

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Funding is recommended

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A holiday light show is planned for Jay County Fairgrounds in November. Jay County Economic Development Income Tax Advisory Committee on Wednesday voted to recommend the county allot \$50,000 toward the display. Now the recommendation moves for approval from Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners.

Deb Gillespie of Jay County Fair Board and others on the Christmas lighting committee approached the advisory board requesting funding to jumpstart the new event. She noted the group has already purchased \$40,000 in lights for the coming year. (The fair board also

County EDIT advisory supports using \$50,000 for Christmas lights

purchased about \$4,000 in lights for 2020.)

"We're trying to do it right," Gillespie said.

The light show is expected to run from Nov. 19 through nearly the end of the year.

So far, the committee organizing the event has ordered a range of light configurations, such as a carousel, dinosaurs and trees.

About \$72,000 in revenue is expected from the show, Gillespie explained. That figure takes into account charging at least \$10 at the gate (\$15 on Fridays and Saturdays) and about \$32,000 in sponsorships.

The group will also be renting spots along the drive for local businesses or citizens to fill with lights for \$100.

See **Recommended** page 2

County returns to blue rating

Local cases, positivity rate both dropped this week

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The county is back to blue.

In Indiana State Department of Health's update Wednesday, Jay County returned to a rating of "blue" (low risk for the spread of coronavirus). The county had been "yellow" (moderate risk) for the previous two weeks.

Jay County saw significant improvement in both of the key metrics, with its positivity rate dropping to 2.31% this week. That's down from 7.5% last week.

Its cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents came in at 29 after hovering around 65 for the previous three weeks. Its lowest point this year was 23 in the March 3 update.

While the numbers got better locally, the statewide map turned slightly more yellow. Forty-five counties were rated yellow, up from 37 last week, while 45 were rated blue, down from 45 last week. Jasper and Jackson were the only counties rated orange (high risk) this week while none were rated red (severe risk).

Blackford County saw its rating drop to yellow after being orange in consecutive weeks. Wells County also shifted to yellow from orange. Delaware County shifted from blue to yellow, while Randolph and Adams counties remained blue.

Coronavirus vaccination appointments are now open to all Hoosiers 16 and older. Jay County currently has vaccination clinics available at Jay County Health Department and IU Health Jay. Appointments can be made online at ourshot.in.gov or by calling the state's 2-1-1 telephone assistance service.

See **Blue** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Work underway

Work on a pair of U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) bridges got underway this week. Pictured above, the arch bridge over the Salamonie River near East Jay Elementary School has already been milled and steel railings have been removed. The Indiana Department of Transportation project also includes resurfacing the bridge over the Little Salamonie River near Portland Golf Club.

Wetlands bill gets scaled back

By LONDON GIBSON
The Indianapolis Star
Tribune News Service

A bill that would have eliminated the state's law regulating wetlands was amended Wednesday morning to tackle the issue of wetlands regulation surgically, rather than with a "meat cleaver."

The bill, which has been the subject of heated debate, initially proposed repealing the state's environmental program protecting wetlands, which would have left more than 80% of the state's wetlands unprotected. Authors claimed the program created unnecessary red tape and was costly for landowners.

Environmentalists and good government experts alike staunchly opposed the legislation, pointing out that wetlands play a crucial role in mitigating flooding and water quality. They also were concerned that bill authors have close ties to the building industry.

After several iterations of amendments seeking compromise, the House Environmental

Affairs Committee voted in favor of one Wednesday that would:

- Not require a wetlands permit for developing on land that has been used as cropland in the last five years, or in the last 10 years if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has found there is no federally protected wetland on the property
- Exempt wetlands created by an ephemeral stream, a temporary stream caused by runoff or rain
- Not require a permit for maintaining drainage tiles or field tiles in a Class I wetland, which are ranked the lowest quality wetlands by the state
- Allow landowners in a Class II or III wetland, the two highest

quality wetlands in the state, to maintain drainage or field tiles if they meet certain conditions and obtain a general operating permit

- Require landowners to pay less for wetlands mitigation by changing the required ratios. In many cases, landowners developing a wetland have to either purchase mitigation credits or rebuild a wetland elsewhere at a high ratio. This amendment sets and reduces those ratios at 1:1 for Class I wetlands, 1.5:1 for Class II wetlands and 2:1 for forested Class II wetlands.
- Urges the establishment of an interim study committee to evaluate the effects of wetlands on construction costs, flood prevention,

water pollution and groundwater resources

Some lawmakers cited this amendment as an accomplishment for addressing issues brought up by bill authors and those in favor of Senate Bill 389 while still maintaining some level of wetlands regulation under the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

"Rather than trying to take a meat cleaver to this, we were a little more surgical and prescriptive in just trying to identify the problem and working within that," said Rep. Harold Slager, R-Schererville, while introducing the amendment to the committee.

See **Wetlands** page 2

Deaths

- Norma DeVoss, 95, rural Portland
 - Melodi Haley, 72, Portland
 - David Ellsworth, 51, Portland
 - Dustin Tighe, 26, Marion
 - Sylvia Shetler, 85, rural Berne
- Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 79 degrees Wednesday. The low was 55. There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms tonight with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and a low of 50. Expect a high of 71 Friday with showers possible beginning in the afternoon. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Indiana Senate Bill 353 (bit.ly/INSB353) proposes changes to election procedure in the state, including banning the governor and election commission from changing the time, place and manner of an election. What are your thoughts? Send letters to the editor to r.cooney@thecr.com. There is a 700-word maximum.

Coming up

Friday — Results from tonight's JCHS baseball game against Elwood.

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



Recommended ...

Continued from page 1
 Council member Ted Champ noted groups like those in Marion and Union City take free-will donations for entry and don't charge.
 "I think if we actually set a fee at the gate, you'll hear about that," Champ said.
 Gillespie noted the event committee had discussed taking free-will donations at its last meeting.
 Portland City Council approved \$3,538.58 in EDIT funds for lights at the fairgrounds display Monday. Earlier that day, the city's EDIT advisory committee met to recommend the funding request be approved.
 Typically, about \$75,000 are designated toward local amenities from EDIT dollars each year, said Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards. This includes groups such as the Fourth of July committee, Jay County Historical Society and Arts in the Parks. Currently, the EDIT fund holds about \$1.3 million.

Committee calls for free-will donations instead of admission

EDIT advisory committee member Doug Loy said he supports having a light show in Jay, but he expressed concern about the overall cost.
 "My thinking is how much money can we afford to put in light displays in the community when there's other projects that we need to be focusing on?" he asked.
 He added this may encourage other municipalities in the county to approach the board for similar funding.
 Jay County Commissioner Chad Aker encouraged the idea. "You know, I guess if Dunkirk decides they want to do something, at that point they can come to us then, and we can do it on a case-by-case basis," he said.
 Loy noted this was an issue

similar to the EDIT advisory committee's November meeting about Jay County Humane Society. The board was worried the shelter would ask for more money than just initial \$275,000, although it recommended the amount to Jay County Commissioners. (The commissioners approved the amount in December and rescinded it in January.)
 Aker suggested making the \$50,000 a one-time gift.
 "It's the Jay County Fairgrounds," Champ later clarified. "It's for everybody, not just Portland people."
 The intention would be to purchase some new lights each year as well to keep the display fresh, Loy noted. Gillespie agreed.
 "If we projected it all correct-

ly, that would be on us," Gillespie said.
 Loy said many Portland businesses may not be open at night, making it difficult for them to benefit from the event.
 Jay County Chamber of Commerce executive director Tabby Sprunger said businesses in town participating in Winterfest activities last year were receptive to keeping longer hours.
 "This is just going to go along (with Winterfest), so I do think they'll be receptive," Sprunger said.
 The lighting festival will last nearly a month and a half, Loy noted, adding that is a longer period of time than the few weekends Winterfest lasted in 2020.
 "The lights are not going to start until it's dark, and unfortunately most of our retail stores close before it's dark," Loy said.
 Gillespie suggested starting at 6 p.m. Loy then asked Sprunger if she has asked local merchants if they are willing to stay open

later for that timespan. From the few she has spoken with so far, she said, they've been open to the idea.
 Jay County Commissioner Brian McGalliard said he'd like to give some amount to each local municipality putting up Christmas lights. Aker recommended they wait for requests instead of designating a certain amount of funds to each. He mentioned last year, Portland didn't host a fireworks display, so the county gave \$5,000 each to Dunkirk and Redkey instead of their usual \$2,500.
 Champ again addressed his concern about setting a fee at the gate. Aker agreed.
 "I think if you set a fee you're kind of limiting yourself," Aker said.
 The EDIT advisory committee voted to recommend committing \$50,000 for the lights on the condition that the fair board accept free-will donations rather than charge admission. Loy was the only dissenting vote.

CR almanac

Friday 4/9	Saturday 4/10	Sunday 4/11	Monday 4/12	Tuesday 4/13
73/54	70/48	56/46	70/44	62/40
The forecast looks cloudy and windy for Friday. Winds may reach 30 mph, with rain possible.	There's a 80% chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies. Rain may clear up by the evening.	60% chance of rain under mostly cloudy during the day. Mostly clear skies at night.	Small chance of rain but otherwise cloudy with some sun. Temperatures may reach the 70s.	Mostly sunny skies. Winds may reach between 10 and 15 mph.

Lotteries

Powerball 27-35-39-51-66 Power Ball: 16 Power Play: 5 Estimated jackpot: \$55 million	Cash 5: 10-16-18-32-34 Hoosier Lotto: 7-16-17-28-35-44 Estimated jackpot: \$8.6 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$201 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 4-7-2 Pick 4: 6-6-4-1 Pick 5: 8-3-2-0-0 Evening Pick 3: 4-8-8 Pick 4: 5-8-2-0 Pick 5: 0-0-6-4-5 Rolling Cash: 4-5-9-21-22 Classic Lotto: 5-17-26-32-44-49 Kicker: 3-6-1-0-6-4 Estimated jackpot: \$6.8 million
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-6-2 Daily Four: 4-3-9-0 Evening Daily Three: 6-3-0 Daily Four: 9-9-3-0 Quick Draw: 2-10-11-14-16-19-21-23-24-30-33-36-39-41-52-58-64-67-69-76	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.96 Wheat6.00	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.82 May corn.....5.83 Beans14.39 Sept. beans12.28 July wheat 5.98
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.96 May corn5.98	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....5.86 April corn5.89 Beans14.26 April beans14.28 Wheat5.82 July wheat5.6
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.84 May corn.....5.88 Beans14.44 May beans14.44 Wheat6.27 May wheat 6.27	

Today in history

On April 8, 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)
In 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his expedition began exploring the Florida coastline.
In 1820, the Venus de Milo statue was discovered by a farmer on the Greek island of Milos.
In 1911, an explosion at the Banner Coal Mine in Littleton, Alabama, claimed the lives of 128 men, most of them convicts loaned out from prisons.
In 1971, no injuries were reported after a semi overturned on Indiana 26 about a mile west of Center. The semi tipped while attempting to pass a milk truck.
 —AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Regional Sewer District, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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Ohio man charged with molestation

An Ohio man was held in Jay County Jail arrested Wednesday for on \$75,000 bond.
 Yount, 314 N. Main St., Greenville, Ohio, is being ally molesting a 2-year-old girl in 2019 in Bellfontain, according to Yount was preliminari-

ly charged with child molestation, a Level 1 felony, and sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 5 felony.

Obituaries

Norma DeVoss
 Sept. 25, 1925-April 5, 2021
 Norma DeVoss, age 95, a resident of rural Portland, passed away Monday, April 5, 2021, at her home in Portland.
 Norma was born Sept. 25, 1925, in Randolph County, the daughter of Amos Edward and Cecil Viola (Kelly) Philebaum. Norma graduated from Green Township School in Randolph County. She was a cook at I.P. Gray School, Redkey Elementary School and Jay School Corporation, and farmed many years in Jefferson Township.
 Norma was a member of New Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church.
 Norma married Jim DeVoss on Aug. 6, 1947, he passed away on Dec. 6, 2000.
 Survivors include:
 Three sons — Larry DeVoss (companion: Jayne Cunningham), Franklin, Indiana, Gary DeVoss (wife: Kay), Redkey, Indiana, and Tim DeVoss (wife: Charlotte), Portland, Indiana
 Thirteen grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren
 Visitation will be held Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Huey Kelly will officiate the service and burial will take place at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie.
 Memorials may be directed to New Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church or Everheart Hospice.
 Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.



DeVoss

She was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Aug. 11, 1948, the daughter of Phillip and Mildred (Friedrich) Haley Sr.
 Melodi retired in 2011 after working as a manager for Harvest Land Co-Op in Geneva. Afterward, she had worked for Adam's Physical Therapy in Portland. She was a 1966 Portland High School graduate, member of Zion Lutheran Church, Altrusa and Portland Morning Optimists, and was active in the Bread of Life. She enjoyed time at the swimming pool and children.
 Surviving are her daughter Emily Hicks (husband: Matt) of Portland; sister Ruby Shaneyfelt (husband: Dennis, deceased); sister-in-law Donna Robinson of Portland; and many nieces and nephews.
 She was preceded in death by a brother, Phillip Haley.
 Funeral services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation is Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. The wearing of masks are requested.
 Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.
 Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com



Haley

Lupe) of San Antonio, Texas, and Bill Ellsworth (wife: Machele) of Portland; two nephews; three nieces; one great-nephew; and three great-nieces.
 Graveside services will be Saturday, April 10, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. in the Green Park Cemetery.
 Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.
 Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
 Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.
Dustin Tighe
 June 27, 1994-April 5, 2021
 Dustin Tighe, age 26, of Marion, Indiana, passed away Monday, April 5, 2021, in Marion General Hospital.
 He was born in Portland on June 27, 1994, the son of Kevin Tighe and Debra Ashurn Tighe. He attended Jay County schools.
 Surviving are his mother Debra Tighe (fiance: Danny Fields) of Marion; brother Joshua Ashburn of Marion; sister Chelsea Hoffman (husband: Andrew) of Ridgeville; two nieces; and several aunts and uncles.
 Funeral services will be Friday, April 9, 2021, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey. Visitation will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m.
 Memorials can be made to the funeral home to help with expenses.
 Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.
Sylvia K. Shetler, rural Berne, a relative of area residents, died Wednesday at her home. Services will be at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Shetler residence, 2406 W. 350 South, Berne.

David Ellsworth
 Dec. 1, 1969-March 18, 2021
 David Dean Ellsworth, age 51, of Portland passed away Thursday, March 18, 2021, in the IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.
 He was born in Portland on Dec. 1, 1969, the son of Larry Ellsworth and Peggy Grile. He was a service tech and auto mechanic in Austin, Texas. He graduated in 1988 from Jay County High School and attended Walnut Corner Church. David enjoyed NASCAR and fishing, and was a Texas Longhorn fan.
 Surviving are three brothers, Danny Ellsworth (wife: Lin) of Portland, Michael Ellsworth (wife:

our interests ... but you know, we were coming from a full repeal," said Mike Leppert, who's representing the Conservation Law Center and the American Society of Landscape Architects in opposition to the bill. "This is the kind of amendment that would have been concerning if it were the original version of it, but its certainly a lot better than what was on the table before."

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.

Wetlands ...

Continued from page 1
 "Not everyone was in favor of the amendment, however. Democrat and Republican representatives voted in favor of the bill passing out committee, but said they may change their minds on the House floor.
 Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City, said it was a matter of "taking what he could get." (Prescott's district includes Jay County.)
 "Senate Bill 389 in its original form was a much stronger bill, a better bill," Prescott said in committee. "IDEM is an agency that has been out of control and we need to make sure we reign them in."
 Opponents of the bill saw the amendment as a step in the right direction, although the it is still more stringent than they would like.
 "It's clearly a step toward

mask, avoiding close contact when around others, frequent hand washing and surface cleaning as ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Indiana restrictions that had been in place in some form since March 2020 were lifted Tuesday with some exceptions, including on school property. The state's mask mandate was removed, though masks are still recommended.
 The virus causes a range of symptoms, which can appear two to 14 days after exposure.

Blue ...

Continued from page 1
 The health department was also accepting walk-in appointments this afternoon.
 As of Wednesday, more than 8,300 doses of coronavirus vaccine had been administered in Jay County. A total of 3,424 have been fully vaccinated.
 Statewide, more than 3.1 million doses have been administered, with 1.29 million fully vaccinated.
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines encourage wearing a

SERVICES

Today Gray , Annota: 2 p.m., Walker Funeral Home, 248 E. South St., Winchester.
Friday DeVoss , Norma: 10 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Saturday Shetler , Sylvia: 9 a.m., Shetler residence, 2406 W. 350 South, Berne. Ellsworth , David: 11:30 a.m., Green Park Cemetery, Portland. Tighe , Dustin: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Haley , Melodi: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Optimists donate

Portland Optimist Club recently made several donations — \$500 to the Jay County High School girls tennis team and \$300 to the Jay County Summer Swim Team. It also donated to Jay Community Center for its Boomer Sports program. Pictured, Jeff Bowen presents checks to summer swim team president Chantel Beiswanger (right) and coach Dave Cramer, Lily Hedges and Courtney Benter (below) of the girls tennis team.



Work at home creates conflict

DEAR ABBY: As the pandemic has forced many to work remotely, I feel certain I'm not the only person with this dilemma. I have been working from home since last March. My fiance, on the other hand, has a manual labor job in a skilled trade. Abby, it seems like every other day he picks a fight with me because he thinks I should have the house clean, chores done and dinner cooked when he returns from work, despite the fact that I have been working at my job all day.

He equates my being home to me being able to take care of all the chores. He criticizes me and calls me lazy and other names all the time. Regardless of what he thinks, I have a demanding job in an IT field, which is no less demanding because I'm home. It involves numerous conference calls all day.

I have an opportunity now where some of us can come back to the office, but because I have an autoimmune disease, I'm hesitant. Should I go back to the office to keep the peace or remain working from home, which I actually enjoy? I have talked to

Dear Abby



him about this repeatedly, and it not only doesn't seem to be getting any better, it's getting worse. Your thoughts? — TELECOM-MUTING IN FLORIDA

DEAR TELECOM-MUTING: Your physical health must come first. If returning to the office will endanger your health, you must stay home and protect it.

Your mental health comes next. Your fiance appears to be having a chauvinistic fever dream in which he has been transported back to the 1950s. For the last quarter of a century — and more — men have been helping their partners with the "chores" he's harassing you about. If he can't dig deep and find it in his heart to chip in, then for the sake of your health and your sanity, PLEASE rethink this engagement, because it is unhealthy.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

Blood drives scheduled for April

There will be multiple opportunities to give blood this month.

The American Red Cross will host a series of blood drives in April, including one each in Portland and Bryant.

There will be a drive from 2 to 7 p.m. April 20 at Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St. A drive is also scheduled for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 27 at Jay Community Center.

Additional blood drives in adjacent counties are slated for April 16 at Riverside Center in Decatur and Bluffton-Wells County Public

Taking Note

Library, April 20 at the library in Bluffton and April 25 at Hope Missionary Church in Bluffton. Delaware County Fairgrounds will play host to blood drives on Monday as well as April 22 and May 4.

To schedule an appointment visit

redcrossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767.

Process underway

Jay School Corporation's enrollment process for kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year is underway.

The process begins online by filling out a registration form at jayschoolcorp.org. After filling out the form, parents will be contacted in may about setting up a kindergarten assessment. For that session, parents will need to bring a copy of their child's birth certificate and social security numbers.

Community Calendar

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

Today
SENIOR CITIZENS CARD CLUB — Will meet at 1 p.m. on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.
PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at Richards Restaurant in Portland.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 211 AUXILIARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 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 - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will

meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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.

Saturday

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

Dr. Thomas Banta
1413 W. Votaw St.,
Portland
260-726-7822

Home Idea Center
901 Industrial Dr.
Ft. Recovery, OH
419-375-4951
www.ehomeidea.com

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition
100 N. Meridian St.,
Portland, IN 47371
Email:
jcdpccontact@gmail.com

Williams Auto Parts, Inc.
1127 Detroit Ave.
Portland, IN
8-5:30 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat & Sun.
Used auto parts since 1951
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Baird Freeman Funeral Home
221 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN
260-726-7171

Barnes Sewer & Septic, LLC
3075 N. 100 W., Winchester
765-584-7295
www.barnesseptic.com

Ohio Valley Gas
129 E. Main St.,
Portland
260-726-8114
www.ovgc.com

Dunn Family Dental Care
110 W. North St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-8007

Fuqua Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep & Ram
127 E. Commerce St., Dunkirk
Garage is open!
765-768-6224
www.fuquachrysler.com

Grube Auctioneering
111 1/4 E. Butler St.
Ft. Recovery, OH
419-305-9202
grubeauctioneering@gmail.com
Live & online auctions

Cascio Family Dental Care
110 W. North St. Suite B
Portland, IN
260-726-7006
New patients are always welcome

Fortkamp Foam
3226 Wabash Road
Ft. Recovery, OH
419-852-1390
Fortkampfoam.com

Find Local Businesses & Services

All Circuit Electrical, LLC
5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN
260-997-8336
www.allcircuitelctrical.com

Display Craft Signs
630 E. Votaw St.
Portland, IN
260-726-4535

Adair Processing
190 N. Union St.
Pennville, IN
260-731-3221

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

It's our obligation to pursue truth

To the editor:

Growing up, I was taught the importance of telling the truth, even if it hurt.

Honesty is a highly regarded character trait that helps define a person as credible. The depths of meaningful relationships with others is heavily dependent on being truthful.

But what is true today?

How can you be truthful about information you share if you lack clarity of the reliability of those alleged facts?

And how does relative truth, which is influenced by perspective, play into this?

I love the taste of fish, but my wife doesn't. Who's correct in describing whether or not it's worth eating?

We live in an information age with access to various forms of media at our fingertips. However, having more information doesn't increase the amount of available truth. Sometimes information is deliberately skewed to achieve other goals — like gaining power or wealth, for examples.

Letters to the Editor

This reminds me of Arthur Sackler who, in the 1960s, used the persuasive power of advertising to promote the use of Valium. His team pitched directly to doctors that this pill was a remedy for all kinds of ailments. Within the following decade, and billions of dollars in profits later, his pharmaceutical company was accused of not warning of the drug's addictive potential. Yet years later, the same advertising strategies were applied (and acceptable) to market another opiate painkiller — OxyContin. On a more personal note, I can't help but reflect on an invasive surgery I had over five years ago. At the time, my surgeon claimed the benign tumor

on my pancreas that I'd been monitoring for several years with my doctor had a 30% chance of being cancerous. I had it removed and later questioned the need for the entire "whipple procedure." The surgeon simply said that I might have developed pancreatitis. I now daily deal with surgical hernias in my abdomen and malabsorption of some nutrients for something that might have happened.

Fortunately, that experience led to my hesitancy in having a recommended triple bypass surgery a year and a half later. With prayer intervention intensifying my feelings of reservation about the upcoming surgery, I postponed the procedure. A second catheterization allegedly confirmed that the blockage still existed in the arteries, but I declined the bypass surgery anyway.

Since then I've had no issues with my heart. Last spring — three years later — I decided to get a second opinion. The cardi-

ologist had me complete a stress test. I passed with flying colors. The doctor shared his interpretation of the images that were taken of my heart three years prior. He determined those images indicated that two of the arteries needed no attention, while the third may have benefitted from a simple stent. He described me as a 1% heart risk.

These examples of distorted truth — motivated by pride, greed or whatever — are not intended to undermine the integrity of all skilled professionals or corporate entities that truly aspire to positively influence mankind. There is a plethora of honest and well-intended people, which can even include many political figures, that desire to ethically serve the public, to share, and act on what is true.

Ultimately, every individual has the responsibility to seek truth, regardless of how daunting this task may appear. Sorting out truth amidst the deluge

of information we are constantly inundated with can be extremely challenging. This is why some call on God for clarity and discernment — not out of weakness, but to acknowledge that He's the expert in the matter. For Jesus said that He's the way, the truth and the life.

Although most of us are raised with the instructions to be truthful (even if it hurts) and that "honesty is the best policy," not all people are committed to this selfless quest. It's a hard truth to accept, but unfortunately some have other motivating factors that draw a stronger allegiance.

Truth can be found, but you must seek it. To simply accept an assertion based on a seemingly astute presentation is a discredit to the mind you've been gifted with. As the only truly intelligent species on earth, we're obliged to pursue truth.

Sincerely,
Doug Johnson
Rural Portland

Are we ready for changes?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

I've been asked (by two readers) to write about two questions.

This flood of interest is overwhelming.

Thus, with much humility, I offer the following opinions:

On teacher's pay: Michael Hicks at Ball State University has offered two columns on the subject.

He makes the statistical argument well about Indiana's delinquency regarding the pay of teachers.

Our compensation for teachers is below the market rate. This likely, but not necessarily, gives us teachers who are below standard quality. Are the teachers' union and the local school boards ready to dismiss or retrain teachers who do not perform up to the standards to which we aspire?

Perhaps, we don't need higher pay for teachers. Rather, do we need pay for more teachers with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of today's students? Both more pay and more teachers suggests higher taxes, even for businesses.

That brings us to our teacher colleges. Are they admitting sub-par students and turning out sub-par graduates? Likewise, are Indiana voters and legislators willing to upgrade the quality of our school boards and do battle with all the organizations mentioned thus far?

I see no evidence Hoosiers are ready to improve our schools. Why aren't the university presidents out in front on this effort? Must Mitch Daniels do everything alone?

As for the Electoral College, the "problem" can be resolved without a Constitutional amendment. Maine and Nebraska have shown us the way.

In those two states, two electors go to the party that wins the statewide vote, just as today. Each remaining elector goes to the party winning each congressional seat.

Eye on the Pie



In Indiana, we had eleven electoral votes in 2020.

Under the current winner-take-all rule, all 11 electoral votes went to the winner of Indiana's presidential vote, Donald Trump.

If the Maine/Nebraska system had been operative, two electoral seats would go automatically to the Republicans. But with Democrats winning two congressional races, they would get two electoral votes; Republicans would get seven electors based on their seven congressional wins. In total, the score would have been Republicans 9, Democrats 2.

By my count, 27 states have split delegations to the House of Representatives.

In California, instead of all 55 electoral votes going to Biden, under the Maine/Nebraska system, Biden 44, Trump 11. In Texas it would have been Republican 22, Democrat 13 instead of Republican 35, Democrat 0.

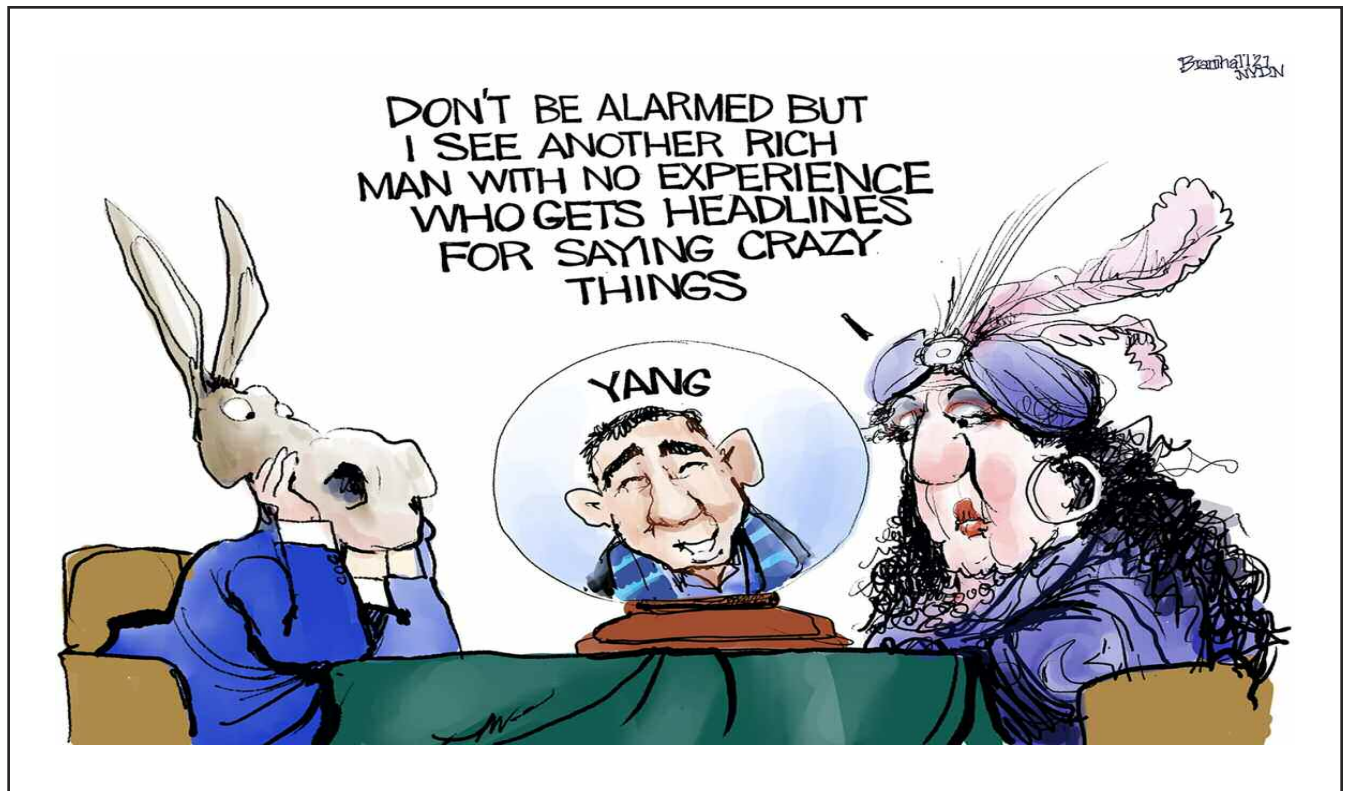
With the Maine/Nebraska model in place, the 2020 electoral count would have been Democrat 275, Republican 263 instead of Democrat 306, Republican 232.

The current system gave Biden 57% of electors; the proposed system would reduce that to 51%, matching the popular vote.

With these changes, candidates and their parties would pay more attention to congressional districts.

We might increase competition as each party has reason to turnout their voters, winning districts and improving their statewide vote.

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



One cheer for earmarks

By RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

After a 10-year hiatus, earmarks are coming back to the U.S. Congress. Democrats and Republicans alike repudiated the practice of letting congressmen direct federal spending to specific projects and enterprises around the start of President Barack Obama's administration. Now both parties have decided to revive it, with reforms.

The decision should inspire mixed feelings. Earmarking isn't the most noble activity a congressman can undertake, and it can even be corrupt. But the ban hasn't lived up to the hopes that were invested in it.

The campaign against earmarks took off during the last years of the George W. Bush administration. The number of earmarks had vastly increased starting in the mid-1990s. Earmarks played a role in congressional scandals of the time. Representative Duke Cunningham, a California Republican, resigned and went to prison after it emerged that he had taken bribes to steer defense contracts to certain companies.

Conservatives were starting to sour on Bush, regarding him as a big spender, and earmarks became a symbol to them of the party's wrong turn during his era. "Earmarks are the gateway drug to overspending," said Tom Coburn in 2006, when he was a Republican senator from Oklahoma. "And if you'll get rid of earmarks, you're going to start seeing a fiscally more conservative Senate." Senators would no longer be tempted to vote for bills they knew deserved their opposition but included goodies for their constituents. At least that was the theory.

In his 2011 State of the Union address, Obama presented the end of earmarks as a necessary step toward restoring confidence in government.

Ramesh Ponnuru



"Because the American people deserve to know that special interests aren't larding up legislation with pet projects," he declared, "both parties in Congress should know this: If a bill comes to my desk with earmarks inside, I will veto it. I will veto it."

Spending on earmarks was never a large part of the budget. A new report on earmarks by Zachary Courser and Kevin Kosar for the American Enterprise Institute points out that "even at their peak, earmarks accounted for only 3% of total discretionary spending — and discretionary spending is only about a third of all federal outlays."

In the first years of the earmark moratorium, though, Coburn's gateway-drug argument looked pretty good. Federal spending and the federal deficit shrank as a share of the economy. But the picture got worse during Donald Trump's presidency. A bipartisan spending spree took place even with earmarks gone.

The earmark ban didn't even get rid of earmarks so much as it drove them underground. Members of Congress turned to "lettermarks": Instead of specifying who should get federal money in bills or committee reports, they wrote letters to pressure the agencies administering the spending to direct it to favored recipients. The effect was to make such directed spending depend more on which party held the White House. Liberal Democrats in Congress got results from writing to Obama's

Labor Department to get stimulus funds, but Republicans generally didn't.

Speaking of Obama, his hope was also dashed. "Trust and confidence" in Congress, as measured by Gallup, was not high a decade ago, but managed to sink further during the earmark-free decade. Congressmen do not seem to have had any difficulty getting themselves into scandals without earmarks. They have made do with tax fraud, insider trading and that old standby, sexual misconduct.

It's possible that the earmark ban even lowered the repute of Congress, in an indirect way. Supporters of earmarks often argued that they helped the legislature function by giving its leaders carrots and sticks. (This was the mirror image of Coburn's argument: He thought too much legislation was passing that way.) The ban on earmarks may have made budget brinksmanship more common. But the effect should not be exaggerated. Rising partisanship surely played a larger role, and it was happening during the period of earmark proliferation.

Looking back over the last 20 years or so, earmarks appear to have been a symptom of larger trends rather than a cause. Congressmen rejected earmarks as they grew more concerned about federal spending, and have come back to them as they have shed those inhibitions. But earmarks don't themselves determine spending levels, even indirectly. The ban didn't achieve much, and lifting it will slightly strengthen an enfeebled Congress and weaken an over-mighty presidency. One cheer, then, for the return.

Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a senior editor at National Review and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

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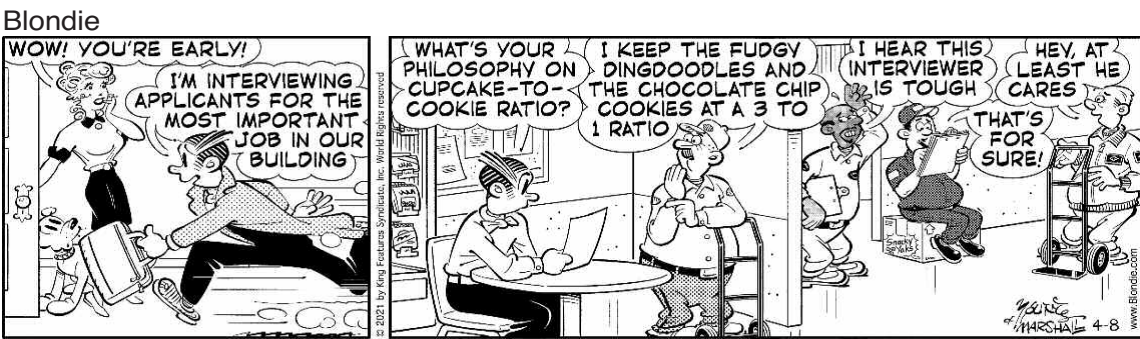
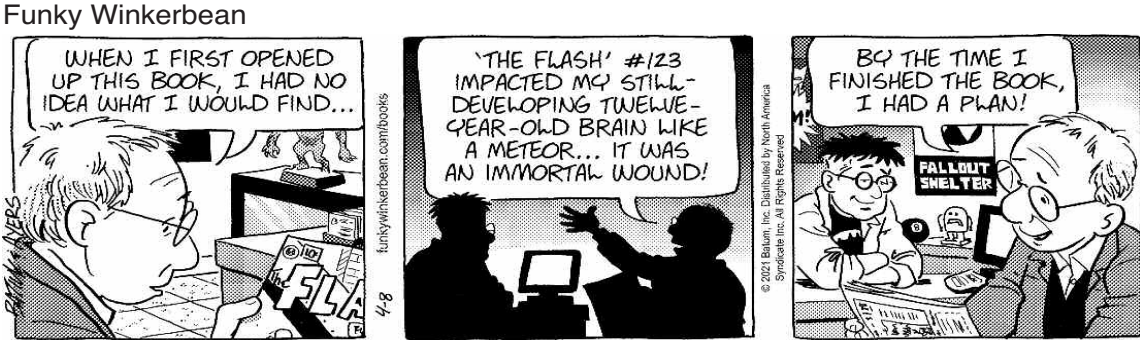
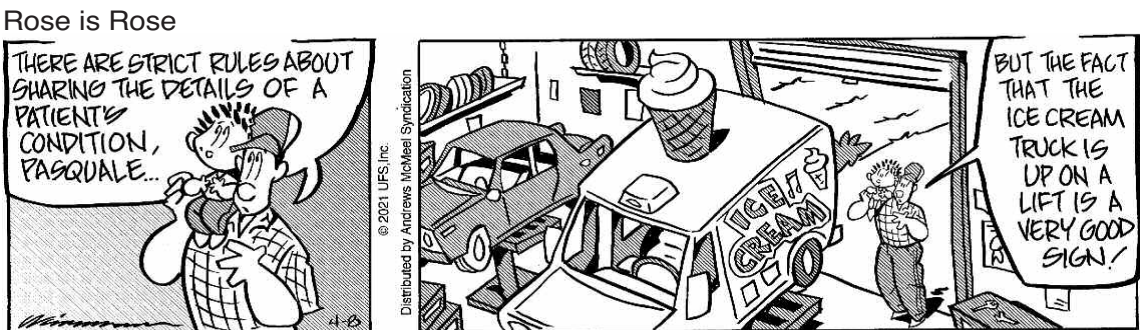
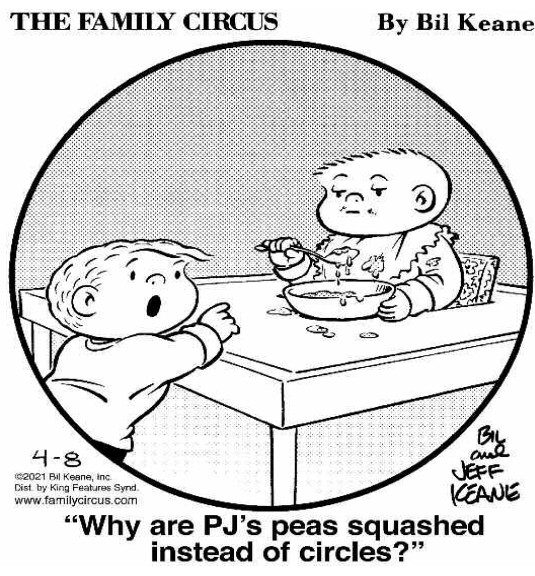
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8 No neatnik
12 Advertising award
13 — out a living
14 Suffix for billion
15 "Roots" author
16 Brain scan (Abbr.)
17 Sent a dupe to
18 Practiced the tango
20 Plot
22 The whole enchilada
23 Poetic dusk
24 Active one
27 "Please turn on the lights!"
32 City area, for short
33 Refusals
34 Nosh

DOWN

1 Large amount
2 Jazzy Fitzgerald
3 Nothing, in Nantes
4 Freight train unit
5 Young plant
6 Guitar's kin
7 Pleads
8 Potpourri bag
9 Driving needs
10 Utah city
11 Eliot's "Adam —"
19 Chicago transport
21 100 yrs. People hit
24 Gloomy guy
25 Tram load
26 "A Christmas Carol" name
28 Iowa college
29 Tax payer, e.g.
30 Hearing thing
31 UFO pilots
36 Most ashen
37 Bio stat
38 "Make it —!"
41 "I see"
42 Blunder
43 Lighten
44 Personnel list
46 500 sheets
47 Idle of Monty Python
48 Actress Merrill
51 Lock opener

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 4-8

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LeFevre 3rd for Fordham

Robby LeFevre found himself back near the top of the standings.

LeFevre, a 2019 Fort Recovery High School graduate, earned a pair of top-five finishes for the Fordham University men's track team Friday at the Stockton Invitational.

The 10-time OHSAA state medalist placed third in the 100-meter dash with his time of 11.98 seconds.

In the 200 dash, LeFevre crossed the finish line in 23.83 seconds to place fifth.

Nana Anit of Montclair State won both of the races. He had times of 11.52 seconds in the 100 dash and 22.68 in the 200 dash.

The Fordham Rams compete this weekend in the Metropolitan Championships in New York.

Collegiate Check-up

Erie baseball team Saturday in the first game of a doubleheader against Kentucky Wesleyan.

Wendel started and lasted five innings, allowing four earned runs on seven hits while striking out six and walking one. The Storm (3-16) lost 6-4, and Wendel did not factor into the decision.

In five appearances this year, Wendel is 0-2 with a 6.41 ERA and 21 strikeouts and eight walks in 19 2/3 innings.

Kendal Garringer Jay County - 2019

Was third in two events for the Manchester University women's track team Saturday at the Hanover Invitational.

Garringer had a height of 4 feet, 11.5 inches, in high jump to place third. Elizabeth Evans won with her jump of 5 feet, 8.75 inches.

Garringer was also third in the triple jump with a distance of 31 feet, 2 inches. Nosa Igiehon of Rose-Hulman had a winning distance of 35 feet, 7.75 inches.

In the 100-meter dash, Garringer had a time of 14.1 seconds to take fourth.

Manchester scored 96 points for third out of four teams.

Cade Wendel Fort Rec. - 2018

Pitched for the Lake

Collin Haines Jay County - 2018

Led the Indiana University-South Bend men's golf team as it competed in the TPC Deer Run Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

Haines shot 80 on each day of the two-day tournament hosted by Lawrence Tech. His tournament total of 160 was tied for 43rd overall.

The Titans shot 649 to place 12th out of 16 teams.

Nick Hayden Jay County - 2017

Also competed for the IU-South Bend men's golf team in the TPC Deer Run Invitational.

Hayden shot 81 on the first day, and added two strokes on the second for a tournament score of 164, which placed him 56th.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Little late

Haleigh Clayton, right, of the Jay County High School softball team, is a little late applying a tag to prevent Savanna Morris of Blackford from scoring a run during the second inning of their game Monday night at JCHS. After trailing 4-0, Jay County rallied for a 9-4 victory against the Bruins.

Tennis opens with shutout

HARTFORD CITY — The Patriots' season opener was delayed two days.

They still cruised past the Bruins. Jay County High School's girls tennis team began its 2021 season Wednesday by beating the Blackford Bruins, 5-0.

Lyric Garringer and Kierston Blunk were hardly challenged in their victories. Garringer topped Vanessa Carroll 6-1, 6-1 in their No. 2 singles contest, and Blunk didn't surrender a game in beating Sydney

Patriots cruise past Bruins, three get first career wins

Thornburgh 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3 singles for her first career victory.

At No. 1 singles, Grace Brewster also got the first win of her career, beating Sissy McNeal 6-2, 6-4.

Jay County's No. 1 doubles team

of Madison Dirksen and Rachel Muhlenkamp got the first wins of their career, beating Alli Clamme and Ammee Uggan 6-0, 6-0.

The Patriots received a forfeit at No. 2 doubles.

Pacers set season high

By J. MICHAEL
The Indianapolis Star
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves are a team the Indiana Pacers are supposed to beat, but given the way they've played lately, that's not a given.

The Timberwolves were the chicken soup that the Pacers needed Wednesday to settle themselves during a sickly stretch of play at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

They beat the Timberwolves 141-137 to sweep the season series, playing without Malcolm Brogdon (right hip), Domantas Sabonis (left ankle) and Myles Turner (left ankle).

The Pacers (23-27) were led by Aaron Holiday (season-high 22 points), Justin Holiday (21 points), Caris LeVert (18 points), JaKarr Sampson (season-high 16 points), Goga Bitadze (season-high 14 points), T.J. McConnell (19 points, season-high 15 assists) and Doug McDermott (12 points).

After a shaky start when the Pacers continued to allow second chances, they tightened up, even though they still were out-rebounded 53-36.

Karl-Anthony Towns (32 points, 12 rebounds, 6 assists) led Minnesota, which lost to Indiana in overtime Feb. 17 when Sabonis had a 36-point triple-double. Anthony Edwards (27 points), Ricky Rubio (17 points), Naz Reid (16 points) and D'Angelo Russell (17 points) sparked the comeback that fell short.

The Timberwolves (13-38) trimmed a 21-point halftime deficit to less than 10 after Edwards went on an 11-point run of his own early in the fourth quarter and eventually got it down to two points before the Pacers held on.

Goga Bitadze enters starting lineup

The Pacers rolled out their 15th different starting lineup with Bitadze being in it

for the first time this season. He matched up with Towns, and 6-7 forward Sampson served as his undersized backup. Bitadze scored 12 of his points in a 77-point first half. Oshae Brissett, a 6-7 forward on a 10-day contract, played in the middle when both picked up 2 fouls. A dunk by Reid cut the Pacers' lead to 100-87 to make it uncomfortable, but Sampson swapped in behind Aaron Holiday's drive and inside of 3 players for Minnesota to snatch the offensive rebound for the putback.

Aaron Holiday abuses Timberwolves

The Timberwolves tried to get away with not really covering Aaron Holiday. They stunted to him on his jump shot or tried to defend him above the arc with Jake Layman (9 points). He abused the mismatch in making 6 of 8 shots, including all 4 from 3. With the shot clock winding down to begin the fourth, Holiday buried a deep 3 over Reid. His backcourt-mate McConnell got whatever he wanted as the Pacers called plays for him to isolate, beat his man off the dribble and get into the paint. With 25.6 seconds left and the shot clock about to expire, McConnell made a desperation corner 3 for Indiana's last field goal in a 1-possession game.

Justin Holiday breaks out of shooting slump

Justin Holiday hasn't shot the ball well from 3 lately shooting 25% in his previous 8 games, but in the fourth with Indiana's lead down to 112-103, he made consecutive 3s to hold off a surge. Then Edmond Sumner (7 points), who has shot almost 60% overall in his previous 7 games, got the bounce on a corner 3. A 3 from Edwards got the Timberwolves to 125-120 only for Holiday to respond immediately with another 3. Russell's 3 made it 128-125. Holiday answered again with a second-chance 3 to shut down another threat.



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Apply online at <https://fcc-na.com/employment-opportunities/>

Send resumes to Resumes@e-fcca.com

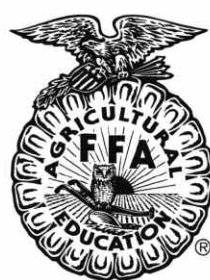
Text "fccapply" to 474747

Like us on Facebook. An equal opportunity employer.

FCC (Adams), LLC is a World Leader in clutch technology. Founded in 2003 we are celebrating our years of successful growth. We bring innovative products and processes to the world market. We look forward to hearing from you.

~The FCC (Adams) Staff

This will be a socially distanced event. Please pull in our main drive entrance and drive through the circle loop. Please wear a facemask upon arrival.



Jay County FFA Parent - Member Banquet

Friday, April 9th 6:30 p.m.

in the

Jay County Jr.-Sr. High Auxiliary Gym