

Judge has set January hearing

Motion to dismiss set for arguments

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review A hearing has been set on a motion to dismiss a lawsuit against two Portland police officers.

Special Judge Douglas Mawhorr issued a notice Friday scheduling a hearing for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, on a motion to dismiss Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips' lawsuit against Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock and investigator Jeff Hopkins.

The suit also named The City of Portland and Portland Police Department.

Late last month, Mawhorr granted a motion to dismiss the suit against the police department. In his ruling, he wrote, "the claims asserted against the City of Portland, Indiana, Dustin Mock and Jeff Hopkins remain pending at this point."

The case is one of several ongoing disputes among Portland city officials, with eight tort claims filed against the city in the last two years. None of the others have advanced to the level of a lawsuit thus far.

Phillips' lawsuit, filed in July following her tort claim in April, alleges that she has been the focus of "torment, harassment and defamation" by the police department. Among her accusations are that Mock and Hopkins have threatened her; the police chief has made disparaging or defamatory statements against her; and that Mock and Hopkins reviewed and distributed video footage of Phillips exercising in the city's exercise room that included her private telephone conversations.

Attorney Katlyn M. Christman of Clark Johnson & Knight, Merrillville, filed a motion in September to dismiss the suit against the police department, Mock and Hopkins, arguing that they cannot be sued.

See Hearing page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Talking tools

Dave Steven Hays, also known as Gas Can Steve, of St. Marys, Ohio, leans on a toolbox while chatting about tools with Mason Bryan of Cridersville, Ohio, on Friday afternoon during the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Fall Swap and Sell meet at the Tri-State grounds in Portland. Hays took a break from telling tales of tools to share that Tri-State organizers who he met at a flea market in Decatur tried for years to talk him into coming to their shows in Portland. He insisted that Portland was too far to travel, until making the drive one year to discover the difference distance — 1 mile — between his trip to Decatur and his visit to Portland. He's been a regular ever since.

Data center draft is reviewed

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Data centers are on the move in Indiana.

Jay County Plan Commission reviewed a draft ordinance Thursday for regulating the facilities.

Jay/Portland building and planning director John Hemmelgarn and assistant director Pati McLaughlin presented a draft ordinance, which defines data centers as "a facility or portion of a facility housing networked computer systems and associated components such as telecommunications equipment and storage systems used for remote storage, processing and distribution of data."

Data centers are not considered a public utility, the ordinance says.

Ordinance would set standards for setbacks, noise levels, barriers

The draft proposed allowing data centers in agricultural residential zones with special exception use approval from Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals.

Setbacks are proposed at 1,000 feet from property lines, 2,500 feet from residences and 500 feet from road rights-of-way. As proposed, the data centers would have a maximum height of 35 feet.

Noise levels may not

exceed 50 decibels. (The ordinance clarifies there are two types of noises data centers produce — daily operational sounds and noise from generators used for backup power during an outage.)

Other proposed stipulations included:

•Requiring a closed-loop water cooling system

•Limiting routine generator exercise maintenance between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays

•Keeping generators in an enclosure limiting sound to 50 decibels as measured 1,000 feet away

•Requiring at least a 6-foot-tall berm as a sound buffer

•Keeping lights shielded and downcast away from adjacent properties, structures or residences

It also includes building permit requirements. Companies seeking to build data centers in Jay County would have to apply, submit a site plan and provide state and local documents, such as a decommissioning agreement with Jay County Commissioners. Fees would be calculated at 5 cents per cubic foot of the proposed structure.

After reviewing a similar draft ordinance Oct. 2, Portland Plan Commission

recommended the city not permit data centers within city limits or its 2-mile buffer zone.

"This is a starting place, we're still working on it, but we just wanted to have something to give to everybody so that it shows we are working on this stuff," McLaughlin said.

Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales noted Thursday the county recently received a proposed state-directed resolution.

Per the draft resolution — it will be discussed at Jay County Commissioners' meeting on Monday — it would formally voice support for data centers or other large energy industries.

See Data page 2

Restrospect

Patriots won in semifinal

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Patriots earned a spot in the sectional championship game.

The Jay County High School girls soccer team beat Bellmont 2-1 on Oct. 12, 2000, in the sectional semifinal at Wayne to advance to the sectional championship again.

The Patriots had lost in the sectional final in 1999 by a 3-1 score to host New Haven.

JCHS struck first in the semifinal when Dawn Ogden chipped the ball toward Bellmont's goalkeeper. She was slow to react, and Abby Arnold rushed down

the middle and slipped the ball into the net just 1:10 into the game.

"Abby got the momentum started with her early goal and the team kept that momentum for another 79 minutes," said Jay County coach Sue Rager, whose team improved to 11-5 with the victory.

About 10 minutes later, that momentum came through with what turned out to be the deciding goal. A corner kick for the Patriots went into a crowd of players about 15 yards out from the goal. When it popped out of the crowd, Kristen Hess spun

and sent a low show into the left side of the net.

That was all the scoring Jay County would need, as Bellmont's only goal of the game Goalie Liz Burke saved the other seven Bellmont shots on goal as the Patriots set up a rematch with Huntington North, the team it lost to 1-0 in the Olympic Athletic Conference championship game earlier in the season.

"I'm thrilled with the win," said Rager. "The girls came in here to win and they did."

Jay County went on to lose to Huntington North in the sectional championship game.



The Commercial Review/Mike Snyder

Jay County High School's Dawn Ogden (left) keeps her eye on the ball on Oct. 12, 2000, during the Patriot girls soccer team's 2-1 sectional semifinal victory over Bellmont. Ogden assisted on Abby Arnold's first-half goal.

<p>Deaths</p> <p>Betty Patch, 92, Berne Details on page 2.</p>	<p>Weather</p> <p>The high temperature was 69 degrees Friday in Jay County. The low was 38. Highs will be in the upper 60s today, around 70 Sunday and in the mid 70s Monday. Lows will be in the 40s. See page 2 for an extended forecast.</p>	<p>In review</p> <p>Ridgeville fall festival concludes today, with activities available until 10 p.m. The event includes music, food and carnival rides. Hayrides will also be offered. A golf cart parade is slated for 11 a.m. with rides opening at noon. Cake walks will be held at noon and 2:30 p.m. The band Tantrum will play from 4 to 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Coming up</p> <p>Tuesday — Details from the Jay County cross country teams in the ACAC Championships.</p> <p>Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.</p> <p>Thursday — Preview of the JCHS football regular-season finale against Heritage.</p>
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Hearing ...

Continued from page 1

She referenced Indiana Code, saying a county, municipality or township may be sued, asserting that the police department does not qualify, and that “a plaintiff is barred from suing employees who were acting within the scope of their employment at the time the alleged loss was sustained.”

Attorney Clayton Lengerich of Miller Burry & Brown, Decatur, consented to the police department being removed from the suit, but argued that the claims against Mock and Hopkins should remain. He wrote that the allegations against

them stretch beyond their duties as officers.

“The Complaint alleges specific conduct that, if proven, falls outside the scope of employment and/or was committed with malice, willfulness, wantonness, or recklessness, thereby invoking the statutory exceptions to immunity under Indiana law,” he wrote.

The other active claims against the city are as follows:

- Mock and Hopkins — Against the city, Phillips, her office and council members Ron May, Mike Aker and Dave Golden, alleging a range of complaints including false allegations by Phillips, eth-

ical violations by Wes Schemaur in his role as city attorney and ongoing bias from council members.

- Brad Clayton, former Portland wastewater department employee — Against the city, alleging that he was berated by wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues and that city officials, including the mayor, spread disinformation about him.
- Kyle Denney, former Portland police officer — Against the city, Mayor Jeff Westlake, Jay County Probation Office and probation office employee Ashley Reynolds, alleging that state-

ments were made against him including allegations of misconduct.

- Patrick Long, former Portland police officer — Against the city, Portland Police Department, Mock and Hopkins, alleging attempts at coercion and threats regarding a state police investigation, disregarding department policy and interfering with a job application.
- Clayton — Against the city and Phillips, alleging that his private Family and Medical Leave Act information was illegally made public.






Two other tort claims filed in 2024 have been resolved.

Obituaries

Betty Ann Patch, Berne, a former Geneva resident, Feb. 4, 1933-Oct. 6, 2025. A service to celebrate her life will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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

CR almanac

Sunday 10/12	Monday 10/13	Tuesday 10/14	Wednesday 10/15	Thursday 10/16
 73/45 Sunday's weather appears to be sunny with a high around 73 degrees.	 76/49 Mostly sunny skies on Monday when the high will be in the mid to upper 70s.	 77/53 Tuesday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a high around 77.	 71/43 Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday with the low to dip to the low 40s.	 70/43 Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 70 degrees.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 4-1-0 Daily Four: 0-5-3-5 Quick Draw: 2-12-18-20-21-23-24-28-34-37-41-53-56-60-61-66-71-72-74-78	Pick 3: 2-9-1 Pick 4: 6-4-3-6 Pick 5: 5-7-9-9-3
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$244 million	
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$575 million	
Ohio Midday	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.03 Nov. corn3.98	Wheat4.54
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.13 Oct./Nov. corn4.03 Dec. corn4.18	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.88 Nov. corn3.93 Beans9.72 Late Oct. beans9.77 Wheat4.89
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.93 Dec. corn4.03 Beans9.67 Late Oct. beans9.75	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.13 Late Oct. corn3.98 Beans9.47 Dec. beans9.68 Wheat4.34

Today in history

In 1884, Eleanor Roosevelt was born Anna Eleanor Roosevelt in New York City. Roosevelt, the first lady during Franklin D. Roosevelt's three-plus terms as president, was named as a delegate to the United Nations following his death and served as chair for the Human Rights Commission as it drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

In 1975, “Saturday Night Live” made its debut on NBC.

In 1984, astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space during the Space Shuttle Challenger mission.

In 1991, lawyer Anita Hill testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that she had been sexually harassed by Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. He went on to be confirmed to the court by a slim 52- 48 margin.

In 2000, Jay County Council appointed a nine-member committee to review the county's pandemic plan.

In 2002, Congress passed a bill that granted President George W. Bush authority to use military force against Iraq.

In 2005, the Jay County High School girls soccer team advanced to the semifinal round of the sectional tournament with a 2-0 win over the Blackford Bruins at Marion. Sara Garlinger and Abby Schmiesing scored goals for the Patriots.

In 2016, Jay County Hospital approved a letter of intent to expand its relationship with Cardon Management Company V Llc to provide licenses at four skilled nursing facilities across the state. At that time, the hospital owned facilities in Hamilton and Hendricks counties with Cardon handling their operations.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.

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.

Tuesday
6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire station, 302 N. Walnut St.

Data ...

Continued from page 1

Among other actions, it also says the county would streamline permitting, collaborate with the community to address noise, traffic and environmental impact concerns, encourage sustainability goals and “work with utility providers to ensure adequate power, water, and broadband infrastructure to support data center operations.”

Bales added that Indiana and Minnesota are the top two states for data centers.

“The Secretary of Energy is asking us to show that we’re open for business,” said Bales. “We’re getting a lot, a lot of pressure, because energy is like the top of our governor’s push.”

Plan commission member Chad Aker, who also serves as Jay County Commissioners president, voiced concerns about approving the resolution before establishing an ordinance for data centers.

Bales pointed out the county can always approve a resolution voicing support for wind and solar farms and tweak it later. She noted there's a push to have resolutions in place by November.

The plan commission also reviewed a few additional edits to the solar and wind farm ordinances.

Most of the changes proposed Thursday were sections rewritten for clarity. New changes included:

- Requiring landscaping or buffer agreements between applicants, owners or operators and participating and non-participating landowners. (Landscaping or buffering stipulations may be waived as part of the agreement.)
- Relocating the section about fencing,

which stipulates must be setback no less than 200 feet from property lines. Previously they were no less than 30 feet.

- Adding back in road use and de-commissioning agreements, which were removed in the August draft.

McLaughlin said she would incorporate the proposed edits into the plans and share final drafts with plan commission at its next meeting.

Also Thursday, the plan commission heard the building and planning department has been working on drafting an ordinance to regulate small-scale battery storage projects. The department presented a draft to Portland Plan Commission last week.

McLaughlin explained she and Hemmelgarn met Wednesday with Jay County REMC officials, who presented paperwork citing Indiana Code 8-1-2-1(a)(2), which defines public utilities as groups “that may own, operate, manage, or control any plant or equipment within the state for the ... production, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of heat, light, water, or power.”

She added that the company said because it is a public utility and would be exempt from ordinances, setback requirements or other regulations.

“I get it,” added Hemmelgarn. “I guess it would’ve been nice to know six months ago.”

For that reason, the department is going to hold off on the small-scale battery storage ordinance for now. Plans are to let the county attorney look into the matter. In the meantime, the department will continue to work on drafting regulations for commercial-size projects.

Felony courts

Nonsupport

A Muncie man was sentenced to jail for nonsupport of a dependent.

Kyle C. Hunt, 38, 1805 E Depauw Ave., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to nonsupport of a dependent child, a Level 6 felony. Hunt was sentenced to 575 days in Jay County Jail with all but 30 days of his sentence suspended and given 30 days credit for time served. Hunt was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and placed on probation for 545 days. He was ordered to pay \$16,963.16 in restitution to the benefit of Ericka Sargent.

Auto theft

A Portland man was sentenced to prison for auto theft.

Alejandro M. Mendez Domingo, 40, 617 North St., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to auto theft, a Level 6 felony.

He was sentenced to 545 days in Indiana Department of Correction and given four days credit for time served. He was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle without a license was dismissed.

Resisting police

A Portland man was sentenced to jail for resisting police other charges.

Jose S. Jimenez Jimenez, 19, 709 W. Walnut St., pleaded guilty in Jay

Superior Court to possession of cocaine and resisting law enforcement, both Level 6 felonies, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and endangering a person. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 166 days credit for time served.

He was assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee and a \$200 alcohol and drug countermeasures fee. He was also ordered to pay \$110.23 in restitution to the benefit of Susan Armstrong. Jimenez was placed on probation for one year.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for leaving the scene of an accident and three Class C misdemeanors for consuming alcohol as a minor, driving without a license and possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Methamphetamine

A Portland man was sentenced to prison for possession of methamphetamine and related charges.

Dillion W. Stolz, 34, 5211 N. 350 East, was found guilty by a Jay Superior Court jury of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or metabolite in the blood, a Class C misdemeanor, and possession of para-

phernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 730 days in Indiana Department of Correction and given 208 days credit for time served. He was assessed \$389.50 in court costs and filing fees.

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Researchers hope to translate dog sounds

By MIRIAM FAUZIA
The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

DALLAS — Ever wonder what your dog is trying to say? Well, a University of Texas at Arlington researcher is aiming to turn barks, howls and whimpers of man’s best friend into intelligible speech — a kind of Rosetta Stone of woof.

Computer scientist Kenny Zhu has built what he says is the world’s largest video and audio catalog of canine vocalizations. In papers published this year, Zhu and his colleagues at the university report potential phonemes — the smallest units of sound — and word-like patterns that could one day be turned into full sentences understandable to humans.

“The ultimate goal is to make a translator where you can talk freely with your pet,” said Zhu, a professor of computer science and engineering at UT Arlington. “We can already do instantaneous communication between human languages. Perhaps in the future we can do the same with animals.”

AI interprets dog

Humans have long wanted to talk to animals, and in the last century, scientists have tried: from teaching great apes sign language and English to bottlenose dolphins. Zhu’s fascination with



Angela Piazza/The Dallas Morning News/Tribune News Service

Nichole Aguirre gives her service dog “Trip” a drink of water after a long DART train ride to the Texas State Fair on Sept. 26 in Dallas.

animal communication began in Nanjing, China, where he spent his childhood surrounded by dogs, ducks, chickens and the occasional hedgehog. He often wondered what the animals were saying to each other, though his curiosity cooled over time.

It wasn’t until decades later, when he was watching a BBC documentary on whale and dolphin communication, that questions from his childhood reemerged. The documentary showed how

long and hard it was to record and decode whale and dolphin exchanges. But with artificial intelligence, Zhu thought, there had to be an easier way to translate animal speech. With his background in natural language processing and AI development, he felt up to the task.

For his first project, Zhu wanted to see if a language model could hear a difference between Shiba Inus in Japan and in the United States. He and his col-

leagues mined dog videos posted on YouTube for the test. After it didn’t reveal any doggy dialect split, Zhu and his colleagues compiled hundreds of hours of synced audio and video to train an AI model to separate canine vocalizations into discrete phonemes.

Deciphering the vocalizations involves both sound and context, as a dog’s bark or whine may be tied to its situation, Zhu said. If a term aligns with the dog’s activity, that correlation signals potential meaning.

So far, the researchers have transcribed about 50 hours of barks into syllables. They have identified some possible words, like cat, cage and leash, and how these words seem to sound different based on the dog breed. They have also identified how a dog’s linguistic capability appears to change as it ages. In one study, Zhu and his colleagues found that as a husky grows older, its bark lasts longer and potentially becomes more sophisticated.

Dr. Doolittle at your fingertips

This effort isn’t just about chatting with Fido like your next-door neighbor: It could also help flag early clues about your dog’s health, Zhu said. If a dog experiences any mental or physical changes, a smartphone app or other device outfitted with a dog

translator could inform the owner.

To a similar end, Zhu is working on decoding cats. He’s drafting a proposal to the Morris Animal Foundation for a study investigating whether a cat’s vocalizations can provide insight into its mental state or behavior.

Another one of Zhu’s projects, with Texas A&M University, is tackling the sounds of cattle. Dozens of cows in monitored pens at the university have been recorded 24/7 for audio and video for over two months. The data will be compared to the animals’ veterinary records to see how it correlates with their health.

Zhu and his collaborators hypothesize that herd small talk may carry cues about bovine well-being. By analyzing those vocal patterns for linguistic structure, they hope to spot illness before a human sees a sick cow.

They aren’t the only ones using AI to decipher animal speech. At the University of Michigan, researchers have processed dog barks using AI models originally trained on human speech, and at Virginia Tech, scientists are building an AI system to decode cow vocalizations. Meanwhile, a cottage industry of AI-powered dog collars and “cat translator” apps has sprung up, promising users the ability to better understand the needs of their pets.

Couple needs mediator for ongoing argument

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 56 years. For the past year or so, we quarrel about everything — major issues and minor, insignificant things. There is nothing but bickering, disagreement and conflict. We can have a couple of good days and then fight over some small issue, or an innocent response or comment

Dear Abby



from one of us — and in seconds, we’re arguing. Several major issues are instant triggers, but there’s also resentment,

hurt feelings, and awful things we’ve said to each other. I think we still love each other, but I don’t think we like each other very much.

We both feel a mediator is what we need, someone to hear both sides and make a judgment as to whose position is more valid. We have tried to find one — not a therapist or marriage counselor.

We’ve done some research only to find therapists who specialize in drug addiction, young couples and dysfunctional families, and they are all younger than our grown children.

We need someone who is at least 55, experienced and trained to listen to both sides of an issue, and who can be objective without actually taking

sides and give us a solution or opinion on how we can work through the issues amicably. How do we go about this? — TRYING TO FIX IT IN THE WEST

DEAR TRYING: I admire that you two are trying to resolve your marital difficulties, and that you recognize that you need help. What you need is a marriage

and family therapist. Ask your doctor to refer you to some who are licensed and preferably older. Interview several and see which one you and your husband are comfortable talking to. The input you are looking for is within their purview, particularly because you are looking for compromise.

Forty-nine donors gave blood

Forty-nine donors gave blood Tuesday at the American Red Cross blood drive at Jay Community Center.

Donors included Darrell Borders, Joyce Koenig, Michael Schmidt, Lorrisa Bousman, Jodi McKee, Michael Timmerman, Kay Westgerdes, Herbert Westgerdes, Kathleen Wood, Kimbra Schmitz, Kevin

Keller, Anna Muhlenkamp, Dennis Negele, Denise Glentzer, Freeda Osenbaugh, Billy Sipe, Doris Muhlenkamp and Charlene Theurer.

Also Benjamin Heath, Sarah Rines, Beverly Westgerdes, Eric Rogers, Jamie Daugherty, Ralph Hudson, Elizabeth Schoenlein, Cynthia Morris, Joseph Reinhard, Connie Ronald, Jeff Geesaman, Jill

Hemmelgarn, Madonna Brugge-man, Mark Krieg, Tammy Krieg and Bart Rice.

Also Philip Laux, Elizabeth Skiver, Barbara Myers, Raymond Brandt, Dustin Guggenbiller, Melissa May, Jennifer Esparza, Gary McMillan, Billy Bailey, Ana Minnich, Molly Twigg, Denise Culy and Steven Swingley.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIA ANNA’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 BREAK-

FAST 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday’s Solution

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

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

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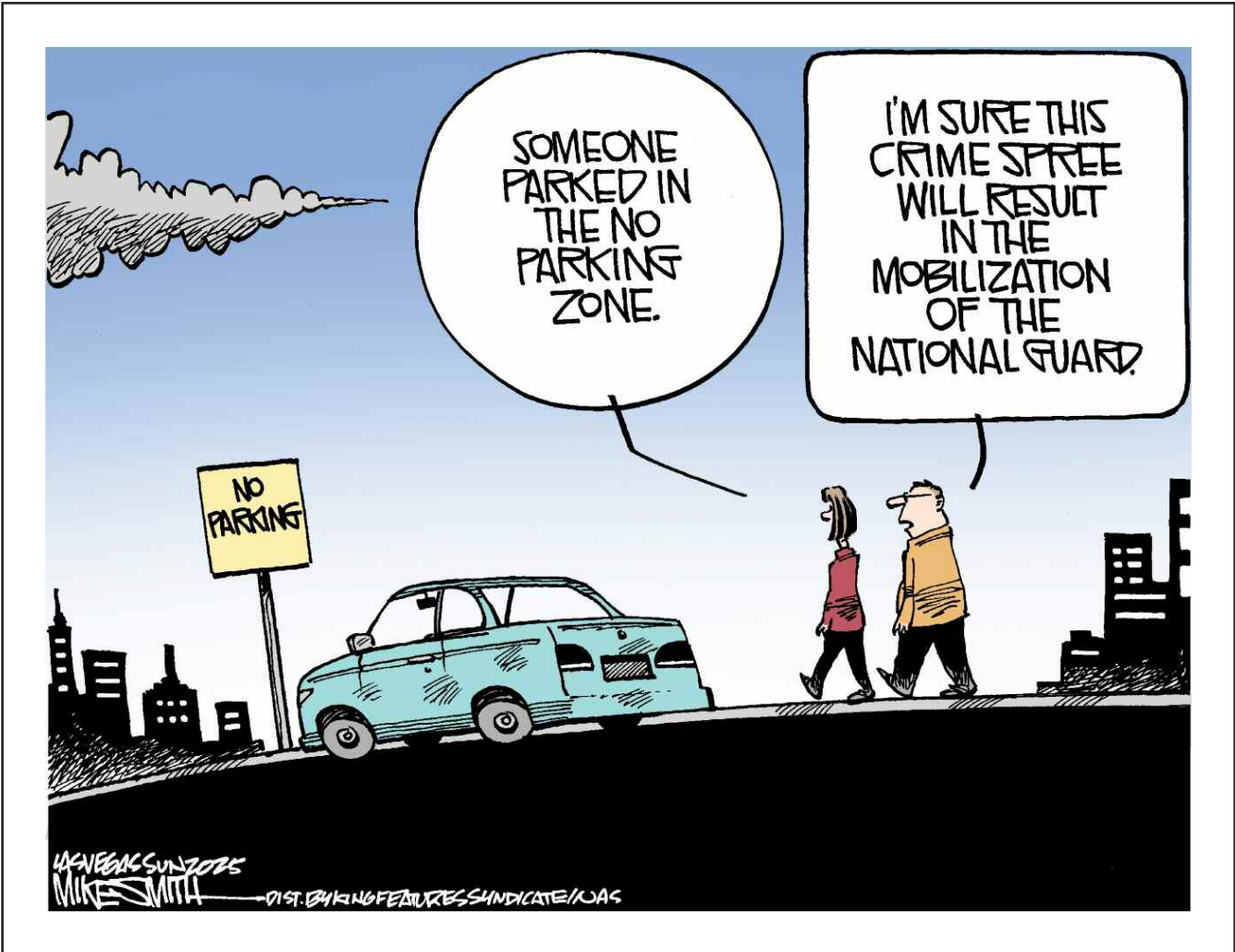
Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

IRACS seeking to help with transition

To the editor:
I'd like to share some exciting news with our community about a new program at the Jay County Security Center.
On Feb. 18, we launched the Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) program. IRACS is part of PAST Recovery Services and the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, and it's designed to give people in the justice system the tools and support they need to build a better future.
Through peer support, groups and one-on-one conversations, our team works with individuals facing challenges like substance use, mental health struggles, housing and employment. The goal is to help people successfully transition back into society and reduce recidivism, which benefits not only those we serve but

Letters to the Editor

also the entire community.
Recovery doesn't look the same for everyone, but what matters is that no one has to go through it alone. Our staff and peer recovery specialists are there every day to listen, encourage and connect people with opportunities that can truly change lives.
This program is still new, but we're already seeing positive steps forward. With community support, we believe IRACS can continue to make a real difference here in Jay County.
Sara Mann
PAST Recovery Services
Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition



Teams provide inspiration

By JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com

God love the underdogs — the comeback, come-from-behind, never-quit, never-say-die teams.
Even when they're outmanned, outgunned and even overwhelmed, they keep battling.
We saw three such stories in just the past few days.
On Sept. 30, the Indiana Fever's WNBA season ended when they dropped the fifth game of a best-of-five play-off series to the Las Vegas Aces.
The Fever's season ground to a halt when the Aces finally pulled away in overtime to win the game, 107-98, and advanced to the league finals.
The game was almost brutally hard fought. The Fever battled the much more experienced and much deeper Aces to a draw in regulation play, despite the fact that one of their best players, All-Star guard Kelsey Mitchell, left the game with an injury in the third quarter and another, All-Star center Aliyah Boston, fouled out in the fourth quarter.
No matter.
The Fever's bench and role players stepped up and showed enough grit to build a road from the Hoosier state to one of the oceans. They scrapped and scrapped and scrapped.
That shouldn't be a surprise.
The team could have packed it in early in the season when an injury took supernova superstar Caitlin Clark off the court. That started a string of injuries and ailments that almost derailed the year for the Fever.
But they summoned the will and the skill to beat Atlanta in the first round of the playoffs. Then they came within a whisker of making it to the WNBA Finals.
Along the way, they demonstrated just how powerful sheer determination can be.
The next night, another storybook season wound down.
For more than a decade, the Cincinnati Reds have been one of baseball's door-mats, a perpetual also-ran from a small-market city. Few serious baseball

John Krull



Even when they're outmanned, outgunned and even overwhelmed, they keep battling. We saw three such stories in just the past few days.

observers expected much from the team this year.
Those observers, though, didn't include Manager Terry Francona in their estimations.
Francona, a self-proclaimed "baseball lifer," is nearing the end of what should be — no, must be — a Hall of Fame career. A solid player, he has proved, again and again and again, to be a spectacular manager.
In his stint with the Boston Red Sox, he ended the curse of the Bambino — the hex the baseball gods supposedly visited on Beantown for shipping Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees — by winning the team's first World Series in 86 years. Three years later, in 2007, he led the Red Sox to the game's most prized circle once again.
His gift as a leader has been transforming team cultures steeped in disappointment and defeat into squads that expect and achieve excellence.
During his next stay — in Cleveland — he took over a team that had known little but heartbreak for a decade.
At his first press conference as Cleveland's manager, someone asked him how long it would take for the team to become competitive.
"How long will it take me to walk to the clubhouse?" Francona responded.
In 2016, he led a Cleveland squad that had had its pitching staff depleted by injuries into what became one of the greatest World Series ever played.
That classic went the full seven games. It was decided in extra innings of the seventh game when the Chicago Cubs claimed the crown.
Over the seven games, the two teams scored exactly the same number of runs.
It was that close.
This was Francona's first year in Cincinnati. Somehow, he miracle-motivated a team that wasn't among the league's leaders in hitting or

pitching into the postseason.
The Reds lost to the much more powerful Los Angeles Dodgers, but the team gave its fans a reason to look forward to next year.
The night after the Reds fell, Francona's old team — the Cleveland Guardians — lost an elimination game to the Detroit Tigers.
In July, the Guardians were 15.5 games behind Detroit for the division lead.
Cleveland rallied, though, and began winning game after game. Through sheer hustle, they closed the gap on the Tigers and ended up winning the division.
It was the greatest comeback in major league history.
The two teams met in the playoffs, where it became clear the Tigers had many more weapons than the Guardians did.
But Cleveland fought gamely to the end.
There are many reasons not to feel heartened by the world today.
These three teams aren't among those reasons.
.....
Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouse-File.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

Local papers keep communities strong

By DEAN RIDINGS
America's Newspapers

Strong communities don't just happen. They rely on connection — residents knowing what's going on, businesses reaching the customers who keep them open, and citizens having the facts to make good decisions. Local newspapers provide that connection in ways no other source can.
In today's fractured media environment, trust is the rarest commodity. Confidence in "the media" is low. Only 18% of Americans say they trust news on social platforms, and fewer than one in four trust cable networks. But nearly two-thirds say they trust their local newspaper — more than double the confidence placed in most other outlets.
In an era when anyone can post anything online, that clarity makes newspapers stand apart.
Newspapers provide the facts that keep civic life running: city budgets, school board debates, and local elections that rarely make national headlines but matter most to daily life. They also highlight the stories that make a community feel connected: high school sports, neighborhood events, new restaurants, and profiles of people who make a difference.
Your local newspapers have evolved to meet readers where they are — on websites, mobile apps, and email newsletters. What hasn't changed are the standards. Accuracy, ethics, and accountability still guide the work. That combination of modern delivery and traditional integrity is why people continue to turn to their local paper.
The same trust strengthens the local economy. Research shows consumers act on newspaper ads more than on ads delivered by TV, radio, or digital platforms. People see local business advertising as part of the same reliable package as the news. For a small business competing with national chains and online platforms, no other channel delivers the same impact. When residents trust the paper, they trust the businesses that support it.
The absence of a local paper leaves a mark. Voter turnout declines. Fewer residents attend public meetings. Government oversight weakens and borrowing costs rise. Small businesses lose their most effective way to reach local customers. And without a trusted source tying things together, misinformation and partisan spin spread faster, fueling confusion and division.

Dean Ridings



Subscriptions, advertising and community engagement make it possible for newspapers to continue earning the trust that communities depend on.

The opposite is true when newspapers are strong. Residents are better informed, more engaged, and more connected to each other. Businesses grow because they can reach customers in a trusted environment. Communities share a common set of facts that helps debate happen on the issues — not on whether the information is real.
But this role depends on support. Subscriptions, advertising and community engagement make it possible for newspapers to continue earning the trust that communities depend on. A strong local newspaper doesn't solve every challenge a town faces, but it makes civic life, local culture, and the local economy all work better. Healthy communities are stronger when their local newspaper is strong. Supporting the paper is one of the most direct ways residents and businesses can invest in their own future.
.....
Ridings is CEO of America's Newspapers, a national trade association representing nearly 1,700 members. Its mission is to educate the public about the value of newspapers, protect the First Amendment, advocate for newspapers' interests at the federal and state levels and provide resources to help newspapers grow audience and revenue. He has worked at newspapers in Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee and Florida.

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and six holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher
TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair
BRIAN DODD
Production manager

VOLUME 151–NUMBER 115
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

www.thecr.com

"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
Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days – \$3; Monthly auto-pay – \$10; 13 weeks – \$32; six months – \$60; one year – \$108.
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Mail: Monthly auto-pay – \$15; 13 weeks – \$53; six months – \$86; one year – \$161.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

10-11CRYPTOQUIP

MYEVIC HQZT QA KYIN GVITQ
AL CHVXYS OVFGQ VI KN WVLZ,
V'EZ CAIZ XMSAHCM XMZ

OWZFXSHK QOZFXSHK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THOSE AUTO
PASSENGERS ARE BOTH SUNBURNED, BUT THE
PERSON ON THE RIGHT IS THE REDDER RIDER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y

Trivial Review

Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Out of the blue

1) What Flemish geographer developed his
"projection" map of the world in 1569?

2) What marine habitats are often
called the "rainforests of the oceans"?

1) Gerardus Mercator
2) Coral reefs

10-13CRYPTOQUIP

"ZDOV UOVZ" KSR UWF OAUORZ
KFD DOZTPJ UGDW GYZBPHDGYK
OYJ HAPOYGYK BGKBPYZ: ASTP

ZDR-UOATPV.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: HAVING USED SO
MANY KINDS OF GUITAR PICKS IN MY LIFE, I'VE
GONE THROUGH THE PLECTRUM SPECTRUM.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals G

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to dog adoption.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 17 = E)

A. 20 3 17 15 10 17 5
Clue: Houses needy dogs

B. 6 21 8 17
Clue: Containment tool

C. 24 1 9 21 10 17
Clue: Give money or time

D. 5 17 20 6 26 17
Clue: Free from harm

Answers: A: shelter B: cage C: donate D: rescue

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dog adoption.

ETACR

Answer: Create

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in Delaware on October 6, 1963. I acted in commercials before moving on to bigger roles. I was Michael J. Fox's girlfriend in the second and third installments of a movie series and a karate kid's love interest.

Answer: Elisabeth Shue



Food FACT!

This food is one of the most popular comfort foods around the world.

Answer: Pizza

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

PIZZA MONTH

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

SBEIT 1 2 3

CSAEU 4 5

RZAEG 6 7 8

HOSP 9 10

L 4 7 6 2 5 9 2 2 3 2

10 1 8 8 4

Answer: Large cheese pizza

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

OCT 8

1829: Stephenson's Rocket wins the Rainhill Trials, a locomotive race.

1939: Germany annexes western Poland.

1956: Don Larsen of the New York Yankees pitches the only perfect game thus far thrown in the World Series.

NEW WORD

TOSS

throwing dough up in the air when making a pizza

ADOPT A DOG WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ADOPTION
ADULT
APPLICATION
BEHAVIOR
BOND
COMMITMENT
COMPANION
DONATION
FOREVER HOME
FOSTER
KENNEL
LOVING
MICROCHIP
NEUTER
PUPPY
RESCUE
SCREENING
SENIOR
SHELTER
SPAY
TRAINING
TRANSPORT
VOLUNTEER

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

How they say that in...

English: Dough
Spanish: Masa
Italian: Impasto
French: Pâte
German: Teig

Did You Know?

The average American eats 46 slices of pizza per year. This is about 23 pounds of pizza annually.

Answer: Putting sauce on dough

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Putting sauce on dough

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

35 Features of unicorns

36 Some fridges

37 Klutz

38 Amount-wise, great thing to look or feel like

45 Pop choice

46 Clarified butter

47 Flamenco cheer

48 Hibernia

49 1492 vessel

50 Buddhist sect

51 Monopoly card

52 Freshens a lawn, say

53 Even so

DOWN

1 Complaint

2 Autobahn auto

3 Arizona river

4 Excuses

5 Singer Norah

6 Matured

7 Calming

8 Wash thoroughly

9 Like Neruda's work

10 Defeat

11 Holiday lead-ins

19 Sporty car roof

20 Actor Harrison

23 U.S. Navy vessel

24 Chemical suffix

25 Lass

26 Make lace

27 "Cheers" setting

28 Coffee vessel

29 Prof's helpers

31 Blue-prints

32 Miso soup cube

34 Solidify

35 — corpus

36 Thyroid, e.g.

37 Without interruption

38 Scored 100 on

39 "Encore!"

40 "Would — to you?"

41 Dayton's state

42 Warm and snug

43 Swiss-born painter Paul

44 Faxed

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-11

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Death of a monarch

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K J 10 7 2
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q 6
♣ 8 7 3

WEST

♠ 5
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ K 9 2
♣ J 10 6 4

EAST

♠ 6 4
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ J 8 7 4 3
♣ 9 5

SOUTH

♠ A Q 9 8 3
♥ 7
♦ A 10 5
♣ A K Q 2

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

Opening lead — queen of hearts.
Assume you're in six spades and West leads the queen of hearts — which you duck — followed by the jack. You ruff, and the outcome appears to depend solely on finding the missing clubs divided 3-3. In that case, you'd be able to discard one of dummy's diamonds on your deuce of clubs and so make the slam.
But experience tells you that a 3-3 break is not a healthy prospect — indeed, it occurs only 36% of the

time. So, you start looking for a means of adding to your chances — without, of course, relinquishing the possibility of the 3-3 club break.
Actually, this is not a difficult task. You can improve your chances substantially by allowing for the possibility of a squeeze. All you need is for the defender with the club length to also have the king of diamonds.
With that in mind, you draw two rounds of trump, ruff the king of hearts, cash the ace of diamonds and cross to dummy with your last trump to produce this position:

West East
♠ 10 7
♦ Q
♣ 8 7 3
♠ K 9
♥ J 10 6 4
♠ 10 5
♥ A K Q 2

When you now play the 10-7 of trump, discarding the 10-5 of diamonds, West acquires a king-sized headache trying to find two discards. He can spare the nine of diamonds, all right, but his next discard will make everyone at the table happy except East and West.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 9 5 4 3 2
♥ 6 3
♦ 4 2
♣ A 8 4

WEST

♠ 6
♥ 8
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ K Q J 10 7 3

EAST

♠ Q J 10 8 7
♥ 10 4
♦ J 6 5
♣ 9 6 5

SOUTH

♠ A
♥ A K Q J 9 7 5 2
♦ K 9 8
♣ 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 4 NT Dble Pass
5 ♥

Opening lead — king of clubs.
The opponents' bidding sometimes draws a road map for declarer to follow that he would be unlikely to find had the opponents remained silent. For example, take this deal played by longtime world champion Bob Hamman in a U.S. national championship.
Hamman's opening one-club bid was artificial and forcing, promising at least 17 high-card points with almost any distribution. West's four notrump announced a strong two-suiter in the minors. The double by North indicated at least moderate

values, and South's five-heart bid closed the auction.
Without a club lead, Hamman would have had no trouble collecting 11 tricks. But West's king-of-clubs lead cut South off from dummy's king of spades. As a result, declarer was faced with the possibility of losing three diamond tricks. However, Hamman utilized his knowledge of West's hand to bring the contract home.
After taking the club ace, he led a diamond to his nine, losing to the ten. As expected, West shifted to a trump. After winning the eight with the nine, Hamman now made his second key play in the diamond suit by returning the king!
West took the king with the ace, but, just as Hamman hoped, he did not have another trump to lead. Hamman ruffed the queen-of-clubs return, trumped his last diamond in dummy and so made the contract.
By playing the diamonds as he did, Hamman prevented East — the player far more likely to hold two or three trumps — from ever gaining the lead. Had Hamman put up the king of diamonds at trick two, or led the eight of diamonds instead of the king at trick four, East would have won the second diamond with the jack and returned a trump to sink the contract.

Tomorrow: A straw worth grasping.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

41 Swiss cheese feature

43 Hidden

45 Fall, for one

47 Summer in Arles

48 Joan of —

49 Gripe

54 "Unh-unh"

55 Knight wear

56 Online address

57 Jargon suffix

58 Yearns

59 Chi follower

DOWN

1 Soup cooker

2 Go by

2 Web address

22 Car bar

23 Dental woe

27 Trail the pack

29 Animate figure

30 Editor's "keep it"

32 New Mexico resort

34 Holiday hearth burner

37 World-wide

39 Nymph pursuers

42 January, to Juan

44 Pot brew

45 Lucid

46 Historic periods

50 Run after K

51 Tea holder

52 Day fractions (Abbr.)

53 Football's Manning

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-13

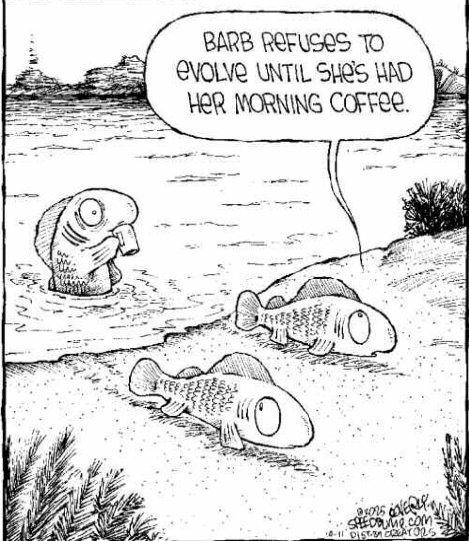
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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

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 57 58 59

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



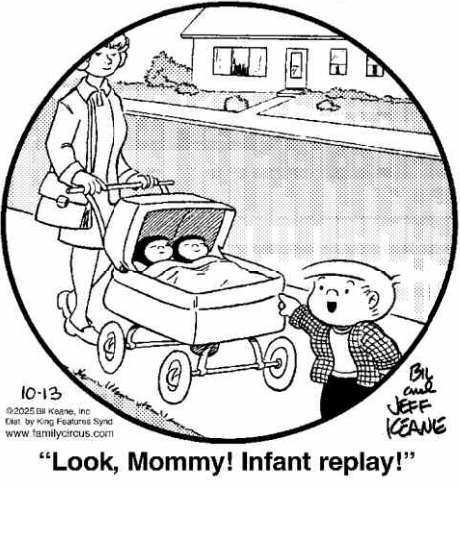
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



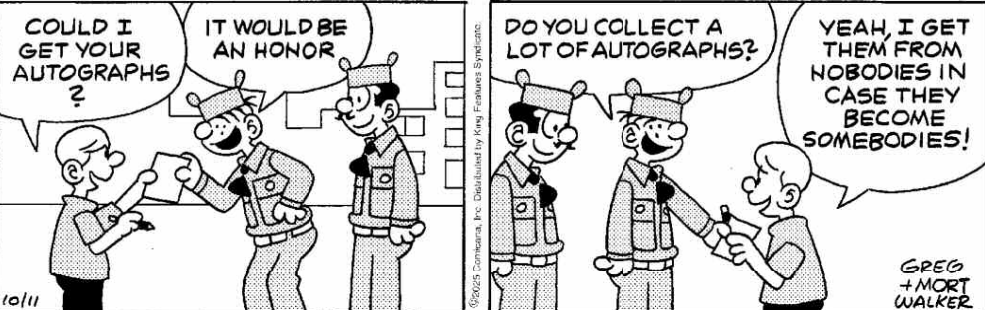
Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver

Laughter

The Commercial Review 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.

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS
260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
20 Word Minimum
Effective 07/01/2018:
Minimum charge....
\$12.40
1 insertion.....62¢/
word
2 insertions.....81¢/
word
3 insertions.....96¢/
word
6 insertions..... \$1.14/
word
12 insertions. \$1.52/
word
26 insertions. \$1.77/
word
Includes
Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/
per column inch
No borders or logos
allowed on Classified
Page
Card of Thanks Up to
100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100
words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is
12:00 p.m. the day prior
to publication.
Pre-Payment required
for: Rummage sales,
business opportunities,
jobs wanted, boats and
sporting equipment,
wanted to rent, motor-
ized vehicles, real estate
and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure
to check your ad the first
day it appears. We can-
not be responsible for
more than one days
incorrect copy. We try
hard not to make mis-
takes, but they do hap-
pen, and we may not
know unless you call to
tell us. Call before 12:00
pm for corrections. 309
W Main, Portland, Indi-
ana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

**J. L. CONSTRUCTION
& ROOFING LLC.** Amish
crew. Custom built
homes, new garages,
pole barns, interior/ ex-
terior remodeling, drywall,
windows, doors, siding,
roofing, foundations.
260-726-5062, leave
message.

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SON** Construction- Spe-
cializing in standing
seam metal roofs. When
Quality Counts, Count
On US. A company you
can trust. Member of the
BBB. New Installation
and repairs. Call Rodney
Thornbury, owner 765-
509-0191

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HOMEMADE** Sewing
and Alterations, Quilts,
Baby Blankets, AppliquÉ,
Zippers, Hemming,
Memory T-Shirt, Special
Orders, Wedding & Prom
Gowns. 260.766.9334

90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER
13TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 1 Mile North
of New Mt Pleasant on
Como Rd, Portland, IN
REAL ESTATE
95.67 Acres In Section
16, Jefferson Twp, Jay
County Indiana. Practi-
cally all tillable with
Frontage on Como Rd.
Property does have a
Windmill, Lease and
Payment will stay with



King's Tree Service
765-881-8511

FREE EST. FULLY INSURED
TREE TRIMMING-TOPPING-
REMOVAL-STUMP GRINDING
Firewood 4 Sell
Bucket Truck & BobCat
Services Avail.
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Andy King
765-881-1611

BOOLMAN'S
Auto Sales & Service, Inc.

Highway 67 W,
Portland, Indiana

260-251-9735

BAIL BONDS
Travis Weaver
260-726-3189
across street
from Jail

90 SALE CALENDAR

the Farm. Wooded area
not Included. Taxes to
be prorated day of Clos-
ing. Possession upon
Harvest of 2025 Crops.
Drive by's are Welcome
or Phone Auctioneers for
More Information. Auc-
tion Held On-Site.
OWNERS: Denney
Family Properties, LLC
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

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER
20TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: CR 200 S
AND CR 300 E. PORT-
LAND, IN
REAL ESTATE
74 +/- Acres in Section
35, Wayne Twp, Jay
County Indiana with 67
Acres Tillable, balance
being Wooded and
Road Frontage. Farm
has Frontage on CR's
200 S and 300 E.
Typography: Level. Pos-
session: Upon Closing
or Harvest of 2025
Crops. Taxes: To be Pro-
rated the Day of Clos-
ing. Very Desirable Farm
in a Great Location.
Drive by's are Welcome
or Phone Auctioneers for
More Information. Auc-
tion Held On-Site.
OWNER: Gary D and
Kimbra L Weesner
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: 224 W 500 N
Bryant, IN
Saturday Morning
OCTOBER 11, 2025
10:00 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
PARCEL #1: This parcel
consists of a 2 story
home, barn, pond, and
approximately 6 acres.
PARCEL #2: 20 Acres
of tillable land that is in
the set aside program.
It is in this program until
September 2032. The
owner receives
\$4,603.00 per year. If
this parcel sells sepa-
rately from parcel #1
there will be a deeded
60' easement given on
the east side of parcel
#1.
PARCEL #3
Combination of Parcel
#1 and #2. House,
barn, pond, and 26
acres.
For more information or
private showing contact
Loy Real Estate 260-
726-2700 or Gary Loy
Auctioneer
260-726-5160.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-
OLD ITEM -TRAILER-
TOOLS
Cedar chest; dressers;
park bench; Western
Flyer bicycle; Concord
bicycle; wood glider: 6' X
8' trailer; Ariens 11 hp
tiller; 4' lawn roller; yard
dump cart; Homak 2 pc.
tool cabinet; Lincoln
AC225S arc welder; Die
Hard battery charger &
engine starter; furniture
clamps; grease guns;
log chain; trouble lights;
paint supplies; and
other items not listed.
RITA LEGGETT,
DECEASED
Loy Auction

90 SALE CALENDAR

AC#31600027 Auction-
eers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata
AU12400069
PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY OCTOBER
11th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3430 W SR
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VEHICLES-TRAILERS-
MOTORCYCLE
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Japanese Samurai
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man Knife and other
German Knives. US
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and Flags. . Victorian
Love Seat. (2) Victorian
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18th, 2025
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LOCATED: 2782 S. 700 W. Portland, IN
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10:00 A.M.

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Familial problems

Eagles’ sets of sisters, cousins put up nine goals on Jay County

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

YORKTOWN — Kendra Muhlenkamp, the Patriots coach, knows the value of playing with your siblings after playing soccer with her sisters Emily and Briana.

So she couldn't underestimate the impact that three sets of siblings, including a cousin to two sisters, would have on the Eagles' chemistry. The final result of that chemistry was enough goals to end the game early.

The Jay County High School girls soccer team got bounced from the IHSAA Sectional 24 semifinal hosted by Yorktown with a 9-0 loss to the Delta Eagles in 60 minutes.

The win earned Delta (16-1) a spot in Saturday's final against New Castle, which beat Mississinewa after hitting four penalty kicks in the early semifinal.

"The first time we played Delta, I felt like we could have played better," said Muhlenkamp, referencing the 7-0 loss during the regular season. "Coming out tonight, Delta just proved right away that they were the better team."

The Eagles wasted no time as they jumped out to a 5-0 advantage in the first half and put another three goals on Jay County (12-5-1) in 10 minutes to reach the necessary mark for the mercy rule.

Delta's spacing, passing and chemistry overpowered JCHS throughout the match and kept the ball on the Patriots' half of the field.

"You can try to pair up people and be teammates and have the best chemistry ever, but chemistry with sisters, you can't top that," said Muhlenkamp, referencing the three Jarrells, — Grace Jarrells is a cousin to the other two sisters — Bunches and Thorpes. "I was blessed enough to play with two of my sisters in high school and it makes a world of



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

London Lloyd of the Jay County girls soccer team tries to control the ball during Thursday's sectional semifinal match that the Patriots lost to Delta 9-0

difference. You know what they're thinking before they even do it."

All nine of the goals scored and four of the five assists all came from players with either the last name Jarrells or Bunch.

The first goal came from a Shiloh Bunch throw-in to her older sister Jordan Bunch, who shuffled the ball to Grace Jarrells for the score. One minute later,

Grace Jarrells delivered the ball to her cousin, Avery Jarrells, who beat Emma Hatzell up the left side of the field to score.

Midway through the first half, Aubree Jarrells took a shot from 25 yards out, and while Maleah Parsons saved it, her younger sister Avery Jarrells put the rebound in to go up 3-0.

The fourth score came with 12 minutes, 17 seconds remaining as

Jordan Bunch worked the ball up the left side before finding Grace Jarrells again.

Less than three minutes went by before Grace Jarrells took a corner kick that curved to hit Parsons' gloves directly and deflect into the goal.

The Eagles didn't let up in the second half as Avery Jarrells got fouled inside the box 46 seconds in and hit the penalty kick.

The seventh goal involved the only non-relative as Avery Jarrells moved the ball up the right sideline before dishing it to Aurora Thorpe (who also has a sibling on the team in defender Makayla Thorpe). Aurora Thorpe then found Jordan Bunch inside the box for a chip shot for the goal.

DHS scored two more times on corner kicks from Grace Jarrells. The first was an assist as the ball came off of Avery Jarrells' head, while the second ricocheted off of JCHS defender Ariel Beiswanger.

The Patriots had a handful of opportunities in the first half that ultimately led to nothing. Ruth Sherck had to make three saves on Raylin Hummer, Aixa Lopez and Raylah Newton.

Delta's defensive line also made multiple stops to prevent the ball from ever getting to Sherck. Two of those situations included Aubree Jarrells blowing up an open cross from London Lloyd to Hummer and Adoree Smith tracking down Charlee Peters to clear a through ball from Lopez.

"Defensively, we've been solid all year," said DHS coach Mason Turner. "Ruth has probably had half the amount of saves she's had the past three seasons because defensively, we've worked really hard on trying to stop it from getting to Ruth."

While the Patriots won't be playing for a sectional championship on Saturday, Muhlenkamp was able to look at the bigger picture.

"One of the things I told them (postmatch), 'Why are we crying? If we weren't crying, we didn't care,'" Muhlenkamp said. "This senior group was my freshman babies. Me being new into coaching, they gave me a shot and proved time and time how great it is to be their coach. ... Their soccer journey has ended, except for Aixa, ... they're going on with life in the adult world. I'm going to be rooting for them and they're going to do great things."



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Trojans take down Jay Co. in five sets

NEW CASTLE — The Patriots went and visited the site where the sectional is set to be played. While they pushed the Trojans to their limits, they couldn't come out with the victory.

The Jay County High School volleyball team fell to the New Castle Trojans 25-14, 22-25, 22-25, 25-13, 20-18 loss on Thursday.

Most of the offense came from Hallie Schwieterman as she tallied 19 kills. Mya Kunkler came in next with seven kills.

Schwieterman also led with three solo blocks. Maria Hemmelgarn also did a lot of work at the net with one solo block and four block assists.

Other leaders for Jay County (17-9) include Kayla Jetmore with 23 digs and Paisley Fugiett with 43 assists. Jetmore and Lani Muhlenkamp dropped in the only aces on New Castle (15-10).

JCHS will finish off the regular season today with a tournament at Union County before heading back to New Castle to take on Connersville in the sectional semifinal on Oct. 18.

Tribe topped

ST. HENRY, Ohio — Fort Recovery's volleyball team dropped its final Mid-

Volleyball Roundup

west Athletic Conference match of the season to Division VI No. 3 St. Henry on Thursday 25-15, 25-15, 25-17.

Cameron Muhlenkamp had the most kills by putting five balls down. Bridget Homan followed with four.

While the Tribe (9-12, 2-7 MAC) struggled offensively at the net, it excelled defensively. Both Alexis Grisez and Brynn Willmann led the team with four blocks, while Homan and Kayden Ranly added three.

Ranly dished out 16 assists, while Kayla Gaerke had a team-high two aces against St. Henry (17-5, 7-2 MAC).

FRHS finished eighth in the MAC, tying New Knoxville and beating St. John's. The Indians will look to get back on track today against Tri-Village before opening the postseason on Wednesday against Riverside.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Volleyball at Union County Invitational — 9 a.m.; Cross country at ACAC Tournament at South Adams — 11 a.m.; Junior high volleyball at ACAC Invitational at Adams Central — 9 a.m.; Junior high cross country at ACAC meet at South Adams — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Cross country MAC meet at Coldwater — 9 a.m.; Volleyball vs. Tri-Village — 10 a.m.; JV football vs. Parkway — 10 a.m.; Middle school volleyball MAC tournament at St. Henry — TBA

Monday
Jay County — JV football vs. Lapel — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Fort Recovery — Junior high football vs. Anna — 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
12 p.m. — College football: Alabama at Missouri (ABC); UCLA at Michigan State (BTN); Ohio State at Illinois (FOX); Pitt at Florida State (ESPN); UCF at Cincinnati (FS1); Houston at Oklahoma State (TNT); Louisiana at James Madison (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Motul Petit Le Mans (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Oklahoma at Texas (ABC); Northwestern at Penn State (FS1); Nebraska at Maryland (BTN); Indiana at Oregon (CBS); Iowa State at Colorado (ESPN); TCU at Kansas State (FOX)
4 p.m. — College football: Navy at Temple (ESPN2); Cal Poly at Montana (NBC)
7 p.m. — College football: Florida at

Texas A&M (ESPN); Iowa at Wisconsin (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA Preseason: Oklahoma City Thunder at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Georgia at Auburn (ABC); Purdue at Minnesota (BTN); Michigan at USC (NBC); Kansas at Texas Tech (FOX)
8 p.m. — College football: BYU at Arizona (ESPN2)
8:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Brewers (TBS)
9:45 p.m. — College football: New Mexico at Boise State (FS1)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Arizona State at Utah (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Las Vegas Lights at Oakland Roots (FOX)

Sunday
7 a.m. — Women's Super League soccer: Chelsea Women at Tottenham Hotspur (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — World Cup Qualification: Netherlands at Finland (FS1)
1 p.m. — NFL: Cleveland Browns at Pittsburgh Steelers (CBS); Arizona Cardinals at Indianapolis Colts (FOX)
2 p.m. — NHRA: Texas Fall Nationals (FOX)
2:45 p.m. — World Cup Qualification: Lithuania at Poland (FS1)
3 p.m. — WNBA Finals: Phoenix Mercury at Las Vegas Aces (ABC)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: Cincinnati Bengals at Green Bay Packers (CBS)
5 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Angel City at Houston Dash (ESPN)
5:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: South Point 400 (USA)
7 p.m. — U20 World Cup: Norway at France (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA Preseason: Cleveland Cavaliers at Boston Celtics (ESPN)

8:03 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: TBD at Toronto Blue Jays (FOX)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Detroit Lions at Kansas City Chiefs (NBC)
9:30 p.m. — NBA Preseason: Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

Monday
7 p.m. — NBA Preseason: San Antonio Spurs at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7:15 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at Atlanta Falcons (ESPN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Chicago Bears at Washington Commanders (ABC)

Tuesday
6 p.m. — College soccer: Ohio State at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — NHL: Tampa Bay Lightning at Washington Capitals (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Arkansas State at South Alabama (ESPN2)
8:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Los Angeles Dodgers vs. TBD (TBS)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at Dallas Stars (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at Anaheim Ducks (FOX)

Local notes

Cooper to host
Cooper Farms will host its 18th Annual Turkey Trot 5K benefiting Ever-Heart Hospice on Nov. 1.
Refreshments and a to-go turkey meal will be provided for all runners.
For more information on registering, visit speedy-feet.com and search "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5K" or email Tonya Huber at tonyah@cooperfarms.com.
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@theocr.com

Box score

Jay County Patriots (2-6)
at Class 2A No. 3 Lapel Bull-
dogs (8-0)

Jay Co.	0	0	7	7	—14
Lapel	14	28	0	0	—42

First Quarter

L — Jack Miller 1 run (Braden Johnson kick), 6:52.
L — Miller 1 run (Johnson kick), 2:23.

Second Quarter

L — Jaxson Cripe 9 pass from Devin Craig (Johnson kick), 10:16.
L — Mason Page 46 fumble recovery (Johnson kick), 6:40.
L — Cripe 28 pass from Craig (Johnson kick), 3:42.
L — Jacob Barker 2 run (Johnson kick), 1:03.

Third Quarter

JC — Nick Laux 96 interception (Jacoby Penrod kick), 1:10.

Fourth Quarter

JC — Leighton Brown 14 pass from Laux (Penrod kick), 0:36.

Team Statistics

	JC	L
Rushes - yds	22-33	26-85
Comp-Att-Int	8-15-0	14-25-1
Passing yds	59	254
Total Plays	37	51
Total Offense	92	339
Punt ret - yds	0-0	1-12
Kickoff ret - yds	5-76	2-26
Sacks - yds lost	0-0	1-16
Ints - yds	1-96	0-0
Fumbles - lost	3-2	1-1
Penalties - yds	2-15	7-65

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Jay County — Leighton Brown 9-27, Garrett Bennett 4-8, Brady Jetmore 1-2, Nick Laux 8-(-4), Lapel — Jack Miller 10-40, Carter Scott 8-25, Devin Craig 2-21, Jacob Barker 3-1, Kingston Ricci 3-(-2).
Passing — Jay County — Nick Laux 8-13-0 59, Leighton Brown 0-2-0 0, Lapel — Devin Craig 13-18-0 250, Kole Kessler 1-5-1 4, Klein Wilkins 0-2-0 0.
Receiving — Jay County — Tyler Wasson 2-25, Leighton Brown 1-14, Benson Barnett 1-12, Garrett Bennett 2-11, Aiden Phillips 1-(-1), Brady Jetmore 1-(-2), Lapel — Jaxson Cripe 6-99, Griffen Stow 3-58, Brayden Parsley 1-56, Andrew Evelo 3-37, Evan Brewer 1-4.

42 ...

Continued from page 10
Both of Jay County's scores came in the second half after Lapel put its backups in the game.

The only touchdown by the Patriots' offense came on the final drive when Laux hit Leighton Brown, who took the ball 14 yards to the left pylon.

JCHS also put seven on the board as Laux picked off Kole Kessler and brought the ball 96 yards back to the house. Fields highlighted Laux's evening as the type of effort he's looking for as the Patriots prepare to close out the regular season against Heritage and take on the sectional.

"We've got to go out there with kids who love playing football," Fields said. "Nick Laux has been that kid from day one. He goes out and gets the (96) yards on the interception return and he's playing safety after not being on defense to start the year. He's also on kickoff because we need a guy who just loves football."

"He's a breath of fresh air and we've got some other guys to start leaning towards that. It's been a long year and some of our guys are down obviously. Nick has been a great leader and we need all of our guys to be doing that."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School sophomore Tyler Wasson reels in a 13-yard pass from Nick Laux on the final drive of the Patriots' 42-14 loss at Class 2A No. 3 Lapel on Friday. Wasson led the Patriots with 25 receiving yards on two catches.

Guy ...

Continued from page 10

The game was most likely already decided with Parkway (0-8, 0-6 MAC) edging toward the goal line down by 14 in the final minute. But Wendel wasn't taking any chances. When Triplett tossed the ball into the end zone in an attempt to pull his team within one score, Wendel snagged the pass for an interception.

"You know, when your back's against a wall, you know, you have those guys you can lean on and go to," said FRHS coach Wes Wenning. "And 26 is definitely. Reece Wendel, he's that guy."

Early on, the Indians looked like they might force a running clock, scoring two touchdowns in the first six minutes. They pushed ahead 28-6 when Brody Barga hauled in a 13-yard TD pass from Alex Gaerke midway through the second quarter. But there was no panic from Parkway, which first got its offense going via Booher in the ground game, closed the gap to 28-13 with a touchdown in the final minute of the first half and then put together a 10-play, 67-yard scoring drive to start the third quarter.

While Fort Recovery never punted, the Panthers forced three fumbles for



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Troy Post of Fort Recovery reaches for the goal line as a Parkway defender attempts to bring him down during the first quarter Friday. The Indians built a 28-6 lead midway through the second quarter of their 14-point victory.

turnovers that helped keep them in the game.

"We have only had three turnovers all year and 13 stops," said an emotional Parkway coach Brian

Schmidt. "We had three turnovers tonight ... They fought."

He expressed pride in his team but some frustration with what he referred

to as the 15% of fans who bring a negative attitude.

"We had a couple errors that we made ... we'll continue to work clean up. But let's start giving these young men some credit ... They're young and they're growing up in one of the best leagues in Ohio, if not one of the best in the country. Let's start giving them some opportunity to grow and stop degrading our program ..."

Booher finished with 93 yards on 19 carries. Triplett completed 12 passes for 162 yards had success avoiding the Fort Recovery rush.

"We were just tested in a way that I don't think we've seen yet," said Wenning of the game that was also marred by 24 penalties — 11 against Fort Recovery for 97 yards and 13 against Parkway for 106. "You know, with a quarterback that can extend plays. Triplett is impressive ... the way he can extend plays. And that's tiresome on a defense when you D-line's chasing him around. It gases them out, and then DB's have got to chase guys forever. ... To see that attack, it was a new experience for our guys. Hats off to them, because they executed that well."

In addition to Wendel's

Box score

Fort Recovery
Indians (5-3, 4-3 MAC)
at Parkway Panthers
(0-8, 0-6 MAC)

Fort Rec.	21	7	0	13	—41
Parkway	6	7	6	8	—27

First Quarter

FR — Troy Post 22 pass from Alex Gaerke (Gaerke kick), 9:56.
FR — Gaerke 47 run (Gaerke kick), 6:10.
P — Luke Booher 1 run (kick failed), 3:41.
FR — Reece Wendel 63 run (Gaerke kick), 2:30.

Second Quarter

FR — Brody Barga 13 pass from Gaerke (Gaerke kick), 6:38.
P — Jack Yoder 17 pass from Jacob Triplett (Trey Anderson kick), 39.7.

Third Quarter

P — Rhen Carpenter 16 run (pass failed), 7:33.

Fourth Quarter

FR — Wendel 7 run (Gaerke kick), 10:35.
P — Booher 45 fumble return (Booher run), 6:32.
FR — Wendel 58 run (pass failed), 3:05.

Team Statistics

	FR	P
Rushes - yds	34-400	27-140
Comp-Att-Int	7-11-0	12-21-1
Passing yds	97	162
Total Plays	45	48
Total Offense	497	302
Punt ret - yds	1-5	0-0
Kickoff ret - yds	6-144	6-134
Sacks - yds lost	0-0	1-7
Punts - yds	0-0	3-117
Ints - yds	1-0	0-0
Fumbles - lost	4-3	0-0
Penalties - yds	11-97	13-106

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Fort Recovery — Reece Wendel 18-275, Alex Gaerke 12-115, Isaac Roessner 1-6, Brodie Hart 1-2, Breaker Jutte 2-2. Parkway — Luke Booher 19-93, Jacoby Triplett 6-32, Rhen Carpenter 2-15.

Passing — Fort Recovery — Alex Gaerke 5-9-0 72, Breaker Jutte 2-2-0 23. Parkway — Jacoby Triplett 12-21-1.

Receiving — Fort Recovery — Brody Barga 2-23, Troy Post 1-22, Breaker Jutte 1-20, Reece Wendel 1-10, Luke Lochtefeld 1-9. Parkway — Cohen Korte 4-70, Rhen Carpenter 4-43, Isaac Beverage 2-34, Jack Yoder 2-21.

rollicking running, quarterback Alex Gaerke picked up 115 yards on a dozen carries as the Indians gained 400 yards on the ground. He tossed a 22-yard TD pass to Troy Post for the opening score of the game and added a 47-yard TD to give FRHS its early 14-0 lead.

Fort Recovery has now won three of its last four as

it heads in to a pair of games that will determine if it finishes in the top or bottom half of the conference. It will go on the road next week to take on an Anna squad that nearly ended Marion Local's 71-game winning streak Friday before falling in double overtime and then host Minster for its regular-season finale.

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‘He’s that guy’

Wendel carries Indians past Panthers in fourth as part of a 275-yard, 3-touchdown performance

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
ROCKFORD, Ohio
— The Panthers refused to go away.

They fought back after giving up two quick scores, getting two of their own bridging the halftime break.

A scoop and score on a fumble pulled them to within eight points mid-way through the fourth quarter.

And they were knocking on the door for a touchdown that would have given them a chance at a desperation onside kick in the final minute.

Each time Parkway pressured, the Indians turned to 26.

Reece Wendel earned all but 11 penalty yards on one fourth-quarter touchdown drive, broke a 58-yard TD run two possessions later and picked off Panther quarterback Jacoby Triplett in the end zone in the final minute to seal the Division VII No. 6 Fort Recovery High School football team’s 41-27 victory over its homecoming hosts.

“I think we all played hard, them and us,” said Wendel, who racked up 275 yards and three touchdowns on 18 carries. “That was probably the most fun game I’ve ever played in. It’s like this every year with them. They’re a good team, no matter what their record shows. They like to play physical. We have to play physical. That’s what that’s pretty much what kept them in the game and what kept us fighting.”

Holding on to a nine-point lead in the fourth quarter, the Indians (5-3, 3-3 Midwest Athletic Conference) turned to Wendel. With the exception of the penalty, he gained



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School running back Reece Wendel tries to jump over Rhen Carpenter of the Parkway Panthers on Friday during the first half of the Indians’ 41-27 victory. Wendel totaled 275 yards and three touchdowns for FRHS while also snagging the game-sealing interception.

every positive yard on a 66-yard scoring drive that he capped with a 3-yard push up the middle.

The Panthers’ next drive stalled, but they

took advantage of a Fort Recovery mistake. A high snap to Breaker Jutte on a third-down play resulted in a fumble that Luke Booher scooped up

before scampering 45 yards to the end zone. His 2-point conversion run closed the gap to eight points.

On the ensuing drive,

Wendel took the ball around the right end on second-and-10 and outran the Parkway defense for a 58-yard touchdown.

See Guy page 9

Lapel tallies 42 in 24

Dogs score five TDs in 1st half to top Jay

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

LAPEL — Winning isn’t quite as simple as playing 48 minutes of football. It’s the amalgamation of years of work, weeks of practice and days of scouting.

The work the Bulldogs put in the weight room over the past four years sure showed during the 48 minutes on the gridiron with the Patriots.

The game was all but over by halftime as Jay County High School’s football team only managed 28 yards in the first half while the Class 2A No. 3 Lapel Bulldogs ran rampant for a 42-14 victory on Friday.

In the first half, the Patriots (2-6) finished with a net of 28 yards on 23 plays. They never sniffed the end zone as they only made it to Lapel’s side of the field on the opening drive when a squib kick hit a Bulldog before traveling 10 yards.

The Patriots procured three first downs in the opening 24 minutes, all on singular plays that traveled 10 or more yards.

So why did Jay County struggle to move the ball? The trenches.

“Lifting four years ago,” JCHS coach Eddie Fields said. “They’re big and strong and fast.

“Our offensive line has been way ahead of schedule this year. We haven’t given up a bunch of sacks and we’ve run the football well. Even when we were struggling before, our offensive line played well and that was their worst performance tonight.

“Those are big, strong, physical kids and we’re just not quite ready to play against them.”

The Bulldogs (8-0) moved the ball with ease. In total, Lapel racked up 42 points and 256 scrimmage yards on 32 plays.

“Our kids are always focused and that’s an awesome thing,” said LHS coach Tim Miller. “They come out every Friday ready to play and don’t take anybody lightly. ... We’re a good all around football team.

“Offensively, Devon (Craig) threw 9,000 plus yards in his career. We run the ball pretty well too. Jack Miller is probably nearing 1,000 at this point. It was just another balanced effort and the kids took care of business.”

Craig carved up the Patriots’ defense, going 13-of-18 for 250 yards, including 194 in the first half.

While he only slung two touchdowns — both to Jaxson Cripe in the second quarter — he set up both of the first-quarter scores by tossing for 144 yards on the first two drives. Miller punched the ball into the end zone from the 1-yard line on both drives.

The only other scores in the first half came from a 46-yard fumble recovery by Mason Page and a 2-yard rush from Jacob Barker that was set up by Mason Kenemer blocking a Nick Laux punt.

See 42 page 9

Introducing the 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Finalists

For Jay County

(Top)

Jacey Cooke, Nicholas Laux, Kenzie Tobe

(Bottom)

Lillian Johnson, Faith Faulkner

Congratulations!

