

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Four-way race



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Former Portland police officer Todd Wickey fills out paperwork to run for the Republican nomination for mayor of Portland on Wednesday in the clerk's office at Jay County Courthouse. His filing creates a four-way race for the nomination that also includes incumbent John Boggs, Joel Smitley and Jeff Westlake.

Wickey adds his name to candidate list for Republican nomination for mayor of Portland

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The race for the Republican nomination for mayor of Portland has gotten crowded.

Todd Wickey became the fourth candidate for the bid when he filed his paperwork to run for mayor early Wednesday afternoon.

Also filing Wednesday was incumbent Christy Curts for the Democratic nomination for Dunkirk City Council District 4.

Wickey joins incumbent John Boggs, Joel Smitley of McAfee Recycling and Portland police dispatcher Jeff Westlake in what is now a four-way race for the GOP nomination for mayor. Former two-term mayor Randy

Geesaman is the lone Democrat who has filed to run for mayor of Portland thus far.

The deadline to file to run in this year's election, which includes mayor, clerk-treasurer and city and town councils, is noon Friday.

Wickey grew up in Geneva, serving as police chief there for eight years and then moved to Portland and spent an additional 26 years with Portland Police Department before retiring in 2020. He spent about 20 years as the department's investigator.

"I want to better my community," said Wickey of his reason for filing to run for mayor. "I've watched it — the last administrations — go in a direction that I

don't personally approve. I want to bring back city services to the citizens. They need to get what they're paying for in return."

Wickey brought up a lengthy list of issues he'd like to address as mayor, including bringing back city clean-up, holding department heads accountable and tracking use of city-owned vehicles. He was critical of decisions of previous administrations, such as taking ownership of the Sheller-Globe south building and selecting what he referred to as "the wrong engineering firm" for Portland Water Park.

"I want to bring back the city it was when I moved here," he said. "It was clean. Everything operat-

ed very well. I want to bring all that back."

Wickey previously held elected office, serving one term on Jay County Council from 2003 through 2006.

Boggs is seeking a second term as mayor after defeating Geesaman in the 2019 general election. Smitley and Westlake are making their first runs for elected office.

Curts was appointed by local Democrats to fill the District 4 seat on Dunkirk City Council after former council member Lisa Street gave it up when she moved out of the district. She is now seeking her own elected term in office and is currently unopposed for the primary.

Mental health resource launches Friday

Mindbase provides anonymous way to seek assistance

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Local emergency responders have another resource available to keep up with their mental health.

Mindbase, an agency wellness program, launches for county employees and their families Friday. The app offers a confidential way for emergency personnel to seek mental health support.

Contessa Stilts, assistant 911 director at Jay County Sheriff's Office, explained she discovered the app during a conference in California last year. It was the confidentiality feature that first attracted her, she said.

"Nobody gets to know," she added. "They don't have to go and ask their boss and say, 'Hey, this call affected me in a certain way. I need some help.' They can seek it on their own."

It also ties into the Jay County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, a group formed to help responders left emotionally or physically affected by traumatic events.

County employees may download the app for free on their phones. It opens to a home screen with three options — peer support, personalized care and check in with yourself (health resources) — and the logo for the CISM team.

The peer support selection allows users to see a list of CISM team members, their occupation and their contact information.

Personalized care provides additional support, offering contact information for resources such as counselors, chaplains and the IU Health outpatient behavioral unit.

"It's for if you need a little more than just talking to somebody individually," explained Stilts.

See Health page 2

School bills advance

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Broad career readiness initiatives, changes to K-12 literacy curriculum and incentives for up-and-coming teachers are at the heart of multiple education bills advancing through the Indiana legislature.

State lawmakers in House and Senate education committees collectively took up more than a dozen bills on Wednesday. Most of those measures advanced or are scheduled for committee votes next week.

Here's a snapshot of the latest education-related developments at the statehouse.

Scholarship progress

The House education committee approved, 8-4, a wide-ranging bill that seeks to "reinvent" high school curriculum. Bill author

Lawmakers push forward measures toward incentives, curriculum changes

Rep. Chuck Goodrich, R-Noblesville, said his proposal — a priority bill for the caucus — aims to narrow the "skills gap" between Hoosiers and employers.

The bill seeks to expand work-based learning in Indiana high schools, like apprenticeships and internships.

It would also create career scholarship accounts that are similar to Indiana's school

choice voucher program. Grants could be used by students in grades 10-12 to pay for career training courses, apprenticeships and certifications outside of the student's school district.

The amount each participating student can receive to pay for apprenticeships, coursework, or certification would be based on a calculation of the state dollars that their school receives.

See Bills page 2



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Armando L. Sanchez

Pushing for reforms

People march on State Street in Chicago's Loop on Monday to protest the killing of Tyre Nichols. Nichols died after he was beaten on Jan. 7 by police officers in Memphis, Tennessee.

Deaths

Gail Brinkerhoff, 86, rural Portland
Janice Cooley, 85, Aurora, Colorado
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 29 degrees Wednesday. The low was 10. The forecast calls for a low of 12 tonight with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Expect partly sunny skies with a high of 19 Friday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School's Honors Night is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 1. The school is inviting anyone interested in adding an award or scholarship to be announced at the event to pick up a form at the school and return it with the relevant information by Feb. 9.

Coming up

Friday — Results from tonight's JCHS boys basketball game at Southern Wells.

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



Health ...

Continued from page 1
The last tab, check in with yourself, displays other local health resources.
At the bottom of the home screen there are three symbols — a house, a brain and a phone. Selecting the house takes users to the home screen.
The brain icon opens to short videos, tips and tricks for more support. Videos are regularly cycled through, meaning regular users should have access to different videos over time.
The phone icon gives users direct numbers to emergency hotlines.
There's also a section to take

self-assessments for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, alcohol abuse, insomnia and anxiety.
Mindbase will eventually link to the county's computer-aided dispatch reporting system, allowing administrative staff to notice when an employee has taken a heavy load of difficult calls.
"Any time the call is created and then a unit is assigned to it, the backside of the program will calculate that and turn it into points," explained Stilts.
Whenever an employee accrues a large amount of points in a seven-day period, they would

be considered at a high-stress level. That triggers a Mindbase notification to check in with the employee and informs administrative staff about their point value.
Jay County Commissioners approved an agreement with Mindbase in September. It's one of several recent efforts in the community to address mental health.
Jay County CISM formed in the fall. Portland also accepted an agreement Jan. 6 with Life-Works Counseling and Wellness, which offers therapy for trauma as well as other counseling.
"People are leaving this indus-

try, and it's usually one call," said John McFarland, Jay EMS director. He advocated for helping folks address their mental health.
Mike Weitzel, chief of Portland Fire Department, noted since he and McFarland launched the CISM team that they've received several calls for help.
"I feel like it's becoming more of a forefront issue," he said.
Mindbase will be available to all emergency personnel in Jay County, including police, firefighters, Emergency Medical Service responders and dispatch, as well as their families.

Stilts repeated her main hope for Mindbase is to offer privacy to emergency personnel.
"I want it to be in their hands and not have to seek it out," she said. "I don't want them to have to go to their own boss and say, hey, I need help. Because people won't do it. And then their mental health will just continue to decline."
"That's the thought behind it, is that 'Maybe someone's going to make fun of me or I'm going to be embarrassed or they're going to take me off my shifts, I'm not gonna be able to work,'" said Stilts. "That's just added stress. And we don't want that."

CR almanac

Friday 2/3	Saturday 2/4	Sunday 2/5	Monday 2/6	Tuesday 2/7
19/11	37/33	43/26	46/39	53/37
Mostly cloudy skies throughout the day Friday with a low of 11 degrees at night.	Saturday's forecast shows mostly sunny weather with winds gusting up to 30 mph.	Another day of mostly cloudy skies is in the works for Sunday with a low of 26.	More mostly sunny skies are expected Monday. The high will be about 46.	Tuesday has a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball 31-43-58-59-66 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$700 million	39-40-44-51-54-58-71-72 Cash 5: 6-18-21-26-36 Hoosier Lotto: 19-20-28-29-38-40 Estimated jackpot: \$9.2 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 7-6-9 Pick 4: 9-1-2-2 Pick 5: 7-9-8-6-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-5-7 Pick 4: 4-5-6-5 Pick 5: 4-4-0-4-5 Rolling Cash: 6-8-11-20-31 Classic Lotto: 2-10-14-24-35-41 Kicker: 1-4-3-4-4-2 Estimated jackpot: \$4.8 million
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 6-4-9 Daily Four: 6-3-4-6 Quick Draw: 1-4-7-9-12-13-23-24-30-31-34-37-41-42-50-52-56-59-62-66 Evening Daily Three: 9-1-8 Daily Four: 8-3-5-8 Quick Draw: 5-12-18-20-21-22-25-28-30-32-35-37-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.87 March corn.....6.89 Wheat7.41	Wheat 6.96 July wheat7.44
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.93 March corn6.95 April corn7.00	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.75 Feb. corn6.75 Beans15.21 Feb. beans15.23 Wheat7.45
The Andersons Richland Township Corn6.87 March corn6.87 Beans15.15 March beans15.25	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.46 March corn6.51 Beans15.00 March beans15.05 Wheat7.10

Today in history

In 1653, New Amsterdam (now New York City) was incorporated.
In 1848, the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, bringing an end to the Mexican War and extending the boundaries of the United States to the Pacific Ocean.
In 1876, the National League got its start as the National League of ProIt replaced the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players.
In 1895, George Halas was born in Chicago, Illinois. Halas was the founder, owner and coach of the Chicago Bears, coached the team to six NFL championships and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963.
In 1990, F.W. de Klerk, the president of South Africa, lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress. The move resulted in Nelson Mandela being released from prison and was a turning point toward the end of apartheid.
In 2005, Steve W. Patterson of Hagerstown died when the pick-up truck he was driving collided with a semi on Indiana 67 west of county road 650 East.
In 2019, Fort Recovery High School senior Payton Jutte became the 17th boys basketball player in school history to reach 1,000 points on a 3-pointer in the opening quarter of a 58-43 win over Mississinawa Valley. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland. 4:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.	chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council	Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Obituaries

Gail Brinkerhoff
Jun 9, 1936-Jan. 31, 2023
Gail Brinkerhoff, 86, rural Portland, died Tuesday at his home. Services are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Janice Cooley
Aug. 27, 1937-Jan. 26, 2023
Janice (Petro) Cooley, 85, passed away Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, at Belleview Heights Assisted Living Center in Aurora, Colorado. She was born Aug. 27, 1937, in Richmond, Indiana, the daughter of

Cyril and Wilma Petro. She graduated in 1955 from Pennville High School and attended International Business College in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

She worked for WOWO radio station in Fort Wayne before relocating to Royal Oak, Michigan, where she worked for Campbell-Ewald Advertising Co. in Detroit. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Cooley of Rochester Hills, Michigan; and a sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Jerry Gillum of Bluffton, Indiana. Survivors include her brothers

Louis Walker (wife: MaFre), Bradenton, Florida, and Carl Walker (wife: Marilyn) of Pennville, Indiana, and several nieces and nephews.

There are no services planned locally.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.



Photo provided

Proclamation

Portland Mayor John Boggs on Wednesday signed a proclamation recognizing today as National Optimist Day. Pictured with Boggs, from left, are Mike Aker, Debra Imel, President Pat Gibson, Demera Dennis, Leland LeMaster, Judy LeMaster, Jane Jobe and Roger Prescott.

Bills ...

Continued from page 1
Democrats pushed back on the bill, however, saying language around credentialing programs is still too vague.

New incentives
House lawmakers additionally supported two bills that seek to increase state scholarship dollars available to future teachers.

One of the proposals would increase certain scholarship amounts in an effort to attract more students into teaching — particularly black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

Attracting educators of color has been an ongoing concern for schools and policy makers. Indiana had 79,120 full-time teachers in the 2019-20 school year, according to state data. Of those, 92% were white.

Those who testified in support of House Bill 1637 said the increased dollars would help BIPOC educator recruitment — good news for Indiana's ongoing teacher shortage. Supporters said the bill would also provide much-needed support to address achievement gaps among Hoosier students of color.

The bill passed 12-0 out of the House education committee.

A separate measure, House Bill 1528, would allow Hoosiers in an alternative teacher certification program to apply for up to \$10,000 under the Next Generation Hoosier Educators scholarship program.

The bill passed 13-0 with an amendment to limit the program to \$1 million. Democrats expressed concern that the funding won't be enough.

Automatic enrollment
Another bill heard in the House education committee would automatically enroll eligible Hoosier stu-

dents in the 21st Century Scholars program — a statewide grant program that funds student attendance at two- and four-year schools.

House Bill 1449, authored by Rep. Earl Harris Jr., D-East Chicago, unanimously passed the committee and now heads to the full House for further consideration.

"Thousands of students a year miss out on opportunities that 21st Century Scholars can provide for them," Harris said. "Not having this funding there to help with education — for a lot of a lot of people — means they do not continue their education ... it affects the future of our workforce here in the state of Indiana."

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb made automatic enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars program a priority within his 2023 legislative agenda. Administration officials said auto-enrollment shouldn't be a cost to the state for six to seven years.

Science of reading
Senate Bill 402, filed by Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, would define the "science of reading"

and require schools to adopt such curriculum.

The "science of reading" is defined in both bills as the successful integration of concepts such as phonics, vocabulary and comprehension in reading.

Although Indiana lawmakers and education advocates have repeatedly said the state needs to take action to improve dismal literacy rates, some provisions in Freeman's bill drew hesitation, especially from teachers.

The Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA), the state's largest teachers union, specifically pointed to language in the bill that directs schools to post reading materials online for inspection by parents.

"Our main point of contention in this bill is a requirement that every single material used in connection with K-8 reading must be placed on a website at the beginning of the school year and updated each semester," said Jerrell Blakeley, ISTA's director of government, community, racial and social justice. "I think there's an opportunity for us to get to a common sense solution that furthers the agenda of the bill, as

well as to — I can't believe I'm saying this — deregulate aspects of teaching in Indiana."

On the move
In the Senate education committee, lawmakers approved a bill to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to the entire state.

Additionally, Senate Bill 480 passed narrowly, 7-6, onto the full Senate. The bill seeks to streamline numerous teacher regulations. Democrats and teacher union representatives said it also makes "concerning" changes to discussable items during collective bargaining.

Sen. Jeff Raatz's SB 380 also passed the committee in a 9-4 vote and heads to the Senate chamber. State senators heard mixed testimony last week on the bill, which places restrictions on high school graduation waivers and doubles down that schools can have dress codes.

SERVICES

Friday
Phillips, Helen: 11 a.m., Kiplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City.

Saturday
Ludwig, Jerry: 3 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

May 13
Warrick, Clarice: 11 a.m., West Richmond Friends Meeting, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
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Know cardiac arrest signs

By JERRY WHETZEL

There has been a lot of attention lately around cardiac arrest, what it is and the causes of it. According to the American Heart Association, more than 356,000 cardiac arrests occur outside hospitals in the United States each year. February is American Heart Month so it's a perfect time to raise awareness and share important information on heart health.

What is cardiac arrest?

Cardiac arrest is when the heart suddenly stops beating. When the heart stops beating, the blood to the brain and body also stops, depriving the vital organs of oxygen. Symptoms of cardiac arrest can be sudden and severe such as collapsing, loss of pulse, stopping breathing and loss of consciousness. Some other symptoms may occur prior to a cardiac arrest such as chest discomfort, shortness of breath, weakness and fast-beating or pounding of heart called palpitations. If not treated immediately, cardiac arrest can lead to death.

How is it treated?

Cardiac arrest is a med-

Your Health Matters



healthy lifestyle can help reduce the risks. Talk to your healthcare provider to get help treating and reducing the risks.

Can cardiac arrest be prevented?

Cardiac arrest cannot always be prevented but there are some lifestyle habits that can help reduce the chances of heart disease and other serious events like cardiac arrest. To start, make sure you are eating a balanced diet low in sugar, salt and processed food. It is also important to eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, healthy fats, whole grains and lean meats. In addition, it is important to stay physically active, relax and manage stress, quit smoking, maintain a healthy weight and manage other health problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. Check with your healthcare provider to check your numbers and get started on a heart healthy lifestyle.

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Jerry Whetzel is a family medicine physician at IU Health Jay Family Medicine and serves as the medical director for IU Health Jay Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation.

ical emergency needing immediate treatment. If you see someone unconscious and not breathing, call 911 and start CPR. Knowing how to perform CPR and/or use an AED (automated external defibrillator) when available can be lifesaving. Locally, the Portland Fire Department offers CPR/first aid classes to the general public for those interested.

What are some risk factors for cardiac arrest?

There are several things that can increase your risk for cardiac arrest, some include:

- Heart disease
 - History of heart attack
 - Enlarged heart or cardiomyopathy
 - Electrical problems in the heart
 - Blood vessel abnormalities
 - Recreational drug use
- Some risk factors are inherited and cannot be changed, but living a

Widow happy with old flame

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 37 years passed away four months ago. When we were first married, we were happy, but his drinking increased and he turned into a miserable, mean drunk.

When I decided I'd finally had enough, he got sick and could no longer work, and I felt obligated to take care of him. More than a decade of my life was spent looking after him, for which he rarely, if ever, expressed appreciation.

One month after his funeral, I was contacted out of the blue by my high school sweetheart. I was reluctant to respond at first, but I decided it couldn't hurt to meet him and enjoy dinner and conversation. The attraction was immediate. It felt like we were back in high school.

It has been three months now, and we are ready to take our relationship to the next level. He makes me feel better than I have ever felt in my life. My children know how miserable I was for decades in my marriage, but I'm still concerned about how they'll feel about me seriously dating so soon after becoming a widow. — LONGING FOR LOVE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR LONGING: If you explain to your adult chil-

Dear Abby



dren that you and your friend from long ago have reconnected, they shouldn't react badly to the news. However, a word of caution: This is still a budding relationship. If by "taking the relationship to the next level" you mean becoming intimate, you are an adult long past the age of consent. However, if it means dashing off to marry this person, take more time before making a formal commitment. Doing that will enable you to observe how he reacts in a variety of situations — including whether you agree about issues you feel are important, as well as how he reacts when he's frustrated or angry.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 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, Feb. 3, 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.

Sunday

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 Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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.

Find Local Businesses & Services

Fortkamp Foam 3216 Wabash Road Fort Recovery, OH 45846 419-852-1390 Fortkampfoam.com	Hopkins Repair, LLC Auto & light truck repair Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm Call Scott Hopkins 260-251-0459	Adair Processing 190 N. Union St. Pennville, IN 260-731-3221
All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning (260)726-4822 24 hr Emergency Service Serving Portland & Surrounding Areas	Dr. Thomas Banta 1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822	Display Craft Signs 630 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN 260-726-4535
All Circuit Electrical, LLC 5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN 260-997-8336 www.allcircuitelectrical.com	Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition 100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: jcdpcccontact@gmail.com	Ohio Valley Gas 129 E. Main St., Portland 260-726-8114 www.ovgc.com
Brigade You're safer with us 1976 W. Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371 (260)766-4343 brigade-electronics.com/en-us	Williams Auto Parts, Inc. 1127 Detroit Ave. Portland, IN 8-5:30 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat & Sun. Used auto parts since 1951 (260) 726-8001 www.williamsautoparts.com	Baird Freeman Funeral Home 221 N. Meridian St. Portland, IN 260-726-7171

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

Politicians miss point of education

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Politicians, including those in Indiana, are going down a perverted path believing that consumers should invest in education when the returns (income) on that investment justify the expenditure.

The idea that education is an investment has merit, but its value is more than just the earnings it provides. Education is a means of opening choices and transferring societal values between generations, a function often neglected or negated by parents. It elevates consumption in the present and enhances consumption in the future.

Students now are being counseled to go to those institutions and seek those majors which offer the greatest "value" for the

Eye on the Pie



"investment" of their dollars and time.

This approach to education is founded on thinking of people in terms of human capital, a concept analogous to physical capital (machines, buildings, et al). It is contrary to the humanity of students, faculty and parents.

States now are rushing to develop databases to guide the choices of adolescents according to the statistical experiences of

their elders. Young people are being directed toward schools and careers based on questionable information collected by many organizations and processed by state government agencies.

Aside from the exposure to corruption inherent in such a system, consistency over time is highly questionable. Faculty are mobile and good teachers are more mobile than poor ones. Students are likely to change their career preferences as they mature, acquire experience and assume responsibility for themselves and others.

The market returns to education are unreliable. How should students incorporate the future dynamics of the labor market, given the tendency of technologi-

cal innovation to make jobs obsolete?

Today, long-haul truck drivers might have better returns on their training in the short run than English teachers. Over a lifetime, which job offers more satisfaction, security, occupational mobility and greater earnings?

Much depends on the time-preferences of students and parents. How important is the fast buck? That is, if you have a high rate for discounting future earnings, long-haul truck driving might suit you best. However, with a low rate of discounting the future, you can be more comfortable with more distance rewards.

The current craze for gambling on stocks and sports, without any human interaction, satisfies a

quest for action and immediate rewards. Education provides the knowledge and means for moderating that passion and advancing civilization.

Yet today, there is a movement to reduce the time spent at all levels of education from high school through college and graduate studies. This movement assumes knowledge is easily absorbed and utilized. Human capital (labor inputs) can then be moved along a production line faster, using fewer resources, pressed into shape like a hamburger and quickly sliced and fried like a potato.

Not in the world I know.

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

Follow key issues at the statehouse

The Republic (Columbus)

Tracking developments in the Indiana Legislature is easy if you know where to look.

We'd like to help by sharing a few tips and tools to you keep up to date on issues you care about.

Start at the Indiana General Assembly home page, iga.in.gov. Here, you'll find information about the current year's session, as well as information about every lawmaker, how to contact them, the bills they have introduced and more.

Watch it

If you want to watch live House or Senate sessions, you can do so by clicking the "Session" tab, then selecting the webcast you want. Also under the "Session" tab, you can find daily calendars that tell you the bills and resolutions the House and Senate will vote on that day and in the days ahead. There is also a "Video Archive" tab on the home page, in case you want to view prior sessions. Likewise, House and Senate committee sessions can be viewed by clicking the committee hearing you want to watch under the "Upcoming Meetings" field on the right side of the home page.

Find it

Suppose you're interested in bills regarding schools. Click the "Legislation" tab. This will let you search bills by legislator or by subject. Click "By Subject," and you'll find a searchable index as well as an A-Z directory of bill topics. Type "school" in the search field, and links to numerous subtopics are shown, each linking to bills filed on that particular topic. Click the link to an individual bill, and you'll see a digest for the bill and other information.

Track it

Let's look into one of the highest-profile bills this session, Senate Bill 1, which deals with a variety of community mental health and behavioral health issues. Because we know the bill number, we can click the "Bills" tab in the upper-right corner, and enter "1" in the field that says "Bill Number." SB1 is the first that appears.

Click it and you will see the bill's author, its co-sponsors, and a digest providing an overview of what the legislation proposes. You can see the full

Hoosier Editorial

Very few bills that are proposed become law, but often the process is the purpose behind lawmaking in a democracy ...

bill language by clicking the "Latest Version" tab at left. Also at left, the "Bill Actions" tab will show whether the bill is advancing toward becoming law. The bill actions for SB1 show it was "referred to Committee on Appropriations" on Jan. 9.

Very few bills that are proposed become law, but often the process is the purpose behind lawmaking in a democracy — to gauge whether enough lawmakers agree with a proposal that it at least ought to be discussed. Plenty of bills are introduced simply to make some kind of point or statement. Spend a minute or two noodling around the site and you'll likely see some of those.

Revisions coming

Meanwhile, people who commonly use the iga.in.gov website should look at the red-letter type at the top of the page, which promises improvements to the site and a beta version that users can test. The revised version looks a bit different, but appears to contain all of the public information the General Assembly has provided in the digital age.

Open, transparent government is a hallmark of a free society. The Indiana General Assembly website measures up in that regard. Anyone with a web connection has the tools at hand to know what our lawmakers are doing and follow those developments in real time.



Police problem is persistent

By FRANCIS WILKINSON

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

You will not believe the video that was released Friday night showing Memphis police officers beating — ultimately to death — a young Black man.

I don't really mean that, of course. If you live in the U.S., and participate in society, you likely have no difficulty believing that a gang of violent police officers fatally pummeled Tyre Nichols in what the city's police chief accurately described as a "heinous" attack. Indeed, if you have an internet connection or a television, you have probably seen similar videos of police officers killing Black men, and women too, in other American cities. By choking, for example. Or shooting in the back. You may have seen videos of police not killing Black men — merely assaulting them while they are prone or otherwise defenseless.

Occasionally, videos surface of police killing or beating a white man. Statistically, those attacks are less common. But they're just as real. Since 2015, police officers have fatally shot more than 1,000 people per year in the U.S., according to a database maintained by The Washington Post. That's nearly three deaths per day.

America has a police problem. And its police problem is rooted in (though not exclusive to) its race problem, which is a problem, in turn, rooted so deep in our national character that it was written into the Constitution. Martin Luther King Jr. wasn't arrested and thrown in jail by the Ku Klux Klan. Police did that. John Lewis was not beaten bloody in Selma by the Proud Boys of 20th century

Francis Wilkinson



Alabama. The attackers were men wearing badges, wielding clubs, earning paychecks from the public treasury.

Things have changed. Except in all the ways that they haven't. Philando Castile wasn't shot to death by drug dealers. It was the police, again.

Black Lives Matter is a statement of aspiration, not of fact. That remains the crux of the problem. Many troubles of American policing, including the militarization of forces, flow from that reality, which is a continuing source of national unease.

That all five of the violent police officers in Memphis are Black had no bearing on the deadly outcome. Yet it's nonetheless politically significant. It provides an opportunity for a more vigorous national discussion, one slightly less hobbled by the inevitable brandishing of claims of white racial innocence. It wasn't white cops this time. But it was the same familiar system, yielding a familiar result.

Washington has proved a poor source of remedies. Meanwhile, the cities and towns where highly publicized police killings have taken place seem unable to grapple with the sprawling causes and consequences. We don't see many regional congressional hearings anymore. But perhaps it's time for Congress — or at least those elements of Congress that are willing and capable — to hold hearings in

Memphis and other cities mired in police violence. In the role of a judge riding circuit, political leaders need to listen to cries for justice, and report what they hear to the nation.

In his remarkable book "Freedom's Dominion," Jefferson Cowie notes, "Historians have long recognized the oppressive tensions that gave birth to American freedom but have rarely addressed the grinding persistence of the problem." Yet that grinding persistence is getting harder to ignore, which is why the forces of reaction are frantically banning the teaching of history and literature and anything else that threatens to make the friction louder, more visible and more difficult to pretend away.

Memphis is in many ways an apt place to begin the latest round of questions about why America can't — won't — get out of its own glorious way. The city is poor and broken. It is also a place of unparalleled verve that has heaped riches, real and cultural, upon America and the world. The city, a former cotton exchange, stands at the intersection of Elvis and B.B. King, Sun and Stax; it changed the world in ways that still reverberate. Its siren song was so vibrant and acute that Vaclav Havel credited it with piercing the dull brutality of communist Eastern Europe.

Memphis is also the city where Dr. King, arguably the most majestic American of the 20th century, was shot dead. It's a city of bold beginnings and dread endings. Maybe we can start there, and work our way, north and south, east and west, toward freedom.

Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy.

The Commercial Review



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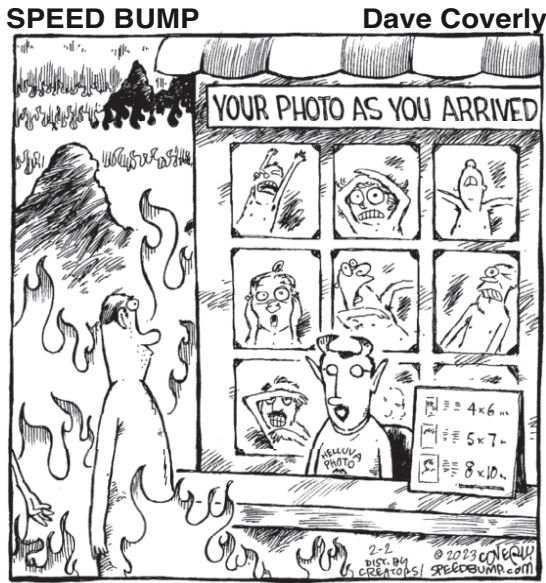
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The logic of defense

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠84, ♥KQ7, ♦A63, ♣A10985. WEST: ♠A9763, ♥1053, ♦J54, ♣42. EAST: ♠K52, ♥8642, ♦Q108, ♣K73. SOUTH: ♠QJ10, ♥AJ9, ♦K972, ♣QJ6.

the king and returns the five, South following with the ten to the first trick and the queen to the second. An impetuous West might automatically take the queen with the ace and return a spade. South would win with the jack and, after losing a club finesse to East, make four notrump.

A more thoughtful and cautious player, however, would defeat the contract. He would have no trouble deducing at trick two that South had started with precisely the Q-J-10 of spades and East with the K-5-2.

South's play of the ten and queen in conjunction with East's plays of the king and five help to clarify the situation in two different ways. First, declarer cannot have the Q-10 alone because, in that case, East would have returned the two, his original fourth-best spade, not the five.

Secondly, it can be inferred that South has the Q-J-10 without the deuce, because it would not make sense for him to play the ten instead of the two on the opening trick if he held the Q-J-10-2.

In the actual deal, ducking the queen at trick two leaves South in an untenable position, and he eventually goes down one after the club finesse loses and East returns his remaining spade. A little thought can go a long, long way.

The bidding: West Pass, North 1♣, East Pass, South 3NT.

Opening lead — six of spades.

Defense is said to be the most difficult part of the game, and there is no doubt that the great majority of players would probably agree with this assessment. But there is also no denying that good defense is a very logical process, and that most mistakes in this area are due largely to lazy thinking. There are important indicators available in nearly every hand, and the player who is always on the lookout for them is sure to do well in the long run.

Let's say you're West and lead a spade against South's three-notrump contract. East wins with

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

2-2 CRYPTOQUIP

WRTG OPGGU MPRM'O JGKZ DBBE RM EGTQJGKQAD KRUE ORTGO OUQGTO OWBBMPTZ: R URM MGKQAD KRW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I FIRMLY BELIEVE KNIGHTS SHOULD NOT KILL EVERY DRAGON. SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSLAYED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals G

Peanuts



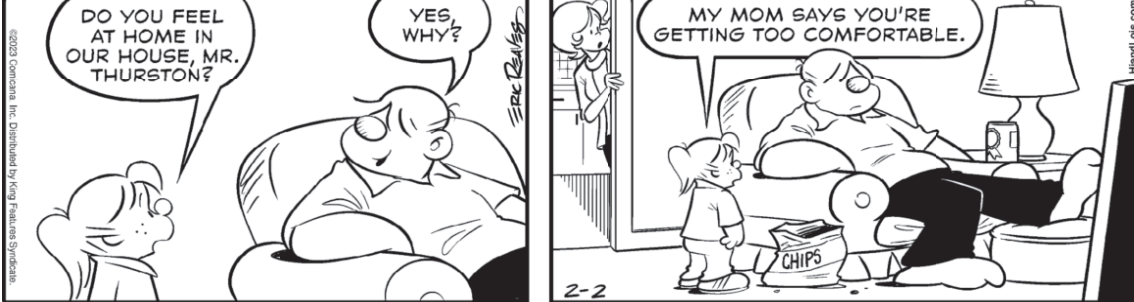
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Night-wear, for short; 4 Test version; 8 Galley supply; 12 Chic more; 13 Air fresher; 14 Landed; 15 Hoagy Car-michael song; 17 Country singer; 18 King, in Cannes; 19 Cat variety; 21 Young feline; 24 Before; 25 Poetic tribute; 26 Melancholy; 28 "The Trial" author; 32 School session; 34 Huge; 36 Stead; 37 Pesto herb; 39 Part of MPH; 41 Dog doc; 42 Blue; 44 Oscar winner; 46 Shoal; 50 Reply (Abbr.); 51 Jet type; 52 Holly-wood notable; 56 "Alfred" composer; 57 Duel tool; 58 Notre Dame coach; 59 Dis-position; 60 Chiefs coach; Andy; 61 Fix illegally; DOWN: 1 Not neg.; 2 Protrude; 3 Appe-tizers; 4 Phy-siques; 5 Sch. URL; 6 Pitch; 7 "Glee" guitarist; 8 Breakfast bowlful; 9 Lip balm ingredient; 10 Barbecue orchard; 11 Eyelid woe; 16 Decay; 20 Noah's boat; 21 "Today" anchor Hoda; 22 Concept; 23 Collar; 27 Quick swim; 29 Top-quality; 30 Acute; 31 Car; 33 "Pierce" (HBO) mini-series; 35 Tiara; 38 High tennis shot; 40 Wandered; 43 Thin cookie; 45 Hosp. workers; 46 Bridge coup; 47 Sleek, in car lingo; 48 iPod type; 49 Mature; 53 Muumuu accessory; 54 Shapiro of NPR; 55 Tatter

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-2

Table with 11 columns and 11 rows representing a crossword puzzle grid.

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JC JH teams come up short in ACAC finals, see story below

Sports

FRHS boys play at Minster Friday, see Sports on tap



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School girls basketball coach Kirk Comer — between junior Breanna Dirksen (left) and senior Renna Schwieterman (right) — gives instructions to his team during practice Wednesday. The Class 3A No. 2 Patriots will play in Friday's sectional semifinal against the host Hamilton Heights Huskies, who have knocked them out in each of the last two seasons.

JCHS seeks to surpass seven

Patriots focused on berths in semi-state

Seven. That's the number to beat.

Jay County High School's wrestling team will have a dozen athletes, including six sectional champions, take the mat Saturday as it hosts regional competition with a goal of increasing its number of semi-state qualifiers from a year ago.

Delta and Adams Central also have 12 wrestlers apiece competing Saturday. Cowan is next with 10.

A victory in the first round of the regional guarantees a semi-state berth, as the top four wrestlers in each weight class advance to the tournament next weekend at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

The Patriots are especially well-positioned after they dominated the sectional tournament on their home floor a week ago. Sectional champions — Daniel Moore, Tave Curtis, Cody Rowles, Ethan Reiley, Tony Wood and Cameron Clark all won titles for JCHS — take on fourth-place finishes from the Delta sectional in the opening round.

The 11th-ranked Clark (30-1), who was a regional runner-up last season before going on to win the semi-state and place seventh in the state finals, will open his regional tournament at 145 pounds against Cowan's Tyler Coffey (15-11). He could face off with either No. 15 Kolten Rhonemus (31-4) of Delta or Bryan Hernandez-Lopez (32-5) of Blackford in the championship match.

No. 4 Wood and No. 8 Rowles are both two-time defending regional champions and carry undefeated records — 34-0 and 33-0, respectively — into Saturday's tournament. Wood will open against Delta's Jacob Snodgrass (10-17) in the 138-pound bracket while the first match for Rowles at 126 pounds will be against Avry Brooks (22-13) of Wapahani. Both are heavy favorites to win regional titles with no state-ranked rivals in their brackets.

The 17th-ranked Ethan Reiley (32-2), who is also the regional favorite, will start his day in the 132-pound bracket against Daleville's Noah Gibson (22-13).

See **Surpass** page 7

Up for challenge

No. 2 Patriots look forward to the chance to play team that has knocked them out the last two years

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review
46-42.
36-33 in overtime.
45-44 in overtime.
All losses.

Those were the results the last three times the Patriots met Hamilton Heights.

In order to have a chance at their first sectional title in 17 years, they will need to flip that script.

The Class 3A No. 2 Jay County High School girls basketball team faces a familiar nemesis as it will take on the host Huskies in the first

of two Sectional 24 semifinal games at 6 p.m. Friday at Hamilton Heights.

"It means everything," said JCHS senior Renna Schwieterman after Wednesday's practice. "It's a big game. We're excited. We're ready to play. We're really pumped for it."

Hamilton Heights (17-5), which finished 11th in the final Class 3A poll of the season, has tortured the Patriots over the last three seasons.

It started in the 2021 sectional title game, in which Jay County was down by one and had the ball

with less than 16 seconds to play and a chance to take the lead. The result was a turnover that allowed the Huskies to get to the foul line and seal the game.

In the opening round of last season's sectional, the Patriots were up by nine over Hamilton Heights in the first half. But that lead slipped away and they missed three potential game-winning shots in the final five seconds of regulation and two potential game-tying shots in the final 10 seconds of overtime.

Then, on Nov. 12, Kaylee Rhoton

hit a go-ahead 3-pointer in overtime for the Huskies after their other two scorers had fouled out. That came after Camryn Runner made two of three foul shots with 1.6 seconds left to force the extra session.

Over its last 58 games, JCHS is 0-3 against Hamilton Heights, 52-3 against everyone else.

"It's our biggest challenge," said senior Mabrey McIntire. "It's something we've been working for all season. We know that we had to play them at the end."

See **Challenge** page 7

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Bader earns win, fifth in invitational

A victory by a former Patriot helped the Cardinals top Bellarmine on Saturday. A day later, her top-five effort aided them in a runner-up invitational finish.

Eliza Bader earned one of eight individual victories for the Ball State University women's swim team in Saturday's 156-100 victory over Bellarmine and her effort in the 100-yard butterfly at Sunday's Butler Invitational was key in the squad tying Xavier for second place.

Bader's victory Saturday came in the 100 butterfly as she posted a time of 59.14 seconds. She was more than four seconds faster than the rest of the field.

At the Butler Invitational, she finished fifth in the 100 butterfly while teammate Hannah Jones was second. She also teamed with Haley Sakbun, Kiran Stauffer and Marcella Ribeiro for a fifth-place time of 1:39.47 in the 200 freestyle relay.

Alli Vaughn FRHS - 2021
Led the Huntington

Collegiate Check-up

University women's basketball team in scoring in Saturday's 75-55 victory over Bethel.

Vaughn scored her 17 points on 6-of-8 shooting, including 3-for-4 from long distance, while making both of her free throws. She also came up with six steals and recorded three assists and three rebounds for the Foresters (9-15).

The sophomore had 10 points, seven rebounds, three steals, one block and one assist Wednesday as HU fell 77-73 to Taylor.

Val Muhlenkamp FRHS - 2020

Paced the University of Findlay women's basketball team in rebounds Saturday as it defeated visiting Ohio Dominican 85-70.

See **Check-up** page 7

Jay girls fall in finals

Both Patriot and Tiger teams made it to the championship games.

The latter walked away with two titles. Jay County Junior High School's girls basketball teams each came up short against Bluffton in their Allen County Athletic Conference championship games Wednesday. The eighth graders lost 36-27 while the seventh grade team fell 36-30.

Hallie Schwieterman handled nearly all of the scoring for the Patriot eighth grade team, which won the ACAC regular-season title, finishing with 25 points. Bailey Towell had the other two.

Amelia Heath and Gabi Petro each tallied 11 points for the Jay County seventh graders. Raylin Hummer, Natalie May, Elizabeth Brunswick and Kyle Shannon had two points apiece.

Yowell leads

Grace Yowell was the top scorer for the Jay County High School gymnastics team in three events Saturday as it scored 53.6

Local roundup

points while competing at the Western Invitational. (Complete team scores were not provided.)

Yowell's best effort came on the vault, where she scored a 7.4. She also led the Patriots with scores of 6.95 on the floor exercise and 5.25 on the uneven parallel bars, and she added a 4.525 on the balance beam.

Olivia Cox finished with a 5.725 to lead JCHS on the beam. She also followed Yowell with a 7.1 on the vault and added a 6.375 on the floor.

Calie Yates closed out the team scoring with a 6.5 on the floor and a 3.775 on the beam.