

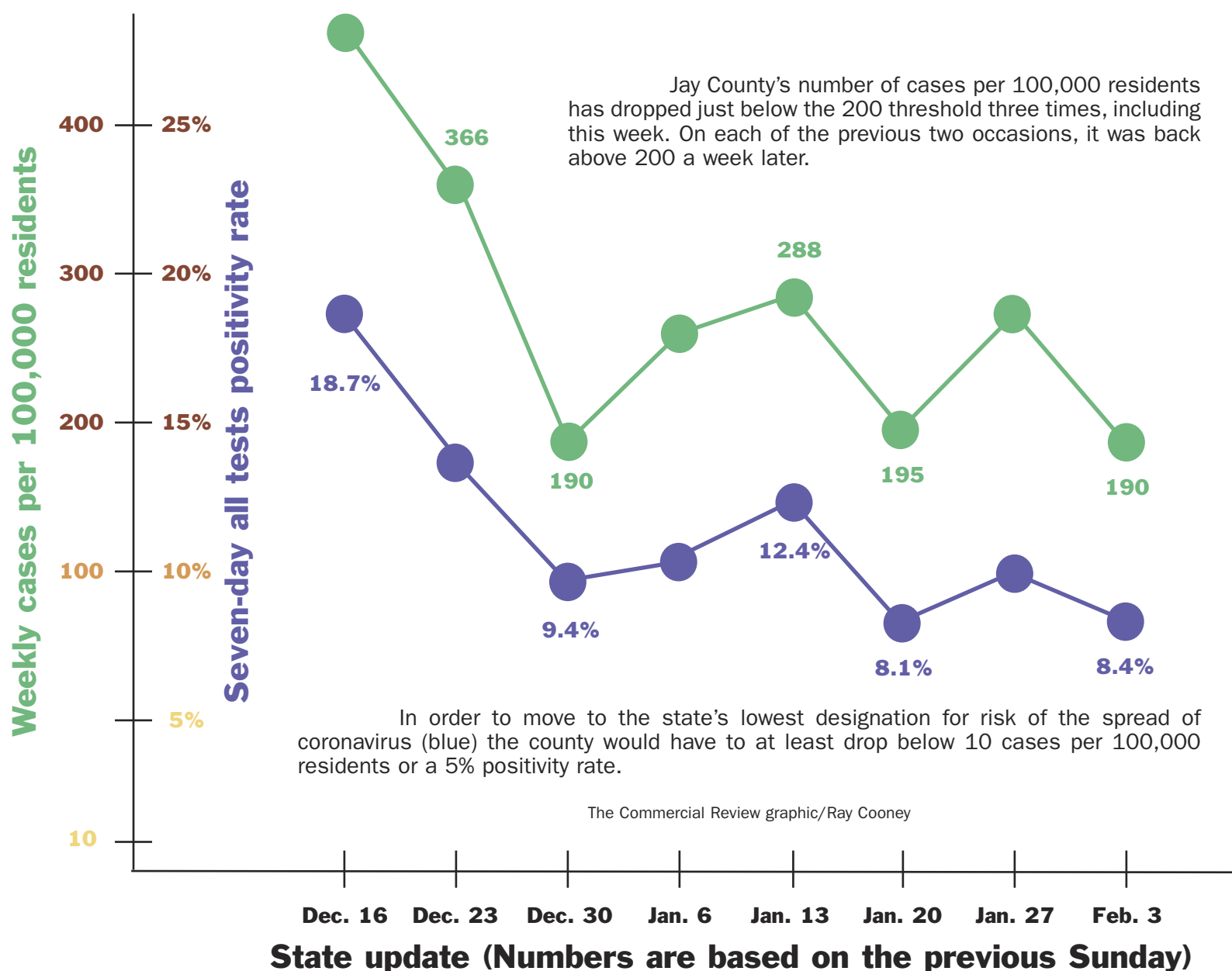
# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Back to yellow



### Jay continues to hover on the line between moderate and high risk of coronavirus spread

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review  
It's back to yellow again. Jay County continued its fluctuation between metric scores, moving back to "yellow" (moderate risk for the spread of coronavirus) in the metrics Indiana State Department of Health update Wednesday. Also Wednesday, Indiana State Department of Health announced that it

is allowing schools to relax quarantine rules for students exposed to coronavirus. Jay County has flipped back and forth between yellow and orange (high risk) over the past month and a half. It first moved to yellow on Dec. 30, then was orange for two weeks, shifted to yellow Jan. 20, went back to orange Jan. 26 and then moved back to yellow this week.

Heath Butz of Jay County Health Department over the last few weeks has pointed out that the county has been near the yellow/orange threshold and that just a few cases can make the difference. For that reason, the state requires that a county must stay at a rating for consecutive weeks before changing its guidelines for gatherings and other related

rules. Currently, venues in Jay County are allowed gatherings up to 25% capacity. If the county remains yellow next week, those limits could be increased. (Currently the only counties in Indiana that are eligible for lower restriction levels are neighboring Adams and Wells counties, along with Elkhart, Tippecanoe, Park, Sullivan and Monroe counties.) The new school recom-

mendations from the state say no quarantine is required with students and staff who were exposed to infection at school if they were at least 3 feet apart and wearing masks at all times. Schools can also shorten 14-day quarantines to seven days if the individual exposed has a negative nasal swab test at least five days after exposure. See **Yellow** page 2

## White House pushing for aid package

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — Even as President Joe Biden gathers with senators and works the phones with Capitol Hill to push for a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, his team is increasingly focused on selling the plan directly to voters. His administration has done 60-plus interviews with national TV and radio shows. There have been spots on local TV news and briefings last week with more than 50 groups including General Motors, Meals on Wheels America and Planned Parenthood. One of the main goals is to stop people from getting bogged down in the tangle of partisan deal-making and convince them that every penny of the "go big" package is needed. "The public is not getting caught up in process — what they want is results," said Cedric Richmond, the White House director of public engagement. "People these days are not worried about the inside-the-beltway terminology. They're looking at who's doing what to help." The president told House Democrats on Wednesday that he views the package's proposal for \$1,400 in direct payments to individuals as a foundational promise to voters. It represents a strategic bet by the White House that voters will suspend their partisan beliefs to evaluate the plan and support its massive scope. Biden has suggested he may be flexible on the \$1.9 trillion topline figure for the plan and on ways to more narrowly target who gets direct payments. But the \$1,400 amount — on top of \$600 in payments approved in December — appears to be non-negotiable. See **Aid** page 7

## Benefit finds new format

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review  
Mandy Theurer died almost six years ago after her SUV crashed into a ditch near Salamina. Since her death, Mandy's family has hosted an annual benefit auction and homemade meal in her memory. Funds from the event are distributed to a variety of Jay County organizations. But in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the family has opted to move the auction to Facebook this year and convert the dinner to a carryout. "Because of COVID, we had to figure out how to still hold the benefit ... and also be able to raise the money to give back to the community," said Cassie Alexander, Mandy's sister. The family usually donates proceeds to Jay County Cancer Society and gives two scholarships — one based in agriculture and the other in cosmetology — along with donating to other various organizations. So far, 70 items have been posted to the public group boasting more than 1,200 members. Anyone can donate auction items to Alexander, who posts each listing. From there, group members

### Auction moves online while dinner will be carryout only

can comment on each post to bid. There's a lot of variety, with donations varying from candles and gift baskets to furniture to gift certificates. There's also an abundance of Marilyn Monroe themed items, nodding to Mandy's love for the actress. The online auction will remain in session through 9 p.m. Feb. 14. Sharon Beeler worked with Mandy's mother, Charlene Theurer, at Zion Lutheran Church several years ago. They're also distant relatives. She plans to donate items and join the bidding online this year. She noted it's hard to lose young family members. "That's what I'm going to miss this year, being with the family," Beeler said. "It's a healing process for them." The benefit auction is usually

a time for family to gather and share stories about Mandy. This year, though, it's mostly being conducted via phone or computer screen, which takes a little away from the event, Alexander explained. "We look forward to seeing people, reminiscing — some of Mandy's friends come from out of town. And so it's really just a good time of fellowship," Alexander said. "That's the piece that's really sad that we're not gonna get this year." Some of the family will be gathering, though, to help distribute a carryout dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at Jay Community Center. Free-will donations can be made for the dinner, although Alexander noted it will be available in limited quantities. See **Format** page 2



Japan News

### Spring sign

Blossoming plum trees marked the arrival of spring at Sumida Park in Tokyo on Wednesday, the first day of the season according to the traditional Japanese calendar. The ward office said the white and pink flowers started to appear on the park's about 150 plum trees in early January, about the same as an average year. The best period to view the blossom is from mid to late February when most of the trees will be in full bloom.

#### Deaths

John Hanlin, 77, Pennville  
Details on page 2.

#### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 31 degrees Wednesday. The low was 14. Rain and snow are expected tonight with the low dropping to 18 and winds at 20 to 30 miles per hour. Expect a high of 25 Friday under partly cloudy skies. See page 2 for an extended forecast.

#### In review

The Indiana legislature is considering bills regarding COVID-19, the budget, education, health care and a variety of other issues. They are available to view at iga.in.gov/legislative/2021/bills. What issues matter most to you? Send letters to the editor to r.cooney@thecr.com. There is a 700-word maximum.

#### Coming up

Friday — Coverage of today's Portland Board of Works meeting.

Tuesday — Results from Saturday's regional wrestling meet at JCHS.

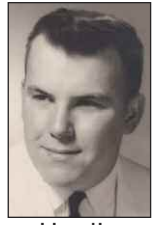


Obituaries

John Hanlin

July 23, 1943-Jan. 31, 2021 John E. Hanlin, a lifelong resident of Pennville, died on Jan. 31, 2021, in Sheridan, Indiana, where he was receiving care during an extended illness. He was 77. John was born in Portland, Indiana, on July 23, 1943, the youngest of George and Edwina Hanlin's six children. He grew up at Balbec, north of Pennville, on the farm his family owned since the 1830s. He graduated in 1961 from Pennville High School, where he played baseball and basketball. He participated in 4-H and the Future Farmers of America and

was a member of the school's judging team, which won state and national championships for livestock and land judging. After graduation, he took courses at Purdue University's Fort Wayne center. During the early years of his career, John worked at the Sohigro Service Company in Warren, Indiana. In the late 1970s, he started his own fertilizer plant, Pennville Farm Service, and operated it until the early 1980s, when he began a career in real estate, appraisals and auction-



Hanlin

eering. His work in real estate spanned nearly 35 years, first at Double H Realty and Auction then later at Hanlin Real Estate Service. Throughout the years, agriculture remained an important part of John's life. He continued to operate the family farm and spent many summers supporting his children in 4-H as they showed swine, sheep and cattle at the Jay County Fair and Indiana State Fair. In recent years, he raised registered Angus cattle. John was the father of four, including Tammy Hanlin (husband: Dave Ashley) of Pennville, Dawn Marineau (husband: John Malone) of Wasilla,

Alaska, and George R. Hanlin of Indianapolis, all who survive. His son John Hanlin Jr. preceded him in death, as did his parents, George E. Hanlin Sr. and Edwina (Edmundson) Hanlin, and his siblings Ellen (Hanlin) Bulzone, George E. Hanlin Jr. and Carolyn (Hanlin) Hoffacker. Additional survivors include sisters Nina (Hanlin) Stultz of Montpelier, Indiana, and Martha (Hanlin) Kimmel of LaOtto, Indiana, as well as several nieces and nephews. Private burial will take place at the Twin Hills I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Pennville with a public service to follow later this year. Memorials may be directed to

the Pennville Gym, c/o the Pennville Community Center, P.O. Box 54, Pennville, IN 47369. Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier. Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneralhomes.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.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Day (Friday 2/5, Saturday 2/6, Sunday 2/7, Monday 2/8, Tuesday 2/9), Weather icons, and High/Low temperatures (e.g., 23/11, 20/4, 13/9, 27/19, 26/12). Includes brief weather descriptions for each day.

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results for Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier, and Ohio. Includes estimated jackpots and winning numbers for each game.

Markets

Table listing market prices for various commodities including Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, The Andersons Richland Township, Central States Montpelier, and Sunrise St. Anthony. Lists prices for corn, wheat, and beans.

Today in history

On Feb. 4, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta. In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War. In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States. In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America. In 1913, Rosa Parks, a Black woman whose 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man sparked a civil rights revolution, was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee. In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. In 1999, Amadou Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, was shot and killed in front of his Bronx home by four plainclothes New York City police officers. (The officers were acquitted at trial.) In 2006, Luke Bihn's free throws with 8.9 seconds left lifted the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team to a 55-54 victory over Jay County. —AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Table listing events for Monday, including a 8 a.m. Portland Redevelopment Commission executive session and a 9 a.m. Jay County Commissioners' meeting.

Format ...

Continued from page 1 Those interested can also order t-shirts for \$20 each. The design includes a smiley face with the word "Gooten," an exclamation Mandy often used. "It's a Mandy thing" and the year are also printed on the shirt.

Alexander praised Jay County for its response to the benefit each year. "The community has been amazing, actually since the death of Mandy," Alexander said. "Just the outpouring of support — they are always so generous in donations for

the auction, they always come out for dinner. They've just been amazing." To join the online auction, check out the Mandy Theurer Benefit Online Auction group on Facebook or search bit.ly/MandyTheurerBenefit.

Yellow ...

Continued from page 1 Jay School Corporation, in consultation with Jay County Health Department, in November had laid out its own guidelines that allowed most students who were close contacts in a school setting to remain in school if they wore a mask and reported any changes in health to the school nurse. It also allowed excluded students to return to school if they provided a negative COVID-19 test that is seven days from the last exposure. "Our concern was that too many kids were being excluded from school and we did not detect the evidence that warranted that," said Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley on Wednesday. "What I'm seeing here is a move in the direction that we've already taken. And I do find it positive." He said the corporation's goal has been to balance preventing the

spread of COVID-19 with the educational needs of students. "I think we have struck the right balance," he said. Randolph and Blackford counties joined Jay in shifting from orange to yellow this week. Delaware County remained at orange. Statewide, 59 counties were orange and 29 were yellow. Only four — Whitney, Warren, Gibson and Switzerland counties — came in at red (severe risk). Jay County's cases per 100,000 residents went down this week, coming in at 190 after hitting 274 the previous week. It's positivity rate dropped to 8.43%, down from 10.1% a week earlier. Indiana on Monday made vaccination appointments available to Hoosiers 65 and older. (They had previously been available to those 70 and older.) Those interested in

signing up can do so online at ourshot.in.gov or by calling the state's 2-1-1 telephone assistance service. Jay County currently has two coronavirus vaccination clinics — one at the health department and the other at IU Health Jay. They run on alternating days, with the hospital's clinic from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the health department's clinic from 11:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Saturdays. Clinics in adjacent counties are at Adams County Hospital, Adams County Health Department, Wells County Health Department, IU Health Blackford, Blackford County Health Department and Randolph County Health Department, as well as eight sites in Delaware County including IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, Delaware County Health Department and several pharmacies. Coronavirus is mainly spread through respiratory droplets or small particles from an infected person coughing, sneezing, talking or breathing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that it may be possible those particles and droplets remain suspended in the air for an unknown period of time and travel beyond 6 feet, especially indoors. CDC guidelines encourage wearing a mask and avoiding close contact when around others and frequent hand washing and surface cleaning as ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The virus causes a range of symptoms, which can appear two to 14 days after exposure. Older adults and those with pre-existing health problems are susceptible to more severe illnesses.

Deeds

Mary R. Landess to Mary R. Landess, death deed — Lot 1, Corwin and Jaqua Addition, Portland Jerry J. Codling (deceased) to Wanda Besser and Carole Mettert, deed affidavit — Lot 211, Currents Second Addition, Portland Theodore H. and Barbara L. Bergman to Colt and Morgan Grieshop, warranty deed — Part of Section 2, Madison Township, 4.97 acres Theodore H. Bergman to Colt and

Morgan Grieshop, warranty deed — Parts of Section 2, Madison Township Greg A. Pfeifer to Greg A. Pfeifer, death deed — Parts of Section 24, Jackson Township, and Part of Section 19, Bearcreek Township Barbara P. and Robert D. Hambrick (deceased) to Charles B. and Staci R. Keen, warranty deed — Lots 2 and 3 in Block 4 in the town of Powers Station, Part of Section 22, Jefferson Township

Karen Brown to Karen Brown Revocable Living Trust, quit claim deed — Lots 15, 16, 17 and 18, Boyce First Addition, Redkey Karen L. Brown to Karen Brown Revocable Living Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Section 11, Richland Township Mary E. and John R. Faris (deceased) to Mary E. Faris, death deed — Lot 7, Block 35, original plat of Dunkirk

See page 7

SERVICES

Advertisement for Progressive Office Products. Lists services for today (Bergman, Charlene) and Saturday (Pfeifer, Gregory). Includes address: 120 N. Meridian St., Portland, Indiana 47371 and phone: (260) 726-9201.

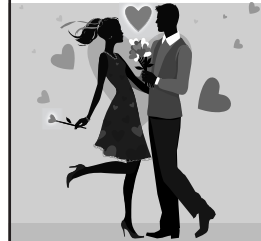
Felony arrests

Domestic battery A Portland man was arrested Wednesday for alleged battery. Estuardo Guzman, 32, 115 W. 3rd St., was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for domestic battery in the presence of a child younger than 16. He's being held in Jay County Jail on \$3,000 bond. Drug possession Two Albany residents were arrested Wednesday for drug possession. Andrea M. Bailey, 38, 321 N. Dalton Ave., has a previous Class A misdemeanor charge for driving while suspended, and she failed to appear in court. She was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession

of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. David A. Bailey, 36, 321 N. Dalton Ave., has a previous charge for burglary, a Class C felony, and he violated his proba-

tion. He was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Both residents are being held in Jay County Jail on \$4,500 bond.

Flowers & Gifts for Your Valentine



Flowers, Candy Bouquets, Balloons, Candles, and MORE Free delivery in Portland and to the schools Call or text 260-703-0304 to order! Bricker's Flowers & More 414 N Meridian St. Portland Open daily from 9am to 6pm

Advertisement for Swiss Village. Logo with a Swiss flag and text: 'Swiss Village Now Seeking: Skilled Trades Maintenance Worker'. Includes details about the position, application process, and contact information: Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to: Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources, Swiss Village, 1350 W. Main St. Berne, IN 46711. Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

## JCPL looking for baby items

The library needs some diapers.

The Jay County Public Library is hosting a month-long baby shower to collect needed items for Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County.

In addition to diapers, the library is seeking donations of baby wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wipes, baby food, baby snacks, baby formula, baby gas drops, baby Orajel and

### Taking Note

toothbrushes and toothpaste for baby teeth.

Gifts can either be dropped off at the baby display table at the library or mailed to 315 N. Ship St.,

Portland. The first 24 who donate items will receive a gift from the library.

### New FRHS play

One of Agatha Christie's most famous works will be on display this month in Fort Recovery.

Tickets for the Fort Recovery High Schools drama club's production of Christie's "And Then There Were None" are now on sale.

Show dates are 7 p.m. Feb. 19, 20, 21, 26 and 27 in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditoria. There will also be a matinee at 3 p.m. Feb. 21.

Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Fort Recovery High School office. Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, seating for each show will be limited to allow for social distancing.

## Woman wants a more pious man

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating this guy seriously for a year. We have talked about marriage and we were even looking at rings. Due to certain recent events, I have come to realize that my hope for his Christianity to grow stronger is probably never going to happen. I love this man with all my heart, but I also need a husband who will pray with me, have a heart for God, who will want to go to church and make decisions by praying and leaning on God.

We have talked about this and what my needs are, but he's not sure if he will get there. Do I hold on and hope through my actions and life, he will learn how to walk with God fully, or should I let him go and try to find someone else? — BROKENHEARTED BELIEVER

**DEAR BELIEVER:** If you can't accept this man just the way he is, let him go. You shouldn't marry anyone hoping to change

### Dear Abby



him because it wouldn't be fair to either of you. If faith is your No. 1 priority, it would be better for both of you if you look further for a life partner.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am torn between two guys. I have known the first guy for a year, and we had some ups and downs. Six months ago he had a heart attack, but he pulled through, thank God. But since then, things have been very hard. Our relationship went sour and we broke up.

I met the second guy online a month ago. He seems very sweet and down to earth and treats me like a princess. The first guy and I ended up talking again, and the problem is, I'm still in love with him. I think both of them are wonderful and I don't know what decision to make. Please help me. — CHOICES, CHOICES IN DELAWARE

**DEAR CHOICES:** Before making any decision, it's important you fully understand why your relationship with Guy No. 1 went sour after his heart attack. Could it be related to his near-death experience? You need to have all the facts before jumping back into a romance with him.

You haven't known Guy No. 2 long enough to really know who he is yet. Do not pull the plug on this one until you have more answers than you were able to put in your letter to me.

## Bill would expand visits

**By CASEY SMITH**  
Associated Press and Report for America

**INDIANAPOLIS —** Indiana lawmakers are seeking to change visitation restrictions at the state's health and residential care sites amid concerns about residents' declining interactions with loved ones during the coronavirus pandemic.

A measure that advanced to the full House Wednesday after a unanimous committee vote would require health facilities to allow at least one caretaker to visit a resident during compassionate care situations. Those include if the resident is dying, grieving a recent death, experiencing emotional distress or needing encouragement to eat or drink.

Under the bill, long-term care facilities would also be required to participate in the state health department's Essential Family Caregivers Program during a declared

emergency, a public health emergency, or similar crisis.

That program further designates at least two caregivers who can enter facilities and provide residents with support like meal set up, grooming and general companionship, even during periods of restricted visitation. While some facilities in Indiana currently participate in the program, not all do.

Nursing homes across the country have been devastated by COVID-19 deaths as elderly people and those with serious health troubles living in nursing homes are among the most at-risk from severe illness due to the coronavirus.

Indiana has seen at least 23,000 cases in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, with more than 4,900 deaths, or about half of Indiana's confirmed and suspected COVID-19 deaths, outpacing the U.S. average.

## Community Calendar

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

### 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 - BRINNA'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.

**PORTLAND LIONS CLUB** — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be

served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

### Friday

**SOFT SHOULDERS** — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

### 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.

**PORTLAND CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI** — Will meet at 11 a.m. the second Monday of each month at the Portland Fire Department. For more information, call Nick Miller at (937) 239-0022.

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

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday's Solution

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

**Baird Freeman Funeral Home**  
221 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, IN  
260-726-7171

**Aker Plumbing**  
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Mark Aker, owner  
260-726-8234

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Mon - Fri

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**Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition**

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Email:  
jodpcontact@gmail.com

This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50.  
Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included

# Indiana isn't so good for workers

By MORTON J. MARCUS

For a decade now, ever since the Great Recession, we've heard how Indiana is a great place to do business.

It's a story that workers hear and that legislators hear. And it might be true, if you are a business.

But is it true, if you are a worker?

Well, let me tell you why it is and is not true.

Between 2010, when the economy was just coming out of the Great Recession, and 2019, when the economy was about to experience the Great Pandemic of 2020, earnings per job in Indiana grew faster than in the United States as a whole.

## Eye on the Pie



That's right, if you take the earnings of those on wages and salaries, plus net income of proprietors (farm and non-farm) and then divide that number by the number of jobs, the result is average earnings per job. For the U.S., those earnings per job grew by a 23% while Hoosiers racked up a gain of 23.7%. (My phone ringing? A happy

call from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce or the governor's office?)

Sports might note, when you bring that down to an annual rate, adjusted for inflation, it's a real increase of only 0.62% and 0.69% per year, respectively, for the nation and Indiana.

(The phone stopped ringing.)

Back in 2010, Indiana had just three counties with earnings per job ahead of the national average of \$52,187. They were Martin, Marion and Posey counties. By the end of the decade in 2019, the nation's average climbed to \$64,180; the same three were up above that level along with newcomer, Bartholomew County.

Now if I were talking with our State Solons, I might casually mention this simple fact means 88 of our 92 counties don't measure up to the nation's average earning per job.

If that statement got some attention from even a handful of those 150 individuals committed to our welfare, I'd point out our state average earnings per job in 2010 was \$5,801 (11.1%) below that national average. By 2019, that deficit was \$6,805.

(Is that a tweet from the Indiana Economic Development Corp. — IEDC — saying we're now only 10.5% short of the nation's average, over half a percentage point of improvement since 2010?)

I wouldn't tell those proud legislators the real reason our numbers are looking good is we had slower job growth than the nation between 2010 and 2019; 13.7% versus 17.9% nationally.

As the denominator in the earnings per job figure, that pushes up the Indiana result, which was already trailing the nation in earnings growth (U.S. 45%, Indiana 40.6%).

With long-term lower earnings and slower job growth than the U.S., Indiana doesn't seem so good for workers.

.....  
MARCUS is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).

# Facebook, Twitter can do a lot more

The Washington Post

If it looks like a news site, publishes like a news site and posts like a news site, is it a news site?

Don't count on it.

A study from the German Marshall Fund released last week found engagement on Facebook and Twitter with posts by deceptive publishers disguising their output as journalism hit record rates in 2020. Platforms have no excuse not to do something about the problem. They've already showed us they know how.

The GMF researchers, in partnership with the nonpartisan NewsGuard service, monitored engagement with two kinds of sites. The first category is composed of popular purveyors of provably false stories, such as Newsmax and One America News Network as well as smaller "Trojan horse" outlets posing, for example, as local papers. The second category includes outlets judged irresponsible in their information-gathering and presentation. These include Fox News, Breitbart and others whose tendency to distort the facts, rather than flat-out make things up, means their content is less likely to be rated false by Facebook's checkers, and therefore less likely to be demoted in people's feeds.

The results were troubling but not surprising. Shares of tweets from deceptive sites by verified accounts on Twitter reached an all-time peak of 47 million in the final quarter of last year — almost one-third of the total 155 million shares by verified accounts of links to U.S.-based sites. Facebook saw a decline during the same period in interactions with all sites, but interactions with deceptive sites increased over previous years.

This is, of course, more or less what the conventional wisdom has come to expect. These are profit-seeking corporations, and profit-making ones, too: Facebook announced a mind-boggling \$11.2 billion in quarterly profits the same day the GMF report was released. Twitter rakes in far less cash but has similar incentives. Social media sites want to drive engagement, which comes more easily from the sensationalism that

## Guest Editorial

*Social media sites want to drive engagement, which comes more easily from the sensationalism that marks most conspiracy theories than it does from sober-minded news reporting.*

marks most conspiracy theories than it does from sober-minded news reporting. Yet if these companies hope to continue as money-making machines without meddling by lawmakers, they must prove conventional wisdom wrong — by showing that they can do what's right.

We got a taste of what's right around the November election. Facebook altered its algorithm to prop up mainstream outlets (including, in full disclosure, this one); GMF reports that interactions with its sample of credible and transparent outlets were highest with those measures in place. Twitter disabled likes and retweets on some misleading posts and forced users to take extra steps before sharing articles; after the friction was removed, misleading posts spiked. None of this was censorship, but merely changes in design that reversed the status quo by privileging the trustworthy instead of what can't be trusted.

These interventions today are the exception, yet protecting information integrity ought to be the rule. Discovering the most effective means to achieving that end will require some trial and error. So far, however, platforms aren't trying nearly hard enough.



# Congress must act on terrorism

By RICHARD B. ZABEL

Special To The Washington Post

The United States faces a rising threat of violent extremism yet has no law targeting the problem. The Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and the Department of Homeland Security's first-ever national domestic terrorism bulletin on Jan. 27 have sounded the alarm that it is time for Congress to fix this gap: We need anti-terrorism laws aimed at domestic terrorism.

The Patriot Act, passed in the aftermath of 9/11, defined domestic terrorism as criminal acts in the United States that are "dangerous to human life" and appear "intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion" or "to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping." The definition clearly fits the Jan. 6 insurrection and other violent extremist incidents, but it is largely useless for charging individuals as domestic terrorists.

Why is this? First, although the law provided officials with additional authority to investigate domestic terrorism, it created no new criminal offense of engaging in domestic terrorism. This means that a prosecutor cannot charge a defendant with domestic terrorism alone. Instead, prosecutors have to use other available statutes, such as firearms or assault statutes. But when terrorism cases are not pursued as terrorism cases in our courts, it limits our societal condemnation of the defendants and their dangerous ideologies. Juries, judges and the public do not get to pass judgment on the conduct as terrorism.

A second problem is that the definition of domestic terrorism is too narrow, even if it were to carry criminal penalties. For example, by requiring such acts to be "dangerous to life," the definition excludes common tools of terrorism such as criminal threats, non-life-threatening physical assaults, damage to property and other acts intended to intimidate or

## Guest Opinion

coerce. These acts were on brazen display on Jan. 6.

On that day, many in the mob used force and made their bloody intent clear, but through dumb luck did not kill or seriously harm anyone. Prosecutors will have difficulty appropriately charging many of these would-be violent terrorists. For example, if a person surged up the Capitol steps, forcing his way past police, and cheered as fellow insurgents beat a police officer, what can he be charged with? What about those who possessed weapons and yelled threats but no more? Calling these crimes merely federal trespassing, disorderly conduct or weapons possession is not enough. Well-defined laws could appropriately address this varied conduct and call it what it is: domestic terrorism.

History supports the need for new laws to address domestic terrorism. During Reconstruction, the country confronted terrorism by the Ku Klux Klan, which opposed the ascent of multiracial democracy. Congress enacted the Ku Klux Klan Act to protect Blacks, Whites and, crucially, the democratic process. Aggressive enforcement of the act effectively destroyed the KKK. Once the law was no longer enforced (and later partly invalidated on questionable states' rights grounds), the cancers of the KKK and white supremacy returned and metastasized.

Our international terrorism laws offer another example of Congress effectively meeting an emerging terrorist threat. After a truck packed with explosives by Islamist terrorists detonated in the first World Trade Center attack in 1993, Congress took action. It enacted a body of anti-terrorism laws that were innovative and

enabled effective prosecution of international terrorists.

But when Timothy McVeigh, an anti-government extremist, detonated a truck bomb in 1995 in Oklahoma City, killing and injuring hundreds and destroying a government building, Congress did not enact equivalent domestic terrorism laws. Nor has it done so during the continuous reign of domestic terror since then. This is a legislative failure.

One legitimate concern in discussing a domestic terrorism law is the threat of overreaching in violation of First Amendment protections. In 1940, with the nation fearful of communism, the Smith Act was enacted to protect the country against the advocacy of force or violence to overthrow or destroy our government. The Smith Act is tainted by its overzealous use as a tool of the Red Scare. History calls for caution, not paralysis. Our courts have made clear that some inflammatory speech is not protected. In *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, the Supreme Court ruled that if a speaker urges others to use force with words "directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action," and likely to do so, that speech is not protected. This strict principle can guide any new domestic terrorism law that looks at speech. Our First Amendment protects almost boundless free speech, including dangerous speech, but it is not a suicide pact.

The historian Richard Hofstadter observed, "American politics has often been an arena for angry minds." Some of these angry minds engage in angry acts. For too long, domestic terrorism has been ignored. This lapse culminated in the horrifying Jan. 6 images of a Confederate flag hoisted inside the Capitol and of our elected representatives taking cover on the floor. Congress needs to stand up.

.....  
ZABEL oversaw terrorism prosecutions as deputy U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York from 2011 to 2015 and teaches national security law at Columbia Law School.

# The Commercial Review

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



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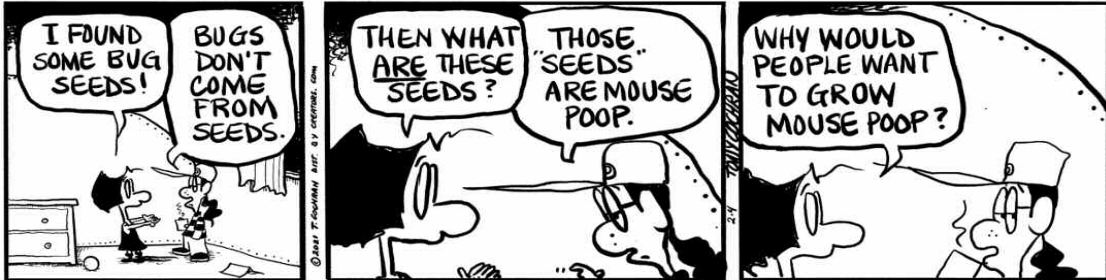
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bupb Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN Saturday, February 13th, 2021 10:00am Antiques-Old & Collectors Items; Clark 3 dower pool cabinet; hump back trunk; metal train pieces; crocks: #3 western,#12,#10,#6 heart; jewelers anvil, vise with anvil; Lamps: Alladin; arrowheads; Hudeppol Beer metal keg; WWII leather flying helmet; and many other items not listed.

Auctioneers Note: This auction offers a nice selection of antiques and collectibles. Auction preview will be held on Friday February 12th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. It is recommended you follow COVID-19 guidelines by wearing a facial mask and social distancing Richard Stachler Loy Auction AU31600027 260-726-2700 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Ben Lyons AU10700085 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Sheepish remark 4 Spheres 8 Apiece 12 Squeak stopper 13 Had on 14 DLI doubled 15 "The danger has passed" 17 Diner sign 18 Observe 19 Journals 21 Stations 24 Pear-shaped fruit 25 "Exodus" hero 26 Moment 28 Edit further, as a film 32 Maze runners 34 Efron of "Neighbors" 36 Writer Paretsky 37 Potpourri output 39 "Humbug!" 41 Gridiron scores (Abbr.)

- 42 Bar bill 44 Save after a mission 50 It aptly rhymes with "spa" 51 Reed instrument 52 Spills the beans 56 Lighten up 57 Undo a dele 58 Rent out 59 Deli loaves 60 "Amen!" 61 Leary's drug

- 2 Have the flu 3 Pumpkin pie ingredient 4 Baby hooters 5 Fish eggs 6 Thin nail 7 Helvetica lack 8 Comes into view 9 Exotic berry used in smoothies 10 Refer to villain 16 Biz bigwig 20 Tire filler 21 River blockers

- 22 Rocker Clapton 23 "— who?" 27 Taxi 29 Odds-and-ends category 30 Pakistan's language 31 Hit with a stun gun 33 Main courses 35 Automobile 38 — chi 40 Well-being 43 "Heavens to —!" 45 Airline to Sweden 46 Active person 47 Online auction site 48 Audio equipment brand 49 Lavish party 53 Salonga of "Miss Saigon" 54 Guitar master Paul 55 Old Ford model

Solution time: 24 mins.

Crossword grid with letters: SHE MAMA BATS, LUX ELAN UNIT, OLE DARNITALL, GUCCI ACT, SANG HEALS, TRYITOUT RIOT, AHA EWEERS DAY, MEWS ISITS SAFE, PLANTS SOAR, ROO YODEL, LETITPASS ECO, PLED ESAU FRO, SIDE LAMP YUM

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**Wrestling regional set for Saturday at JCHS, see Sports on tap**

# Sports

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## More fans permitted at girls hoops sectional

By CHRIS SCHANZ  
The Commercial Review

NEW CASTLE — Fans of the Patriots, Tigers, Huskies and Trojans will get more of an opportunity to see their teams play.

New Castle High School announced Wednesday that general admission tickets will be available for the semifinal and championship games of the girls Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament on Friday and Saturday at New Castle Fieldhouse.

“The status for New Castle Athletics has now been upgraded,” the athletics department said via its website — newcastleathletics.com — on Wednesday. “Effective today, spectators up to 25% capacity can return ... This means general admission and all sports passes are now being recognized at the doors.”

### Up to 2,300 fans will be allowed at New Castle Fieldhouse

New Castle Fieldhouse, dubbed “The Largest and Finest High School Fieldhouse in the World,” has a seating capacity of 7,829. According to a March 2019 article in the Indianapolis Star, the fieldhouse is the third largest high school gym in the country, having been dethroned by Seymour’s

Lloyd E. Scott Gymnasium after more than 60 years as America’s biggest. The New Castle athletics department said a total of 2,300 fans will be permitted for Friday’s semifinal games and Saturday’s championship.

The Yorktown Tigers (15-5) and Jay County Patriots (18-3), who finished 11th in the final Class 3A poll voting of the season, meet in the 6 p.m. semifinal on Friday, with the No. 7 Hamilton Heights Huskies (16-1) and New Castle Trojans (2-16) squaring off

approximately 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The semifinal games will be rematches of contests earlier this season. Jay County picked up a 54-44 road win over Yorktown on Dec. 29. Hamilton Heights topped New Castle 73-31 Jan. 19.

In Wednesday’s sectional quarterfinal games, Hamilton Heights defeated Winchester, which had won four straight sectional titles across Class 2A and Class 3A, 64-42. The host Trojans topped the Burris Owls 58-45.

The sectional final is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday.

## Antetokounmpo, Bucks top Pacers

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo didn’t play at all in the fourth quarter and still had a triple-double while helping the Milwaukee Bucks roll to a lopsided victory.

The reigning two-time MVP had 21 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in the Bucks’ 130-110 rout of the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night. Antetokounmpo shot 7 of 8 from the floor and 7 of 8 from the line.

“He’s playing really, really unselfishly,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. “He’s seeing things and making the right read and the right passes. I just think he’s in a great place mindset-wise. He’s aggressive and attacking when it’s needed. He’s finding his teammates and finding opportunities for everybody else when it’s needed.”

Over his last two games, Antetokounmpo has shot a combined 15 of 19 from the floor and hasn’t attempted a 3-pointer. Antetokounmpo is making just 28% of his 3-point attempts this season.

Antetokounmpo completed his third triple-double of the season in the final minute of the third quarter when he got his 10th assist, setting up Bobby Portis for a corner 3-pointer that capped a 10-0 run and gave the Bucks a 34-point advantage.

Milwaukee led by as many as 40 in the fourth quarter over a Pacers team that had beaten the Memphis Grizzlies 134-116 one night earlier.

“We just didn’t come out with enough urgency on both ends,” Pacers forward Doug McDermott said. “It’s something we’ve got to clean up. We’ve got to come out with that mindset that just because we played the night before doesn’t give us an excuse to kind of lay an egg.”

Milwaukee never trailed and shot 21 of 48 from 3-point range in its last home contest before beginning a six-game trip. The Bucks have gone 42 of 90 on 3-point attempts over their last two games.

The Bucks have made at least 20 3-pointers in five of their 21 games this season.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

## Dominating D

Jay County High School senior Aubrie Schwieterman, left, and junior Izzy Rodgers blanket Delta’s Abby Rouse during the third quarter of the Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament quarterfinal on Tuesday at New Castle Fieldhouse. The Patriots forced the Eagles into committing 25 turnovers and shooting just 18.6% from the field in a 52-27 victory.

## St. John’s upsets No. 3

By MIKE FITZPATRICK  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Freshman guard Posh Alexander and his pumped-up teammates doused Mike Anderson with water after their biggest win yet under the second-year St. John’s coach.

Just outside Carnesecca Arena, students cheered so loudly from their dorms that jubilant players could hear them in the locker room.

It was that kind of night for the suddenly surging Red Storm.

“I let them see another side of me,” a smiling Anderson said.

Alexander scored 16 points and St. John’s smothered No. 3 Villanova, upsetting the ice-cold Wildcats 70-59 on Wednesday to halt their nine-game winning streak.

Julian Champagnie had 14 points — all in the second half — and a career-high 13 rebounds for the rising Red Storm (12-7, 6-6 Big East), who have won five straight games and six of seven.

This one, Champagnie said, showed they are “a legit team.”

And now, maybe one with a legit shot at an NCAA Tournament push.

Flashing quick and active hands all over the court, St. John’s turned up its pressure defense and hounded the experienced Wildcats (11-2, 6-1) into 17 turnovers and 32% shooting in an ugly performance.

“I thought our defense was the catalyst,” Anderson said. “It was the Johnnies’ night.”

Villanova was held 12 points below its previous season low for its first loss since Nov. 28 to Virginia Tech in overtime. The Wildcats went nearly four weeks between games because of coronavirus issues before returning with a Jan. 19 win over Seton Hall.

“I think the press was what we expected. I think our response was what I didn’t expect,” Villanova coach Jay Wright said. “They really took us out of what we wanted to do.”

St. John’s has been a surprising thorn in Villanova’s side recently, with wins over a top-ranked Wildcats team in February 2018 and against the defending national champions in 2019.

The latest victory gave St. John’s its first four-game Big East winning streak since the 2014-15 NCAA Tournament team. Three of the wins have come on the road, too.

Alexander, who plays with a relentless frenzy and leads the Big East in steals, added six assists, four rebounds and three thefts.

“He had a phenomenal night,” Anderson said. “He plays all out, both ends of the floor.”

Alexander dominated his critical matchup with senior star Collin Gillespie, who was 0 for 8 from 3-point range and committed six turnovers in a forgettable four-point performance.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls swimming hosts sectional preliminaries — 5:30 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Oak Hill — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Minster — 6 p.m.

**Friday**  
Jay County — Girls basketball sectional semifinal vs. Yorktown at New Castle — 6 p.m.; Girls swimming hosts diving sectional — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Minster — 6 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Wrestling hosts regional — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball tripleheader at Woodlan — noon; Girls swimming hosts sectional championships — 4 p.m.; Girls basketball sectional final vs. TBA at New Castle — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Coldwater Invitational — 10 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Swimming in Cavalier Invite at Freemont Ross — 11 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Tri-Village — noon; Boys basketball vs. Ridgmont — 6 p.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Gymnastics at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Junior high swimming vs. Delta — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling hosts Southern Wells and Heritage — 6 p.m.

### Tuesday

Jay County — Boys basketball tripleheader at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls swimming at Norwell Invitational — 5 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Winchester Driver — 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Celina — 6 p.m.

### TV schedule

**Today**  
7 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Ohio State at Iowa (ESPN); Arizona at Utah (FS1); Cincinnati at Temple (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Golden State Warriors at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)  
9 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Stanford at California (ESPN2); Minnesota at Rutgers (FS1)  
10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)  
11 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Washington State at Oregon (FS1)

### Friday

7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers vs. New Orleans Pelicans (FSN)  
7 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Maryland at Penn State (FS1); George Mason at Dayton (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Toronto at Brooklyn (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Boise State at Nevada (FS1)

10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

### Saturday

Noon — Men’s College Basketball: Iowa State at Oklahoma (ESPN2); Alabama at Missouri (ESPN); Seton Hall at UConn (FOX)  
2 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Kansas at West Virginia (CBS); Florida at LSU (ESPN); St. John’s at Providence (FS1)  
3 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Texas at Oklahoma State (ABC)  
4 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Pittsburgh at Virginia (ESPN); Ole Miss at Auburn (ESPN2)  
6 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: North Carolina at Duke (ESPN)  
6:30 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Nebraska at Michigan State (BTN)  
8 p.m. — Men’s College Basketball: Tennessee at Kentucky (ESPN); Arizona at Colorado (FS1); UMass at Rhode Island (ESPN2)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Golden State Warriors at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)

### Sunday

Noon — Men’s College Basketball: Iowa at Indiana (FOX)  
1 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers vs. Utah Jazz (FSN)  
6:30 p.m. — NFL Football: Super Bowl LV — Kansas City Chiefs vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (CBS)



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Remember, we need to keep wearing masks and following other protective measures to keep everyone safe.