

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Deputy pay has been incorrect

County to fix issue with budget and ordinance

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Because of an error in the budget, deputies have been getting paid less than intended.

Officials plan to fix the problem in coming weeks.

Jay County Council discussed the issue and how to remedy it — the process includes amending the current salary ordinance, giving back pay to deputies and making an additional appropriation — during a meeting Wednesday.

Council president Jeanne Houchins explained the situation was discussed during a Jay County Personnel Committee meeting Jan. 26.

The personnel committee recommended in August to give pay increases for different job classifications at Jay County Sheriff's Office, which included bumping deputies to \$26.15 an hour. Council debated raise amounts over the course of several months, but it ultimately decided to give 6% raises across-the-board, with larger raises given to some departments, mainly the sheriff's office, highway department and JEMS. Discussed pay increases for sheriff's office employees varied between 12% and 27% raises depending on their position. That included deputies at \$26.15.

However, deputies' pay currently listed in the budget forms approved in October comes out to \$24.54 an hour.

The error was a "total oversight," said Houchins.

"I mean it was just an honest mistake on everybody's part," she explained. "Emily (Franks) did a great job on the budget. She had a lot of different numbers (thrown) at her many, many times."

Houchins pointed out chief deputy Ben Schwartz noticed the error right before the second reading of the budget and told then-council member Ray Newton, who shared the message with Houchins.

See **Pay** page 2

Plans to purchase

County looks to buy land for housing

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County officials are taking a step toward purchasing a property for future developments.

Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners adopted a resolution Wednesday to purchase a little more than 68 acres of land on the western edge of Portland city limits. Hopes are to use the property for new housing and potentially construct a new multi-faceted county building on the land.

Officials have been looking into the property on the north side of Indiana 67 owned by Christopher and Tracy Muhlenkamp as a site

to build infrastructure for housing. RQAW is in the midst of completing a water and wastewater analysis on the grounds in order to determine if it would be feasible for a large-scale project.

Commissioners and council have also discussed constructing a new facility on the land to house Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's Office.

Jay County Council president Jeanne Houchins confirmed per federal guidelines the county is allowed to use American Rescue Plan Act funds to purchase the property.

Houchins noted the aver-

age of two appraisals is \$1,164,115. She said that translates to roughly \$17,119 per acre, which is about \$619.20 above the listed price. (Per law, the county may not offer to purchase the land at a cost higher than the average of the two appraisals.)

Commissioner Rex Journeay asked during a joint session Jan. 31 if the county should allow a separate entity, such as Jay County Redevelopment Commission, to purchase the land. Addressing the question again Wednesday, Schemenaur noted the redevelopment commission has become more active in the last year.

"They have some different

abilities and powers that the council or commissioners don't have," explained Schemenaur.

He said utilizing the redevelopment commission could make the land development process easier. He confirmed the property could be transferred to the group in the future.

Wednesday night's resolution, Schemenaur added, is step one in the land acquisition process. If there is a purchase agreement between the county and the Muhlenkamps, he continued, council will need to pass an ordinance approving the terms and conditions of the purchase.

See **Purchase** page 2

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners on Wednesday adopted a resolution to purchase a portion of this land on the north side of Indiana 67 just west of the future home of Jay County Humane Society (the former Fastenal building) for a potential housing development. Local officials have also discussed the site as a possible home for a new county building to house Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's office.



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Monroe Bush

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb shakes hands before his State of the State address in January 2023. Holcomb was named today to a bipartisan board focused on strengthening federal and state partnership on national security matters.

Holcomb to join council

By ARIANA FIGUEROA
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

President Joe Biden announced Thursday the appointment of Govs. Eric J. Holcomb, an Indiana Republican, and Michelle Lujan Grisham, a New Mexico Democrat, to a special bipartisan board that strengthens the federal and state partnership on matters pertaining to national security.

The Council of Governors consists of 10 members selected by the president to serve a two-year term, with no more than five members from the same political party.

The goal is to "increase coordination around preparedness, resilience, and response between the Federal government and state governments, and strengthen the Federal-State partnership that's critical to protecting our nation from threats to our homeland securi-

Biden appoints Indiana governor to bipartisan group

ty," according to a White House fact sheet.

The White House said in a statement that this year the council will focus on "supply chain resiliency and Federal-State cooperation to mitigate risks to defense critical infrastructure."

There have been major supply chain issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war that have contributed to inflation and disruptions in the flow of goods.

The White House said that Holcomb and Lujan Grisham will replace former Govs. Kate

Brown of Oregon, a Democrat, and Bill Lee of Tennessee, a Republican, both of whom have finished their terms.

The Council of Governors was authorized in 2008 by the National Defense Authorization Act, a must-pass defense measure, and established in 2010 by an executive order during the Obama administration.

The council focuses on homeland security; homeland defense; civil support; state and federal military activities in the United States; and matters involving the National Guard.

See **Join** page 2

Deaths

Kim Brelsford, 62, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 50 degrees Wednesday. The low was 29.

The forecast calls for a low of 33 tonight with continued windy conditions as gusts reach 45 miles per hour. Friday's high will be 38 under mostly cloudy skies.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

The City of Portland will hold a large item clean-up from 7 to 11 a.m. Feb. 25. Items will be accepted at the street department building on Garfield Street. Residents must present their water bill and driver's license in order to dispose of an item.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of today's Redkey Town Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from Friday's JCHS boys basketball game against Heritage.

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Obituaries

Kim Brelsford

Aug. 14, 1960-Feb. 7, 2023
Kim Brelsford, age 62, a resident of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 at Per-simmon Ridge in Portland.
Kim was born on Aug. 14, 1960, in Richmond, Indiana, the daughter of Charles Roach and Edna (Wickline) Mikesell. She graduated from Richmond High School and earned an associate's degree from Ivy Tech.

Kim worked for over 40 years at Jay County Hospital and IU Health Jay as a medical laboratory technician. She was a member of The Rock Church and The Joy Circle at Asbury United Methodist Church.
Kim married Robert "Bob" Brelsford on Oct. 8, 1988.
Survivors include:



Brelsford

Her husband — Robert "Bob" Brelsford, Portland, Indiana
Two sons — Sam Brelsford (wife: Jess), Portland, Indiana, and Aaron Brelsford, Indianapolis
Her siblings — Gerald Roach (wife: Emma), Charlestown, Indiana, Deena Andrews (husband: Chris), Fountain City, Indiana, and Doug Mikesell (wife: Shawna), Richmond, Indiana
Her mother — Edna Mikesell, Richmond, Indiana
One granddaughter, three

step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren
Visitation will be held on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Kim's life will be held on Monday at 11 a.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Pastor Matt Ransom will officiate and burial will follow at Center Cemetery, west of Portland.
In lieu of flowers, memorials

may be directed to The Rock Church in Portland, Indiana.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.
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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 service information. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 2/10	Saturday 2/11	Sunday 2/12	Monday 2/13	Tuesday 2/14
38/22	37/24	46/29	49/31	53/41
Mostly cloudy skies are on the horizon for Friday with highs in the upper 30s.	Saturday's forecast shows sunny skies with highs in the upper 30s.	Sunny, with a low near freezing in the high 20s. The high may hit 46.	There's a slight chance of rain at night. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Tuesday has a slight chance of rain, with a higher chance (60%) in the evening.

Lotteries

Powerball 52-58-59-64-66 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$34 million	52-59-65-66-76-78-80 Cash 5: 22-25-33-35-40 Hoosier Lotto: 9-18-21-26-29-30 Estimated jackpot: \$9.9 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$50 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 0-5-1 Pick 4: 8-7-2-8 Pick 5: 2-6-0-5-9 Evening Pick 3: 0-4-5 Pick 4: 2-4-0-6 Pick 5: 5-1-8-2-7 Rolling Cash: 1-8-12-19-20 Classic Lotto: 1-9-21-32-44-49 Kicker: 5-4-6-2-5-7 Estimated jackpot: \$5.1 million
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-3-2 Daily Four: 3-1-7-0 Quick Draw: 4-12-13-14-20-21-22-24-26-31-33-34-35-37-39-55-60-70-72-73 Evening Daily Three: 8-0-7 Daily Four: 6-8-3-0 Quick Draw: 2-8-10-17-25-30-32-33-35-36-42-45-49	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.87 March corn.....6.87 Wheat.....7.49	Wheat.....7.01 July wheat.....7.52
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.87 March corn.....6.90 April corn.....6.95	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.73 Late Feb. corn.....6.73 Beans.....15.01 Late Feb. beans.....15.04 Wheat.....7.52
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.80 March corn.....6.80 Beans.....14.99 March beans.....15.09	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.44 March corn.....6.49 Beans.....14.78 March beans.....14.83 Wheat.....7.16

Today in history

In 1763, France and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, effectively ending conflict between the two countries in the Seven Years' War.
In 1888, Walt Whitman wrote a note to The Riverside Literature Series No. 32 publishers, explaining they published mistakes in his poem, "O Captain! My Captain!" The editors had published an earlier version of the poem, which was revised both in 1866 and 1871. Whitman wrote the piece in response to Abraham Lincoln's assassination.
In 1943, the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II ended, marking a win for the Allied powers.
In 1944, Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia. She was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her

novel, "The Color Purple."
In 1962, Soviet informant Rudolf Abel was exchanged for United States airman Francis Gary Powers, who was later convicted of espionage.
In 1969, the Boeing 747 — deemed a "jumbo jet," it was the world's largest passenger plane at that point — rode its first flight.
In 1997, "The Simpsons" aired its 167th episode on Fox, passing the record for longest-running animated series.
In 2018, Alex Bader broke the Jay County High School breaststroke record with a time of 1 minute, 2.8 seconds, during the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals at Indiana University Natatorium. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.
6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Bill would make elections partisan

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana voters could get to decide whether their local school board elections should be partisan under a new draft of Republican-backed legislation that lawmakers say would provide "more transparency" about candidates.

House Bill 1428, authored by Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City, seeks to add political party identifications to what are now nonpartisan school board elections throughout the state.

But unlike other versions of the bill that have previously circulated through the Indiana Statehouse to no avail, Prescott's legislation provides "local control" over the issue.

The House elections committee adopted an amendment to the bill on Wednesday giving school boards an option to vote to become partisan. It also allows voters in a school corporation to decide on the elections via a ballot referendum.

The measure advanced 6-4 from committee — with Rep. Bob Cherry, R-Greenfield, joining Democrats in opposition — and now heads to the

full House chamber. It's a novel move, given that Indiana's GOP leaders have consistently resisted efforts to let Hoosiers vote on referendums for other issues like abortion rights or legalizing cannabis.

"This is all about transparency for the voters — give our voters as much information as possible before they cast their vote at the ballot box," Prescott said. "This could really be tailored to your individual communities now, whether your community wants to move forward with this process or not."

Purchase ...

Continued from page 1
Houchins and commissioner Brian McGalliard both advocated for beginning to allocate money toward proposed local American Rescue Plan Act projects. Jay County's just under \$4 million dollars needs to be allocated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

Jay County is also a part of the Hoosier Enduring

Legacy Process (HELP), a program through the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs aimed at helping communities make decisions about allocating the federal funds. As a HELP community, Jay County could also receive an additional \$1 million to spend on projects. (It requires the county to use at least a third of its allocation toward proj-

ects outlined in the county's strategic investment plan created through HELP. The plan, which was submitted in December, is currently being reviewed by Purdue University.)

"This is ARP money given to us by the federal government, it has to be allocated and used by 'X' date or we risk losing that money," said McGalliard.

"I mean, investing it in farm ground, that's a pretty good investment ... so I kind of look at it in one way, taking money from one pocket and moving (it) to another pocket."

Commissioners and council declared the county interested in the land and authorized commissioners to act as purchasing agent for the transaction.

Pay ...

Continued from page 1
"At that point, we couldn't do anything," she said. "Ten minutes later we (had) the reading," she said.

The personnel committee recommended giving deputies back pay retroactive to Jan. 1 and bumping them to \$26.15 an hour starting in March.

In order to do so, council will need to update its current salary ordinance and make an additional appropriation.

Houchins also highlighted a few other personnel committee decisions:

- Adding a part-time deputy position to the sheriff's office. (Additional money will not be needed for the job, with Houchins noting the cost would come out of compensa-

tion allocated typically for overtime pay.)

- Giving Jay County Surveyor's Office the OK to hire a backhoe operator; a position recently left vacant that funding was allocated for in the budget

- Changing the name of the maintenance position at Jay County Sheriff's Office to custodian

In other business, council members Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, Dave Haines, Faron Parr, Jeanne Houchins and Randy May, absent Matt Minnich:

- Heard from Allison Keen of Jay County Purdue Extension Office, who reminded council about her organization's annual meeting set for noon Wednesday. She noted agriculture and natural resource educator

U.S.: Balloon part of years-long program

By IAIN MARLOW, PETER MARTIN and TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The Chinese balloon that crossed over the U.S. last week is just part of a years-long surveillance program with Beijing deploying such craft around the globe, the US said, as officials sought to draw new attention to what they say is an increasingly aggressive Chinese spying campaign.

The Chinese spying has gone on for "several years," sending four balloons over the U.S. alone, a Pentagon spokesman said. In a news conference Wednesday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. had briefed dozens of countries

about the full extent of the espionage.

"The United States was not the only target of this broader program, which has violated the sovereignty of countries across five continents," Blinken said at a briefing alongside NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. Blinken said the U.S. will reveal more about the balloon as it collects pieces of the craft, which was shot down off the South Carolina coast.

China has rejected allegations of spying, maintaining that the balloon that was seen over Montana last week and was shot down by a U.S. fighter jet off the coast of South Carolina was a wayward weather balloon.

In Memory of
James (Jim) Hedges
To the many relatives and friends of the late Jim Hedges, we wish to extend our sincere thanks for your many kindnesses, and for the condolences and support that we have received. We also send our gratitude and appreciation to Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, Asbury United Methodist Church, and American Legion Post #211.
The Family of Jim Hedges

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SERVICES

Today
Hitchens, Dora: 2 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Monday
Brelsford, Kim: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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

Service listings provided by
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120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
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progressiveofficeproducts.com

Join ...

Continued from page 1
The other governors sitting on the council include:

- Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, Co-Chair
- Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Co-Chair
- Delaware Gov. John Carney
- Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards
- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer
- Utah Gov. Spencer Cox
- Vermont Gov. Phil Scott
- Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon

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Photo provided

Rotary addition

Rotary Club of Portland recently inducted Carolyn Carducci as a member. Pictured above, from left, are Indiana Rotary Club president Annette Alexander, Carducci and Bonnie Maitlen, Carducci's sponsor.

Wife holds veto power

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 37 years. We have a fairly good marriage. However, when it comes to communication, there's a lot of room for improvement. I would very much like to get a second dog. I'm home alone all day because I am on disability; I have few friends, and my social life consists of the time and attention I give my dog, "Rascal," a standard schnauzer.

We can well afford another dog; we have a big enough home, a fenced-in yard — all of the things necessary for responsible dog ownership. The problem is, if I mention the subject, my wife gets very angry and immediately dismisses the idea without any discussion.

We don't discuss issues in our home. If my wife gives her thumbs-up, then it's a go. If she gives a thumbs-down, it's no-go. I don't think there's any reason why her refusal to get another dog should trump my desire to get one. Ideally, we should be able to sit down over a meal and collegially discuss the issue and base the decision upon what we mutually agree upon. Unfortunately, no such scenario exists.

I would appreciate any help you could give me. I would very much like another dog because having them brings me much joy and needed company. I don't ask for much. I don't

understand why this is an issue. — LONELY FOR MORE IN OHIO

DEAR LONELY: Your problem is twofold. One is acquiring another dog. The other is the imbalance of power in your marriage. I agree that important decisions like this should be shared, but that's not how things work between you and your wife. In your household, she has taken on the role of "alpha dog."

Unless the two of you open enough lines of communication that you can be heard, nothing will change, and you will grow increasingly unhappy. If you can afford a licensed marriage and family therapist, make an appointment to talk with one about this and any other issues you and your wife can't agree on. And I hope you are aware that you do not need her permission to get a second dog, if you are the person who will ensure it gets the love and care it needs.

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law is with this

woman, "Jana," who has three children. They call him Dad. I've no idea where the real father is. Jana is controlling, bipolar and a drunk. She doesn't cook or clean. His mother is sick, but he doesn't visit her because of Jana. They will be married in a few months.

No one in our family liked Jana from the beginning. We have reason to believe he doesn't love her and that he's just attached to the kids. We have tried warning him, but Jana is louder, and he hears her more than he hears us. I don't think we should go to the wedding. Should we let him go through with it and attend to support him? I don't want those kids to suffer if their parents are in a miserable marriage. — OBJECTING TO IT

DEAR OBJECTING: If Jana is as bad as you say, the kids are already suffering. While I agree that it may be ill-advised for your brother-in-law to marry someone with as much baggage as Jana is bringing to their union, he's an adult and you can't stop him.

Whether their marriage will last is anybody's guess based upon how much pain your BIL can tolerate. But you should definitely go to that wedding, if only to show him you are there for him on that day AND ALWAYS.

Jay County Patriot Band performs concert Sunday

It's almost here. Jay County Patriot Band will perform its annual pops concert at 2 p.m. Sunday in the auditorium at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Featured music pays tribute to movies, theater and stage performances.

Admission is free, and patrons may donate to A Better Life: Brianna's Hope.

Taking Note

Second Saturday

Blackford County Art Center's second Saturday event returns this weekend.

Children in Kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome to visit the arts center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday for free art activities. Taylor University art education students will lead the event.

To learn more, contact Lylanne Musselman at (765) 348-4154. The arts center is located at 107 W. Washington St., Hartford City.

MLK essays

It's not too late to submit an essay to the Indiana Association of School Principals 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest.

Sixth graders through high school seniors may participate by writing essays based on the following quote from Martin Luther King Jr.:

"We must develop and main-

tain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies."

For more information, visit iasp.org/students/mlk-jr-essay/. The online submission deadline is Feb. 28.

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.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT

GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m.

on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.



NOW SEEKING: PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST

Now seeking a Part-Time Receptionist for the front desk at Swiss Village. This position is responsible for handling incoming phone calls, attending to front desk inquiries, and providing clerical services for the administrative staff. Seeking candidates available to work every other weekend from 5pm-7:30pm, occasional weekday day and evening shift hours, and on a holiday rotation. Must be friendly, customer service oriented, and able to multi-task.

Apply online at swissvillage.org, in-person, or send Resume to:

Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist

Swiss Village

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Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

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The campaign silliness is coming

By MORTON J. MARCUS
It's 2023.

The candidates are lined up to become or remain mayors of Indiana cities. There will be primaries where these primates have contests within their respective parties. Some good people and some ridiculous bipeds will be nominated for the November elections.

What's going to happen between now and then? If the incumbent mayor is running for re-election, your favorite pothole will be repaired. Yes, that pothole you dodge east-bound on that very busy street, it will be filled, flush with the surface around it.

If the incumbent is not running, an 8 p.m. candlelight vigil will be held hole-side by

Eye on the Pie



the candidate from the "out" party to bemoan the condition allowed to desecrate your neighborhood by the out-going administration.

Likewise, if the incumbent is not running, the candidate of the "in" party will hold a fiesta at the site, complete with a mariachi band to celebrate the placement of that very pothole atop the priority list when said candidate achieves office.

Similar events will take place where street lights have been burned out or gunned into submission by neighborhood juvenile or adult miscreants. Electric service will be interrupted during the hottest days of July and August as the utility clamps down on usage in order to obtain higher rates for "imperative repairs" occasioned by global warming. Your gas stove will be temporarily without fuel as the gas executives hold a pity-party for their beloved natural product.

In the next few weeks you must get your priorities aligned with the candidates' priorities. Take your cell phone with you. Make sure, when you leave the presence of the sacrificial lamb, you have a

selfie with the candidate and a recording of the response to your pleading for action.

Make copies of this documentation. Distribute those copies to like-minded neighbors, the surviving local news media, and put one copy in a bank safe deposit vault, if your bank still offers such service.

Why are Indiana streets still in need of repair? The current administration will tell you the state legislature is ruled by ruralcrats who discriminate against urban areas of all sizes. That is the truth.

In addition, your local public works chief will point out the bureaucratic nightmare of getting approval for all repairs from the Board of Denial, that agency in your town which is

in constant dysfunctional disorder because it must interact with private sector contractors.

Where local government employees are the maintenance crews, the problem lies with the dyspeptic union leaders and their psychologically impaired followers who refuse to work for incentive pay. Such pay, they consider, is an insult to the dignity of labor where each worker has such pride of achievement that bribing them is repugnant.

Now if we could find companies that reject state and local bribes in site selection ...

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

Confrontation more realistic

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

Ominous signs are growing about the potential for direct military conflict between the United States and China.

It's not every day when a top military commander predicts in a memo that military confrontation could happen by 2025 with Beijing. But that's exactly what Gen. Michael A. Minihan warned a few days ago. Minihan heads the U.S. Air Mobility Command headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, which helps remind folks in this region that, even though China is way over there, any talk of war can have major reverberations right here in the Midwest.

Some of the nation's most crucial war-fighting forces are based near St. Louis. Scott is the command base for air logistics and refueling aircraft that would rapidly deploy in the advent of war. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's western headquarters is in the heart of St. Louis. And Whiteman Air Force Base is headquarters of the 509th Bomb Wing, home to the nation's B-2 stealth bomber fleet and the same bomb wing responsible for the U.S. atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ended the war with Japan in World War II.

War with China has been and probably remains an extremely remote possibility. But the threat looms ever larger, particularly after a Chinese intelligence balloon was discovered maneuvering in the skies above the northern United States. Secretary of State Antony Blinken postponed a visit to Beijing because of it.

Tensions have escalated with China ever since its construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea and subsequent construction of naval bases. China then began interfering with international shipping, claiming encroachment on sovereign Chinese territory.

New tensions are focused on China's increasingly bold threats to take military action against Taiwan. The Biden administration is boosting military aid to

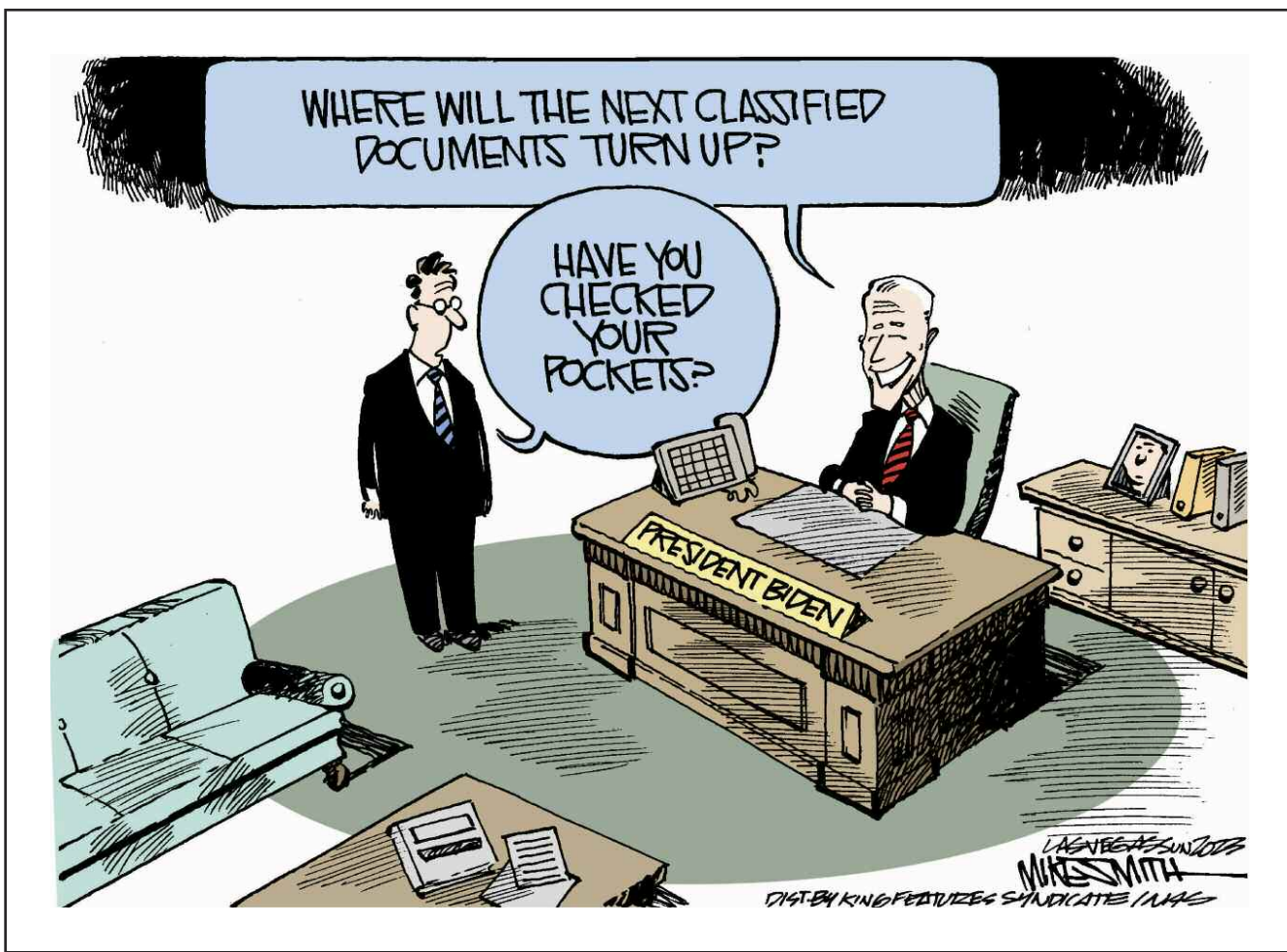
Guest Editorial

Tensions have escalated with China ever since its construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea and subsequent construction of naval bases.

Taiwan and forging tighter military ties with Japan and other Asian Pacific nations. The Philippines in January reached an agreement to restore the U.S. military presence there.

Against that backdrop, the Feb. 1 memo from Minihan takes on far more significance. Referring to Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping, Minihan wrote: "I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me we will fight in 2025. Xi secured his third term and set his war council in October 2022." Minihan outlined specific schedules for his command staff to ramp up preparations in coming months, warning against complacency. "Go faster. Drive readiness, integration, and agility for ourselves and the Joint Force to deter, and if required, defeat China."

The Pentagon distanced itself from the memo, but all the other preparations and China's balloon episode speak to a scenario belying any talk of calm and cordial diplomacy. Unless cooler heads prevail, the threat of a direct superpower confrontation is looming closer to reality, meaning this region could well find itself right in the thick of it.



Economy can win over workers

By JILL LAWRENCE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro has held his job for less than a month, so it's probably too early for him to think about running for president. But it's not too soon for other governors considering a White House run to do what he did with a splash on his first full day: open up thousands of state jobs to people who don't have four-year college degrees but do have relevant skills, training or experience.

Democratic and Republican governors should all do this, because it's commonsense policy. In fact, the first governor to go there (by his account) was a Republican now mulling a presidential campaign: former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who dropped the college requirement for thousands of state jobs last March.

The shift toward more flexible hiring standards is taking off in the private sector, and now there's movement toward it by both parties. Democratic Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado expanded skills-based hiring in April 2022, GOP Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah took a similar step in December, and Democrat Wes Moore is continuing Hogan's policy in Maryland.

This is clearly an economic win for states, especially as new job and employment reports show that the labor market remains tight, and workers are in near-record demand. It is also a political opportunity for both parties to show a commitment to working-class voters.

It's Democrats who need that most. They are in the doghouse with working-class voters, usually defined as people who don't have four-year college degrees. This group made up 57% of the elec-

torate in 2022, according to exit polling. Republicans won them by 12 percentage points overall, and if flexible hiring standards are seen as part of their party brand before Democrats lay claim to it, the GOP will strengthen its ties to these voters.

But for certain governors of large blue states whose personas don't exactly shout "man of the people" — for instance, Gavin Newsom of California and J.B. Pritzker of Illinois — spotlighting increased flexibility in hiring standards could be a useful element for a presidential campaign. It also has obvious benefits in closely divided swing states (Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan and Arizona, for a start) that will determine which party wins the White House and the Senate in 2024. It even has potential in red state races for governor this fall in Kentucky and Mississippi.

Updates to state hiring requirements are often low-key, but amplifying them can have real political impact. Shapiro regularly campaigned on making more state jobs available to people with skills acquired from practical experience, military training, apprenticeships, trade schools and associate degrees. He highlighted this in a TV ad and in his inaugural address and followed through in his first executive order. The Pennsylvania employment website now links to an "Experience Matters"

Jill Lawrence



page that lists "all job titles that do not require a degree to qualify."

Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg told me the approach is helpful, "but it has to be grounded in understanding what's happening to working people. They're on edge." Some national Democrats still don't get workers' frustration, he added, but Shapiro and others in swing states showed last year that they do.

The best bipartisan argument for reclassifying as many jobs as possible is the happy real-life consequences of more people being eligible for more jobs: Only 38.9% of Americans over 25 have a four-year college degree, according to the Census Bureau. Another is that it holds great promise — for workers individually, but also for the larger economy.

Mayors could join governors in easing or removing degree requirements for local government workers, which could help correct several years of sliding interest in public-sector jobs, pinpointed in a Marshall Project study. As for federal government employees, giving credit where it's due, former President Donald Trump started down the skills-based hiring road in June 2020, and the Biden administration built on that executive order with hiring guidance in May.

As for politics, allowing skills to substitute for degrees is a small, practical step that has broad appeal and a particular upside for Democrats struggling to reconnect with working-class voters. They'd be wise to jump on it before Republicans do.

Lawrence is an opinion writer and author of "The Art of the Political Deal: How Congress Beat the Odds and Broke Through Gridlock."

The Commercial Review



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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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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Banner Christian Assembly of God
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Michael Burk
(260) 726-4282
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Bellefontain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Gordon Jackson
Services: 9 a.m.

Bethel United Methodist
Indiana 167, 4 miles north of Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org

Christ Chapel
105 S. Elm St., Fort Recovery
Quentin Elsea
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of Christ (Southside)
1209 S. Shank St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creager Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
Gary Newton
(765) 669-1070
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Gordon Jackson
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. David Porath
(419) 678-2071
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Services: 8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday
churchofthemotholytrinity.com

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
(260) 726-7055
Services: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor United Methodist
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
John Retter
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 755-6354
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, south-west of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Chuck Hollandbeck
(765) 369-2676
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
County roads 400 North and 550 West
Rev. Mike Heckman
(260) 731-4733
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. (the 2nd and 4th Sunday at Pennville Park from June through September)

Sugar Grove United Methodist
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity United Methodist
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
(260) 726-8391
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

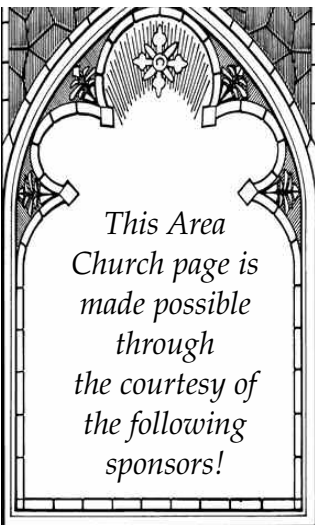
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Darrell Borders
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A futile gesture

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 4
♥ K 10 8 5
♦ A Q 7
♣ A K 10 9

WEST
♠ Q 7 6
♥ 7 3
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ Q 4 3 2

EAST
♠ K 8 5 3 2
♥ 6 2
♦ K J 9 5
♣ 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A J 10
♥ A Q J 9 4
♦ 6 3
♣ J 8 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♠ Pass 6♥

trump and taken the club finesse, the outcome would have been entirely different. South would have been able to discard his diamond loser on dummy's fourth club, so his only loser would have been a spade.

When declarer's play is analyzed, it becomes clear that he erred by taking the diamond finesse at trick one, since it could not help him make the contract. Even if the finesse had won, South would still not have been any closer to making the slam.

Before deciding how to proceed at trick one, South should consider what is required to succeed. Since a spade loser is unavoidable, it becomes obvious that South cannot make the slam unless the club finesse works. And if the club finesse succeeds, South does not need to try the diamond finesse. The diamond finesse therefore poses an unnecessary risk since it jeopardizes the slam without improving the chance of making it.

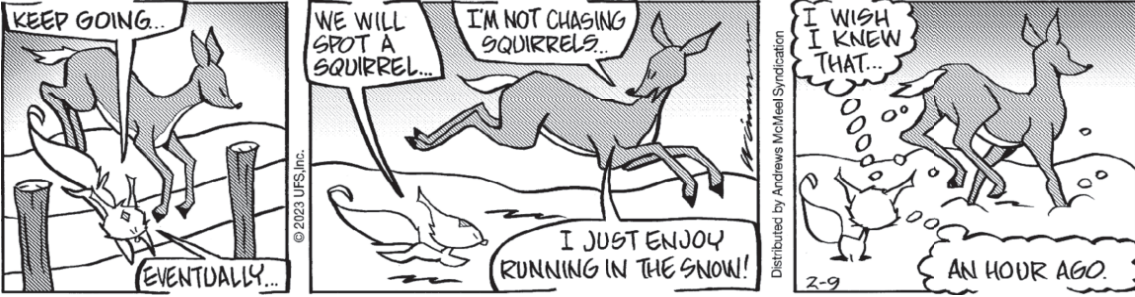
The only time the diamond finesse gains in any way is when West has the king of diamonds and East has the queen of clubs. In that case, declarer saves a trick by going down one instead of two, but this is an insignificant consideration when making a slam is at stake.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

LWU ZTVLD TD EXXK ULXI MWN
UPDOL YWZXQWFM QXIOI-SGXYY
P QPGQXKK PD P GXOWGF

YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: THE TYCOON LEFT HIS SECURITY AGENT STRANDED ON THE ROOF. HE DIDN'T WANT TO LET HIS GUARD DOWN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals G

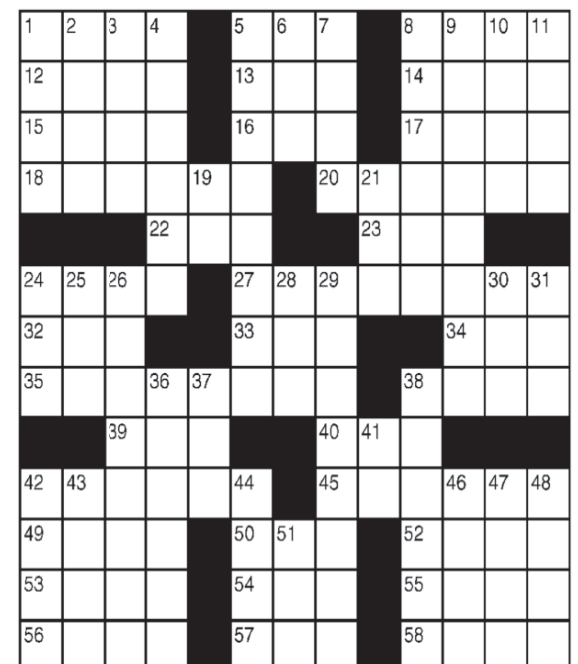
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Epoch	58 RSVP	11 Diminutive suffix
1 Suffix with song or gab	35 Old projector		19 Yes, to Juana
5 "NCIS" ainer	38 Booty part	DOWN	1 Notoriety
8 Part of a French play	39 Tic-tac-toe win		2 Mideast airline
12 Penne — vodka	40 Hooter Muppet		3 Lost to Henri traction
13 Reaction at a magic show	42 Bilingual		4 "Honor Thy Father"
14 Type of delivery	45 Kingdoms		5 Jazz saxophonist
15 Postal room, to a Londoner	49 Org.		10 Advanced math
16 Bath-er	50 Noon, on a clock		5 Jazz saxophonist
17 Skirt feature	52 Pond duck		6 Scary shout
18 Firstborn	53 Actress Elisabeth		7 Boutique
20 Vow	54 Golfer Ernie		8 Declare
22 Knightly address	55 Within (Pref.)		9 Type of coffee
23 Sphere	56 Go by		10 Advanced math
24 Pudding variety	57 Permit		
27 San Francisco Bay attraction			
32 Green prefix			
33 Ultra-modernist			

Solution time: 24 mins.

I	M	P	S	J	A	I	S	T	A	B
S	A	L	E	T	A	N	O	H	I	O
P	I	A	N	O	M	A	S	E	R	A
S	L	I	E	R	S	H	A	P	E	R
C	E	L	T	M	D	I				
P	U	P	A	O	R	E	O	A	D	Z
A	N	I	A	N	A	I	S	N	I	A
M	A	A	M	E	I	R	B	O	N	G
N	E	O	T	E	A	R				
C	H	O	P	R	A	M	A	C	A	W
H	O	B	O	T	O	P	I	A	N	O
I	H	A	D	O	L	E	D	R	E	W
C	O	R	E	M	D	S	S	O	W	S

Yesterday's answer 2-9



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End ...

Continued from page 8
When Mara launches herself from the block to start the 200 individual medley Friday night at the Indiana University Natatorium, it will mark the 11th straight year in which a Bader has represented Jay County at the state finals. During many of those years, there was more than one of them:

2013 — Sophie in 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle

2014 — Sophie in 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle

2015 — Sophie in 100 butterfly and 200 individual medley; Alex in 100 breaststroke and 200 freestyle

2016 — Sophie in 100 butterfly and 200 IM; Alex in 100 breaststroke and 100 freestyle

2017 — Alex in 100 breaststroke and 50 freestyle

2018 — Alex in 100 breaststroke and 50 freestyle; Eliza in 100 butterfly

2019 — Eliza in 100 butterfly

2020 — Eliza in 100 butterfly and 50 freestyle; Mara in 200 IM

2021 — Eliza in 100 butterfly and 50 freestyle; Mara in 200 IM

2022 — Mara in 100 breaststroke and 200 IM

2023 — Mara in 100 breaststroke and 200 IM

“Everybody talks about how Indiana is a basketball state, but that’s never been the case for our family,” said Alex. “I don’t think any of us has ever played a game of basketball in our life.

“Ever since Sophie was 4, we’ve all started swimming at the age of 4,” she added. She said during her



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sisters Alex, Mara, Sophie and Eliza Bader pose for a photo together following the sectional meet Saturday at Jay County. When Mara competes in the 200-yard individual medley and 100 breaststroke Friday night, it will mark the 11th consecutive year in which a Bader has represented the Patriots at the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals.

career swimming at Ball State University — Sophie swam there too, and Eliza does currently — she realized the rarity of their swimming bond. “Not many people get to say that. ... It’s been fun. I’m glad it’s been something that we get to share for such a long time.”

For the state finals, Mara is seeded 28th in the 100 breaststroke, her signature event. With a berth in the championship or consolation finals unlikely — the top 16 advance to compete in those races Saturday, and the No. 16 seed

was more than three seconds ahead of her based on sectional times — she is looking more toward individual improvement.

She’d like to climb from her seed position and, more importantly, she’d like to break the 1:07 mark.

“Since it’s my last high school meet ever, (my goal is) just to go out there,” said Mara, “have a best time and end it all doing the best that I can and leaving it all out in the pool.”

Her sectional time was 1 minute, 8.91 seconds, and she went a 1:08.28 when

she placed 28th in the state finals in the event last season.

“The main goal is just to improve, see what she can do,” said Slavik. “She’s got to work on her (breaststroke) tempo, getting her tempo high enough, getting the length of her stroke and the height of her recovery all laid out. ... She’s been losing her legs at about 80 yards. We need that to be at 100 yards.”

Mara’s goals are similar for the 200 IM, in which she has advanced to the state finals all four sea-

sons. She comes in as the No. 31 seed out of 32 swimmers and just wants to swim as fast as she can.

While Friday night at the state finals will end Mara’s career — she doesn’t plan on following in her sisters’ wake to swim at Ball State — the sectional meet hit her and her family hard because it was at Jay County.

“I hate to even say this is our home away from home, because ... we were here more than we were actually at home during the months of October to March,” said Sophie.

“This place, I can say for all of us, shaped who we are as individuals.”

Sophie and Alex were part of the Patriots’ first sectional championship team in 2015. (There have been five more since then.) Eliza’s teams were sectional and Allen County Athletic Conference champions all four years.

“This place has been my whole life,” Eliza said. “I’ve basically just grown up here. It’s bittersweet coming to an end.”

Sophie, a nurse at IU Health Jay, had been scheduled to work Saturday but was able to trade the shift in order to be there for her youngest sister’s final sectional meet. Eliza had the weekend open on the BSU swimming schedule schedule. (“I’m grateful I did not have a meet today,” she said. “I may have had to skip that.”) Those circumstances allowed the whole family to share in the final moment Saturday.

“The first time I made it down the pool all the way by myself was here in this pool ... 14 years ago,” said Mara. “Just knowing that I’ve grown up here, this was my second home my whole life. I wouldn’t have wanted it any way else.”

The whole group will be at the IU Natatorium again Friday night to cheer her on. Given how the youngest feels about her time spent in the JCHS pool, that is appropriate.

“My favorite memories,” Mara said, “would be any memory where all six of us were here together.”

Collegiate ...

Continued from page 8
Wood ran the third leg of the 4x800-meter relay as she teamed with Kayla Quimby, Yami Diaz and Ella Dubbs. They posted a time of 10 minutes, 32.89 seconds.

The freshman was also 14th in the 800 run in 2:43.27.

Val Muhlenkamp Fort Recovery – 2020

Finished second on the team in rebounds Saturday as the Univer-

sity of Findlay women’s basketball team defeated Walsh 64-55.

Muhlenkamp grabbed seven boards to help the Oilers (6-17) to a 35-30 advantage on the glass. She also had four points, two steals and an assist.

She had five points, two boards, one assist and one steal in a Feb. 26 75-55 loss to Lake Erie.

Robby LeFevre Fort Recovery – 2019

Ran for the Fordham Univer-

sity men’s track team Saturday at the Metropolitan Collegiate Championship.

LeFevre finished in 12th place at the meet in the 50-meter hurdles. He finished in 9.56 seconds.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high boys swimming at Norwell Invitational – 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at New Knoxville – 6 p.m.; Eighth grade boys basketball in Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament at New Knoxville – 6 p.m.; Seventh grade boys basketball in Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament at Coldwater – 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Mara Bader in IHSAA Girls Swimming State Finals at Indiana University Natatorium – 6 p.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Heritage – 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Knoxville – 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Wrestling semi-state at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum – 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Yorktown – 2:30 p.m.; Gymnastics vs. Muncie Central at Cole Academy – 2:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Newton – 6 p.m. (freshman – 4:30 p.m.); Swimming sectional at Ayersville – 11 a.m.

TV sports

Today
6:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Iowa at Indiana (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Iowa at Purdue (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL hockey: Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Chicago Bulls at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Northwestern at Ohio State (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Maryland at Northwestern (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Stanford at Arizona (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona State at Stanford (FS1)
11 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: USA at Oregon (ESPN2)

Friday
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kent State at Buffalo (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Xavier at Butler (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Phoenix

Suns at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Charlotte Hornets at Boston Celtics (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: New Mexico at Air Force (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at New Orleans Pelicans (ESPN)
11 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Fresno State at Nevada (FS1)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League – Chelsea at West Ham United (USA)
10 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League – Wolverhampton at Southampton (USA)
Noon — Men’s college basketball: Marquette at Georgetown (FS1); Providence at St. John’s (FOX); North Carolina State at Boston College (Bally Indiana); Penn State at Maryland (BTN); Kentucky at Georgia (ESPN)
12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. Bonaventure at Duquesne (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League – Newcastle United at AFC Bournemouth (NBC)
1 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Kansas at Oklahoma (CBS)
1 p.m. — NHL hockey: Tampa Bay Lightning at Dallas Stars (ABC)
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Louisiana Tech at FAU (Bally Indiana); Connecticut at Creighton (FOX); Rutgers at Illinois (FS1)
2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Fordham at Davidson (USA)
3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour – Phoenix Open (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Washington Capitals at Boston Bruins (ABC)
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Duke at Virginia (ESPN); Baylor at TCU

(ESPN2); UNLV at San Diego State (FOX); Wisconsin at Nebraska (BTN)
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Indiana at Michigan (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Men’s college hockey: Minnesota at Wisconsin (BTN)
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona at Stanford (ESPN2); Seton Hall at Villanova (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (ABC)
10 p.m. — Mixed martial arts – Islam Makhachev vs. Alexander Volkanovski (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Colorado at Utah (FS1); UCLA at Oregon (ESPN)

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Saturday Morning
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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Building will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview.
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AU11200131

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3554 W 300 N
Thursday evening
FEBRUARY 16, 2023
6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE:
Property consists of a 2 Bedroom, 2 bathroom mobile home with an attached garage. Mobile home has a gas furnace, hot water heater, and a water softener. Gas cook stove, washer and dryer to stay with the property. Property has 2 wells and a leach bed. Included on this 2.1 acre parcel is a 27' x 40' pole barn and a pond.
For more information contact
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 3554 W 300 N on Thursday evening

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

6:00 P.M.

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Property consists of a 2 Bedroom, 2 bathroom mobile home with an attached garage. Mobile home has a gas furnace, hot water heater, and a water softener. Gas cook stove, washer and dryer to stay with the property. Property has 2 wells and a leach bed. Included on this 2.1 acre parcel is a 27' x 40' pole barn and a pond.

10% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Seller will provide General Warranty Deed and Owners Title Insurance. Buyer to assume taxes due and payable in November 2023 and thereafter. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral statements. Owner confirmation day of sale. For more information contact LOY AUCTION 260-726-2700.

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End of an era

Friday evening will mark 11 consecutive years of a Bader representing Jay County at the girls swimming state finals

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

As Alex Bader turned around after congratulating her sister, her cheeks were red, tears streaming down.

When Mara Bader got out of the pool after her cool-down lap, Alex wrapped her in a hug and didn't let go.

Moments later, from his spot on the announcers stand, their dad Christian could barely speak as he announced the top eight, choking back tears as he finished: "First place ... Jay County ... Mara Bader."

Her win in the 100-yard breaststroke Saturday marked the final race in which a Bader will compete in the Jay County High School pool, ending an era for Patriot swimming.

"I knew this was going to happen, but it's different in the moment," Alex said, tears flowing again.

The whole family was on hand — mom Missy and sister Sophie timing in lane four, sisters Eliza and Alex timing in lane five, Christian announcing — to watch, cheer and cry.

"Seeing Mara get out of the pool after the 100 breaststroke was tough, especially when the water works started," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "Eleven years straight of having a Bader ... on the team is kind of special. You build a relationship with families in this community. We spend a lot of time together. And it's hard to realize that we've come to the end of it."

It's not unusual to have a run of sibling athletes. It is rare, though, for four sisters — 2016 graduate Sophie, 2018 graduate Alex, 2021 graduates Eliza and Mara — to so dominate their sport for so long.

See End page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Alex Bader hugs her sister Mara after the latter gets out of the pool Saturday following her win in the 100-yard breaststroke in the sectional meet at Jay County High School. Mara's victory marked the final time a Bader will swim in that pool for the Patriots. The four sisters — Sophie, Alex, Eliza and Mara — have combined to earn 28 individual berths in the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals over the last 11 years.



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Kunkler 2nd in KCAC

A former Patriot trailed only one swimmer at her conference championships.

Over the course of the season, only 10 in the entirety of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics have been faster.

Vivienne Kunkler, a 2019 Jay County High School graduate, finished as the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference runner-up in the 200-yard breaststroke last weekend and posted an NAIA provisional time competing for the Bethel College women's swim team.

Kunkler's best swim for the Pilots, who finished No. 2 in the conference behind Olivet Nazarene, came in the 200 breaststroke as she finished second behind Julietta Vega of the champion Tigers. Her time of 2 minutes, 24.88 seconds, is the 11th-fastest in the NAIA this season and puts her in position to compete at the NAIA National Championships beginning March 1 in Columbus, Georgia.

She is a three-time NAIA All-American.

Kunkler also finished fifth in the KCAC meet in the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.54 — that time is 13th fastest in the NAIA this season — and 20th in the 50 freestyle.

She was part of third-place relay finishes for Bethel in the 200 medley, 400 medley and 200 freestyle.

**Lizzy Dollar
Jay County – 2022**

Earned one of four contested victo-

Collegiate Check-up

ries as the Indiana Tech women's wrestling team defeated Siena Heights 29-15 Friday.

Dollar earned five points for the Warriors as she pinned Bailey Jones in 2 minutes, 42 seconds, in their 116-pound bout. Indiana Tech picked up four contested wins and three forfeits.

**Alli Vaughn
Fort Recovery – 2021**

Led the Huntington University women's basketball team in assists in Wednesday's 78-70 loss to St. Francis.

Vaughn dished out five assists for the Foresters (9-17) and also shared the team lead with six rebounds. She scored eight points.

The sophomore also had two rebounds and an assist in Saturday's 71-54 loss to No. 6 Marian.

**Lindy Wood
Jay County – 2022**

Was part of a sixth-place relay effort for the University of St. Francis women's track team Saturday as it competed in the IWU Midwest Classic at Indiana Wesleyan.

See Collegiate page 7

Lakers bring in Russell

By DAN WOIKE

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Lakers dramatically changed the composition of their roster, trading Russell Westbrook to Utah in a three-team deal Wednesday that will bring back former Lakers draft pick D'Angelo Russell from the Minnesota Timberwolves and also net guard Malik Beasley and forward Jared Vanderbilt from the Jazz.

The Lakers will also send a protected 2027 first-round draft pick to the Jazz, according to people familiar with the deal who aren't authorized to speak about it publicly.

The Lakers are excited to get young players Russell, Beasley and Vanderbilt,

addressing the shooting issues that have plagued them throughout the season, sources said.

The trade ends Westbrook's tenure with the Lakers, a homecoming in Los Angeles that was fraught with injuries to his costars and inconsistent production on it.

Russell, who the Lakers selected No. 2 overall in 2015, is averaging 17.9 points and 6.2 assists for Minnesota this season.

He's an unrestricted free agent this summer after his \$31.4 million contract expires.

The Lakers would have a \$16.5 million team option on Beasley's contract for next season. Vanderbilt is a young defender and rebounder whom the Jazz acquired from Minnesota as part of the Rudy Gobert deal last summer. In 52 games, he's averaging 8.3 points and 7.9 rebounds in 24.1 minutes per game.

Westbrook goes to Utah in three-team trade