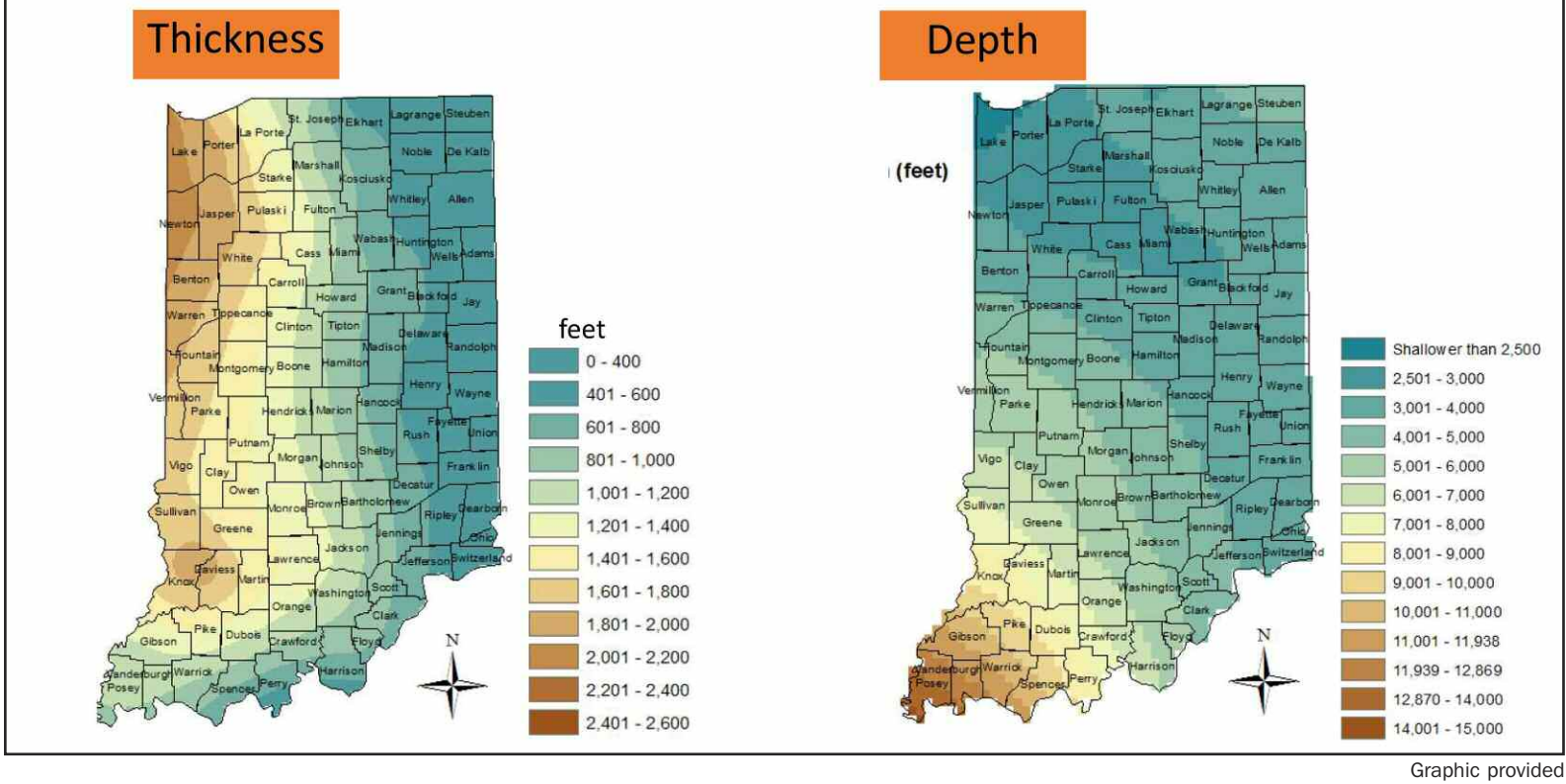


No moratorium

Mount Simon Sandstone



The above graphic from a presentation Purdue University professor Douglas Schmitt shared Thursday night with Portland Plan Commission shows the thickness and depth of Mount Simon Sandstone in Indiana. The porous sandstone that is 3,000 to 4,000 feet deep and 400 to 600 feet thick in Jay County is where carbon dioxide would be injected through a proposed POET Biorefining carbon sequestration project. The plan commission voted Thursday to recommend not putting a moratorium in place for such projects.

Portland plan commission recommends no pause; issue now moves to city council for final decision

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Portland Plan Commission recommended not to put a moratorium in place on carbon sequestration projects during its meeting Thursday.

The issue now moves to Portland City Council for a final decision.

Local officials have been discussing carbon sequestration — the process of storing carbon dioxide, which can be captured from industrial projects, power plants and other facilities — for several months now. POET Biorefining of rural Portland is working toward a carbon sequestration project. Plans are to submit an application to the Environmental Protection Agency in the next few weeks, after which there is about a two-year review period that will include community engagement and public review.

Portland Plan Commission previously made no recommendation on a moratorium, with Portland City Council then deciding in July to send

the issue back to the plan commission for further study. (Jay County Commissioners previously voted not to place a moratorium on carbon sequestration projects.)

The plan commission heard a presentation from Purdue University professor of geophysics and physics Douglas Schmitt about carbon sequestration.

He explained the basics of the process, noting that Jay County has the Mount Simon Sandstone that is deep and highly porous with shale acting as “seal rock” above it. Those conditions, he said, are ideal for carbon sequestration.

Schmitt explained that the process is not new — “This has actually been around a long time,” he said — and that about 10% of U.S. oil production involves enhanced carbon dioxide injection.

He noted the importance of evaluation of the injection site ahead of the project and said monitoring will be essential once it is underway.

Schmitt mentioned potential leaks as risks while noting that there have been some cases of leaks from surface infrastructure but underground leaks have not seemed to be a problem. As benefits of such a project, he pointed to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Plan commission member Randy Geesman, who served two terms as Portland’s mayor, asked about any potential impacts from blasting at the nearby US Aggregates stone quarry, risks of leaking and the quality of the site for such a project. Schmitt said he would not be concerned about blasting because of the depth of the injection, said that risk of leaks is minimal and agreed that the rock is ideal for carbon sequestration.

Kent McClung, who sits on the plan commission and serves as city council president, asked about Schmitt’s confidence in the technology. He responded that it is safe if proper study is done ahead of

time and monitoring is in place, noting that there is not a lot of seismic activity in the area.

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake asked about an Illinois ban on carbon sequestration projects in the area of the Mahomet Aquifer. Schmitt said he was unfamiliar with the ban but said he would look into it. (The Illinois legislature passed a bill in August to ban carbon sequestration in the area of the aquifer, which is the primary source of drinking water in central Illinois. The ban goes into effect on Jan. 1.)

Geesman pushed for a recommendation against a moratorium, saying he had not heard anything that caused him to think the POET project was unsafe.

Plan commission member Ashley Hilfiker, who also sits on city council, said her concern is not about a lack of trust in POET but rather in making sure checks and balances are in place for all projects.

See **Moratorium** page 2

Board OKs a new Bobcat

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The city’s street department will upgrade its equipment.

Portland Board of Works approved the purchase of a new E55 Bobcat Compact Excavator for the street department during its meeting Thursday.

Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver presented the request for the new equipment, saying the E55 model would allow for a wider range of work and improve safety. (The city currently uses an E35 model.) The larger model has about double the lifting capacity.

It would also handle a jackhammer attachment and would allow for other attachments, such as a mower for ditches. Shauver said his department has rented a jackhammer for sidewalk work several times this year.

He told the board the city has installed more than 200 linear yards of sidewalks so far this year.

Shauver presented a quote of \$40,143.78 after trade-in and an additional \$13,113.12 for a jackhammer attachment from South Bluffton Bobcat. He said money is available in the street department’s concrete fund for the excavator and the city’s water and wastewater departments agreed to split the cost of the jackhammer. (He noted the water and wastewater departments use the current excavator occasionally as needed.)

“I really think it’s a good investment,” said board of works member Jerry Leonhard.

Board of works members Steve McIntosh, Mayor Jeff Westlake and Leonhard unanimously approved the purchase.

The board also approved a \$7,000 contract with Wessler Engineering to update the city’s risk resilience assessment and emergency response plan. America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 requires municipalities to have such a plan in place. Portland’s is due to be updated by the end of 2026.

Braun retaining READI regions

By DAN CARDEN
The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service

Gov. Mike Braun has decided to retain the regional alignments developed under his predecessor as the means for implementing workforce and economic development policies over the next four years.

The Republican chief executive said Thursday he agrees with the results of a study conducted by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business that found the state’s existing regional partnerships are the best structure for managing the widely varying economic interests across the state.

In 2024, local government and business leaders continued or established 15 multi-county associations to compete for a second \$500 million round of workforce development and quality of place

Areas will be used for economic and workforce development policy

grants through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) established in 2021 by Republican former Gov. Eric Holcomb.

The Northwest Indiana Forum oversees the READI district serving Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Pulaski and Starke counties, which received \$95 million of the \$1 billion in total statewide READI funds.

“This report proves what we’ve seen on the ground: Indiana’s regions are strong, well-defined and ready to lead,” Braun said.

“The 15 READI regions were built by local leaders, tested through real collaboration and now validated by independent research. By aligning the state around this framework, we remove confusion, cut costs and give Hoosiers one clear plan forward.”

Indiana Commerce Secretary David Adams said relying on the READI framework will also ensure clarity and accountability as the state advances its economic and workforce planning under Braun.



Tribune News Service/Detroit News/David Guralnick

In memory

Balloons are released during a vigil for Linda Hill and her 12-year-old son Kardi Jackson at Hazel Park Middle School. Hill’s brother faces two counts of first-degree murder in the slashing deaths.

Obituaries

Charles Ashcraft
Nov. 3, 1938-Sept. 3, 2025
Charles F. Ashcraft, age 86, of LaGrange, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, at The Orchard Pointe in Kendallville.

Born on Nov. 3, 1938, in Portland, Indiana, Charles was the son of Jonathon C. and Nellie G. (Ferguson) Ashcraft. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, Charles — known affectionately as “Charlie” — dedicated his life to service, both in uniform and in his community.

Charlie dedicated his professional life to helping others, working for many years as a loan officer at Citizens Bank and Trust, Churubusco State Bank and Farmers State Bank. His integrity and compassion made him a trusted figure in the community. A devoted member of the



Ashcraft

First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, Charlie served faithfully as both a deacon and treasurer.

His commitment to public service extended well beyond his career. For over 20 years, member and precinct representative for the LaGrange Democratic Party. He also contributed his time and insight to the Council on Aging Board, the county health board and numerous other local organizations, always striving to improve the lives of those around him.

Charlie is survived by his daughters, Jill Carmody of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Laura (Andy) Thompson of Zionsville, Indiana; his stepdaughter, Kelly (Kevin) Mikesell of Lowell, Indiana; and his stepdaughter-in-law, Hope Fry of South Euclid, Ohio. He was a proud grandfather to Nikki, Daniel, Max, Taylor, Mitchell and Evan; and a loving step-grandfather to Beth, Colin, Kirsten and Clark. Charlie also leaves behind five great-

grandchildren; his sister Karen (Gene) Lasher of Old Hickory, Tennessee; and his dear friend Diane Cameron of LaGrange, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife Sara M. “Sally” (Sites) Fry Ashcraft; and his stepson, Kirk Fry.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial visitation on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Frurip-May Funeral Home, 309 W. Michigan St., LaGrange. A memorial service will be held at the funeral home on Monday, Sept. 8 at 11 a.m., officiated by the Rev. Kenneth Weaver. Charlie will be laid to rest privately at Green Park Cemetery in Portland, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the LaGrange County Community Foundation, 0045 N. 250 West, LaGrange, IN 46761, or the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, 200 W. Michigan St., LaGrange, IN 46761.

Messages of condolence may

be shared with the family at fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Nancy Cheeseman
Feb. 19, 1936-Aug. 21, 2025
Nancy Cheeseman, age 89, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Nancy was born Feb. 19, 1936, in Anderson, Indiana, the daughter of Herbert and Jeanette (Steele) Cheeseman Stout. She graduated from Anderson High School in 1954 and attended Ball State University.

Nancy worked on the family farm and was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland. She was involved with many activities in the church including the bell choir and singing choir. She was also a member of the Noble Township Busy Bees.



Cheeseman

Survivors include:
Her son — Art Cheeseman (wife: Angi), Indianapolis
Two grandchildren — Clint Cheeseman and Joel Cheeseman (wife: Melda)
Six great-grandchildren
Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, at Anderson Memorial Park in Anderson, Indiana. Arrangements are entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Memorials may be directed towards Asbury United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Sunday 9/7	Monday 9/8	Tuesday 9/9	Wednesday 9/10	Thursday 9/11
70/39 Mostly sunny on Sunday. The low at night may dip into the high 30s.	72/45 Monday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high around 70 degrees.	78/50 Sunny on Tuesday, when the low may dip to 50 degrees late.	83/53 Wednesday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with a high around 83.	83/53 Sunny skies are on the horizon for Thursday, when the low may hit 53 degrees.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-8-3 Daily Four: 8-8-7-4 Quick Draw: 1-3-12-23-24-26-30-31-39-40-41-50-57-61-65-70-71-74-79-80	Pick 3: 9-2-8 Pick 4: 7-2-4-0 Pick 5: 3-1-4-6-9
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$1.8 billion	
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$336 million	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.06 Oct. corn.....4.03	Wheat4.74
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.18 Late Sept. corn4.08 Oct. corn4.03	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.93 Oct. corn3.88 Beans.....9.94 Oct. beans9.89 Wheat4.69
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.98 Oct. corn3.95 Beans.....9.92 Oct. beans9.87	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.08 Late Sept. corn4.03 Beans.....9.67 Oct. beans9.67 Wheat4.54

Today in history

In 1791, Mozart premiered his opera “La Clemenza di Tito” in Prague.

In 1860, Jane Addams was born in Cedarville, Illinois. She and friend Ellen Gate Starr opened Hull House in Chicago in 1889 to provide welfare assistance to those in need. Hull House later became key in the labor rights and women’s suffrage movements.

In 1972, Chester Sloniker, 69, Millgrove, was found dead of two gunshot wounds to the head at a gravel pit southeast of Blackford County roads 600 East and 400 South near Dunkirk. Sloniker reportedly left to go fishing at the gravel pit on the property of Sidney Manor about 8:15 p.m. and was found dead by Manor about 6:50 p.m.

In 1995, Cal Ripken Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles broke Lou Gehrig’s record for consecutive games played as he took the field for the 2,131st consecutive time.

In 2021, Ball State University’s Applied Anthropology Laboratories received a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to implement a traveling panel exhibit about the Battle of St. Clair’s defeat at Fort Recovery.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 10:15 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:40 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, public library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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Moratorium ...

Continued from page 1
Plan commission members also talked about timing and whether or not regulations could be put in place retroactively. (They can’t.)

John Hemmelgarn and Pati McLaughlin of Jay/Portland Building and Planning explained that they are working on an ordinance to regulate carbon sequestration projects, as well as rules for battery storage facilities and potential updates to ordinances regarding wind and solar farms. Hemmelgarn said

the goal is to have something to present to the city and county plan commissions by the end of the year.

He said such ordinances would cover items such as setbacks from residences, permitting fees and monitoring requirements. (There are already EPA and state guidelines in place regarding carbon sequestration.) City attorney Wes Schemenaur suggested a provision to require that companies pursuing such projects provide notice to sur-

rounding landowners, in large part to reduce the workload on the building and planning department.

Kyle Cook of the plan commission asked Hemmelgarn and McLaughlin for their input on a moratorium.

“Ultimately, we’re gonna work on this regardless,” Hemmelgarn said. “But it’s up to you guys to decide what goes in it.”

He asked plan commission members to start thinking now about what should be in an ordi-

nance regulating carbon sequestration projects.

The plan commission then voted 7-1 against recommending a moratorium, with Ron Laux, Bart Darby, Steve McIntosh, Jerry Alexander, Matt Goldsworthy, Cook, McClung and Geesaman. Hilfiker cast the dissenting vote and Chad Aker was absent from the meeting.

The decision on whether or not to put a moratorium in place now moves to Portland City Council, which has 45 days to take action.

Capsule Reports

Lost control
A Farmland woman swerved off the road and into a ditch and cornfield at the intersection of Indiana 1 and Indiana 26 about 4:16 p.m. Thursday.

Melissa A. Bullock, 52, told police she was driving a 2012 Chevrolet Cruze south on Indiana 1 and approaching its intersection with Indiana 26 when an unknown vehicle turned in front of her and continued

south. Bullock said she swerved to avoid hitting the vehicle, causing her to go off the road and into a ditch. Her vehicle continued into a cornfield.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

California to join firefighting compact

By HAYLEY SMITH
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service
Days after California announced that it will form a “West Coast health alliance” with Oregon and Washington, officials on Friday said the Golden State will also join a collaborative agreement with 12 other states, provinces and territories geared toward the prevention and suppression of wildfires.

The Northwest Wildland Fire Fighting Compact enables its U.S. and Canadian members to share firefighting resources and technology when blazes exceed the capacity of a single jurisdiction. The partnership comes as California grapples with larger, faster and more frequent fires fueled by climate change — and as the Trump administration cuts the staff and budget of the U.S. Forest Service, the largest federal firefighting entity in the nation.

“While the Trump administration retreats from firefighting, Califor-

nia is proud to join forces with our northwestern neighbors to fight catastrophic wildfire,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. “We’re all on the front lines of this worsening wildfire threat — and by joining our collective resources together, we will be even more effective in protecting our communities.”

First formed in 1998, the Northwest Compact’s existing members are Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Hawaii, as well as the Canadian provinces Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and the Yukon and Northwest territories.

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SERVICES

Today
Fenstermaker, Larry: 3 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday
Ashcraft, Charles: 11 a.m., Frurip-May Funeral Home, 309 W. Michigan St., LaGrange.
Cheeseman, Nancy: 2 p.m., Anderson Memorial Park, Anderson.

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Woman battles loneliness

DEAR ABBY: Why do I feel the need to be in a relationship, but when I'm in one, I feel trapped, bored, disappointed and lonely? I'm a divorced single mom, co-parenting a child with my ex. We have been divorced for 15 years. My child is graduating from college this year.

I have often been told by past partners that I lacked the willingness or ability to emotionally connect with them. Because of this, the relationship lacked substance, and we ended up breaking up. When it happens, I feel devastated. Because I'm the reason it ended, my first reaction is to convince them to give me a second chance. Second chance leads to third chance, etc., but ultimately, the romance ends because the problem remains.

My last two relationships each lasted four years. Some of the criticisms included my not being interested in getting to know or becoming close to their kids and not showing vulnerability. This led to them doubting that I was truly interested in them and questioning my reasons for being with them.

From my perspective, I often feel tired of my life as a single mom, working full time, co-raising a child, etc. But there is a strong desire to have a male figure in my life

Dear Abby



to feel safe and secure. Recently, perimenopause symptoms have had a great impact on my life. This has been my relationship pattern. How do I break it? — LONELY IN THE WEST

DEAR LONELY: You have stated clearly what you want from a relationship, but you haven't mentioned what you BROUGHT to those past relationships. You want safety and security. It's possible those men sensed your lack of emotional involvement. The surest way to break this self-defeating pattern would be to talk with a licensed mental health professional about your priorities and how to form a meaningful, lasting relationship.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and live in a two-story house with a basement. While our home is beautifully designed and furnished, several areas need immediate attention with regard to aging and safety

issues. Several small area rugs need securing, and safety rails need to be installed in two of the showers. Two bathtubs are no longer being used because of the inability to egress without some type of assistance. There is also no handrail on the basement steps.

My husband says it is "no big deal" to fix these issues, while I say IT IS a "big deal" that is crucial to aging in place and must be addressed immediately. We are both strongly averse to moving into a "God's waiting room" facility and very much wish to age in place. What say you? Am I being finicky, or do these issues need immediate attention? — WANTS IT DONE IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR WANTS: What I say is that you are being prudent. Tell your procrastinating husband that foresight is better than 20/20 hindsight, so if he isn't willing to start installing the safety devices, you are hiring someone to take care of it to ensure your safety.

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 DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Center celebrating infants this month

There's a community baby shower every week this month.

Jay County Family Resource Center, 827 W. High St., Portland, will celebrate families with infants up to 1 year old every Tuesday in September from 1 to 5 p.m. Community members are invited to walk in to join the celebration.

Trine degree

A Dunkirk resident recently received her degree from Trine University. Makenzie Ring completed requirements for her degree in exercise science - pre physical therapy 3+3.

Hope Fest

Hope Fest, a health fair with vendors and games, is slated for

Taking Note

noon to 5 p.m. today at Jay County High School.

The event will feature free health screenings, local resources, inflatables, archery tag, men's haircuts, food, door prizes and a petting zoo from noon to 3 p.m. A free concert, featuring Nicky Gracious, JTruth, REDEEMED, 1 Cut, Clean Slate and Mallory Be., will be from 1 to 5 p.m.

Sorority news

Zeta Chi Chapter, Delta Theta Tau Sorority held a business meeting on Sept. 2 at the West Jay Community Center with 14 members present. The meeting was opened by our president Rita Flick.

Pam Robbins read the minutes, and Christy Curts gave the treasurer's report.

We are currently preparing for our Main Street USA Craft Show on Saturday, Oct. 4, at West Jay Elementary School, 140 E. Highland Ave., Dunkirk. There is free admission with crafts, raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle drawing.

Coats are being collected for the local coat drive.

We completed our fall mum sale and are currently selling Mrs. Wick's pies until Oct. 17.

Delta Queen was Chris Davis. The next meeting will be held Sept. 16 at West Jay Community Center.

The members present were Brenda Brumfield, Christy Curts, Chris Davis, Michele Dotson, Phyllis Dublin, Rita Flick, Marla Grady, Nancy Lininger, Shelly Miskinis, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Scrugs, Kendra Stouder, and Julie Swoveland.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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 - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30

p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, 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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.

THE LIFE CENTER —

Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each

Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU

Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families

of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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Farmers need support, not stress

The Columbian
(Vancouver, Washington)
Tribune News Service

During his first term in office, President Donald Trump's policies were costly to American taxpayers and harmful to American farmers.

Trump's tariffs upon imports inevitably led to counter-tariffs upon U.S. exports. In one example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that American farmers saw sales reduced by \$27 billion over 18 months of Trump's tariffs; the first Trump administration opted to make taxpayers foot much of the bill, increasing federal subsidies for farmers from \$4 billion in 2017 to \$20 billion by 2020.

Despite that costly failure, the second Trump administration has doubled down on harmful policies. He has expanded or threatened to expand tariffs on

Guest Editorial

imports — costs that get passed along to U.S. consumers — and has triggered counter-tariffs that further stress farmers. On top of that, he has aggressively pursued efforts to deport illegal immigrants and has rolled back efforts to mitigate climate change — policies that inordinately impact agriculture.

According to Census Bureau data analyzed by the Pew Research Center, more than 1.2 million immigrants left the labor force from January through July. Some of them were deported; some left the United States volun-

tarily; some stopped seeking employment out of fear of immigration raids. According to Pew, approximately 45 percent of workers in farming, fishing and forestry are immigrants.

That information has been discussed since Trump won reelection in November. There is, indeed, a need for secure borders and a widespread public desire to enforce the nation's laws. But what often is overlooked in those discussions is the impact on agriculture — one of the nation's bedrock industries.

Since before Trump entered politics, American farmers have faced increasing pressures. As The Seattle Times reported last week: "The stressors placed on farmers, including inflation, weather changes and tariffs, can all take a toll on their mental health, leading them to shut down their farms and leaving the

next generation less interested in taking over. Over 3,700 farms shut down in Washington from 2017 to 2022, according to the Census of Agriculture."

The latest data show approximately 32,000 farms in Washington, meaning that more than 10 percent have closed. Those growers annually produce more than \$12 billion worth of crops.

Meanwhile, a report this year from the Washington State Department of Agriculture shows that the state's suicide rate for farmers is nearly 25 percent higher than the general population. The Times summarizes: "Strenuous lifestyle, lower access to mental health providers and the social stigma that comes with seeing a psychologist all contribute to higher suicide rates in these communities, the report said."

Clearly, this is not solely the

fault of Trump's policies. Over several decades, political, cultural and economic changes have made it more difficult for family farms to remain viable. But Trump's policies have arrived at a particularly crucial time for the industry.

California, for example, easily leads the nation in agricultural production. But it also, according to federal data, has the highest concentration of immigrant and undocumented immigrant workers. Trump's immigration crack-down results in fewer workers, more stress for farmers and higher prices for consumers.

Instead of working against an industry that impacts every kitchen table in America, federal policy should support free trade, programs for immigrant workers and plans aimed at reducing climate change. America's farmers rely on such policies.

What is the impact of ICE crackdowns?

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

Recently, a major Alabama construction project suddenly went silent.

Nearly every worker, despite apparent sign-off through the "E-verify" system, failed to show up on a \$20 million job site.



Bruce Yandle

er labor shortage on single-family home building. Labor scarcity led to a reduction of approximately 19,000 single-family homes in 2024.

The problem cuts across many industries. According to the IPUMS center, in 2024, noncitizens accounted for 33% of maid and housekeeping workers and 24% in landscaping. The Department of Agriculture reports that 42% of crop workers are undocumented immigrants.

As for the notion that native U.S. workers might enjoy more opportunities in the labor market, consumers expressed concern about declining employment prospects.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses' optimism index also fell in August after being positive for three consecutive months. Get this: Some 40% of all "small business owners reported job openings they could not fill." This was up two points since July and probably not coincidence.

There's obviously a paradox here. Ordinary people are worried about getting or keeping jobs while employers are concerned about finding enough workers to keep their businesses flourishing. In theory, native workers step in to replace immigrants. So far, ICE crackdowns that are exporting workers and causing others to be scared to go to work seem to be the more powerful economic force. Border fences are getting tighter and we are importing fewer workers.

There's more to the shrinking supply story, but one thing is certain: One way or another, the U.S. is running low on workers and we no longer produce as many at home. We will soon be running low on the things they make and paying higher prices.

.....

Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, dean emeritus of the Clemson College of Business and Behavioral Sciences and a former executive director of the Federal Trade Commission.



It's time to start listening

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

Every mass shooting now in America demonstrates just how divorced from reality—not to mention urgency—our national debates about guns and gun violence have become.

When a shooter opened fire at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, killing two children and wounding at least 18 other people, the cries of the injured and the laments of the grieving hadn't even died away before the same predictable voices began to offer their stale takes on the horror.

There was a dustup over the phrase "thoughts and prayers."

Those who offered such sentiments in sympathy for the victims and their loved ones found them met with snarls by skeptics who noted that those who had been shot were in a church, at prayer, when the bullets began to fly.

When U.S. Vice President JD Vance attributed this mass horror to a mental-health crisis in America, his argument was dismissed with scorn. If Vance and other members of President Donald Trump's administration were so concerned about mental health, why did they cut \$1 billion worth of such services from the federal budget?

And the arguments about the role Americans' easy access to guns plays in our ongoing national debacle ran into the usual brick wall of denial and indifference from the National Rifle Association and its massive force of well-fed lobbyists and ever-so-compliant elected official across the country.

While the sides in this debate toss their increasingly tired lines back and forth, the suffering continues, the deaths mount and the grieving festers.

This is a genuine tragedy — more

John Krull



so because it is an increasingly willed tragedy.

Many of the tens of thousands of firearm-related deaths we Americans rack up every year occur because we, as a nation, refuse to honestly discuss our gun problem.

When we talk about guns and gun deaths, we too often shout. And we almost never listen.

This adds to the sadness because the rough contours of an answer to the problem are there.

If we're willing to follow where the facts lead.

It is, for example, entirely possible there is a linkage between mental health and the ungodly number of gun deaths on our native soil.

The percentage of Americans who personally own guns has dropped over the past 30 years. Now, fewer than one-third of Americans—about 31% to 32%, depending upon the survey—own a firearm.

That said, there are more guns sold in this country than ever before. Many of them are the high-capacity, military-style semiautomatic weapons that are the most profitable products for the firearms industry to sell.

How is it possible that more guns are being sold now when there are fewer Americans buying them?

Many of the people who buy guns now buy them in large numbers. They amass what amounts to stockpiles of deadly weapons. That is why, in so many of our mass shootings, the shooter has a veritable arsenal at his or her disposal.

This has ramifications that extend far beyond the problem of mass shootings.

At least part of the reason our metropolitan police forces in so many American cities have been transformed into quasi-military forces is that law-enforcement officials never know when they might run into an offender with more firepower than some battalions. It also could account, at least partially, for the reason cops often seem quick on the trigger.

It's easy to panic if one fears that delay could result in multiple rounds per minute flying one's way.

What might result from investigating if the quiet person who suddenly has begun assembling a cache of guns sufficient to arm a platoon has been going through a difficult time or struggling to maintain psychological stability?

The fact is that those advocating for the rights of gun owners do have a point. Mental health issues often do play a role in shootings, either of the mass or everyday type.

Where their argument breaks down, though, is that they refuse to take any steps to make it more difficult for people who are unstable or flat-out dangerous to lay their hands on deadly weapons.

If we want to solve this problem, we Americans will need to stop shouting at each other and start listening to each other.

If we don't, the mountain of facts that suggest that we could solve this problem but choose not to will grow ever higher.

As will the number of deaths.

.....

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

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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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9-6CRYPTOQUIP

CS XSV ELWUM ELZE ELK
IZOSFWEK OKHKEZAGKY SI
QZWUEKFY ZUC YPVGQESFY

SVHLE ES AK ZFEX-PLSMKY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: METHOD OF STAYING
CALM IN A CAB AS YOU NOTICE YOUR FARE
CLIMBING EVER HIGHER: MIND OVER METER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals V

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Mice and men

1) What Stephen King tale features
a mouse named Mr. Jingles?

2) What two singers and musicians were part of the
Quarrymen before gaining fame in another band?

1) The Green Mile
2) Paul McCartney and John Lennon

9-8CRYPTOQUIP

LSCEWLY LPEHEU LPPA KAPP
QZEPDUC QPP LPEHEU FOS EIA
LELX/H NP URKA SLWB EGVILS
VETI LPPSVLEH/B

Saturday's Cryptogram: THE NEW THING THAT
THE FOLK OF THE COUNTRY OF FORTY-FIVE
WAS WORTH THE TRIP TO THE COUNTRY OF
Forty-Five Country Club is open.

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to hiking.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = O)

A. 1 15 15 14 22
Clue: Footwear

B. 14 3 20 10 5
Clue: Path

C. 11 3 6 11 20 3 6
Clue: Get ready

D. 15 25 14 8 15 15 3 22
Clue: Nature

Answers: A. boots B. trail C. prepare D. outdoors

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hiking.

PCKA

Answer: Pack

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in New York on
September 6, 1964. I attended Los Angeles
City College, and debuted as an actress in
a 1989 film directed by Spike Lee. I also
worked as a choreographer for Janet
Jackson. I'm known for my prominent New
York City accent.

Answer: Rosie Perez



Body FACT!

This item should
only weigh about 10
to 15 percent of a
child's body weight.

Answer: Backpack

How they say that in...

English: Carry
Spanish: Llevar
Italian: Portare
French: Porter
German: Tragen

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

9 20 31
10 22
3 15 36
17 30 42

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP 6

4

1781: Los Angeles is founded as El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de los Angeles.

1812: The Siege of Fort Harrison begins during the War of 1812.

1972: "The Price is Right" premieres. It is the longest-running game show on American television.

ON THE TRAIL WORD SEARCH

I U W O I O L E A V E N O T R A C E O B
E F I L D L I W C U S S S X S T E K I H
N Y D E S S M G Y K X R W D R V O A R V
T X M A Z W V N C H Z B E A X D L X Z R
H K W H U A I I N R G U I A O T D Z E P
B S H Z V E L L Z U N L I V I A D T F T
I E S F Z U M B I W M Z D T E A S O H R
N C D P V P H M F I Y S U H G I G S L R
G T A M A O L A X L L D L B G H V Y V E
K I Y A T L X R E V E I V E K D M X I S
R O P L A E D C F S A Y R L I M K H F T
S N A D Z S E S I R I N O I T A V E L E
Z N C A X R K C T K P F I L T E R G Y K
F T K E L U K T V H L U I C O V R Y C O
B I R H W N P K T G N I K C A P K C A B
Z C R F E F F E P V O S E Y I K O V W
M U Z S V T E N T Z T V G L M L R I X Y
L Z S V A S B A S E C A M P P N D N G A
D L K C A B H C T I W S W Y N W R H T P
E H E P B L O O P T R V M T R E K K I N G

WORDS

ALTITUDE SICKNESS
BACKPACKING
BASE CAMP
BLAZE
CAIRN
DAYPACK
ELEVATION
FILTER
GAITERS
HEADLAMP
HIKE
LEAVE NO TRACE
LOOP
POLES
REGISTER
REST
SCRAMBLING
SECTION
SWITCHBACK
TENT
TRAILHEAD
TRAIL MIX
TREKKING
WILDLIFE

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

AKCB OT HSLOOC

Answer: Back to school

NEW WORD

LOAD

a heavy or bulky thing being carried

Did You Know?

Backpacks aren't just for school. They are important gear when hiking or camping, and should be packed so they are not too heavy.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Backpack

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Quaker pronoun

5 IRS employees

9 Small batteries

12 Oscar-winning actress

13 Harvard rival

14 "Today" rival, briefly

15 Off in the distance

16 Baby carriage

17 Director Howard

18 Tablet

19 Scooted

20 Michigan, e.g.

21 "How dare —!"

23 Food Network star

25 Blue toon characters

28 "Amen to that!"

32 "Be quiet!"

33 "Endymion" poet

34 Shortly

36 Little accident

37 Rock's Brian

38 — Claire, WI

39 Den

42 Retrieve

44 Church service

48 Couple's pronoun

49 Con

50 Series of courses

51 Hosp. scan

52 Curse

53 "Cogito — sum"

54 Fluffy neckpiece

55 Bar fight reminder

56 Cheer (for)

DOWN

1 Snare

2 LP player

3 List-ending abbr.

4 One up at dawn

5 Nicosia's land

6 Law firm aide, for short

7 "Ironic" singer

8 Religious

9 Taj Mahal site

10 Out of control

11 Logical

20 First part of Sep-tember, say

22 Fre- quently

24 Finnish tech giant

25 High school subj.

26 Fortify

27 Italian article

29 Fan's shout

30 Actress Hagen

31 Kreskin's claim

35 French brandy

36 Line of work

39 Broad-way flop

40 Conti-nental currency

41 Opera house solo

43 Sicilian volcano

45 Aviation prefix

46 Palm starch

47 Piggy bank

49 Six-pack muscles

Solution time: 26 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 9-6

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33

34 35 36

37 38

39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The best-laid plans may go awry

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

A 6 4
K 9
K J 10 5 3
7 6 4

WEST

J 10 8
J 7 5
8
K J 10 5 3 2

EAST

Q 9 5 3 2
Q 10 6 4 2
7 4
9

SOUTH

K 7
A 8 3
A Q 9 6 2
A Q 8

The bidding:
South 1 ♦ Pass North 3 ♦ Pass East Pass

Opening lead — jack of spades.
Declarer should not be satisfied with adopting a promising line of play when there might be a better approach available. Any move that increases his chances of making the contract without risking it is a step in the right direction.
Take this case where West led a spade against six diamonds. South could see at once that his only potential losers were two clubs. But rather than pin his hopes solely on a successful finesse — an even-

money shot — South resolved to augment his chances by attempting an endplay.
So he took the spade with the king, drew trump, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. He then played the K-A of hearts and ruffed the eight in dummy.
This series of plays eliminated all the spades and hearts from the North-South hands. With the lead now in dummy, South's plan was to lead a club and, if East followed low, insert the eight. This would assure the slam regardless of where the king was located, since with West on lead, any return was certain to hand declarer the rest of the tricks.
But even the best-laid plans have been known to go awry, and East upset the apple cart when he produced the nine on the first club.
However, declarer had one more string to his bow. There was no need to finesse at the moment, he reasoned, since the club finesse was still available if it became necessary.
He therefore ducked the nine on the off chance that it might be a singleton, and it was this final flourish that did his opponents in. It did not matter whether East or West won the trick; either way the slam was in the bag.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

K 8 5 4
A J 8 3 2
Q 10
5 2

WEST

Q 9 6
K Q 10 7 4
A 8 5 3
10

EAST

A J 10 7
9 6
K J 8 7 6 4 3

SOUTH

3 2
5
K J 9 7 6 4 2
A Q 9

The bidding:
East 2 ♣ South 2 ♣ West 2 ♣ North Pass
Pass Pass Dble Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.
This deal occurred in a preliminary round match at the 1990 world team championship in Genoa. The declarer missed the winning and correct line of play, which is not easy to spot even with all 52 cards exposed.
East's two-club opening promised a sound pre-empt in clubs, and West's optimistic double of three diamonds at his second turn ended the auction.
South won West's ten-of-clubs lead with the queen and could see

only four potential losers — two spades (if East had the ace), a diamond and a club. In fact, if declarer could ruff his third club in dummy or West had the spade ace, he might even make an overtrick.
So, at trick two, South played the club ace, planning to ruff a club next. But West ruffed and returned the ace and another diamond. This left South with a club and two spades to lose, so he finished down one.
Observe that it wouldn't have helped South to try to draw trump immediately and settle for nine tricks. West can win the second diamond and put his partner on lead with a spade. East's king-of-clubs return then brings declarer to the same sorry fate. West ruffing the ace whenever South plays it.
However, declarer can guarantee the contract by means of an unusual safety play. All he has to do to assure nine tricks is to lead the nine of clubs at trick two! This leaves the defenders helpless.
If East wins the club and continues clubs to allow West to ruff the ace, declarer can overruff with one of dummy's high trumps. And if instead West ruffs the nine of clubs in order to play the ace and another trump, South eventually scores the club ace for his ninth trick.

Tomorrow: Any port in a storm.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fish in water

along

6 Fine

8 AQUA

12 Mexican

reborn

14 Co-

median

reborn

15 On-

tabletop

16 Sand

terminal

17 Souper

Cable —

laptop

18 Locked

up

20 "I'll only"

23 King of

beast

24 Tally ho

25 I can

28 Commander

key

29 Queen

30 Han-

32 Command

34 Empire

35 Roman

of -

wood

38 Sock

DOWN

37 Pol-

logical

40 Second-

strong

41 Mat

score

42 Law

lethal

47 Mead

Mae

48 Har-

Wes-

49 Car-

50 Mes-

51 Cor-

52

DOWN

1 role

2 Newly

3 Cap-

below

4 Me-

5 Wh-

7 base

8 Sig-

9 Me-

10 G-

11 Mat

13 Re-

State

19 Comm-

20 White

21

22 On-

23 Des-

25 Ele-

26 Use-

27

29

31

33

34

36

37

38

39

40

43

44

45

46

Solution time: 21 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 9-8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16

17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33

34 35 36

37 38

39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

I GOT IT- BUT YOU'LL NEVER LEARN ANYTHING NEW IF YOU ONLY SNIFF THE BUTTS OF DOGS THAT SHARE YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

9-6

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"God has His flashlight turned on to show us the way."

Bil and Jeff KEANE

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

DON'T EVEN TWITCH- IT'S MOTION-ACTIVATED.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

9-8

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"Kittycats only hear what they wanna hear, Jeffy."

Bil and Jeff KEANE

Peanuts

SCHOOL JUST STARTED AND ALREADY I SHOULD QUIT!

MY TEACHER YELLS AT ME, THE KIDS LAUGH AT ME AND THE PRINCIPAL HATES ME

WHAT ABOUT THE CUSTODIAN?

HE VACUUMED UP MY LUNCH!

Peanuts

I JUST NOTICED THE NOTCH IN YOUR ROOF

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE PLANNING TO KEEP TRACK OF SOMETHING, BUT NATURALLY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME!

NOTCH!

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE

Rose is Rose

HEY, THE SUN'S UP! ARE YOU GOING TO CHOIR PRACTICE?

NO... MY PARENTS ARE FLYING IN FOR A VISIT... MY NEST IS A MESS...

I'LL BE SINGING FROM HOME TODAY.

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Rose is Rose

DON'T STRIVE FOR PERFECTION WITH YOUR ROSE, JIMBO.

THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM, ROSE.

Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Agnes

WHAT THE... IT'S A BELLY-MOUNT GIANT LAND TURTLE EGG COZY SACK!

THIS WAY, I CAN GO TO SCHOOL AND STILL MAINTAIN OPTIMUM INCUBATION TEMPERATURE FOR THE TINY TURTLE EMBRYO'S IMMINENT BIRTH.

OLD MISTER GRIOT WON'T LIKE YOU SPORTING AN EGG SACK IN MATH. THEN HE SHOULD HAVE STATED THAT IN THE GUIDELINES.

Agnes

MY GIANT LAND TURTLES SHOULD HATCH SOON, AND THEN WE SELL THEM AS FUN AND CLEVER PETS OF MUCH NOTE. TURTLES ARE CLEVER?

OH, YES! VERY CLEVER. THEY MAKE DOLPHINS AND DOGS LOOK LIKE GOAT-BRAINED IDIOTS.

BUT DON'T LET GOAT LOVERS HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT. GOAT LOVERS AREN'T BRIGHT ENOUGH TO KNOW WE'RE DISSING THEIR PETS.

Hi and Lois

MARK TWAIN SAID, "GOLF IS A GOOD WALK SPOILED."

IT CAN ALSO RUIN A NICE DAY.

YOU SAID THAT.

Hi and Lois

LOOK! CANADA GEESE FLYING SOUTH FOR WINTER.

THEY BETTER BE CAREFUL.

THERE ARE ALLIGATORS DOWN THERE.

Between Friends

Between Friends

WOW- THE DISTILLERY SENT AN IMPROVED COMPENSATION OFFER! BUT... I'VE ALREADY STARTED THIS JOB

HEY, SALLY- DON'T FORGET THE DIGITAL PROGRAM UPDATE MEETING

UH... IT'S "SUSAN"

SAVREEN? DO YOU HAVE TIME TO LOOK AT SOMETHING FOR ME?-

Blondie

TOOTSIE KEEPS HARPING ON ME TO PAINT THE SHED. SHE SAID SHE'S TIRED OF LOOKING AT IT

HEY, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON HERE, ANYWAY? NO ONE'S

I'M JUST TIRED OF LOOKING AT IT, TOO!

Blondie

MY ART TEACHER SAID COLORING IN A COLORING BOOK CAN BE VERY THERAPEUTIC. HOW SO?

SHE SAID IT'S BEEN SHOWN TO RELIEVE STRESS AND HELP YOU KEEP YOUR SANITY!

NOW WHAT'S THAT BOBBLEHEAD WASTING COMPANY TIME DOING?

Snuffy Smith

BKTFDQZN LPTNVWC !!

NOPE !! SORRY, IT'S TIME T'GIT OUT !!

IF I LEFT YA IN THAR ENNY LONGER WE'D HAFTA CHANGE YORE NAME FROM LI'L TATER TO LI'L PRUNE !!

Snuffy Smith

IF'N YA DON'T EVER HAVE EXPECTATIONS, YA WON'T NEVER BE DISAPPOINTED !!

THAT'S 'ZACTLY WHAT I ALWAYS TELL FOLKS, LUKEY !!

BUT DANGED IF'N THEY DON'T KEEP COMIN' UP WIF 'EM FER ME ENNYWAYS !!

Beetle Bailey

GO ON, SARGE! WE DID IT!

IT'S NOT THAT HIGH!

WE'D BETTER SCRAM BEFORE HE COMES TO!

Beetle Bailey

THEY CAN LIFT MORE THAN TWENTY TIMES THEIR OWN WEIGHT

THOSE ARE PRETTY STRONG ANTS

WATERMELONS

We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

60 SERVICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 103 S Washington Street, Montpelier IN
Saturday Morning
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
10:00 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
1 story home built in 1950 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1478 square feet of living area. Home has a gas forced air furnace, central air, gas fireplace, gas water heater, and a detached 1 car garage. Home sits on a nice sized corner lot.
For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate, Kim Loy Broker 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160
JEAN LANDIS
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland IN
SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
9:30 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
Tract 1 - 2 story home with approximately 2,048 square feet of living space situated on approximately 1.75 acres. Property also offers a 48' x 56' pole building with front and rear overhead doors, enclosed shop/office area, concrete floor, and 100 amp electrical service.
Tract 2 - One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.
Tract 3 - Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland.
Tract 4 - Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.
Tract 5 - Entire package which includes house, pole barn and 50 acres.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
GE side by side refrigerator with in door water and ice dispenser; Maytag gas stove; Lazy Boy recliner; Smith Bros. sofa; rocker/recliner; Walnut dresser with mirror and marble insert; Oak child's rocker; Kitchen Aid stand mixer; **TRU SCALE TOYS:** (2) tractors, NIB - (Green and Red color), baler, manure spreader, corn picker, and 2 bottom plow; cast iron kettle; beer steins;gazing ball; and many other items not listed.
TRAILERS-MOWER -

90 SALE CALENDAR

TOOLS
(2) M105A2 military trailers; ExMark Radius S Series zero turn mower with 60i cut and only 76.3 hours; Cub Cadet garden tractor; Toro snow thrower; Craftsman 2 pc. tool cabinet; cultivator; wood ladder; 2 wheel cart; vise; and many other items not listed.

Auctioneers Note: This auction offers a nice variety of very clean items. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day.

For more information or private showing contact **GARY LOY**, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or **KIM LOY**, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

THE ESTATE OF MAX & BERNICE MCCLURG
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.
TRACTORS - CRAWLER
1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours.
1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours.
Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours.
New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade.
Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD 450-B Crawler Loader.
TRUCKS-MOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT
. 1968 Chevy C50 Single Axel Dump Truck.
2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 4x4 93,000 Miles.
1985 Chevy C30 Utility Truck w/ Boom Lift and Snow Plow.
2021 Harley Davidson 1200 Model 48 w/ 2300 Miles.
2009 Kawasaki KLX 250 S Dirt Bike w/ 708 Miles.
JD 55-A 3 Bottom Plow.
Oliver 565 4 Bottom Plow.
JD 7' Cycle Bar Mower.
JD 4 Row Cultivator.
New Idea 2 Row wide Picker. . JD 24T Square Baler.
Kelly 18i Backhoe Bucket.
30 Ton Hyd Press.
Lincoln 225 Welder. . Merry Mac Shredder Chipper.
Rabbit Cages.
TOYS-ANTIQUES
JD, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, AC, Massey Harris Toy Tractors. . (2) 110 lb Anvils w/ Stands.
Corn Sheller.
Misc Slate.
(4) Steel Wheels.
Radio Flyer Wagon.
OWNER: James M Robins.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTION-

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Jefferson Township, Jay County, Indiana, that the Board of the Jefferson Township Trustee will meet on September 16, 2025, at 6421 W 300S Portland, IN 47371 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the adoption of the Township's Capital Improvement Plan. Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have the right to comment. The Capital Improvement Plan as adopted will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). Angela Moeller Jefferson Township Trustee
9-6-2025- HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

EERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13th, 2025
10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 8584 Day Rd, Versailles OH.
TRACTORS
JD 3010 D. Wide front, low profile Tractor (rare).
JD A. Modified pulling Tractor w/ weights. 1936 JD A. w/ spoke rear rims. Massey Harris 33 Tractor. JD Tractor and Equipment Manuals.
TRUCK-TRAILERS-EQUIPMENT-MISC
2003 Ford F250 Fx4 155,000 miles. Moritz DLH Series 10,000 lb Dump Trailer. Tandem Axel 10,000 lb Gooseneck Flatbed Trailer w/ Ramps. 15' Tandem Axel Livestock Trailer. 13 x 38 Rims and Tires. 7' Skid Steer Bucket w/ Boom. Snow Blade. 48i Lawn Roller. 3 Hog Feeders. Hardwood Lumber. . Chicago 90 amp Flux Wire Welder. Acetylene Cutting Set. Lincoln 225 Stick Welder. . Gone w/ the Wind Style Lamp. Last Supper and other Pictures. Cast Iron Pot w/ Lid. Flower Bin. Quilting Rack. Champion 12 gauge Single Shot Shotgun.
OWNER: Kenneth Dirksen Estate.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTION-EERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland IN
Wednesday Afternoon
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
5:00 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-TOOLS
Duncan Phyfe table with 6 chairs; Duncan Phyfe buffet; cedar chest;

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.:
38C01-2506-EU-000019
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF ROBERT P.
MAYO JR.,
DECEASED.
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
In the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana.
Notice is hereby given that Kelly E. Herod and Sheldon Herod was, on the 24 day of June, 2025, appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Robert P. Mayo Jr., deceased, who died April 22, 2025.
All persons who have claims against this Estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 27th day of August, 2025.
HINKLE, RACSTER,
SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorneys
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
for Jay County, Indiana
CR 8-30-2025- HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

chrome table and chairs;
(2) heavy metal outdoor chairs; HOT WHEELS
REDLINES: To include Pit Crew, Peeping Bomb, Classic Cord, Ice T, Grasshopper, The Demon, Custom Camaro, and Short Order to name a few; GI Joe Search For The Stolen Idol; Match Box cars; Little Golden books; Ball jars; vintage games; copper bottom cookware; Willow Trees; Jim Shore figurines; Bubble glassware; Pink and Green depression glass; hens on nests; Italy planter and ash tray; Sterling Silver ring; jewelry; watches; Erector set; Hot Wheels case; Schwinn bicycle; and other items not listed.
MILLER ESTATE
LOY AUCTION
AC#31600027
AUCTIONEERS
GARY LOY
AU01031608
AU11200131
AARON LOY
AU11200112
KADEN KHAYYATA
AU12400069

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HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND will be accepting application for the position of Full Time Mayor's Assistant. Mayor's assistant is responsible for perform-

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO.:
38C01-2506-EU-000019
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ESTATE OF ROBERT P.
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Dated this 24 day of June, 2025.
Missy Elliott,
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County
Leslie M. Mathewson
Mathewson Law, P.C.
625 South Tillotson Avenue
Muncie, Indiana 47304
Telephone: 765-587-4526
CR 8-28, 9-4-2025- HSPAXLP

110 HELP WANTED

ing a variety of clerical, administrative and technical tasks in support of the City government. Essential duties: Greet visitors to the Mayor's Office, answer the telephone, schedule appointments for the mayor, coordinate Mayor's travel schedule, prepare claim vouchers for Mayor's Office. Also, complete special assignments, projects, correspondence, filing, copying, faxing and printing as directed by the Mayor. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, 321 North Meridian St. Portland, IN 47371, 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday thru Friday, Application deadline is Noon September 15th, 2025. No application will be excepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION
LOCATED: 8584 Day Rd, Versailles OH.
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13th, 2025
10:00 A.M.
TRACTORS

JD 3010 D. Wide front, low profile Tractor (rare).
JD A. Modified pulling Tractor w/ weights. JD 630 Wide front w/ power steering. JD 70 Diesel w/ power steering. JD 620. 1936 JD A. w/ spoke rear rims. JD 70. (4) JD A. Tractors. (2) JD B. Tractors. JD 60. JD G. Massey Harris 33 Tractor. JD X540 Riding Mower w/ bagger. JD 420 Riding Mower. JD 108 Riding Mower. JD Tractor and Equipment Manuals.

TRUCK – TRAILERS – EQUIPMENT – MISC
2003 Ford F250 Fx4 155,000 miles. Moritz DLH Series 10,000 lb Dump Trailer. Tandem Axel 10,000 lb Gooseneck Flatbed Trailer w/ Ramps. Single Axel Utility Trailer w/ Ramp. 15' Tandem Axel Livestock Trailer. Pickup Truck Bed Trailer. 14' Hay Wagon. 4240 Oliver 3 Bottom Pull type Plow. JD Suitcase and Rear Tractor Weights. 13 x 38 Rims and Tires. JD Rollamatic Tricycle Front End. Clam Shell Fenders. 7' Skid Steer Bucket w/ Boom. Snow Blade. 48" Lawn Roller. 3 Hog Feeders. Hardwood Lumber. County Line 25 ton Log Splitter. Stihl MS180C Chainsaw. Chicago 90 amp Flux Wire Welder. Acetylene Cutting Set. Lincoln 225 Stick Welder. Welding table w/ Vise. Power Boss 3,000 PSI Power Washer. JD 522 Snow Blower. Engine Lift. 2 Wheel Cart. 55 Gallon Drum of HD SAE 15W-40 Oil w/ Pump. Shop, Hand, and Lawn and Garden Tools. 28' Fiberglass Extension Ladder. 8' Fiberglass Step Ladder. Fence Stretchers. 42' Flat Screen TV. Gone w/ the Wind Style Lamp. Last Supper and other Pictures. Kitchen Table and Chairs. Buffet. Refrigerator. Rocker Recliner. Full size Bed. 3 Piece Full Size Bedroom Suite. Floor Lamp. Cast Iron Pot w/ Lid. Flower Bin. Quilting Rack. Champion 12 gauge Single Shot Shotgun.

OWNER: Kenneth Dirksen Estate

NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
TERMS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY: CASH – GOOD CHECK – CREDIT CARD
STATEMENTS MADE SALE DAY TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER WRITTEN AD
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
Pete D. Shawver Zane Shawver
Lic# AU19700040 Lic# AU10500168
260-726-5587 260-729-2229
More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com
CR 9-6-2025

PLACE YOUR
CLASSIFIED AD

in The Commercial Review

Call 726-8141

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

DES. NO. 2200520
LEGAL NOTICE PLANNED IMPROVEMENT
The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has developed preliminary plans for a proposed State Road (SR) 1 Small Structures Replacement and Drainage Improvement, 0.19 mile north of SR 67 to 2.66 miles north of SR 26 North Junction, in Jay County, with a total work length of 8.6 miles (DES 2200520). Thirty-three culverts will be replaced along with correcting isolated roadway flooding by installing one new culvert and restoring the roadside drainage along both sides of SR 1 at two locations. The project also includes drainage and ditch work which will occur between County Road (CR) W 150 S to CR W 200 S and from CR W 500 S to 400 feet south of CR W 500 S, and the mill and overlay of approach pavement and full depth pavement replacement over each culvert. Culvert replacements and drainage corrections will require between 4 to 10 feet depth of excavation.
The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan includes closing SR 1 to traffic and using SR 67, SR 167, SR 3, SR 18, and SR 26 as detours as well as utilizing single lane closures with flaggers. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. Project stakeholders, including local school corporations and emergency services will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction.
Construction of the project will require approximately 5.04 acres of new permanent right-of-way with an estimated total project cost of \$8,195,730. No temporary right-of-way will be needed. Every effort to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate project impacts will be made. The permanent right-of-way impacts will be for the small structures, ditch grading at CR W 500 S, and ditch grading between CR W 200 S and CR W 150 S. Proposed ROW widths along SR 1 are typically 30 feet from centerline, ranging from 30 feet to 50 feet along the project route. Federal and state funds are to be utilized for the construction of the project.
The Federal Highway Administration and INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. No trees will be removed as a part of this project. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 0.0698 acre of permanent impacts and 0.1206 acre of temporary impacts to 14 wetlands. There are three streams within the project area; Unnamed Tributary (UNT) 1 to Brooks Creek, UNT 1 to Rustic Run, and Bit Run. There will be 71.5 linear feet of permanent impacts and 56.5 linear feet of temporary impacts to the three streams as a result of this project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service made a "may effect, not likely to adversely affect" the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), tricolored bat (Perimyotis subflavus), and/or the northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) effect determination. Proposed impacts have been minimized to the extent practicable and cannot be avoided due to construction access needs and worker safety.
Preliminary design plans, along with the CE are available for review at the following locations: 1) The INDOT Greenfield District Office, 32 S Broadway St, Greenfield, IN 46140, 2) Jay County Public Library, 315 N Ship St., Portland, IN 47371, 3) Albany Community Library, 105 S. Broadway St., Albany, IN 47320, and 4) https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/greenfield-district-current-projects/.
All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Erin Purdy, epurdy@kaskaskiaeng.com, 812-314-7041, 323 Main St, Suite E, Evansville, IN 47708 no later than September 21, 2025. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT Greenfield District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Christine Williams, ChWilliams@indot.IN.gov, 32 South Broadway, Greenfield, IN 46140. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact Christine Williams, ChWilliams@indot.IN.gov, 32 South Broadway, Greenfield, IN 46140.
This notice is published in compliance with 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(ix) stating, "Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate."; and 3) The INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.
CR 9-6,13-2025-HSPAXLP

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Out Mann(ed)



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Maleah Parsons, the goalkeeper for the Jay County High School girls soccer team, starts to attempt to save a shot from Norwell's Grace Mann during Thursday's loss. Parsons saved 10 shots throughout the match, while Mann snuck three into the net and Ryleigh Huffman added one more off a rebound.

Norwell senior generates four goals as Patriots get shut out

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

The Patriots and Knights are very similar in some ways and different in others.

One way the two teams are similar is how they both have a dynamic scorer that can range from the midfield to the goal to drive the offense.

One of the bigger differences is how the Knights were able to stop the Patriots' scorer from controlling the game, while the Patriots couldn't slow down the Knights' striker.

Grace Mann controlled the offense as the Jay County High School girls soccer team fell to the Norwell Knights on Thursday in a 4-0 defeat, the biggest of the season.

"When we play a team like Norwell, the experience just shines," said JCHS coach Kendra Muhlenkamp. "We're probably around a third of the way through the regular season and definitely not where we want to be at the end. But five games in, I'm OK with their progress."

Through the first five contests of the season, Aixa Lopez has led the Patriots (4-2) with six goals and two assists. The rest of the team has only combined for five goals and two assists.

Norwell's coach Dan Batdorff was familiar with Lopez's game due to the travel soccer scene and was looking to shut her down. He

'When we play a team like Norwell, the experience just shines. ... We're probably around a third of the way through the regular season and definitely not where we want to be at the end. But five games in, I'm OK with their progress.'

— Kendra Muhlenkamp, Jay County High School girls soccer coach

swapped a pair of defensive midfielders – in the first half Addison Parsons guarded Lopez, while Hallie Smith took over in the second – who constantly marked her to prevent her from getting the ball with space to drive down the field.

"We told our defensive mids at halftime to watch No. 9 and we need to make sure she's marked," Batdorff said. "They did a really good job that second half. I'm familiar with Aixa, she was a great club player. So I'm familiar with how strong she could be on the ball and when she gets free how much of a striker she can be. We definitely came in to stop her."

While the Knights (2-4) kept a heavy patrol on Aixa, the rest of the Patriots struggled to pass the ball cleanly, allowing position to flip back and forth between the two teams.

Those struggles led to a pair of late goals for Norwell.

The first one came when defender Ariel Beiswanger was trying to track down a pass into the backfield that Mann beat her to. The NHS senior then stopped on a dime and put the ball into the right half of the goal past Maleah Parsons with 13 minutes, 25 seconds, remaining. The second goal came when Mann ran up from behind and pickpocketed Tessa Frazee as she received a pass. Mann then drove the rest of the field to put the ball in the bottom right corner at 7:49.

"What beat us tonight was Norwell's ability to go first to the ball," Muhlenkamp said. "I tell my players, you're not passing to your teammate, you're passing to an area so that you're teammate can get there. If you pass it to your teammate, the defender's going to take it."

"That's a concept where we're still trying to get better."

Mann wasn't just scoring off of turnovers, but also found ways to create as well. She scored the only goal of the first half at the 13:11 mark when Aubrey Meyer had a quick throw in and she shot the ball from the left side to the lower right corner past an outstretched Parsons' dive.

In the second half, Mann first generated some offense by dancing around several Patriots to get a clean look at the net from the right side. Parsons managed to get her hands on the ball for one of her 10 saves, but Ryleigh Huffman came crashing in from the middle for the rebound goal to go up 2-0 with 27:39.

Less than 50 seconds after the score, the Patriots had one of their best looks at the goal but came up just short. Lopez found herself with the ball just across

the midline, but dished it to a leaking Raylin Hummer before Smith could make the stop. Hummer then found London Lloyd streaking up the middle for a one-on-one with NHS goalkeeper Abby Wagner. With one attempt, Lloyd shot the ball to the lower right corner of the goal, but Wagner just managed to get her hands on the ball for the save.

"That all goes on Abby's shoulders," Batdorff said. "She does a phenomenal job preparing for the game and it showed today. She was able to get a hand on there and react. It was a great shot and it kept them from scoring."

JCHS didn't have an abundance of scoring opportunities. The Patriots only took eight shots on the goal, only five of which came inside of the box.

Jay County's next opportunity to bounce back will come on Tuesday when they travel to Wapahani. Muhlenkamp is hoping the girls take this loss as motivation moving forward.

"At the end when I brought all the girls that played in the varsity game, I asked them what their thoughts were and how they feel," Muhlenkamp said. "A couple of them said we played terrible and didn't play good at all."

"The thing is, we didn't play that bad, we just weren't able to come together and we let little moments dictate the whole game."

FRHS girls golf escapes Versailles

BRADFORD, Ohio — The Tribe didn't have its best scores, but yet they survived.

Despite putting up its worst score of the season, the Fort Recovery High School girls golf team took down the Versailles Tigers 214-219 on Thursday at Stillwater Valley Golf Club.

Olivia Knapke and Mallory Evers both shot 51s – it was the season-high for Knapke and one stroke under for Evers – to produce the low score for the Indians (8-1, 4-1 Midwest Athletic Conference). Brooke Keiser earned match medalist honors for Versailles (2-4 MAC) by shooting a 50.

Evvie Briner came in right behind with a 52.

For the first time in her career, sophomore Cora Pearson provided the fourth score for FRHS by shooting a 60.

Georgia Wenning and Macy Kaffenberger both carded 61s that did not impact the final score. It was just the second time this

FRHS Roundup

season that Wenning's score wasn't used.

Another MAC loss

Fort Recovery's boys golf team couldn't pull out the win at Portland Golf Club on Thursday as the Versailles Tigers claimed a 174-179 victory over the Indians.

Caleb Smith and Andrew Rehmert both shot 44s for the team's best score of the match. They combined for one birdie, seven pars and three bogeys.

Versailles' Ethan Philpot earned match medalist honors with a 41.

Reece LeFevre shot his worst round of the season, only making two pars and four bogeys en route to a 45.

Garrett Diller's 46 rounded out the team score for the Indians (7-4, 4-3 MAC).

Carson Fullenkamp

and Luke Fortkamp both carded 49s that didn't impact the final.

Tribe rocked

ROCKFORD, Ohio — The Fort Recovery volleyball team couldn't overcome the Division VI No. 2 Parkway Panthers on Thursday in a 25-15, 25-16, 25-15 defeat.

Cameron Muhlenkamp led the Indians (2-4, 0-2 MAC) in kills with nine, while Brynn Willmann and Bridget Homan followed with five and four, respectively. On the other side of the net, Brittyn Bruns recorded 15 for the Panthers (8-0, 2-0 MAC).

Muhlenkamp also had three aces and no service errors on nine attempts.

FRHS only managed two blocks in the match with Homan getting her arms on two balls and Willmann and Alexis Grisez assisting on one apiece.

Kayden Ranly led with 14 assists, while Kayla Gaerke had a team-high nine digs.

Collins' hat trick leads Jay past Knights

OSSIAN — For the first 75 minutes, the Patriots and Knights traded goals.

For the first five the Patriots took over.

Brody Collins scored the go-ahead goal with five minutes left to record his first career hat trick and push the Jay County High School boys soccer team past the Norwell Knights 5-3 on Thursday.

Collins scored his third goal of the match off a rebound with five minutes left in the match go to up 4-3 on Norwell (3-4-1).

One minute later, Jacoby Penrod found Elias Mueller to salt the game away for Jay County (4-1-1).

Penrod also assisted on the first goal of the match that Collins scored. Both Penrod and Collins scored goals on assists from Emmitt Reynolds as well.

Peyton Yowell finished the match with the win after saving five shots and allowing three to sneak through.

Jay above .500

Jay County's boys tennis team buoyed back above .500 as it secured a 4-1 victory over the Marion Giants on Thursday.

Henry Dirksen and Clark Wellman both picked up their fourth wins of the season at No. 2 and 3 singles. Henry Dirk-

Jay County Roundup

sen beat Landon Beal 3-6, 6-3, 10-4 while Wellman swept Peter Lomagistro 6-0, 6-0.

Both doubles teams picked up wins for the Patriots (4-3) as well. Kadya Carpenter and Alex Miller beat Gabe Clark and Albert Tucker 6-0, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles.

In just their second varsity match, No. 2 doubles duo Nick Snow and Jace Vance beat Adam Elarnaouty and Nicholas Smith 6-0, 6-3 for their first career victory.

Paul Dirksen suffered the only loss for JCHS. He dropped the No. 1 singles match to Adam Lord 6-3, 7-5.

Aker leads

MUNCIE — Erin Aker earned match medalist for the first time in her career as the Jay County girls golf team traveled to Crestview Golf Course on Thursday to take on the Muncie Central Bearcats.

The Patriots (2-7) shot a 224 as a team, but Muncie Central didn't have

enough golfers to field a team score.

Aker's 53 came with four bogeys. She played the best on par-5s, carding sixes on both holes.

Elizabeth Brunswick provided the second-best score of the day as one par and three bogeys earned a 55.

Taven Bently is now 2-for-2 on scoring in varsity matches as she shot a 57 to produce the third score for JCHS.

Alexa Ridenour rounded out the team score with 59 strokes, while Crystal Swartzentruber's 67 didn't affect the final.

Jay falls

SELMA — The Jay County high school volleyball team fell to the Wapahani Raiders on Thursday 25-15, 25-23, 25-21.

Mya Kunkler led the Patriots' offense with nine kills, while Maria Hemmelgarn had eight. Elizabeth Barnett was the only other Patriot with more than five kills at six.

Hallie Schwieterman led Jay County (4-2) from behind the service line with four aces.

Hemmelgarn had the most blocks for JCHS, assisting on four of them.

The most assists came from Paisley Fugiett with 17, while Kayla Jetmore's 10 digs was a team high.

Expense ...

Continued from page 10
His first score was a 4-yard rumble to cap off a methodical nine-play drive to open the third quarter that consumed nearly six minutes of clock.

His second score, early in the fourth quarter, was a 28-yard scamper on which he gained the edge and launched himself into the end zone to extend the Raider lead to 21-7.

“My dad was an all-state running back and it's just in my blood,” said Slusher, who was a full-time running back until he started playing quarterback during his sophomore year.

The Patriots scored one more time in the fourth, with Laux plunging into the end zone from 5 yards out to cut the deficit to seven.

After earning a stop, the Patriots had one final chance with the ball on their own 42 and just under three minutes to go. Three incompletions and a holding penalty promptly snuffed out the do-or-die drive, allowing Southern Wells to kneel out the clock.

For the Raiders, who hadn't won a conference game in their last 25 tries, Friday's victory was euphoric.

“For our kids, especially our seniors, man, they have worked so hard,” Blaker said. “To finally finish a game and just to get that monkey off our



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Logan Wendel hits Southern Wells tight end Joshua Aulbach during Jay County's 21-14 loss to the Raiders on Friday. Aulbach had two catches for 26 yards, helping Southern Wells eclipse the 300-yard threshold of total offense.

back feels so good.”

But in the Patriot camp, there will be plenty of work to do, especially with a battle with a

vaunted Adams Central squad on tap next week. The Jets are ranked No. 1 in Class 2A and are coming off of a 41-13 win over

Muncie Central.

“We better bounce back fast,” Fields said. “The big thing is consistency. We've made good football

plays, we've done things well, but we're going to have to do them against a really good football team next week, so we'll see.”

Box score

Jay County
Patriots (1-2, 0-1 ACAC)
at Southern Wells
Raiders (1-2, 1-0 ACAC)

Jay Co. 0 7 0 7 —14
So. Wells 7 0 6 8 —21

First Quarter

Southern Wells — A. Aulbach
17 pass from Slusher (J.
Aulbach kick), 1:38.

Second Quarter

Jay County — Fuglietti 20 pass
from Laux (Penrod kick), 8:57.

Third Quarter

Southern Wells — Slusher 4 run
(kick failed), 6:08.

Fourth Quarter

Southern Wells — Slusher 28
run (Eltzroth run), 11:12.
Jay County — Laux 5 run (Pen-
rod kick), 7:06.

Team Statistics

	JC	SW
Rushes - yds	17-61	47-181
Comp-Att-Int	7-18-0	6-7-0
Passing yds	52	122
Total Plays	24	53
Total Offense	113	303
Punt ret - yds	0-0	0-0
Kickoff ret - yds	1-15	1-10
Sacks - yds lost	3-12	2-8
Punts - yds	4-123	0-0
Ints - yds	0-0	0-0
Fumbles - lost	1-1	3-1
Penalties - yds	5-45	5-35

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Jay County — Laux
13-44, Brown 3-15, Fuglietti 1-2.
Southern Wells — Slusher 42-R.
163, Peterson 2-8, Dollar 1-11,
Goodnight 1-0, A. Aulbach 1-(-1).
Passing — Jay County — Laux 7-
17-0 52, Fuglietti 0-0-0 0. South-
ern Wells — Slusher 5-6-0 101.
A Aulbach 1-1-0 21
Receiving — Jay County — Fugi-
ett 2-19, Campofiore 1-11,
Phillips 2-9, Brown 1-9, Cochran
1-4. Southern Wells — R. Dollar
1-45, J. Aulbach 2-26, Peterson
1-21, A. Aulbach 1-17, A. Dollar
1-13.

Tribe ...

Continued from page 10
Homan and Taylor provided a one-two punch on the ground, with the former racking up 139 yards on 22 carries. He also completed 8-of-10 passes for 100 yards and two touchdowns, with four passes going

to Caleb Schroer.

The Indians' early lead came on a 3-yard run by Breaker Jutte. They held the advantage for more than nine minutes before Homan found Schroer for a 10-yard score midway through the second quarter.

Gaerke handled the bulk of the offensive load for FRHS, tossing for 109 yards on 5-of-11 passing and running for 76 on 16 attempts. Jutte caught two passes for 62 yards and Reece Wendel chipped in 46 yards on the ground.

Thirteen tackles and a pass break-up from Josh Evers led the defensive effort for the Indians. Brodie Hart added 12 stops and a sack, Jutte had 10 tackles, Wendel added nine and Isaac Roessner recorded eight. Fort Recovery will have

another difficult assignment next week when it hosts Division VII No. 4 St. Henry (2-1, 0-1 MAC), which led four-time defending state champion Division VII No. 1 Marion Local in the second half Friday before succumbing to a 21-14 defeat.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Volleyball in Shondell Invite at Muncie Burris – 10 a.m.; Girls golf at ACAC meet at Cross Creek – 12 p.m.; Boys soccer at Anderson – 5 p.m.; Junior high soccer vs. Yorktown – 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Cross country at Brookville – 9 a.m.; JV football vs. Coldwater – 10 a.m.; Middle school cross country at Brookville meet – 8:30 a.m.; Middle school volleyball at Botkins – 10 a.m.

Monday
Jay County — Girls golf vs. Monroe Central – 4:30 p.m.; Boys tennis vs. Muncie Central – 5 p.m.; Boys soccer at Heritage – 7 p.m.; JV boys soccer at Heritage – 5:30 p.m.; JV football vs. Southern Wells – 6 p.m.; Junior high cross country at Bellmont – 5 p.m.; Junior high volleyball vs. Connerville – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf vs. St. John's – 4:30 p.m.; Girls Golf at St. John's – 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball at Celina (including freshmen) – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Girls golf at Yorktown/Wes-Dei – 4:30 p.m.; Girls soccer at Wapahani – 5 p.m.; Boys tennis at Randolph Southern – 5 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Bluffton – 6 p.m.; Cross country at Winchester/Union City – 6:30 p.m.; JV girls soccer at Wapahani – 7:30 p.m.; Junior high cross country at Winchester – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high football vs. Adams Central – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high volleyball vs. Bluffton – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school volleyball at New Bremen – 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
1:15 a.m. — AFL: Hawthorn Hawks at Greater Western Sydney Giants (FS1)
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — MotoGP: Catalunya Grand Prix (FS1)
12 p.m. — College football: San Jose State at Texas (ABC); Florida International at Penn State (BTN); Kennesaw State at Indiana (FS1); Iowa at Iowa State (FOX); Illinois at Duke (ESPN); Virginia at N.C. State (ESPN2); Kent State at Texas Tech (TNT)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Ole Miss at Kentucky (ABC); Kansas at Missouri (ESPN2); Grambling State at Ohio State (BTN); Oklahoma State at Oregon (CBS); Delaware at Colorado (FOX)
4 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
4 p.m. — College football: Middle Tennessee at Wisconsin (FS1)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College football: Army at Kansas State (ESPN)
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Detroit City at Orange County SC (CBS)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals (FOX)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Arizona State at Mississippi State (ESPN2); Michigan at Oklahoma (ABC); Southern Illinois at Purdue (BTN); Georgia Southern at USC (FS1); Boston College at Michigan State (NBC)
8 p.m. — College football: Central Washington at Montana (CBS)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Stanford at BYU (ESPN)
11 p.m. — College football: UC Davis at Washington (BTN)

Sunday
8 a.m. — MotoGP: Catalunya Grand Prix (FS1)
9 a.m. — World Cup Qualification: Georgia at Bulgaria (FS1)
9 a.m. — Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — College volleyball: Florida at Ohio State (BTN)
12 p.m. — World Cup Qualification: Lithuania at Netherlands (FS1)
1 p.m. — NFL: Miami Dolphins at Indianapolis Colts (CBS); New York Giants at Washington Commanders (FOX)
1 p.m. — College volleyball: Stanford at Texas (ESPN)
1:40 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
2 p.m. — College volleyball: Cal at Nebraska (BTN)
2 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ABC)
2:45 p.m. — World Cup Qualification: Germany at Northern Ireland (FS1)
3 p.m. — College volleyball: Illinois at Louisville (ESPN)
3 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Enjoy Illinois 300 (USA)
4 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Oakland Roots at Pittsburgh Riverhounds (FOX)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Detroit Lions at Green Bay Packers (CBS)
5 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Gotham FC at Angel City (ESPN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Baltimore Ravens at Buffalo Bills (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — NWSL soccer: San Diego Wave at Houston Dash (ESPN)

Monday
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears (ABC)
9:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at San Diego Padres (FDSN Indiana)
9:45 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at San Francisco Giants (FS1)

Tuesday
7 p.m. — College volleyball: Texas

A&M at SMU (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — WNBA: Washington Mystics at New York Liberty (FOX)
7:05 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at New York Yankees (TBS)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Minnesota Lynx at Indiana Fever (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — International Friendly soccer: United States at Japan (TNT)
9:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Stanford at Missouri (ESPN)
9:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at San Diego Padres (FDSN Indiana)

Local notes

Outing announced
The Adams Health Network Foundation will host the 12th Annual Golf Classic on Sept. 12 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.
There will be two shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and beverages will be provided, as well as a lunch in between flights.
The event raises funds for health-care scholarships and local health initiatives in Adams County.
For more information, email kim.tormbley@adamshealthnetwork.org.

Chamber to host
Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host its golf outing on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m.
Participation costs \$250 per team with lunch included. A \$20 team mulligan golf ball can be purchased as well. Sponsorships can be purchased as well. A lunch sponsorship will cost \$500, while a gold sponsorship will go for \$450. Hole sponsorships cost \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.
The deadline to register is Sept. 12. For more info, call (260) 726-4481 or email amanda@jaycountychamber.com.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@thecr.com

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At Jay's expense



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay County coach Eddie Fields and his players walk away after making their way through the handshake line following Friday's 21-14 defeat to Southern Wells. The result snapped Southern Wells' 25-game Allen County Athletic Conference losing streak, dating back to 2019.

SW defeats the Patriots to end long skids

By **ETHAN OSKROBA**

The Commercial Review

PONETO — It was the outpouring of over two years of catharsis.

Jubilant fans storming the field. Players leaping into the arms of friends and family. A band joyfully playing and cheers ringing out long after the final whistle.

It's the type of scene that dreams are made of. And it happened at the Patriots' expense.

The Jay County High School football team suffered a 21-14 defeat to the Southern Wells Raiders on Friday night. The Raider triumph snapped their 21-game losing streak dating back to 2023.

"When I first got this job, nobody thought that we could win," said Southern Wells coach Blake Blaker, who took over before the 2024 season. "The kids didn't believe it, the

school didn't believe it and we've done a really good job, my staff and the teachers and just the Southern Wells community, of kind of bringing life back to the program."

The victory was Southern Wells' (1-2, 1-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) first conference win since 2019. It was a painful defeat for Jay County (1-2, 0-1 ACAC), which started 2-1 or better in each of the last four seasons.

"It's just a matter of preparation," said Jay County coach Eddie Fields. "We had a weird week, I didn't do a good enough job getting them ready."

The Patriots' lack of preparedness manifested on their opening drive, with a high snap sailing over quarterback Nick Laux's head and being claimed by Southern Wells. The Raiders struck first later in the quarter, with Adam Aulbach pulling in a 17-yard

heave from Trey Slusher with a one-handed snare to go up 7-0.

While the Patriots tied things up in the second quarter on a 20-yard touchdown pass from Laux to Carter Fugiett, the Patriots' other three first-half drives after the fumble resulted in punts.

Fields shouldered the blame when it came to the offensive struggles.

"It was just not very consis-

'It was just not very consistent. Just got to get them ready, I've got to prepare them better to be consistent. I think that's 100% coaching. I didn't do a very good job.'

— Eddie Fields, Jay County High School football coach

tent," Fields said. "Just got to get them ready, I've got to prepare them better to be consistent. I think that's 100% coaching. I didn't do a very good job."

With the game knotted up, the Raiders made a key shift in their backfield for the second half, moving starting quarterback Slusher to a full-time rushing role. Slusher had already spearheaded the ground attack in the opening half with 17 rushes for 37 yards after tailback Levon Goodnight was injured on Southern Wells' first play from scrimmage.

"I saw a Nick Saban quote that said, 'In critical moments, look to players, not plays,'" Blaker said. "And Trey Slusher's our dude, and so we're going to feed him the ball."

Blaker was true to his word, as Slusher amassed 25 carries for 126 yards and two touchdowns in the second half alone.

See **Expense** page 9

Tribe suffers loss to Cavs

COLDWATER, Ohio — Fort Recovery has never beaten Coldwater on the gridiron.

It has come close, including a 28-26 loss in the 2020 playoffs to the eventual Division VI state champions.

But the last four years have been dismal, with the Indians outscored by a combined 174-21.

They provided plenty of hope Friday night for good things to come in 2025.

It ended up on the wrong end of a 28-14 final against the Division VI No. 2 Cavaliers, but the Fort Recovery High School football team struck first against one of the Midwest Athletic Conference powerhouses and was deadlocked deep into the third quarter.

The Indians (2-1, 0-1 MAC), who beat Ponitz Tech and Allen East in their opening two games, evened the score midway through the third quarter when Alex Gaerke reached the end zone on a 1-yard run and then converted the extra-point kick. It was a stark difference from last season, when they were down 41-0 at the half before finally getting on the board in the third.

But beating the eight-time state champions is

Fort Recovery scored the first touchdown against Coldwater but fell 28-14

never going to be easy. Coldwater (2-1, 1-0 MAC) reclaimed the lead with 2:13 left on the clock in the third quarter when Braxton Taylor (19 carries, 119 yards) ran for a 17-yard touchdown.

Fort Recovery turned the ball over on downs on its next possession, and the home team responded with an 8-play, 80-yard drive that culminated in a Karsyn Homan 34-yard TD pass to Cadin Obringer. The Cavaliers stopped the Tribe on downs again and then proceeded to burn the final 3:36 off the clock.

See **Tribe** page 9



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