

The first straw

Inaugural Scarecrow Stroll in Fort Recovery has community creations lining Wayne Street

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Don't expect to see any crows in Fort Recovery.

There are simply too many sentinels keeping watch for them to come near.

Scarecrows are lining the streets and sidewalks of the village's downtown area for the Fort Recovery Merchants Association's inaugural Scarecrow Stroll.

The straw-stuffed sentries come in a wide variety of styles, from a swimmer and a surfer to a reading retiree and an upside-down library patron.

The project came from the merchants association looking for something to fill the gap between the start of school and the holiday season. Fort Recovery residents Tom and Tess Kaup witnessed a similar event while visiting their daughter in Michigan and shared the idea when they got home.

"Fall is always a great time to do something different," said Jenni Smith of the merchants association. "We thought it would just be a great activity for people in the town to jump into and just bring people downtown ..."

When they started planning, the hope was to get five sign-ups for the new event. Within two weeks, they had sold out the 25 support poles that were purchased for the project.

"It's been amazing," said Smith. "It has gone better than I could have ever expected for the first year."

Businesses, organizations, families and individuals signed up to participate, with each being provided a bale of straw from Jutte's Fruit Farm and a pole sponsored by Mercer Savings Bank. The rest was up to them.

Participants received their materials on Oct. 1 and had until Oct. 12 to set up their creations along Wayne Street, where they stretch from Boundary Street on the north end to a half-block south of Butler Street at A Simple Touch.

See **Straw** page 2



Nine-year-old Elsie Wendel created the swimming-themed "Puddles" for the inaugural Scarecrow Stroll in Fort Recovery. The Fort Recovery Merchants Association initiative drew 25 entries, which are lined along Wayne Street in the downtown area.

SNAP benefits to run out in 2 weeks

More than 600,000 Hoosiers got benefits in 2024

By ARIANA FIGUEROA
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

WASHINGTON — As the federal government shutdown extends to day 17, and with congressional leaders nowhere near negotiating, state officials are beginning to raise concerns of potential cuts to nutrition assistance benefits that feed millions if the government isn't reopened.

Minnesota has already halted new enrollments in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. And officials in Kansas, New Hampshire and New Mexico have warned their residents could miss their food assistance payments for November.

More than 42 million Americans rely on the program, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture administers. The federal government funds nearly all the program benefits, with states administering the program.

In fiscal year 2024, about 610,700 Hoosiers received SNAP benefits, or about 9% of the Indiana population. Most SNAP participants in Indiana have incomes below the poverty line. More than 69% of Indiana's SNAP participants are in families with children.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins warned Thursday that SNAP will run out of funds in two weeks if Congress fails to strike a deal and end the government shutdown.



Rhio Ray, 4, Pennville, paints pumpkins with cousin Benelli Ellis, 5, Portland, during the Pennville Pumpkin Festival on Saturday. In addition to a variety of activities for children, the event include a parade, music and a contest for the largest pumpkin.

Pumpkin painting

Gaza truce resumes after weekend fighting

U.S. mediators were meeting with Israeli officials Monday

By DAN WILLIAMS and FADWA HODALI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel said it has resumed a truce with Hamas in Gaza after heavy fighting over the weekend, with the sides accusing each other of breaching a deal brokered by President Donald Trump.

White House mediators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived on Monday and quickly went into meetings with Israeli officials aimed at solidifying the truce. The country's airport authority said in a statement that Vice

President JD Vance was due to arrive today.

Around 9:30 p.m. Israel time on Sunday, the Israel Defense Forces said it had "begun renewed enforcement of the ceasefire" and warned it would "respond firmly to any violation."

Israel launched strikes against Hamas in Gaza and suspended aid shipments on Sunday after blaming the Iran-backed militant group for an ambush that killed two soldiers in the southern part of the strip. The IDF said it responded by hitting weapons-storage facilities and other sites. It also said it dismantled several kilometers of underground tunnels.

At least some aid supplies have now resumed, though the key border crossing of Rafah remains shut.

The White House expected the deal to be messy but is optimistic it won't collapse. Trump presented the ceasefire as the best chance yet of ending the war in Gaza, which has devastated the Palestinian territory and destabilized the wider Middle East.

Felony court news

Theft
A Tennessee woman was sentenced to jail for theft.
Rachelle L. Crawford, 34, 2320 Livingston Highway, Celina, Tennessee, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to theft, a Level 6 felony.
She was sentenced to six months in Jay County Jail and given credit for one day served. Crawford assessed \$189 in court costs.

Drug possession
A Muncie man was sentenced to jail for possession of methamphetamine.
David S. Myers, 50, 6409 West Bethel Ave., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a

Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 180 days credit for time served.
Myers was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.
He was also ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. Myers was placed on probation for one year.
As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for possession of a narcotic drug and a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement were dismissed.

Arrests

Forgery
A Redkey woman was arrested Saturday for forgery.
April L. Matney, 53, 1023 W. High St., was charged in Jay Superior Court with two Level 6 felonies for the alleged crime and three Class A misdemeanors for theft.
She was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

CR almanac

Wednesday 10/22	Thursday 10/23	Friday 10/24	Saturday 10/25	Sunday 10/26
54/37 Cloudy skies are in the forecast. Wednesday when wind gusts may hit 15 to 25 mph.	56/32 Mostly sunny skies on Thursday when the low may hit around freezing.	60/39 Mostly sunny on Friday. Temperatures may dip into the 30s at night.	61/45 Mostly cloudy, with the low hitting the mid 40s.	66/49 Sunday's weather looks like a 40% chance of showers, with a low around 49.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$304 million	13-14-16-18-19-27-28-39-45-47-48-51-60-72-78 Cash 5: 15-24-25-30-35 Estimated jackpot: \$148,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$650 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-9-6 Pick 4: 6-5-9-2 Pick 5: 4-7-1-9-5 Evening Pick 3: 6-1-8 Pick 4: 9-6-2-1 Pick 5: 5-5-0-0-3 Rolling Cash 5: 11-22-27-34-37 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 0-3-4 Daily Four: 5-0-8-3 Quick Draw: 3-12-13-14-19-20-21-34-41-43-48-50-54-55-57-62-69-72-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 8-5-7 Daily Four: 1-2-9-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-7-9-10-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.10 Nov. corn4.10 Dec. corn4.20	Nov. beans10.07 Wheat4.58
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.15 Nov. corn4.15 Dec. corn4.30	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.02 Nov. corn4.05 Beans.....9.97 Nov. beans10.02 Wheat4.93
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.05 Nov. corn4.05 Beans.....9.97	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.05 Nov. corn4.05 Beans.....9.77 Nov. beans9.82 Wheat4.48

Today in history

In 1520, explorer Ferdinand Magellan sailed into the strait that would later be named for him between the tip of mainland South America and the island of Tierra Del Fuego. He continued to sail across the Pacific but was killed in the Philippines before one of his three ships continued to Spain to complete the first circumnavigation of the earth.

In 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested his first practical incandescent light bulb in Menlo Park, New Jersey. The bulb burned for about 13½ hours before going out, marking a major milestone in the development of electric lighting.

In 1940, Ernest Hemingway's novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" was published. It tells the story of an American teacher who joined the antifascist Loyalist army in Spain.

In 1964, the movie musical "My Fair Lady" made its world premier.It went on to win eight Academy Awards.

In 2004, the East Jay Middle School football team completed an undefeated season with a 14-6 victory over Delta. The Chiefs got the board first on a 20-yard interception return for a touchdown by Adam Garringer and quarterback Billy Wellman added a 1-yard TD run late in the opening half.

In 2018, actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus of "Seinfeld" and "Veep" fame was awarded the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

In 2020, Portland Board of Aviation learned contractor HIS Constructors of Indianapolis planned to hold off on starting work on the first phase of Portland Municipal Airport's runway extension project until 2021 in an effort to avoid inclement weather. (Work would begin in early June 2021.)

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday
9:30 a.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
5 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Friday
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.

Obituaries

Lillian Crump
Feb. 23, 1929-Oct. 16, 2025
Lillian Crump, age 96, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025.
Lillian was born on Feb. 23, 1929, in Jay County, the daughter of John and Lulu (Lawhorn) Newton. Lillian retired from CTS in Berne after over 30 years of service.
Lillian married Lester Crump on June 3, 1949, he passed away on June 10, 1980.
Survivors Include:
Son — Samuel Crump, Portland
Daughter — Peggy Dieterle (husband: Roger), Greenwood
Two brothers — Robert Newton, Eaton, and Timothy Newton, Jay County

Four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild
She was preceded in death by her brothers John Newton Jr., Richard Newton, Rex Newton and George Newton; and her sisters Patty Willover and Mary Newton.
Visitation will be held Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.



Memorials may be directed to West Walnut Church of Christ.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Jane Anne Thompson, Portland, June 28, 1936-Oct. 17, 2025. Services will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289, S. 200 West, Portland.

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

Straw ...

Continued from page 1
The list of participants includes businesses A Simple Touch, The Tin Cupboard, Be Your Floral and Apparel, Kaup Pharmacy, Fort Recovery Insurance, Vonderhaars Meat Market, Legacy Farms, Kelli's Shoes, Grounded Cafe, Sunshine Boutique and Salty Haven, Cedar and Mane, Valdes Farm Drainage, Wayne Oil, Wabash Mutual, Wangler Ace Hardware, Park National Bank, Brick Street Tavern and Polanco Mexican Restaurant; organizations Fort Recovery Recreation Center, Fort Recovery Ambassadors, Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce, Psi Iota Xi, One of a Kind Auction, Fort Recovery Historical Society, Fort Recovery Public Library and Fort Recovery Opera House; and Tom and Tess Kaup, and Elsie Wendel.

Amy Wendel is the secretary for the chamber of commerce, which was putting together a scarecrow. When her daughter Elsie, 9, saw what was going on, she decided she wanted to participate as well.
"Elsie is kind of an old soul, so she likes to do things like this," said Amy. Tasked to create with items she could find at home, Elsie settled on a pool theme for her new buddy name "Puddles." The scarecrow is wearing a Fort Recovery Eels swim cap — Elsie is a member of the summer team — and goggles. It has legs made of pool noodles and is wearing a Fort Recovery purple swimsuit with a towel wrapped around its waist. It also has several pool flotation devices.

The best part of being involved? "Just seeing people look at it," said Elsie, a fourth grader whose favorite subject in school is art.
All of the participants are involved in a contest, with the top three vote-getters to receive gift certificates of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively. Voting — each scarecrow has a sign with a QR code, and paper ballots are available at the village's visitor's center — will remain open through Sunday,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery Public Library's entry for the inaugural Scarecrow Stroll is this upside-down creation who is "head over heels for the library."

when the village hosts its annual Halloween parade at 3 p.m. followed by trick-or-treating.
"So our goal is that when they are trick-or-treating, they'll be able to walk through town — some of the businesses will be open with games or candy or different activities the kids can do downtown — and then go and do their trick-or-treating as well," said Smith, adding that the

goal is to make the Scarecrow Stroll an annual event.
Votes have already been pouring in. As of Saturday, there were about 450 votes cast electronically, and a second batch of paper ballots had to be printed.
"We've seen so many families come up and just walk with their kids to vote on their favorite scarecrow," Smith said. "It's been fun."

SERVICES

Tuesday
Hogg, Randy: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
Thompson, Jane Ann: 4 p.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Wednesday
Crump, Lillian: 11:30 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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progressiveofficeproducts.com

Capsule Reports

Fell asleep
A Portland man fell asleep while driving along Mt. Pleasant Road, causing him to crash his vehicle about 9:20 p.m. Saturday.
Benjamin E. Vance, 34, was driving his 2012 Ford Taurus south on the road near county road 200 South. He told police he must have fallen asleep, causing him to drive off the road and into a ditch. He struck a telephone pole with the passenger side of his car and hit some trees before stopping.
His vehicle was towed, with damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Uncomfortable moments promote growth

By OLIVIA SMITH
The Commercial Review

Last week, I majorly failed an exam. It was college algebra, so I honestly didn't stress much about studying. I understood the homework, so I figured I'd be fine on the test. Wrong, apparently. When I saw the failed grade, I was shocked, but not devastated. I don't care much for math, and I wasn't emotionally invested in the class. The problem is,

You're On Your Own, Kid



now I actually have to work to bring my grade up in a subject I have no interest in. I'm the kind of person who always needs to know "why." If something feels

pointless, I struggle to do it until someone explains its purpose. That habit showed up a lot in high school. Looking back, I know I could have done better, but I just didn't care enough to try. In college, though, things feel different. The stakes are higher: If I fail something now, I can't just float by with a C and move on. I have to put in the effort to recover, and that's a humbling realization. Failing that exam made

me realize how much of adulthood is doing things we don't really want to do. Sometimes it's big things, like taking a class you don't love because it's required for your degree. Sometimes it is the smaller choices, like saying no to hanging out with friends so you can study or rest. It's even in emotional work, like having a difficult conversation with someone you care about so the friendship can grow stronger. None of it is fun at the

moment. It's uncomfortable, inconvenient and occasionally painful. But those moments, the ones we resist, are often the ones that teach us the most about ourselves. They stretch us, reveal what we are capable of and remind us that growth rarely happens in our comfort zone. For me, this exam wasn't just about math. It was about learning discipline, patience and humility. It was about showing up even when I'd rather not, about

proving to myself that I can recover from a setback. Maybe I'll never use algebra in my future career, but the skill of trying again after failing? That is something I'll use every day. Sometimes the lessons that matter most come wrapped in the things we like least. I didn't expect to learn much from college algebra, but it turns out it's teaching me something more valuable than formulas — how to keep going when I don't want to.

Spouses paired with others in wedding party

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, a close friend of my husband's and mine asked us to be the "best couple" in their wedding. After being postponed for a year due to some family issues, the wedding is coming up soon. My husband and I have been married 25 years. We have a strong, faithful bond. Last weekend, we were informed that we won't be paired together. Neither of us is happy with this news. We feel that our friends are not respectful of our relationship. I'm baffled about why the "best couple" wouldn't be paired together. I'm so upset that I have cried for days. I feel disrespected, betrayed and unvalued. I don't want us to be paired with other partners. I told our

Dear Abby



friends I'm not comfortable with my husband walking with another woman, and me walking with another man, but I was ignored. I no longer want to even go to the wedding. Am I being unreasonable? — COMMITTED BUT UNHAPPY
DEAR COMMITTED: Please dry your tears. You may have blown this out of proportion.

For the last quarter of a century, you and your husband have been known to be a solid couple. I don't know why the bride and groom are asking you to walk down the aisle separately. It could be something as simple as pairing attendants who are similar heights. Participate in the wedding and support your friends. It is only for one day and, I assume, you will be seated with your husband after the ceremony.
DEAR ABBY: I have read your column for 40 years. Now I have an issue. I have been taking care of my wife's uncle for the last two years. He had a stroke, and I became a certified nursing assis-

tant. I stay home and take care of him 24/7. My wife does not help. Recently, her sister decided to return to college to finish her RN and moved in with us. She does not help at all. I decided to go back to school to get my master's. I work 60 hours a week and also work on my master's in cybersecurity. I told my wife that if her sister doesn't move out by the end of the year, I am moving out. We are putting her uncle back in a nursing home. I CANNOT DO IT ANYMORE. In the last two years, I have had only four days off. When I had the flu, no laundry was done. Am I a bad person for wanting a career? Am I a bad person for wanting a house with just my

wife and me? — EXHAUSTED IN THE EAST
DEAR EXHAUSTED: It was loving and generous of you to enroll in classes to become a CNA so you could give your wife's uncle the care he needed. That she did nothing to lighten your burden, and then invited her sister to move in without first clearing it with you, was wrong. Marriage is supposed to be a partnership, and it appears you have been doing all the heavy lifting. You are not a bad person for wanting a career and the financial benefits it will bring, and you should not be made to feel guilty for it.

Community Calendar

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

Today

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.
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.
FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.
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.
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.
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.

Thursday
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.
LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.
SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addition Support Team recovery support group meets

at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.
Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.
Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 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.
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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

Jay County Highway Department Mechanic Position

Jay County Highway Department is seeking someone to fill a Mechanic Position. Candidate must be 18 years of age or older, possess a High School Diploma or GED, and an Indiana Driver's License plus Class B CDL w/air brake endorsement. Candidate must have the ability to meet all County hiring requirements including the passage of a medical exam and drug test.

- Must have a working knowledge of trucks, vehicles and equipment and be able to complete related maintenance and safety measures including preventive maintenance
- Must have the ability to operate a variety of machinery, equipment, and tools
- Must have the ability to occasionally work extended hours, evenings, and/or weekends
- Must have the ability to occasionally serve on-call and respond to emergencies from an off-duty status
- Must be able to comply with all employer and Department policies, procedures, and rules
- Must have the ability to effectively communicate with co-workers and other county departments

Interested candidates may pick up an application at the Jay County Highway Department located at 1035 E 200 N, Portland, IN 47371 Mon-Thur 6:00 a.m-4:00 p.m.
Application Deadline will be October 29, 2025.

Family thankful for benefit event

To the editor:
Our family is completely overwhelmed with gratitude after the benefit for our mom.
Our mom, Marsi Ashman Dow, is awaiting a liver transplant. From start to finish, the events of the day were more than we ever could've hoped for. Truly, none of it would have been possible without so many incredible hands coming together to make it happen.
The day began with a benefit ride with 31 riders, and we are so thankful to Rick Twigg, Chuck Denney and Jeff Burk for all of their hard work in coordi-

Letters to the Editor

nating such a wonderful start to the day.
From there, the evening was nothing short of amazing. The Delts, along with friends and family, put in so much time and effort into helping with the silent auction, dinner, desserts and event preparation. We are

beyond grateful for their help making sure everything ran smoothly.
We also want to thank the Elks for donating the use of the building, with a special thank you to Bryan Alexander and Emily Goodrich for working behind the bar and donating all of their tips to the cause. Also, the bounce house, donated by Aaron Emerick, was a huge hit with the kids.
The food was absolutely delicious, and we want to thank Josh Stewart, Emma Muhlenkamp, Debbie Funk and Linda Ashman for donating soups. Everyone loved them.

A huge thank you to George and Matt for sharing their talents and for donating all of their tips to the cause. Their kindness and generosity mean so much, and their wonderful music truly made the night.
We had around 150 silent auction items donated by generous individuals and local businesses. We are so humbled by their outpouring of support. The silent auction, 50/50 raffle, freewill donation dinner and live music coupled with the perfect weather and amazing turnout made the night far beyond anything we could've ever imagined.

This event simply could not have happened without our amazing community. Every person who helped, donated, attended or spread the word played a part in making it what it was — a huge success. The support for Mom and our family has been unwavering, and we are more grateful than words could ever express.
Our hearts are truly full to the brim.
With endless gratitude,
Kaitlyn, Ashlyn, Joseph, Linda, Rick, Collin and Cody
The family of Marsi Ashman Dow
Portland

Super Bowl should welcome all genres

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

It seems everything is political these days, and the Super Bowl halftime show is no different.
I know nothing about Bad Bunny and doubt I have ever heard a song of his. But it's clear he is a global phenomenon who many are looking forward to watching, my daughter included. And he will draw new audience members from international markets.
But he has struck a negative chord with some Americans.
Since the announcement, Turning Point USA has created an alternative "family-friendly" halftime show with no officially announced acts. And there is a petition with almost 23,000 signatures urging the National Football League to jettison Bad Bunny in favor of country star George Strait.

I want to add my vote against Bad Bunny, though it has nothing to do with his native language, Spanish. I simply think it's time for the show to feature another genre of music beyond rap, R&B and hip hop, which has dominated the halftime entertainment in recent memory.
I'm not categorically against it. I loved Bruno Mars' show in 2014 and Usher in 2024.
But take a look at the list of artists from the last six years: Kendrick Lamar, Usher, Rihanna, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, The Weeknd, Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Ludacris, Lil John, 50 Cent, Travis Scott and more.

Most of those shows were produced by rap mogul Jay-Z and his entertainment company Roc Nation. Apple Music has also sponsored the show the last three years and will again in 2026.
I understand the NFL might want to draw a younger viewing audience, but in the meantime, it is ignoring its existing audience. An S&P Global report from December 2024 said nearly half, or 47%, of viewers are aged 55 or older.

I hope the NFL will consider adding rock, country or pop back into the rotation. So, I've come up with some suggestions for the halftime show. What do you think?

•Chris Stapleton — He is undoubtedly one of the biggest country stars around with a wealth of songs to choose from. He also has done a number of collaborations with other artists that could be featured, whether it be Adele, Ed Sheeran, Pink or Justin Timberlake.

Niki Kelly



I simply think it's time for the show to feature another genre of music beyond rap, R&B and hip hop ...

•Green Day — This punk rock band would bring a great retro vibe to the show. The group toured the last two years and could feature newer and classic songs. Heck, Dua Lipa just surprised her audience by bringing the band's frontman up for a duet and it was a hit.

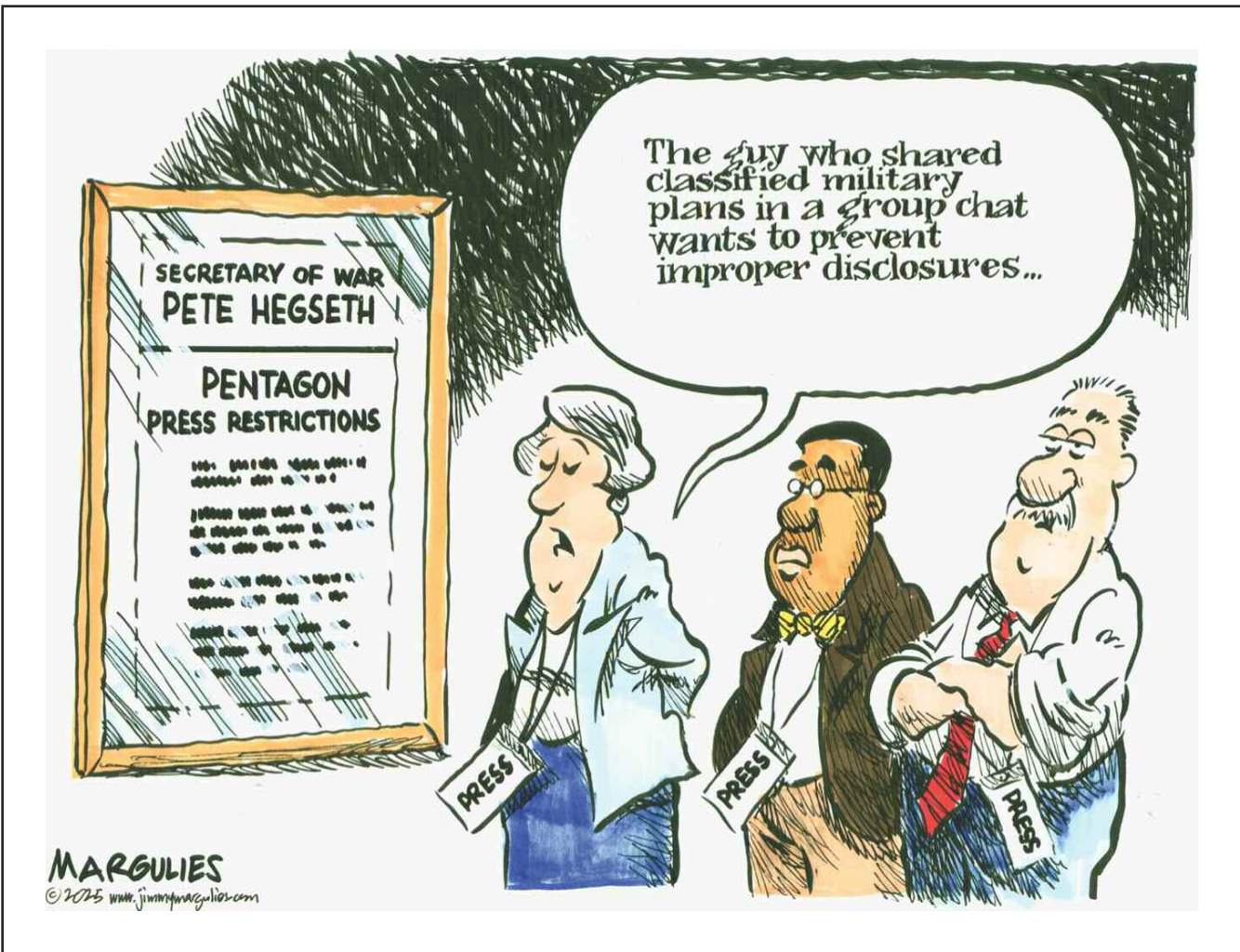
•Taylor Swift, Adele or Pink — This is my girl-power pick. I'm including several options because I know many people have tired of Taylor Swift being everywhere. And her engagement to an NFL star is a complicating factor. But there is no denying she would bring eyeballs to a halftime show. Pink is a top-notch performer who I would love to see do the show, as well. And Adele's powerful voice wouldn't need any auto-tuning.

•Jelly Roll — He has rap roots but has transitioned into country and soul, meaning he could bring both vibes to the show. His songs are full of real stories and struggles and he would be a great performer for the big stage.

My last suggestion is more open-ended, which is to say a repeat performance. Several artists performed years ago that I would love to see again. That includes Bruce Springsteen, U2 and Lady Gaga.

Political considerations aside, it's simply time to welcome other genres of music back to the biggest sporting event of the year.

.....
Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Zombie economy could be our future

By ALLISON SCHRAGER
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Over the next decade, the U.S. economy will face two big challenges: higher interest rates and AI-generated disruption. Each invites the same solution: policies to keep rates below their market level.

The strategy, also known as yield-curve control, is tempting, and it may even provide an immediate boost to the economy. But messing with rates would be a mistake. Japan's experience shows that the long-term costs of keeping rates artificially low far outweigh the short-term benefits.

It's easy to see the hardship caused by higher interest rates. In the U.S., rates on long-term bonds (ones that mature in 10 years or more) have trended up since the pandemic. This means consumers pay more for their debt and mortgages. Businesses pay more for loans. The government pays more to service its debt. A lot of the U.S. economy is built around the historically low rates of the last several decades, so the longer rates stay high, the more disruption it will cause.

AI poses another challenge. Even in the best-case scenario — artificial intelligence transforms the economy, making Americans richer and more productive — AI will involve lots of disruption. Some people will lose their jobs, and some jobs will never get created in the first place. Some businesses will fail, or never get started. Higher interest rates will mean that firms which are barely hanging on will face a higher cost of capital to keep their businesses viable and their people employed.

So the government will want to do whatever it can to bring down long-term interest rates. Conventional monetary policy tends to influence short-term rates; longer-term rates are set by the markets.

Allison Schrager



And many market forces point to higher rates for longer.

The government can influence long-term rates through policies such as quantitative easing, where the central bank buys long-term bonds. The government can also lower rates by requiring pension funds or banks to buy lots of bonds. But it is a risky plan.

Japan offers a cautionary tale. It faced a slowing economy following the boom years of the 1980s. To keep its economy afloat, it kept long-term interest rates low with a mix of financial repression and QE. To some extent, it worked. Japan muddled through decades of low growth and high debt with a good standard of living, relative stability and not much job loss. It became the poster child for why nations can run up as much debt as they'd like.

But there is a cost to keeping rates artificially low for too long. Japan is full of what's known as "zombie companies": firms that aren't profitable and don't have a viable business model, but can stay afloat with cheap debt. Eventually, however, when inflation returned and interest rates around the world increased, Japan had to let its rates rise too.

Those zombie companies are now going out of business, as many family-run firms declare bankruptcy. It is a sad and painful process on a human level, and it hurts the broader economy as well. The zombie companies made Japan's economy less efficient and slower-growing, and left generations of Japanese working at unprofitable businesses. It will be tempting for the U.S.

and Europe to engage in some financial repression in the coming years, using various means to force interest rates lower. Not only will it make America's addiction to debt seem manageable, it will help ease the transition to an AI economy. Cheap debt will allow more zombie companies, which would normally be displaced by technology, to survive.

President Donald Trump's administration is already hinting at the possibility. Trump certainly wants lower short-term rates, and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has been vocal about his desire to lower long-term rates too. How the administration might do so, however, is unclear — Bessent has also said he is skeptical of doing more QE.

He is right to be. If the Japanese experience isn't an adequate warning, he can look closer to home. Some of America's current economic problems are the result of past forays into yield-curve control. The Federal Reserve's QE during the pandemic is still causing problems in the housing market — it artificially lowered mortgage rates, which then went up when inflation returned. Meanwhile, the Treasury is losing money on its bond portfolio, and the bond market is experiencing dislocations as the Fed reduces its large post-pandemic balance sheet.

All this is the result of only a few years of trying to control the yield curve. If it becomes normal policy, expect worse distortions and more threats to Fed independence. Japan's policies, followed for decades, created thousands of zombie companies. The danger for the U.S. is that financial repression, pursued on a large scale, would create a zombie economy.

.....
Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering economics. She is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

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—Thomas Jefferson
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Photo provided

Rotary grants

Portland Rotary Club and Rotary District 6560 recently approved a grant for Toddlerstown Early Learning Center in Portland in support of new equipment for the facility. Members of the Portland club helped to assemble cribs, shelves and other equipment as well as sanitize toys and materials to prepare them for use at the child care facility.

ServSafe training set for next week

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

An additional session will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Hosting drive

First Financial Bank is hosting a food drive.

The bank will accept non-perishable canned and boxed food items at its Portland location, 112 N. Meridian St., Portland. The drive will continue through Oct. 31.

“Helping our neighbors is what we’re all about as we strive to create opportunities for our clients and communities to thrive,” said Roddell McCullough, First Financial chief corporate responsibility officer, in a news release. “Our communities have always been supportive of our food drives, and we’re excited to get started on filling cupboards in the area once more.”

New members

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has multiple ribbon-cutting ceremonies scheduled.

The events are set for:

- 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at IU Health Wound Healing Center in IU Health Jay, 500 W. Votaw St., Portland
- Noon Oct. 24 at Sip-N-

Business roundup

Groove, at 124 W. Walnut St., Portland

- 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at IU Health Rehab to Home Activity Room, 500 W. Votaw St., Portland

The chamber is also preparing for its merchant trick-or-treat event. It will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31.

For more information, email amanda@jaycountychamber.com or call (260) 726-4481.

Donating to schools

McDonald’s restaurants will raise funds for local high schools.

Owner operators of McDonald’s locations in Portland, Winchester, Union City, Hartford City and Albany will donate 10% of proceeds made via purchases from the mobile app on Oct. 21 to schools in their communities. Jay County, Winchester Community, Union City, Blackford and Delta high schools are slated to benefit from the program.

Facility gets honor

The Phius Certified Project Design Competition recently awarded Ball State University’s Alley House.

The Phius Certified Project Design Award recognizes “outstanding achievement in high-performance building design.” The standards focus on sus-

tainable housing, energy efficiency, occupant comfort and environmental stewardship.

“We’re deeply honored that the Alley House continues to receive national recognition for its innovation, sustainability, and social impact,” said faculty team lead Tom Collins, an associate professor of architecture, in a news release. “This project reflects years of hard work by our students, faculty, and community partners — and the fulfillment that comes from creating affordable housing that also models environmental responsibility and human well-being.”

The university also recently launched The Speaking Center, which is designed to help students and staff strengthen public speaking and presentation skills.

President named

CenterPoint Energy recently named Michael Roeder as president of the company’s Indiana service area.

A native Hoosier, Roeder will oversee the company’s operations in the state, including customer service, policy work and community engagement. He has worked for CenterPoint since 2000.

“Providing secure and reliable energy to the communities and customers in Indiana is an enormous honor for all of us at CenterPoint,” said CenterPoint chairman, president and CEO Jason Wells in a news release. “We also understand how important it is to be a positive force for good as a local business and have local leadership present and engaging

with customers — large and small — as well as policymakers and regulators.”

Roeder serves on the board of directors for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Energy Association, Evansville Regional Business Committee, Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute and University of Southern Indiana Foundation.

Ranked No. 2

The USA TODAY 10BEST Reader’s Choice Awards honored Indianapolis International Airport as No. 2 in the nation for Best Airport for Art.

Indianapolis Airport Authority partners with the Indy Arts Council to find local artists to display work at the airport. The terminal features display cases in addition to a dedicated gallery space, murals and live music.

“Over the past 10 years, IND’s public-art program has been built on our commitment to showcasing 100% local art and artists,” said Mario Rodriguez, executive director of the airport, in a news release. “In fact, IND is one of the only airports in the nation with a public-art program that is completely made up of local artists and art. Every piece in our permanent and rotating exhibits is created by Indiana talent, and our program is designed to celebrate and support the state’s creative economy.”

Discussions planned

Registration is open for the annual conference of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants.

The conference will be held Nov. 2 through 4 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Indianapolis North. It will feature speakers each day, with Margy Eckelkamp of Farm Journal’s Top Producer brand moderating a “What I wish I knew then/What I know now” panel discussion.

For more information, or to register, visit agconsultants.org.

Courses scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce has several programs coming up.

A forklift “train the trainer” course is set for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 13. Attendees will learn how to effectively train their staff on safe and compliant forklift operations.

The course will be held at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Conference Center in Indianapolis.

For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

Awards set

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards dinner at 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis.

Daymond John, founder of FUBU and a longtime star of “Shark Tank,” will be the featured speaker.

Individual tickets are \$195. For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

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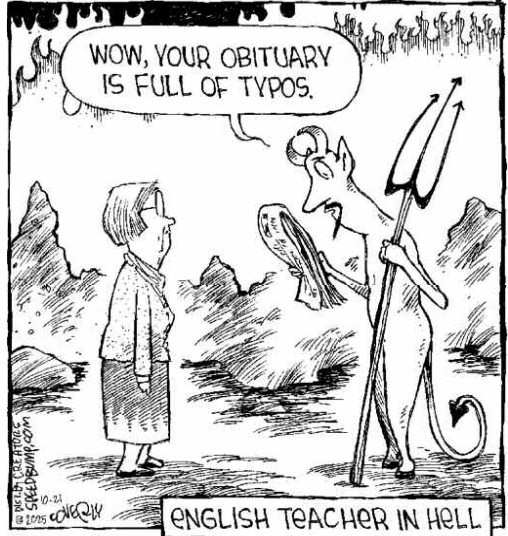
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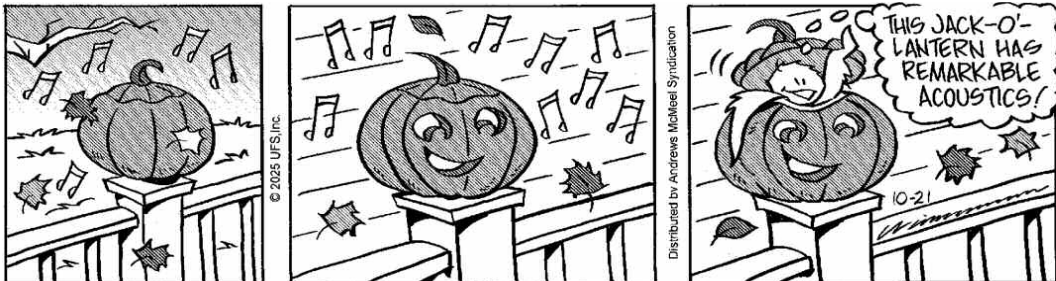
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



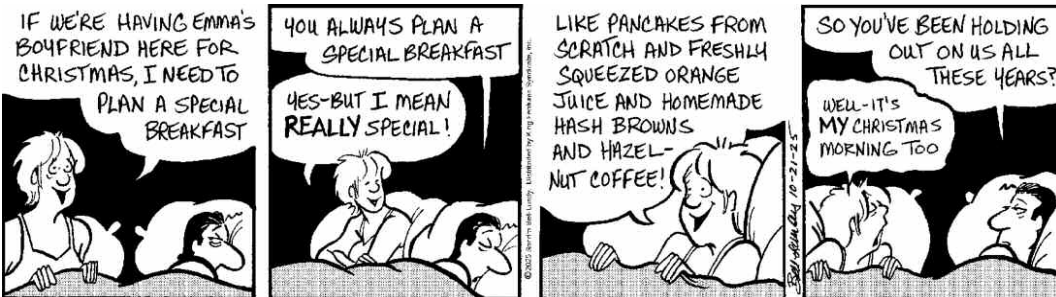
Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



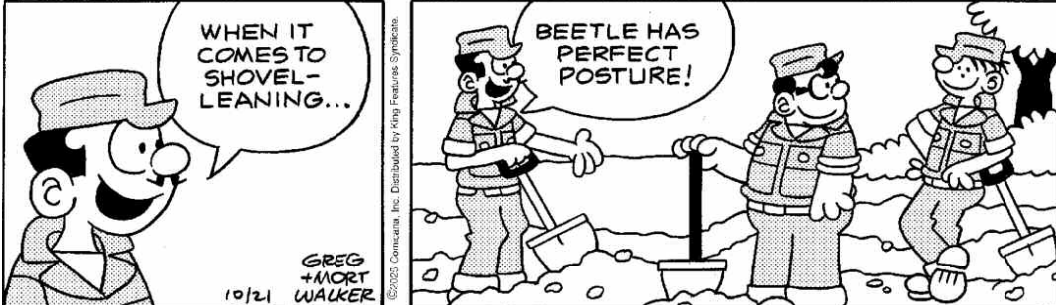
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Outside help

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 8 7
♥ A 9
♦ Q J 10 6 2
♣ K 9 5
EAST
♠ J 10 4
♥ K Q 8 7 6
♦ A 5 3
♣ J 7
SOUTH
♠ A Q 9
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ 9 8 4
♣ A Q 10

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

Opening lead — four of hearts.
Bridge would be a much easier game if, whenever the critical point of the play arrived, some kind soul would come along and tell you to be very careful at this juncture. The trouble is that such moments sneak up on you without warning, and the first thing you know, an opportunity to shine has passed you by, and it is too late to do anything about it. Assume you're East in today's deal and partner leads a heart against three notrump. After dummy follows low, you win with the queen and return a heart to the ace.

From this point on, it doesn't matter what you, or your partner, do, as there is no way to prevent declarer from establishing his diamonds and making the contract. The only tricks your side can score are two hearts and two diamonds.

Now let's go back to trick one and assume that the kind soul we mentioned earlier gently tugged your sleeve the moment declarer played the nine of hearts from dummy. In that case it might occur to you to play the eight on the nine rather than take the trick. If partner has the king of diamonds, this would make it possible to establish your hearts before your one and only entry — the ace of diamonds — is forced out.

If you made this unusual play, declarer would go down regardless of how he continued. He would not be able to avoid losing three heart tricks and two diamonds, assuming partner won the first diamond lead and returned a heart, and South would have no one to blame for his downfall except your old friend, the sleeve-tugger. But, of course, if you made this play without any outside intervention, that would be even better.

Tomorrow: Hidden chance.
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10-21

CRYPTOQUIP

HU YVAOSVZP UVGQOUEJJP
GOAVIOZ N WHGNRO'Y OPO
QVIOGHXB, PVE AHBCR YNP

CO'Y SOOX ZHY-WNRQCOZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NAME OF A SPECIES OF EIGHT-ARMED MARINE MOLLUSKS THAT LIKE TO SNUGGLE UP TOGETHER: CUDDLEFISH.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Binges
- The Magic, on score-boards
- Mast
- Building wings
- Luau bowlful
- Tooth-paste holder
- Jazz saxophone legend
- Wall St. traders
- Quarter-back Brady
- Mine material
- Jack who es-chewed fat
- Govt. loan agcy.
- Actor Holbrook
- Baghdad resident
- Arm bone
- Pasta sauce brand
- Cat's coat
- Sphinx site
- "Ms." co-founder Gloria

35 Clear-headed

- Drops on grass
- Mafia boss
- Canal vessel
- Diarist
- Anais
- Fuel stat
- La Scala melody
- Marine color
- Bridge coup
- Aviv
- Sicilian peak
- Bagel feature
- NFL stats
- Air outlet

2 Sax range

- Glitz partner
- Tax form ID
- "A Night at the —" (Queen album)
- Memory method
- "30 Rock" role
- Fastening tool
- Kitten's sound
- "Mamma Mia" group
- Take five
- Asian desert
- Muppet eagle
- Emmy-winning Netflix series

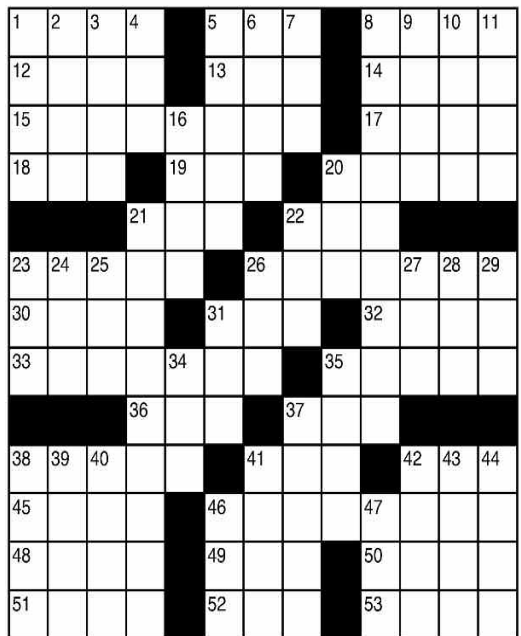
with Lee Jung-jae

- "Ben- —"
- Tax-collecting org.
- Dumpster critter
- Candle count
- Drone
- Docu-mentarian
- Action flick
- Blue
- Hardly any
- Formerly known as
- Pro-tracted
- Clock faces
- Wild party
- Woody Guthrie's son
- Iranian money
- Grant basis, at times
- Ivy in Philly
- Pesky insect
- Messy room
- Speed (up)

Solution time: 22 mins.

BEN BUS LAVA
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LISA NEO BITS
DRAMA DOER
EMO FRACAS
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Fall ...

Continued from page 8

But while Smith’s massive performance extended her season and high school career, Saturday’s loss marked the end of the line for Jay County’s senior crew.

The group of Elizabeth Barnett, Kayla Jetmore, Paisley Fugiett, Lani Muhlenkamp, Maria Hemmelgarn and Kunkler all played vital roles for the Patriots on and off the court.

“You have every personality there,” said Jay County junior Hallie Schwieterman, who paced the Patriots with 10 kills. “You have leaders, you have girls who pick girls up, you have just exciting people. You have everything that you need on a team, and all the seniors have it, and every piece fits together perfectly.”

Many of those seniors posted solid numbers in their final match, including Barnett (seven kills, one solo block), Hemmelgarn (four kills, three solo blocks) and Kunkler (five kills).

Though the Class of 2026 came up short in its pursuit of a sectional

crown, the chemistry it established could help nurture the program for years to come.

“They have done everything that I have wanted,” Dillon said. “They have helped create quite the culture ... They’re everything we want Jay County volleyball to be.”

Now, the Patriots will shift their focus to continuing to build on the foundation they fashioned this year. Jay County’s 21 wins were its highest total since 2015, and the team will return two players who amassed over 100 kills this season — Brenna Schmiesing and the Patriots’ leading attacker Schwieterman.

“I 100% believe that we can win sectionals next year,” Schwieterman said. “And I think this just gives us fire that we will try our best to win, obviously, and I think we have all the tools, and I think we have all the excitement, and we have all the revenge that we want to get and we just want to win.”

Jay County 3 Connersville 1

NEW CASTLE — The

Jay County High School volleyball team took down the Connersville Spartans 25-13, 25-14, 23-25, 25-17 in Saturday’s IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 semifinal match hosted by New Castle.

The Patriots earned a spot against Hamilton Heights in the sectional championship match with the win.

Jay County’s stifling defense was pivotal to its strong performance. The Patriots blocked 13 Spartan (13-17) attacks, including Maria Hemmelgarn’s team-best three solo blocks and five total blocks each for Brenna Schmiesing and Mya Kunkler.

The offense wasn’t far behind the defense for the Patriots. Jay County spread the love on its attack, with nine Patriots recording a kill and five notching six or more.

Hallie Schwieterman’s 11 led Jay County, followed closely by Hemmelgarn (10), Schmiesing (nine) and Kunkler (eight).

For a full story on the semifinal match against Connersville, visit thecr.com.

Senior ...

Continued from page 8

In the final mile, Wendel overtook sophomores Mya Oatess of Norwell and Emma Ballinger of Eastbrook and senior Haileigh Allen of Randolph Southern. She was pushing toward her teammates by the line as Patriots finished in succession with May 14th in 21 minutes, 55.5 seconds, Homan 15th in 21:56.3 and Wendel 16th in 22:06.

“I didn’t even have a strategy,” said Wendel. “All I did was work hard at practice. This year, these practices, coach Owens has really done a phenomenal job ... He pushes us so hard, and then he rewards us when we do good. ...

“I didn’t even have to think about it. I just improved all on its own.”

Jay County locked up its runner-up finish with three more runners tightly packed in the late 20s as Sibray climbed to 26th in 22:52.6, Brooklyn Byrum completed the team score in 28th at 23:05 and Abby Fifer pushed back opponents in 29th with a time of 23:07.3.

Garringer, who missed three weeks in the middle of the season with a right hip injury that then affected his knee as well, still set the pace for the JCHS boys. Though unable to reach the heights he did last season — he finished sixth in the 2024 meet — the junior was solidly in regional-qualifying position throughout. His time of 17:36.3 earned him 15th overall, about a second ahead of Blackford freshman Gavin Bartrum.

“I missed the middle three weeks, probably the most important weeks,” said Garringer. “So I’m just trying to make up. ...

“I’m still trying to get (to 100%). ... I think I did the best I could continue with what I had.”

Klopfenstein, a senior, easily qualified in his final opportunity as he finished in 18:18.9 for 30th place. Glentzer, a freshman, was 13th among runners on non-qualifying teams and 35th overall with his time of 18:34.1.

“They had no idea that they could do that at the beginning of the year,” said Owens. “So it’s great to see their growth. They really kind of came on strong the last couple weeks to drop their time down and really competed hard today.

“Grant, right at the end, really charged hard to get a couple spots ... and then Max has really came on strong here the last couple of weeks of running. He ran really well at ACAC and then ran great today as well.”

Alex Rivers (63rd - 19:56.3) and Ethan Powers (82nd - 22:25.2) completed the team score.

Also running for the Patriots were Alyvia Muhlenkamp (80th - 32:03) for the girls team and John Cook (86th - 23:38) and Isaac Hawbaker (90th - 26:40) for the boys.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Volleyball district semifinal vs. Northeastern at Newton — 5:30 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7 p.m. — College football: Kennesaw State at Florida International (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Houston Rockets at Oklahoma City Thunder (NBC)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Boston

Bruins (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at St. Louis Blues (FSDN Indiana); Columbus Blue Jackets at Dallas Stars (FOX)
8:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers (TBS)
10 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Lakers (NBC)
10 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Utah Mammoth (ESPN)

Wednesday
7 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at New York Knicks (ESPN)

7 p.m. — College volleyball: TCU at Kansas (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Middle Tennessee at Delaware (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Memphis Grizzlies (NBC)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College volleyball: Oregon at UCLA (BTN)

Thursday
5 a.m. — Amateur golf: Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — College hockey: Western Michigan at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — International Friendly women’s soccer: United States at Portugal (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Indiana Pacers (ESPN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Minnesota Vikings at Los Angeles Chargers (FOX)
10 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)

Local notes
Cooper to host
Cooper Farms will host its 18th Annual Turkey

Trot 5K benefiting EverHeart Hospice on Nov. 1.
The race will begin at Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant at 1 Cooper Farms Drive, St. Henry, OH. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m.
There will be age groups from 9-and-younger to 60-and-older. Awards will be handed out to the top female and male from each age group.
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.

90 SALE CALENDAR

LARRY MOSER ONLINE ONLY PERSONAL PROPERTY ESTATE AUCTION
Melsmitleyauctions.com
Bidding Opens: October 13, 2025
Ends: October 26, 2025 with a soft close at 6:00 PM
Location: 7851 W. 400 N., Pennville, IN 47369
Preview dates: Oct. 22, 2025 - 4:00-7:00 PM, & Oct. 25, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM or by appointment.
TRUCK-TRACTOR-SKID LOADER-EQUIPMENT-TRAILERS
2022 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie (4x4, Diesel; 10,3xx mi, 1 owner);
2015 Sure-Trac Tilt Trailer; 2018 Force 6.5x12 Utility Trailer w/ramp; JD 709 rotary cutter, 7’; 2011 JD 318D Skid loader, (3) hay wagons, (1 w/hoist); JD 5115M Tractor w/H310 loader
FIREARMS-AMMO
J Stevens Shot 22 cal; Sears Roebuck/ Ted Williams Model 340 Lever Action 22 Cal; Ardesa 54 Cal. Muzzle-loader; Winchester Model 1890 22 cal (reconditioned); Ardesa Spain 50 Cal Black Powder Muzzleloading Pistol; Various ammo and more not listed.
HOUSEHOLD-TOOLS-COLLECTIBLES
Toy farm equip.; Rocker; Dresser; Gun Cabinet; Collectibles; Primitives; Crock; Arrowheads; Stereoscope w/ cards; Pins/Award Geneva; Vint. Scout Patches; Portland & Geneva Yearbooks; Lg. Trading Post Sign; Older Baseball Cards; Adv. Cans; Deer Horns; (3) Lg portable barn fans; Saddles (1-oliver); Horse equip; Ladders; Old Comics, and much more not listed!
Larry Moser, Deceased (Jennifer Gray, Representative)
Mel Smitley’s Real Estate & Auctioneering
119 E Main St. Portland, IN
Laci Smitley - AU10600051
260-729-2281 - Cell
Ryan Davidson AU10600063 260-726-5076

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Auburn Street, Dunkirk, IN.
Tuesday Evening
OCTOBER 28, 2025 6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
This parcel of land consists of 3.408 acres of

90 SALE CALENDAR

bare land located in Dunkirk Indiana. This property is zoned residential. This property would make a nice investment for further development or a nice building site.
Terms of Sale are 20% down day of auction and balance due at closing.
Seller to provide Title Insurance and Warranty Deed. Seller to pay the November 2025 tax installment and Buyer to assume taxes due and payable of May 2026 and thereafter. Any statements day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. Seller confirmation day of sale.
For more information contact Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker (260) 726-2700
RKM LLC
Gary Loy AU01031608

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
Saturday Morning
OCTOBER 25, 2025 9:30 A.M.
ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS
Oak dry sink; Oak pie safe with screen doors; railroad cart coffee table; The Smithsonian Collection by Lexington Casual wicker sofa, chair and ottoman; Chief Paints double sided sign; Pennzoil double sided sign;; Pan American World Airways toy plane; old ball gloves; Ansel Toney kite, never flown; Model T jack; Sterling Silver necklaces and rings; **LARGE ASSORTMENT OF COSTUME JEWELRY TO INCLUDE RINGS, BRACELETS, NECKLACES, AND EARRINGS;** ; Pete Brewster cards and pictures, autographed by Pete; and other items not listed.
TOOLS
UC Body Co tool cabinet; Shop Series 10i table saw; Craftsman 4 drawer tool box; 2 pc. metal tool chest; ; Snap On wrenches; channel locks; Craftsman router; machinist cabinet; machinists tools; metal shelves; propane tanks; and other items not listed.

90 SALE CALENDAR

AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
Many of these items have been stored in totes so pictures will be uploaded to Auction Zip by 10/22. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day.
EDITH DICKEY & JOHNSON FAMILY
Loy Auction AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
LOCATION: 4372 W 500 N Portland IN 47371
SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2025 9:00 AM
PICKUP TRUCK-TRAILERS-TRACTOR-MINI EXCAVATOR
2004 Dodge Ram 3500 4wd, 4 Door, Dually, Long Bed, 167,000 Miles: 2024 (24’) Interstate Cargo Trailer: Kubota KX71-3 Mini Excavator 4000 Hrs.: Club Car Electric Golf Cart: King Kutter 6’Tiller: Assorted Excavator Buckets 12” Bucket, (2) 24” Buckets, 36” Bucket: 1972 custom Chevy Pickup Truck No Title:. Jeep 4x4 Suv.
CONSTRUCTION-SHOP-MISC. ITEMS
(5) Sets of X Brace Heavy Duty Scaffolding: (3) Sets of 5’ Scaffolding: (11) Pcs. Scaffolding with Walking Plank: (2) 40’ FiberglassExt. Ladders: 28’ Alum. Ext. Ladder: Champion Blower & Forge Co. Forge: N.C. Anvil: Craftsman 2700 Psi Pressure Washer: Makita Battery Operated Wheel Barrow with Dump Bed: Kolbalt Tile Saw: Air Framing Guns: Assorted Hand Tools.
HOUSEHOLD
Speed Queen Washer: Amana Dryer: (2) Wardrobes: Misc. Household Items
OWNERS: LEVI & ANGELA STAUFFER
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located on Auburn Street, Dunkirk Indiana on Tuesday Evening

OCTOBER 28, 2025

6:00 P.M.

REAL ESTATE

This parcel of land consists of 3.408 acres of bare land located in Dunkirk Indiana. This property is zoned residential. This property would make a nice investment for further development or a nice building site.

Terms of Sale are 20% down day of auction and balance due at closing. Seller to provide Title Insurance and Warranty Deed. Seller to pay the November 2025 tax installment and Buyer to assume taxes due and payable of May 2026 and thereafter. Any statements day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. Seller confirmation day of sale.

For further information please contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

STAUFFER AUCTION

LOCATION: 4372 W 500 N Portland IN 47371

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

9:00 AM

PICKUP TRUCK, TRAILERS, TRACTOR, MINI EXCAVATOR

2004 Dodge Ram 3500 4wd, 4 Door, Dually, Long Bed, 167,000 Miles: 2024 (24’) Interstate Cargo Trailer: 2018 PJ Dump Trailer 8 x 14: John Deere 5200 with John Deere 540 Loader: Kubota KX71-3 Mini Excavator 4000 Hrs.: Hustler Super-Z Hyper-Drive 60” Deck: Kawasaki Mule: Club Car Electric Golf Cart: King Kutter 6’Tiller: Assorted Excavator Buckets 12” Bucket, (2) 24” Buckets, 36” Bucket: 3 Pt. Mower: 17’ Michi Craft Aluminum Canoe: 1972 custom Chevy Pickup Truck No Title:. Jeep 4x4 Suv.

CONSTRUCTION, SHOP, MISC. ITEMS

(5) Sets of X Brace Heavy Duty Scaffolding: (3) Sets of 5’ Scaffolding: (11) Pcs. Scaffolding with Walking Plank: (2) 40’ Fiberglass Ext. Ladders: 28’ Alum. Ext. Ladder: 1 O’ alum. Step Ladder: 12’ Fiberglass Step Ladder: (2) 22’ Alum. Ladders: Sheet Metal Brake: LP Gas Forge: Canedy Otto Forge: Champion Blower & Forge Co. Forge: N.C. Anvil: Stihl MS362 Chain Saw: Stihl Weed Trimer: Echo Pole Saw: Bull Float & Brooms: Craftsman 2700 Psi Pressure Washer: Simpson 3100 Psi Pressure Washer: Torch

Set: Predator 301 cc Trash Pump: Makita Battery Operated Wheel Barrow with Dump Bed: Handyman Jack: Assorted Bottle Jacks: Kolbalt Tile Saw: Porta Power: Pipe Thread Dies :Ratcheting Thread Cutter; Assorted Air Nail & Staple Guns: Roofing Nail Gun: Power Floor Nailer: Air Framing Guns: Assorted Hand Tools:

HOUSEHOLD

Speed Queen Washer: Aman a Dryer: (2) Wardrobes: Misc. Household Items:

TERMS: Cash or Good Check. Not responsible for accidents. Any announcements made day of auction take precedence over printed matter. Go to Auctionzip 50347 for a complete list and pictures.

Charlie Hill 260-341-4978

OWNERS: LEVI & ANGELA STAUFFER

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Senior secures 2nd

Wendel is catalyst as Patriots earn runner-up finish again

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

UPLAND — In Paityn Wendel's first two seasons with the Patriots, the team rarely had enough runners to post a team score.

A group of freshmen arrived last year to transform the team from an also-ran into a conference champion and a sectional contender.

Generally, Wendel has been the No. 5 or 6 runner on the squad. Sometimes she contributed to the team total, sometimes not.

In her final sectional meet, the senior was more than a contributor. She was a driving force.

Wendel pushed herself and her teammates on Saturday, placing third on the team and 16th overall to help power the Jay County High School girls cross country team to a second consecutive runner-up finish in the meet hosted by Delta at Taylor University.

"It's really amazing," said Wendel. "Being able to contribute to the team and do this for the girls — I don't run this race for myself; I run this race for my girls, for my team. I want them to be able to go so far. And the fact that I'm able to push them and hopefully be like guidance for them just makes me so happy. I'm just so proud of how far they've come and I'm proud of myself for how far I've gone as well."

"For me and (senior Alexis Sibray), I know this is amazing. ... We hadn't been able to score as a team in years, and now we have this great group of girls that have just allowed us to go as far as we can imagine."

Her big push helped the Patriots to a score of 89 as they trailed only Norwell (52) for the second



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Paityn Wendel runs just past the 2-mile mark of Saturday's sectional cross country race at Taylor University. Wendel posted the No. 3 time for the Patriots while placing 16th overall as the team finished second to Norwell.

consecutive season. Bluffton (103), Wapahani (123) and Monroe Central (156) took the remaining regional-qualifying spots as the top five teams and top 15 individuals not on qualifying teams advanced.

"There's a lot of teams and a lot of good teams; this is the strong sectional for the girls," said JCHS assistant coach Jared Owens, filling in for coach Gabby Williams after she gave birth to her son Parker early this month. "So to be second, I mean, it's a great accomplishment. The girls continue to compete and fought hard, and I thought we fought really hard today ... We had a couple of girls that ran really, really well."

Caleb Garringer, Max Klopfenstein and Grant Glentzer earned individual regional berths for the Jay County boys while the team finished eighth out of 14 scoring teams with 224 points. Norwell won the title with 44 points, followed by Delta (51), South Adams (115), Wapahani (119) and Bluffton (122).

Wendel started Saturday's

race in her more typical position, trailing a trio of sophomore teammates — Ava May, Jessie Homan and Brooklyn Byrum — and running even with Abby Fifer at the mile mark.

She didn't stay there.

Seeking to make the most of her final sectional opportunity, by the 2-mile mark Wendel had surged to the No. 3 spot on the JCHS squad behind only May and Homan and the top 20 overall. She was not done.

See **Senior** page 7

Indian girls, and six boys advanced

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — With a new divisional alignment comes new parameters for advancing in the postseason.

The Tribe girls met those parameters as well as six boys.

Fort Recovery High School's girls cross country team and six members of the boys squad placed high enough in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest District meet at Cedarville to advance to the regional meet on Saturday.

The girls team finished with 266 points to place ninth and advance as a team. (The top 15 girls teams advanced to the regional meet.) The boys' 330 came up five points short of Ansonia for the final spot of 13 advancing teams.

While the Tribe boys won't get to compete as a team, Alex Roessner (23rd — 17 minutes, 22 seconds), Russell Hart (75th — 18:43.8), Reese Diller (81st — 19:00.6), Gavin Heitkamp (85th — 19:08.4), Andon Roessner (93rd — 19:21.9) and Andrew Rehmer (99th — 19:45.3) all advanced as individuals.

Riley Heitkamp and Makenna Huelskamp earned back-to-back finishes at 22nd and 23rd. They ran times of 21:13.6 and 21:18.7, respectively.

Other scores for the girls came from Madison Heitkamp (59th — 22:48.7), Kendall Ranly (97th — 25:35.3) and Addyson Heitkamp (116th — 27:34.4).

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Patriots fall in final



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Maria Hemmelgarn (12) and Brenna Schmiesing rise up to attempt a block during the Jay County High School volleyball team's 25-20, 25-14, 25-20 loss to the ninth-ranked Hamilton Heights Huskies in the championship match of the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament at New Castle on Saturday.

Jay County's season ends in sweep to No. 9 Hamilton Heights

By ETHAN OSKROBA
The Commercial Review

NEW CASTLE — The Patriots were three sets away from ending a drought that's older than all of their players.

Instead, the Jay County High School volleyball team suffered a 25-20, 25-14, 25-23 defeat to the Class 3A No. 9 Hamilton Heights Huskies in the championship match of the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 tournament on Saturday.

The loss extended the Patriots' stretch without a sectional title that dates back to 2002.

"It's hard, because I wholeheartedly believed 100% that we could win this," said Jay County coach Amy Dillon. "So it's hard to see them not get that, because I know how bad they wanted it."

Hamilton Heights will advance to play Norwell in the regional champi-

onship on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The Patriots (21-11) backed up their coach's words by keeping things close in the first and third sets. Jay County scored eight of the first 12 points of the match en route to establishing a 16-12 opening-set edge before the Huskies (22-8) roared back.

Even after dropping set two, the Patriots regrouped and showed their resolve in what proved to be the final set of their season.

"When we came off the court, that second set, and it had kind of fallen apart, emotions started to show, and there were some tears in the huddle," Dillon said. "I'm like, 'Volleyball's a game of five sets. We're not done.'"

Jay County fought valiantly, staying within striking distance before knotting the score at 23. The Huskies then mus-

tered the final two scores of the game, including a well-placed kill by senior Macie Smith.

Smith was a thorn in the Patriots' side all evening, using her combination of power and precision to rack up a game-high 18 kills, thwarting the Patriots' signature net presence.

"She's powerful. She's smart," Dillon said. "When our block was there, she found a hole ... she's D1 material for sure. We tried to match our line-up up so that we had our best blockers against her three times in a row and it just wasn't enough."

Smith's contributions were frequent as well as timely, as she sealed each of the match's three sets with a kill.

"We don't see too many girls that can swing like that," said Jay County middle blocker Mya Kunkler.

See **Fall** page 7