeating "them" but finding ways to create a new "us."

Dividing is easy. It costs little. The blame and the solution are all in others. It's a recipe for feeling good about one's group, going to battle against others and trying to win. Division isn't just a problem for some; it's also the solution.

I want to unite not because it's the nice thing to do but because it's the only way to solve our problems. I want justice. I want no part of racism and lying and sedition. And I'm choosing love to oppose them all. You can accuse people like me of many things, but please don't suggest we're choosing the easy road. Uniting people without compromise and without contempt is the hardest road of all. And the only one that will heal our country today.

.....
Shriver is chairman of Special Olympics and a co-founder of Unite, a civic and social issues initiative.

The Commercial Review

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 148-NUMBER 191
FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 22, 2021

www.thecr.com

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

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Biden ordering stopgap COVID aid

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — President Joe Biden plans to take executive action Friday to provide a stopgap measure of financial relief to millions of Americans while Congress begins to consider his much larger \$1.9 trillion package to help those affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The two executive orders that Biden is to sign would increase food aid, protect job seekers on unemployment and clear a path for federal workers and contractors to get a \$15 hourly minimum wage.

"The American people cannot afford to wait," said Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council. "So many are hanging by a thread. They need help, and we're committed to doing

President plans to increase food aid, protect job seekers on unemployment

everything we can to provide that help as quickly as possible."

Deese emphasized that the orders are not substitutes for the additional stimulus that Biden says is needed beyond the \$4 trillion in aid that has already been approved, including \$900 billion this past December. Several Republican lawmakers have voiced opposition to provisions in Biden's plan for direct payments to individuals, state and local government aid and a \$15 hourly minimum wage nationwide.

Most economists believe the United States can rebound with strength once people are vaccinated from the coronavirus, but the situation is still dire as the disease has closed businesses and schools. Nearly 10 million jobs have been lost since last February, and nearly 30 million households lack secure access to food.

One of Biden's orders asks the Agriculture Department to consider adjusting the rules for food assistance, so that the government could be obligated to provide more money to the hungry.

Children who are unable to get school meals because of remote learning could receive a 15% increase in food aid, according to a fact sheet provided by the White House. The lowest-income households could qualify for the emergency benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. And the formula for calculating meal costs could become more generous.

The order also tries to make it easier for people to claim direct payments from prior aid packages and other benefits. In addition, it would create a guarantee that workers could still collect unemployment benefits if they refuse to take a job that could jeopardize their health.

Biden's second executive order would restore union bargaining rights revoked by the Trump administration, protect the civil

service system and promote a \$15 hourly minimum wage for all federal workers. The Democratic president also plans to start a 100-day process for the federal government to require its contractors to pay at least \$15 an hour and provide emergency paid leave to workers, which could put pressure on other private employers to boost their wages and benefits.

These orders arrive as the Biden White House has declined to provide a timeline for getting its proposed relief package through, saying that officials are beginning to schedule meetings with lawmakers to discuss the proposal.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at a Thursday briefing that the proposal has support ranging from democratic socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Felony arrests

Exploitation

A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for alleged child exploitation.

Johan Silos, 18, 609 S. Bridge St., Portland, was preliminarily charged a Level 4 felony for child exploitation and a Level 5 felony for possession of child pornography. He was booked into Jay County Jail on \$3,000 bond.

Superior Court

Judge Gail Dues Cases filed

General Audit Corporation v. Tina M. Heiser, small claims

General Audit Corporation v. Justin Franks, small claims

General Audit Corporation v. Nancy Loyd, small claims

Indiana v. Travis J. Myers, Level 6 felony

Indiana v. Heath A. Byerly, Level 6 felony

Indiana v. Brian W. Lessing, Level 6 felony

Deeds

Barry A. and Judith A. Retter to Christa Retter, warranty deed — Parts of Section 32, Jefferson Township, 55 acres

Albert T. and Mary R. Elliott (both deceased) to Karen A. and Michael T. Timmerman revocable living trusts, personal representative deed — Part of Section 15, Jefferson Township

Albert T. and Mary R. Elliott (both deceased) to Amy J. and Brian M. DeVoss, personal representative deed — Part of Sections 14 and 15, Jefferson Township, 7.70 acres

Ronald E. Duncan (deceased) and Edward T. White to Edward T. White, deed affidavit — Lots 1, 2 and 3, Cole Addition

Reva Younger to David and Linda Lowe, warranty deed — Part of Section 36, Knox Township, 12.5 acres



Photos provided

Inaugural thanks

Indiana Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun attended Wednesday's inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in Washington, D.C. Both senators took time to thank members of the Indiana National Guard stationed in the city. Pictured above, Young meets with members of the national guard prior to the inauguration ceremony. "The peaceful transfer of power is an essential component of the American experiment," said Young in a press release. "Witnessing this uniquely American tradition once again reminded me of the immense responsibilities we have to protect this republic." At right, Braun visits with members of the national guard Thursday morning. "I am grateful for their service protecting the Capitol and Washington D.C. this week and thankful to them and their families for the sacrifices they have made for our nation," said Braun.



Holding ...

Continued from page 1

That is about 40% of the nearly 900,000 of the state's 6.7 million residents now eligible for the vaccine.

Health officials said vaccination appointments are largely filled through the end of January.

Box said vaccination sites throughout the state have "the ability to dramatically increase the number of vaccines that they could do each day if they just had the supply."

The health department has

added 391 coronavirus deaths in the past week to the state's pandemic toll, which has reached nearly 9,600 fatalities including both confirmed and presumed COVID-19 infections. The state's seven-day rolling average of COVID-19 deaths has declined to about 50 per day after peaking at 86 a day in mid-December.

The state health department's updated weekly tracking map labels 34 of Indiana's 92 counties at the highest risk level for coron-

avirus spread, down from 73 last week as the state's COVID-19 hospitalizations and rate of new infections have declined since peaking in early December. All other counties but one are in the next-riskiest rating of the four-level system.

Holcomb said he was extending through next week his executive order imposing crowd size limits based on each county's risk level. He has been extending that order, which includes the statewide

mask mandate, by at least three-week intervals but said he wanted to keep reviewing the risk around the state.

"We don't want to get ahead of ourselves, we still have most counties in red," Holcomb said. "And so while I may be giddy right now just looking at trends and trajectories, we're still over double digits of the positivity rate, and we're still losing people, and so we want to make sure that we do this in a very responsible data-driven way."

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2

(The area is a no passing zone, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Department accident report.) White's 2002 Lincoln struck McGraw's vehicle.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene. McGraw complained of back pain but told officers she would have her son take her to the hospital, according to the report.

Deer hit

Two local residents struck deer with their vehicles Thursday.

Gage Capper, 23, Portland, was driving on Boundary Pike, just north of county road 300 South, about 7:45

p.m. when a deer ran into the roadway. Capper's 2004 Dodge Ram 2500 collided with the animal, causing between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in damage.

Dawn E. Burton, 61, Union City, was driving

south on State Line Road, just south of county road 800 South, about 7:25 a.m. when she drove into a deer. Her 2016 Chevrolet Equinox was towed from the scene, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

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2017 Buick Enclave leather seats, front wheel drive, 31,300 miles, Bluetooth, remote start, back-up camera	\$24,400
2018 Chevrolet Cruze LT bluetooth, remote start, backup camera, heated seats, 19,900 miles	\$13,900
2018 Chrysler Pacifica Limited heated and cooled seats, sunroof, remote start, 30,500 miles	\$27,200
2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD Bluetooth, remote start, backup camera 23,800 miles	\$18,400
2020 Chevrolet Malibu LT remote start, Bluetooth, backup camera 37,500 miles	\$15,900

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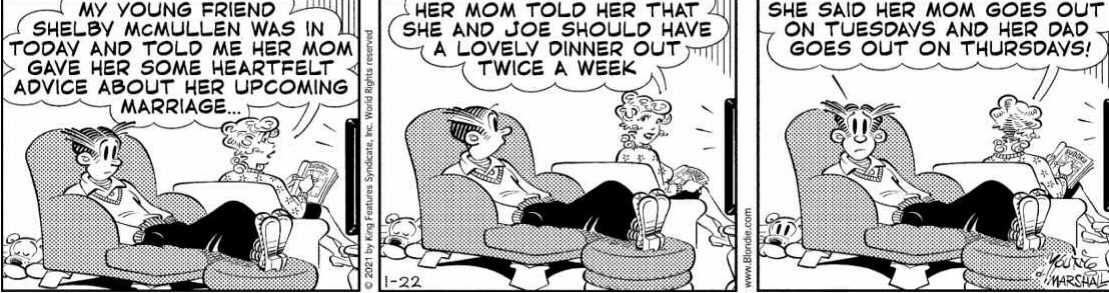
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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10:00 AM

Property Location: 447 N
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2021
10:00am

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33 Gratis
34 "As I see it," to a texter
35 IV measures

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4 "At once!"
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20 Buddy
23 "East of Eden" girl

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 1-22

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Wendels, Tribe trounce St. Henry

Seniors stellar in separate quarters of Fort Recovery's 52-26 victory

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Kierra Wendel did her damage before halftime, helping stake the Indians to another commanding lead at the break.

Hope Wendel did most of hers after halftime as the Indians put the Redskins away.

Kierra Wendel scored a baker's dozen in the first half, and Hope Wendel had all but four of her game-high 15 points in the final 16 minutes while the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team had another stout defensive performance in a 52-26 Midwest Athletic Conference victory over the St. Henry Redskins on Thursday at Fort Site Fieldhouse.



52



26

"We got St. Henry to play really fast," said FRHS coach Holly Gann, whose team moves to 12-4 (5-2 MAC) on the year. "Because they were playing really fast they didn't have an opportunity to run much offense because they were constantly in a scramble."

"When you get to play the scramble game, I'd like to think that we scramble better than they do, and we knew that."

The Wendels, who are unrelated, combined for the Tribe's first six points as it raced out to a 14-2 lead over the Redskins (2-11, 0-6 MAC). Kierra Wendel assisted on Hope Wendel's basket to start the game, then she scored four straight points. There was 2:25 left in the first period before St. Henry finally got on the board with a Claire Wendel basket.

Fort Recovery, which led 16-5 at the end of the opening quarter and 29-11 at halftime, forced St. Henry into starting the first three quarters with back-to-back turnovers.

Kierra Wendel made shots from almost everywhere inside the 3-point line. She drove to the hoop for a layup as her first basket, and also put back a missed 3-pointer. The senior also made jumpers —



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Kierra Wendel, a Fort Recovery High School senior, goes up for a jump shot just inside the free-throw line during the first quarter against the St. Henry Redskins on Thursday at Fort Site Fieldhouse. Wendel scored all 13 of her points in the first half, helping the Indians to a 52-26 Midwest Athletic Conference victory over the Redskins.

her trademark shot — from the free-throw line, both baselines and from a step inside the arc on the right wing, too.

"Kierra just looks to attack her pull-ups," Gann said. "She was able to find some gaps in that zone and her shot was beautiful. She works so hard. She works hard on the defensive end and she's definitely an offensive threat for us. She just doesn't stop."

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'We got St. Henry to play really fast. Because they were playing really fast they didn't have an opportunity to run much offense because they were constantly in a scramble.'

—Holly Gann, Fort Recovery girls basketball coach

Girls keep streak going

BLUFFTON — The Patriot girls lost their first dual meet of the season.

They haven't lost since.

Jay County High School's girls swim team pushed its winning streak to nine as it

Local roundup

topped Allen County Athletic Conference rival Bluffton on Thursday, 110-76.

The JCHS boys lost, 108-72.

Ashlyn Dow and Eliza Bader both picked up two wins as the girls moved to 9-1. Dow won the 200- and 400-meter freestyle races, while Bader took first in the 200 individual medley and 100 freestyle.

Natalie Wehrly (diving), Rieley Brewster (100 butterfly), Lilli Clemmons (100 backstroke) and Mara Bader (100 breaststroke) all earned individual wins as well.

Mara Bader, Zion Beiswanger, Clemmons and Brewster teamed for a win in the 200 medley relay; Dow, Brewster and the Baders combined for a 200 freestyle relay win; and Eliza Bader, Clemmons, Beiswanger and Dow got a win in the 400 freestyle relay.

Griffin Mann was the lone dual winner for the JCHS boys (4-5). He was first in the 50 and 100 freestyle races. Kyle Sanders took the top spot in the 400 freestyle. Mann and Sanders joined Aaron Funkhouser and Wyatt Kunkler for a 200 freestyle relay win.

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Indiana upsets Iowa

By JOHN BOHNENKAMP

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Perhaps, coach Fran McCaffery said, his Iowa team got too comfortable.

The fourth-ranked Hawkeyes came into Thursday night's game against Indiana on a five-game winning streak and tied for the Big Ten lead.

But the Hoosiers' defense shut them down in an 81-69 comeback win.

It's a lesson McCaffery hopes his team learned.

"I think we have to understand a little bit better what this league is and the quality of the teams that are coming in here and that we're going to face on the road," McCaffery said. "I thought up until now we did a pretty good job of that."

It was a season low in points for the Hawkeyes (12-3, 6-2), who entered second in the nation in scoring at 92.2 points per game.

Iowa led by nine in the second half, then went 11 minutes without a field goal as Indiana went on a 23-3 run.

"I thought they were tougher than we were tonight," McCaffery said. "And that's disappointing. Our execution wasn't sharp."

"The offense was stagnant," said center Luka Garza, who led the Hawkeyes with 28 points. "We're better than that."

Indiana's defensive effort started during a week of practice after last Thursday's 81-69 home loss to Purdue.

"We had to challenge some guys," Indiana coach Archie Miller said. "Guys had to challenge each other."

"I think our defensive intensity ramped up in practice," said forward Trayce Jackson-Davis, who led the Hoosiers with 23 points despite second-half foul trouble. "I think it transferred over to the game. I think the week off really helped us. It was more of a reset."

The Hoosiers (9-6, 4-4) trailed 53-44 with 12 minutes to play before they went on their run. The Hawkeyes didn't have a field goal in that stretch, a drought that lasted until Joe Toussaint's layup with 59 seconds left.

Hoosiers hand fourth-ranked Hawkeyes their second B1G loss

Iowa was 9 of 34 from the field in the second half, including 1 of 10 on 3-pointers. The Hawkeyes, ranked second in the Big Ten in 3-point shooting at 39.5%, were just 5 of 23 from behind the arc for the game.

Garza, the nation's leading scorer at 26.9 points per game, had 12 rebounds for his seventh double-double of the season. But he faced constant double-teams and with no outside shooting to open the lane, found himself surrounded in the second half.

"I think, like a lot of teams, they were sending a lot of heat toward me," Garza said. "I didn't do a good enough job dealing with the double-team in the second half."

"We didn't get out of the way around the rim," Miller said. "We walled up. It wasn't perfect — he got 28 and 12. Hopefully, he had to work for it."

The rest of the Hawkeyes were silenced. Joe Wieskamp scored 16 points, but only one in the second half.

"Credit to them, they did a good job in the second half of taking everything away from me," Wieskamp said.

Jordan Bohannon, who was averaging 17 points in the last five games, went scoreless and missed all nine of his shots.

"They got up in his face and they chased him around and he had a couple in-and-outs early and just never really got comfortable," McCaffery said.

Rob Phinisee had 18 points for the Hoosiers. Aljami Durham scored 14, and Armaan Franklin added 11.

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