

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Charge of murder is filed

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A Portland woman has been formally charged with neglecting and murdering her 5-year-old son and molesting her 9-year-old daughter.

Chelsea L. Crossland, 27, was charged in Jay Circuit Court Wednesday morning with murder and a Level 1 felony for neglect of a dependent resulting in death. She was also charged separately with a Level 1 felony for child molestation.

Christian Crossland, 5, was found dead in his fam-

ily's house at 689 S. Western Avenue on March 24. His mother, Chelsea Crossland, told Portland police her son fell and became unrespon-

### Portland woman charged for 5-year-old son's death; accused of molesting daughter

According to a probable cause affidavit filed in connection with the case, Christian was "severely malnourished, had numerous bruises and contusions

on his body and had abrasions and injuries to his face." He was found only wearing a diaper, and the condition of their home was "unkept and filthy,"

according to the affidavit.

An autopsy on the boy's remains Friday morning indicated he suffered blunt force trauma to the head and mouth. It also found evidence he "failed to thrive", having been malnourished and dehydrated.

Indiana State Police conducted an investigation into the case with assis-



Crossland

tance from Portland Police Department, Indiana Department of Child Services, Jay County Coroner's Office and Jay County Prosecutor's Office.

During a forensic interview Saturday, Crossland's 9-year-old daughter told police her mother beat, spanked and choked Christian with her hands and other objects, the affidavit says. She said Crossland didn't immediately call for emergency services and talked about disposing of Christian's body.

See **Murder** page 2

## Kloer, Prescott to face off again

### Candidates will meet in District 33 rematch

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The contest for the Republican nomination for state representative is a familiar one.

The same two candidates faced each other two years ago.

Incumbent State Rep. J.D. Prescott is again facing a challenge from Brittany Kloer for the District 33 seat that now represents the southern two-thirds of Jay County.

Prescott, a Union City resident, is in the midst of his second term representing District 33. He works as a real estate agent and helps on his family farm during planting and harvest seasons.

Kloer is a Portland resident who is director of the Area 18 Career and Technical Education Cooperative and a former agriculture teacher at Jay County High School. A Henry County native, she earned her bachelor's degree in agriculture education and her master's degree in education administration at Purdue University.

When they met in the 2020 GOP primary, Prescott won with more than 69% of the vote. (He earned 63% of the vote in Jay County.)

District 33, which previously covered Jay and Randolph counties as well as part of Delaware County was redrawn in the fall and now covers the southern two-thirds of Jay County, all of Randolph and Blackford counties, and part of Delaware and Henry counties. (The northern third of the county is now part of District 79, currently represented by Matt Lehman of Berne.)

Prescott said he believes he has been true to who is and emphasized his push for Christian conservative values and balanced budgets. He said as a legislator he has focused on the needs of his constituents.

Kloer indicated that she chose to run again because she feels the changes that were hoped for in the legislature have not come to fruition. She said Prescott made promises that were not met and was critical of him on pro-life issues, saying legislation he supported in that area is not strong enough.

She also said she feels legislators should be focusing on helping their districts rather than focusing on issues happening elsewhere.

See **Again** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## New equipment

Representatives from WAZER explain some of the details of their company's compact waterjet cutter to Jay County Junior-Senior High School teachers Matt Slavik (left) and Cody Linville after installing the new piece of equipment Wednesday afternoon.

## Biden orders release of oil

By ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is ordering the release of 1 million barrels of oil per day from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve for six months, the White House said today, in a bid to control energy prices that have spiked as the

U.S. and allies imposed steep sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Biden was making the formal announcement later today in remarks on his administration's plans to combat rising gas prices.

The White House says Biden will also call on Congress to impose financial penalties on oil

and gas companies that lease public lands but aren't producing energy.

High prices have not coaxed a meaningful jump in oil production. The planned release is a way to increase supplies. The markets reacted quickly with crude oil prices dropping more than 3% this morning to roughly \$104 a barrel. Still, oil is up from rough-

ly \$60 a year ago as supplies have not kept up with demand as the world economy began to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic.

Americans on average use about 21 million barrels of oil daily, with about 40% of the consumption devoted to gasoline, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

See **Oil** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Visiting John Jay

Richard Haney (right) speaks with Jay County High School students at John Jay Center for Learning on Wednesday. Juniors toured the facility to learn about future postsecondary education and work opportunities. Haney is an instructor of industrial maintenance, a program that has been offered at the learning center since 2018.

### Deaths

**Jack McFarland**, 89, Muncie  
**James Moneysmith**, 88, Union City, Ohio  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 72 degrees early Wednesday before it got cooler throughout the day with the low dipping to 43.

There is a chance of rain tonight with snow showers possible after midnight. The low will be 32.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Annie Sellick & the Hot Club of Nashville will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Hall-Moser Theatre in the Performing Arts Center on the Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [myartsplace.org](http://myartsplace.org).

### Coming up

**Friday** — A look at the GOP race for the nomination for Jay County Sheriff.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Portland City Council meeting.



# Obituaries

## Jack McFarland

May 5, 1932-March 28, 2022  
Jack S. McFarland, 89, Muncie, passed away Monday evening, March 28, 2022, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.  
He was born Thursday, May 5, 1932, in Portland, Indiana, the son of George Arch and Geraldine Marie (Garber) McFarland. Jack was a very active member of the First Presbyterian Church where he was a deacon and traveled on many missionary trips. He was also very

involved in the Lions Club, the Elks Lodge, the Moose Lodge and the Isanogel Center. Jack retired as purchasing director at Ball State University. He loved to play golf and go fishing. Jack honorably served his country in the United States Navy.  
Survivors include his daughter, Teresa (husband: Bill) Caudill; son Lt. Col. (retired) Jason S. (wife: Elizabeth) McFar-



land; brother John A. (wife: Bonnie) McFarland; and grandchildren Kaitlyn Caudill, Cari Caudill, Parker (wife: Paige) McFarland, Isabella McFarland and SarahScott McFarland.  
He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Marie McFarland; his stepmother, Helen McFarland; his wife, Judith Ann (Myers) McFarland; brother Robert McFarland; and sister Betty Yeager.  
Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Elm Ridge Funeral Home, 4600 W. Kilgore Ave., Muncie, Indiana, with

the Rev. Dr. Ronald Naylor officiating. Burial will follow in Elm Ridge Memorial Park.  
Family and friends may call from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at Elm Ridge Funeral Home.  
Memorial contributions may be directed to First Presbyterian Church, 1400 W. Riverside Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303.  
Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [elmridgefuneralhome.com](http://elmridgefuneralhome.com).  
**James Moneysmith**, Union City, Ohio, who was born in Jay County,

Nov. 8, 1933-March 28, 2022. Services will be held at noon Saturday at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery, with Pastor Bruce Bryan officiating.  
.....  
*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

Friday 4/1	Saturday 4/2	Sunday 4/3	Monday 4/4	Tuesday 4/5
45/30 Friday's weather looks to be partly sunny with wind gusts reaching as high as 20 mph.	52/35 There's a 50% chance of rain after 2 p.m. Otherwise, partly sunny with a low around 35.	53/36 Mostly sunny skies are on the horizon for Sunday, with rain expected late.	54/41 There's a 40% chance of rain after 8 a.m. under mostly cloudy skies.	58/48 More rain is expected Tuesday, along with mostly cloudy skies. The may be 58.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 3-7-21-31-37 Power Ball: 11 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$222 million	Hoosier Lotto: 1-11-23-25-35-45 Estimated jackpot: \$9.4 million
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$70 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 7-7-7 Pick 4: 1-7-6-3 Pick 5: 1-6-7-4-9 Evening Pick 3: 9-8-5 Pick 4: 1-1-8-2 Pick 5: 9-4-2-6-0 Rolling Cash: 5-17-31-32-39 Classic Lotto: 16-31-37-40-42-48 Kicker: 2-9-8-5-1-8 Estimated jackpot: \$24.8 million
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 2-9-7 Daily Four: 7-6-8-0 Evening Daily Three: 7-0-4 Daily Four: 4-3-0-3 Quick Draw: 2-3-11-18-22-23-26-27-30-34-45-47-48-55-57-62-69-70-71-73 Cash 5: 3-12-27-36-43	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....7.22 April corn .....7.22 Wheat .....8.24	Wheat ..... 9.34 April wheat ..... 9.34
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....7.27 April corn .....7.27 May corn.....7.32	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....7.04 April corn .....7.04 Beans .....16.45 April beans .....16.45 March wheat.....9.29
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.89 April corn .....6.89 Beans .....16.50 April beans .....16.50	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....7.02 April corn .....7.02 Beans .....16.11 April beans .....16.11 Wheat .....9.19

## Today in history

On March 31, 1991, the Warsaw Pact military alliance came to an end.  
In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain issued an edict expelling Jews from Spanish soil, except those willing to convert to Christianity.  
In 1814, Paris was occupied by a coalition of Russian, Prussian and Austrian forces; the surrender of the French capital forced the abdication of Emperor Napoleon.  
In 1917, the United States took formal possession of the Virgin Islands from Denmark.  
In 1931, Notre Dame college football coach Knute Rockne, 43, was killed in the crash of a TWA plane in Bazaar, Kansas.  
In 1968, at the conclusion of a nationally broadcast address on Vietnam, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned listeners by declaring, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."  
In 1972, United Telephone Company of Indiana announced that extended area service between Portland, Pennville and Bryant would go into effect four days late.  
—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
<b>Tuesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, School-house Community Center.

## Murder ...

Continued from page 1  
Crossland regularly punished Christian with withholding food from him for days at a time, her daughter said in the interview. Nicholas Riddle, the boy's father, told police in an interview that Crossland had said to him before she

wished Christian were dead.  
Her daughter also told police Crossland sexually abused her for two years by inserting her fingers into the girl's vagina, according to the affidavit.  
Crossland was arrested Monday following a Depart-

ment of Child Services court hearing at Jay County Courthouse. She's being held on a \$100,000 bond in Jay County Jail.  
In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years with an advisory sentence of 55 years. A Level 1 felony for neglect of a

dependent resulting in death and a Level 1 felony for child molestation when the person is at least 21 years old each carry a sentence of 20 to 40 years with an advisory sentence of 30 years. This case remains under investigation by Indiana State Police.

## Again ...

Continued from page 1

She called into question Prescott's support of House Bill 1134, which would have banned "divisive concepts" and required teachers to post all lesson plans online.  
"That piece of legislation just went way overboard," said Kloer, indicating that she could vote for a bill banning "divisive concepts" but not one that would unnecessarily burden teachers. "As an educator, I had one parent ask in 12 years to see the lesson plan. And I was thrilled to provide it to them because I want parent involvement just as much as the other teachers."

Prescott said he feels it important to keep "divisive concepts" out of schools and have them stick to reading, writing and arithmetic. While they may not be an issue currently in District 33, he said he wants to be proactive in "keeping politics out of the classroom." He expressed his support of school choice, saying he thinks decisions on how to educate children should be left up to the parents.

On the budget — the General Assembly will be writing its two-year budget during the 2023 session — Kloer advocated for reducing taxes. She said she was pleased that the General Assembly passed a tax refund, but said it was not enough

and referenced sales, diesel and gas taxes as being too high.

Prescott said his focuses when it comes to the budget include addressing a statewide workforce shortage, spending taxpayer dollars wisely and getting money back into the hands of constituents when possible. He touted the tax cut package passed by the legislature this year.  
"We are looking at a big surplus," he said. "That's one of the main reasons we passed the big tax cut package. So I want to make sure that we're investing in areas that are going to help with rural development. We obviously have a housing shortage as well."

On other issues, Prescott said he is "100% pro-life" and believes life begins at conception. He said he expects the legislature to return to session this summer to address abortion if the Supreme Court makes any changes to federal law through its ruling on the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health out of Mississippi.

He added that he plans to vote to overturn Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of a bill that would ban transgender women from competing in girls and women's sports.

In regard to that bill, Kloer said she favors less government regulation, noting that the IHSAA and

NCAA already have rules in place addressing transgender athletes.

She added that she is against proposed legislation to set statewide rules for solar and wind farms because she feels those decisions should be made at the local level. She also said she'd like to see a provision of House Bill 1001 overturned because it gives too much power to an unelected office.

She said she looks forward to the opportunity to serve both her home county and her native county.

"I have loved this community," she said. "I have lived here for 12 years. I was excited to see that my home county has been added back into District 33. I have been a public servant to this community for 14 years and I would like to continue that service at the statehouse."

Prescott said he wants to continue to work on issues such as rural broadband and to keep advocating for the values he has in his three-plus years in office.

"I'm going to continue to push for Christian conservative values as a whole," he said. "I'm always easily accessible. ... I'm always open and willing to conversations, just to listen ... to any new ideas. I just really appreciate having the opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing to serve."

## Oil ...

Continued from page 1  
Domestic oil production is equal to more than half of the country's usage, but high prices have not led companies to return to their pre-pandemic levels of output. The U.S. is producing on average 11.7 million barrels daily, down from 13 million barrels in early 2020.

Republican lawmakers have said the problem rests with the Biden administration being hostile to oil permits. Democrats have countered that the country needs to move to renewable energy such as wind and solar that could reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and Russia President Vladimir Putin's leverage.  
"I think the administration's anti-fossil fuel views are sort of like a religion," Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell told

Punchbowl News in an interview today. "They're kind of unconnected with the needs of not only our country but the world. This policy is driven by the hard left, which the president almost never crosses. And, until that policy changes, we're gonna have a problem."

Oil producers have been more focused on meeting the needs of investors than consumers, according to a survey released last week by the Dallas Federal Reserve. About 59% of the executives surveyed said investor pressure to preserve "capital discipline" amid high prices was the reason they weren't pumping more, while fewer than 10% blamed government regulation.

**"Look who made it to 50!"**  
Happy Birthday  
**Chad Aker!**  
Love,  
Jill, Addi, & Erin

**Celebration of Life for Jessica Kincaid Cruz**  
July 30, 1984 - March 12, 2022  
**Monday, April 4, 2022**  
**7pm-9pm**  
**at Sapphires Reception Center**  
**1100 W. Votaw St., Portland, IN**  
*Jess' favorite foods will be served*

## SERVICES

<b>Thursday</b> <b>Shawver</b> , Maxine: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Stump</b> , Mark: 11 a.m., First Church of the Nazarene, 920 S. Shank St., Portland. <b>Moneysmith</b> , James: noon, Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery. <b>McFarland</b> , Jack: 2 p.m., Elm Ridge Funeral Home, 4600 W. Kilgore Ave., Muncie.
Service listings provided by <b>PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS</b> 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 <a href="http://progressiveofficeproducts.com">progressiveofficeproducts.com</a>

**HELP Wanted special!**  
**3x5 ad** every day for a week (five days total) for \$300. (That would normally cost \$937.50.)  
Ads must run five consecutive publication days.  
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Photo provided

## Staatskongress

Five Jay County High School students studying German participated in the annual Staatskongress, an event hosted by Ball State University for the Indiana Association of Students of German. The event features various competitions and workshops for German students from high schools across Indiana. Pictured are Jay County competitors Isaac Braun, Lotta Birkert, Anastasiya Fomina, Alex Ardizzone and Evan Toney.

# Incarcerated man worries for girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I am a 26-year-old man, and I'm currently incarcerated. My girlfriend, "Diana," and I have been together for four years. She has a 6-year-old daughter, and I have a 7-year-old son. Our kids are very close, and I am also very close to her daughter.

Dear Abby



I may be locked up for some time. I have given Diana the option of moving on without me, but she says she doesn't want to do that. She is going to stay with me no matter what. That's great, but everyone around her is pregnant and having babies, and Diana tells me how much she wants another baby. Is it selfish of me to allow her to stick it out with me, knowing I can't give her what she wants? — INSIDE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INSIDE: Diana is a grown woman and capable of making this decision for herself. Just because "everyone around her" is having babies doesn't mean she has to. If she wants to wait for your release, she can have a child with you at that time, and this is what I am advising.

DEAR ABBY: I need some help trying to save my marriage. I don't talk a lot in a relationship or with other people. I am aware that communication is important in a relationship, but I never

realized how important it was until my wife told me I don't communicate enough and we started talking about divorce.

We have a 4-year-old, who I think is the glue to our marriage. I would like our marriage to last, but I'm afraid ours is so far gone it can't be fixed. Could you please help me try to save our marriage? — HANGING IN THERE OUT WEST

DEAR HANGING: Tell your wife you love her and are willing to work on your communication skills with her help, if she is willing. If her response is affirmative, the two of you should seek a referral to a licensed clinical social worker or a licensed marriage and family therapist to help you learn to communicate with each other more effectively.

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

## FRMS names honor roll students

Fort Recovery Middle School recently announced its third nine weeks honor roll.

Making the list for having straight A's are: sixth graders Brooke Bihn, Jocelyn Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Claire Gaerke, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Courtney Klenke, Kendall Ranly, Ally Roessner, Hoyt Schmitz and Eliza Smith.

Also seventh graders Tyler Dues, Cadence Eber, Carter Fortkamp, Ava Fullenkamp, Makenna Huelkamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Kiera Stump, Jennifer Wendel, James Westgerdes, and Brynn Willmann.

Also eighth graders Evvian Briner, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Brodie Hart, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison R. Heitkamp, Olivia Knapke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kremer, Megan Weitzel, Reece Wendel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.

Named to the list for making all

A's and B's are: sixth graders Layla Armstrong, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Braylon Dilworth, Jackson Dues, Haley Easton, Mackenzie Evers, Malia Grisez, Pete Guggenbiller, Madeline Hardwick, Elizabeth Heitkamp, Trip Huntsman, Elizabeth Kahlig, Liza Knapke, Shelby Knapke and McKinlee Kremer.

Also Mason Laux, Madeline Muhlenkamp, Andrew Niekamp, Hudson Overman, Stella Patch, Cora Pearson, Charity Pohlman, Madilyn Reinhard, Liana Schlarman, Ali Siegrist, Charlie Stammen, Lilah Thien, Kolton Thompson, Livy Timmerman, Huntly Ward, Madelyn Weigel and Jady Wyerick.

Also seventh graders Brody Barga, Tyler Bertke, Owen Boeckman, Alexandra Carreto, Reese Diller, Kenna Dues, Brady Evers, Grant Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Sophia Guggenbiller, Russell Hart, Aubree M. Heitkamp and Adyson Homan.

Also Hudson McAbee, Ian

McCain, Jake Meyer, Emma Schmitz, Madelyn Schoenlein, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Riley Stammen, Amber Timmerman, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Ethan Wenning, Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes, Jase Wuebker and Trevor Wycuff.

Also eighth graders Gabriel Acheson, Elijah Albers, Ella Bechtol, Alexis Braun, Aiden Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Rylee Bupp, Garrett Diller, Kyliya Dues, Zoe Dues, Zackary Ervin, Yaneth Esparza, Mallory Evers, Carson Fullenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Raymond Grube, Aubrie N. Heitkamp, Caden Homan and Jenna Homan.

Also Maleiah Kaffenberger, Cayson Kaikala, Wesley Keller, Dylan Klenke, Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Luke Lochtefeld, Russell Pohlman, Colson Post, Anthony Roessner, Danielle Schmitt, Hayden Siefring, Jesse Springer, Cletus Timmerman and Tyler Wendel.

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

PTSD SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 6 p.m. every Thursday at the Portland American Legion Post, 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

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 - 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.

### Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry

building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, April 1, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

### Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is [museumofthesoldier.com](http://museumofthesoldier.com).

### Monday

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

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay

Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday's Solution

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

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

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(Mobile Garbage Bin)

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# Encourage youth to learn the facts

To the editor:  
National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week is an annual, week-long health observance launched in 2010 by scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism became a partner in 2016 and added alcohol as a topic area for the week. National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week provides an opportunity to bring together scientists, students, educators, healthcare providers and community partners in school and community events across America. During these events, teens

## Letters to the Editor

get the opportunity to shatter the myths on substance and alcohol use, by talking to experts about how the brain, body and behaviors are affected.

The National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week starts on March 21 every year, and while our teens in Jay County are on spring break during this time,

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition did not want to miss the opportunity to utilize this amazing learning experience for them. For our teens in the Jay County community to participate in National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, we are coming into all Jay County high schools this week, and setting up tables with activities and contests during lunch hours.

All students will have the chance to obtain handouts on any of our services, as well as facts on substance and alcohol use. They will also be invited to participate in a fact or fiction game, and anyone who plays

receives "goody bags" of handouts, bracelets, candy, etc. For those that win the game, they then will have the option to participate in a drawing contest that portrays a fact they are given. For winners of the drawing contest, the best illustration at each school will receive a \$25 gift card to a local business and the overall winner will have their illustration placed on a billboard in town. Drawings will be judged by the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition staff.

Again, the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition will be at the high schools in Jay County this week during the lunch peri-

ods for National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. All students will have the chance to join in on not only a beneficial learning experience, but also fun activities, with the chance of having their creativity displayed on a billboard.

We ask that you spread the word and encourage the youth in our community to participate.

Thank you for your time,  
Deni O'Brien, AAS  
Marketing and projects assistant

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

## Population is a complex topic

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Dottie Data called to share her observations about the latest population estimates released last week by the Census Bureau.

"I downloaded every county in the U.S.," she said excitedly. "Whatcha wanna know?" she said imitating a carnival barker.

"First and foremost," I said, "tell me about Indiana and how we fared in 2021."

"Indiana," she intoned, "added 20,341 persons to its number in 2021, for a 0.3% increase that translated in a 21st-place ranking among the 50 states."

"What?" I asked. "Isn't that a puny percent increase?"

"No way, pal," she responded. "The U.S. grew by just 0.12%. If you recall, we still had lots of folks dying from COVID last year. Yet, births did exceed deaths nationwide and in Indiana."

"But certainly," I said with certainty, "there were states that had better growth experiences than Indiana."

"You bet," Dottie declared. "Idaho, Utah, Montana and Arizona topped all states as people fled to the hills from COVID."

"Hmm," I hummed. "Are those all conservative, western mountain states growing with folks escaping the contagion of the liberal Pacific coast?"

"That's a foxy analysis," Dottie said. "The biggest losers were New York, Illinois and Hawaii. Make up whatever story you like there."

"And Indiana?" I asked.

"We all know about the growth of the four Indianapolis metro area counties — Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks and Hancock — where growth topped 2%. At the bottom of the list were declining rural counties: Pulaski, Jay, Knox and Pike," Dottie said.

"However," Dottie continued, "the interesting stuff is in the details. Indiana had 58 of its 92 counties gaining population, some with more births than deaths, some with more deaths than births while some counties had more people moving in and some had more people moving out.

"It's that interplay between natural increase and net migration that drives population change," she concluded.

"That gets pretty complex," I said ponderously.

"Bingo, buster," Dottie confirmed. "The Census

### Eye on the Pie



**We all know about the growth of the four Indianapolis metro area counties — Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks and Hancock — where growth topped 2%. At the bottom of the list were declining rural counties: Pulaski, Jay, Knox and Pike.**

estimates that of these 58 counties gaining population, only 11 had an excess of births over deaths (natural increase) and more people moving in than moving out (positive net migration)."

"You're telling me 81 Hoosier counties had negative natural increase or negative net migration, or both?" I said. "That's painful."

"Yes," Dottie answered, "if you think population growth is good. But there are many Hoosiers who will tell you more people is not what their community wants or needs. Remember, many people move to the suburbs or return to small towns and rural areas to enjoy less density.

"They're not hostile to people," Dottie said. "They just prefer a different lifestyle from those who find the larger cities desirable. Or they may feel, with today's technology, more people are damaging to our environment."

What could I say to that?

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



## Stand up for Afghan women

By SHABANA BASIJ-RAIKH

Special To The Washington Post

Sometimes 20 years can fall away like nothing. Sometimes time telescopes into a vivid memory of a flash of red above a sea of blue.

On March 23, 2002, I was 12 years old, living in Kabul, walking into an all-girls public school for the first time in my life. The Taliban — the extremists who from 1996 to 2001 had essentially outlawed girls' education — was gone, its regime fallen, its edicts swept away. It was the first day of the new school year.

But I remember the fear in our school courtyard that day. How it flowed around me in deep blue tides. Our school uniform was a black outfit and a white headscarf, but so many girls had chosen to cover up with the blue burqa because there were rumors that Taliban members were out there, watching, looking for girls in uniforms so they could throw acid in our faces.

That was our fear, that the Taliban members would find us and hurt us if they knew who we were. And I remember our school principal in the midst of that blue sea, standing tall and proud and composed. She wore a long skirt with a blazer, and an elegant headscarf, and bright red lipstick.

I was afraid for her. "They'll get her first," I thought.

They didn't. The school year continued, and as it did, I started to understand the lesson she was teaching us that day.

"You don't have to be afraid," she was saying. "You're free. Times have changed. You can go

### Shabana Basij-Raikh



back to what we used to call normal."

And as spring became summer and summer became fall, I watched that blue tide start to turn. I watched it drain away from our courtyard, and I watched what was hidden beneath come into view: black outfits, and white headscarves, and faces, and smiles.

We were Afghan girls. And we were back.

I thought about our principal last week, on March 23, 2022, when the Taliban broke its promise to fellow Afghans and to the entire world and announced it wouldn't allow girls to attend school beyond sixth grade.

That day, I saw girls standing in their black outfits and white headscarves. I saw them outside their school gates in tears. I heard the Taliban mouth the excuses: There are not enough female teachers available, the school uniform for girls is not appropriately modest, the time just isn't right.

The hypocrisy of it. The hypocrisy of a regime that sends its own daughters overseas for schooling while making Afghanistan the only nation to bar half its population from receiving an education.

Educated girls become educated women, and educated women are independent women. This is what

members of the Taliban know. This is what they accept in their own families. This is what they fear in their own nation.

What they fear wears black outfits and white headscarves, and they hope to cover their fear in a new blue tide, just like they did when I was a child, when Afghan women and girls vanished, and the world looked away.

This cannot happen again. I will do my part. My Afghan girls' school, now in Rwanda, is recruiting new students from our nation's refugee diaspora. We intend to enroll the largest class in our history this fall. We will educate Afghan girls, and nothing and no one will ever deter us.

To Afghan men, I say: This is your moment. Don't let your wives and daughters and sisters protest alone. Don't let armed men tell you what their futures must look like. To other Muslim nations, I say: This is your moment. Raise your voices. Follow the example of Qatar and Turkey. Call out the Taliban's un-Islamic decree, and in the strongest terms.

And to the rest of the world, I say: Do not give the Taliban the legitimacy it seeks until it first seeks its legitimacy from Afghan women.

Here we stand, tall, proud and unafraid. This is the lesson we learned as girls.

This is the lesson we teach to the girls to come.

.....  
Basij-Raikh, a Washington Post Global Opinions contributing columnist, is co-founder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan.

# The Commercial Review

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



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

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

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VOLUME 149—NUMBER 235  
THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 2022

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 ♥QJ943  
 ♦AK5  
 ♣AK2

**WEST**  
 ♠AQ10543  
 ♥K6  
 ♦1074  
 ♣76

**EAST**  
 ♠92  
 ♥10852  
 ♦Q93  
 ♣Q1094

**SOUTH**  
 ♠KJ8  
 ♥A7  
 ♦J862  
 ♣J853

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass Pass 1♣ Dble  
 Pass 1NT Pass 2♥  
 Pass 2NT Pass 3NT

Opening lead — five of spades.

When Sylvia first joined the club, which was soon after she started to play the game, the first reaction by the members was that the admissions committee had made a dreadful mistake in approving her application.

It was not that Sylvia played so badly — we had all seen lots of players who, despite years of experience, simply hadn't grasped the finer points of the game; rather, it was that the errors she committed were of a kind that no one had ever seen before.

But as time wore on, and as some of Sylvia's mistakes somehow miraculously worked in her favor, the membership grew more tolerant of her exotic approach to the game. In fact, her extraordinary talent for doing the wrong thing at the right time eventually became a side benefit of club membership.

One of Sylvia's earliest triumphs occurred on this hand where she was West and led a spade against three notrump. Declarer won with the jack and saw that by far the best chance to make the contract was to develop the heart suit. He also recognized that his best hope of achieving this goal was to play for Sylvia to have specifically the K-x or K-x-x of hearts, in which case leading the ace and another heart would render the defense helpless.

Accordingly, he played the ace of hearts at trick two, planning to continue with a heart. Undoubtedly, South would have made three notrump had he been playing against anyone else, but when he cashed the ace, Sylvia accidentally dropped the king on it! After this, South found — to his great dismay — that there was now no way to make the contract, and Sylvia, in her own inimitable way, had triumphed again.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
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**CRYPTOQUIP**

3-31

PY T CIU ATDMH MU LSTW T  
 L U J M T Z S V H D T J V C J I G  
 M U O V M N V J , P O I V H H M N V W

G P O N M O V M T M T Z U J Y U J M A U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE DECLARE WHEN A PHYSICIAN'S CHARGES ARE REALLY LOW? "DOC IS CHEAP!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Prof's degree  
 4 Spiders' art  
 8 Radiate  
 12 Owned by us  
 13 Send forth  
 14 Vow  
 15 Low-humidity spa amenity  
 17 Low calorie  
 18 "2001" computer  
 19 Chip material  
 21 Daredevil's feats  
 24 "Traffic" org.  
 25 Highland hat  
 26 Haw preceder  
 28 Community spirit  
 32 Cupid's alias  
 34 Santa's aide  
 36 Blood (Pref.)  
 37 Shopping centers

**DOWN**

39 Wet dirt  
 41 Genetic letters  
 42 UFO passengers  
 44 Fix  
 46 Smuggle  
 50 Crony  
 51 Joule  
 52 Harry Potter's skill  
 56 Move, in Reator lingo  
 57 Hairstylist José  
 58 — Speed-wagon  
 59 Hidden valley  
 60 Car door damage

**39 Ghanaian export**  
**20 Grant's foe**  
**21 Goblet feature**  
**22 Actress Reid**  
**23 Observe**  
**27 Shade tree**  
**29 Coat of arms**  
**5 Ostrich's kin**  
**30 Hotel chain**  
**31 Fly high**  
**33 Broad-brimmed hat**  
**35 Cat's coat**  
**38 Cardinal cap**  
**40 Leave**  
**43 Stitched**  
**45 Standard**  
**46 Titanic destroyer**  
**47 Baseball's Hersheriser**  
**48 Leer at**  
**49 Taunt**  
**53 Buddhist sect**  
**54 Irish actor**  
**55 — Kippur**

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

Yesterdays answer 3-31

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59				60					61		

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# Sports

## Moser leads Foresters with career day

Max Moser was used sparingly as an undergraduate for the Foresters.

When they asked him to come back as a graduate student for his final year of eligibility, he didn't pass it up.

Tuesday he delivered in a big way.

Moser, a 2018 Jay County High School graduate, had a career day for the Huntington University baseball team in a 15-2 victory over Spring Arbor in the second game of a doubleheader.

The former Patriot was 3-for-4

### Collegiate Check-up

with a home run, a double and five RBIs. He also scored three times and recorded a stolen base for the Foresters (12-12, 10-6 Crossroads League).

Moser has appeared in 15 games and is batting .333 with

two doubles, 10 RBIs and five runs.

### Noah Arbuckle Jay County - 2020

Pitched for the Huntington University baseball team Tuesday in a 16-14 loss in the first game of a doubleheader against Spring Arbor.

Arbuckle started and lasted just 3 2/3 innings. He allowed seven earned runs on seven hits with three strikeouts and two walks. He did not factor into the decision.

### Wyatt Geesaman Jay County - 2019

Pitched in relief for the Lincoln Trail Community College baseball team Sunday in a 10-8 loss to Wabash Valley College in the second game of a doubleheader.

Geesaman threw three innings, allowing five earned runs on seven hits.

He struck out three and walked one.

The sophomore and future Northern Kentucky Norse is 2-3 in seven appearances for the

Statesmen with a 7.40 ERA in 24 1/3 innings.

### Robby LeFevre Fort Recovery - 2019

Competed in a single event for the Fordham University men's track and field team Saturday in the Rider 5-Way Meet hosted by Rider University.

The sophomore ended the 200-meter dash in 22.67 seconds for sixth place.

Michael Welde of St. Joseph's was the winner in 21.73 seconds.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Intense toss

Jay County High School second baseman Tricia Ison gets ready to make a throw to first base during practice Wednesday. The Patriot softball team will play a scrimmage at 11 a.m. Saturday at Winchester before opening its season at 5 p.m. Monday at Blackford.

## US returning to World Cup despite loss

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Christian Pulisic walked across the field with a towel draped around his head, angry after another U.S. defeat.

"We're competitors, man. We hate to lose. In the moment I was frustrated," he said. "It took me a little bit for it to sink in, that the qualification hit."

Nearly 4 1/2 years after Pulisic buried his head in his hands to hide tears of failure, the U.S. rebounded to qualify for this year's World Cup. A 2-0 loss to Costa Rica on Wednesday left the Americans in third place after the final night of qualifying, the final guaranteed berth from North and Central America and the Caribbean.

For Pulisic, DeAndre Yedlin, Kellyn Acosta and Paul Arriola, smiles of relief broke out after an unrelenting burden was lifted.

"This is whatever I've always wanted to be, and right now emotions are a bit crazy," Pulisic said, his voice quavering.

On the 1,267th day after a 2-1 loss at Trinidad and Tobago ended the Americans' streak of seven straight World Cup appearances, Yedlin addressed the team before the kickoff.

"I just thanked each and every one of them for giving me a second opportunity to redeem myself, and the country a second opportunity to redeem itself," said the 28-year-old

defender, the only American left from the 2014 tournament.

The U.S. remained winless in 12 qualifiers at Costa Rica, with 10 defeats and two draws.

Juan Pablo Vargas got behind Walker Zimmerman and headed Brandon Aguilera's corner kick past goalkeeper Zack Steffen in the 51st minute, and Anthony Contreras knocked in Jewison Bennette's cross off a scramble in the 59th after Steffen palmed Aguilera's free kick toward Contreras and blocked Contreras' initial shot.

Coach Gregg Berhalter, who played for the U.S. at the 2002 World Cup, congratulated the players in the locker room. Starting lineups in the 14 qualifiers averaged an American-record low of 23 years, 302 days.

"Being the youngest team in the world to qualify for the World Cup is no easy task," he said. "It's a proud moment for the team, proud moment for U.S. Soccer, and we're looking forward to competing in the World Cup again."

A sellout crowd of about 35,000 in National Stadium came to life with the goals, but the Americans' 5-1 rout of Panama at home last weekend gave them a huge goal-difference margin over Costa Rica. That meant the U.S. merely had to avoid losing by six goals or more in order to claim an automatic berth.

See US page 7

## Jokic, Nuggets top Pacers

By MARK AMBROGI  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Nikola Jokic flirted with another triple-double with 37 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, helping the Denver Nuggets hold off the Indiana Pacers 125-118 on Wednesday night.

The Nuggets led by as many as 31 points in the second quarter before the Pacers stormed back. Indiana led 102-100 with 7:40 left in the fourth quarter before the Nuggets scored seven straight points to regain control.

Jokic made his first nine shots in the first half and finished 15 of 19 from the field for Denver. He fell one assist shy of his 20th triple-double of the season after getting one Monday night at Charlotte. Bones Hyland scored 20 points and

Will Barton added 18 for the Nuggets, who shot 62.5% for the game.

"My frustration is we get bored with success," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "I hate when we get up 31 points early."

Hyland said Malone told the team a win is a win.

"We pulled it out," Hyland said. "It may have been ugly. We have to clean things up. We could have won the game by a lot of points, but the biggest thing is we came out with a win."

The Nuggets had 19 turnovers, 11 more than the Pacers.

"We had too many turnovers, I had seven of them," Jokic said.

Malone said the important thing is the Nuggets are going back home as the No. 5 seed.

Seven of the nine Pacers who played scored in double figures, led by Buddy Hield with 20 points, Terry Taylor with 18 and Goga Bitadze 17. The Pacers shot 45.4% for the game.

After trailing big early in the first half, Indiana cut the deficit to forge a 91-all tie after three quarters. Indiana shot 62.5% to hold a 38-22 edge in the third quarter.

"Give Indiana credit, they got back in the game," Malone said. "They turned up the heat, the intensity, the pressure. They became the attacker until the last six or seven minutes. You want guys that are going to fight and not sit there and take it. You want guys that will fight for every inch and I think we have had bunch of guys like that."

See Top page 7

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