

Council allots \$\$ for firetruck

Redkey needs to replace 44-year-old pumper

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

REDKEY — The fire department has been granted funds to purchase a new firetruck.

Redkey Town Council agreed Tuesday to allot \$75,000 from the cumulative capital improvement fund to go toward buying a pumper truck.

Firefighter Mark Leavell reminded council at its meeting that Redkey Fire Department is in need of a new pumper truck. He's brought up the topic multiple times at council meetings since he first presented options to council in February.

The fire department's backup pumper is more than 44 years old. The 1981 truck barely passed the annual state-mandated pump test last year, Leavell said, with black smoke billowing out of the engine.

He offered potential solutions in February, suggesting council could replace the engine or purchase a new truck. They could buy a used 10- to 15-year-old firetruck ranging between \$175,000 and \$200,000. Used trucks around 20 to 25 years old cost between \$100,000 and \$125,000. Used firetrucks around 30 years old cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

At that time, Leavell suggested looking into using dollars from the cumulative capital improvement fund, which had approximately \$141,000 available.

Council over the last several months has been back and forth on how to pay for the cost, with concerns about whether they are legally allowed to use the cumulative capital improvement fund for such purchases. They discussed financing through Indiana Bond Bank and looking into grants.

Leavell said Tuesday purchasing a firetruck is a viable usage for the cumulative capital improvement fund. If council allotted \$125,000, he added, they could purchase a 20- to 25-year old firetruck, which he said would be 10 years newer than the fire department's other firetruck.

Redkey utility worker Ted Kolodka pointed to a few different grant options the town could look into, such as Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters grant program. Leavell expressed concern with the little progress the town has made toward securing dollars through Indiana Bond Bank since earlier this year, with Civitas Strategies government adviser director Pete Olson noting they should now be able to get through the process quickly.

See Firetruck page 2

Trick-or-treat hours

Friday, Oct. 31
Bryant
5 to 7 p.m.

Jay County
Chamber of Commerce
Merchant Trick-or-Treat
5 to 7 p.m.

Portland
5 to 7 p.m.

Ridgeville
5 to 8 p.m.

Dunkirk
5:30 to 8 p.m.

Salamonia
6 to 7 p.m.

Pennville
6 to 8 p.m.

Redkey
6 to 8 p.m.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Historic commission considers role

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Portland Historic Preservation Commission is re-evaluating its purpose as it looks for ways to play a more active role in downtown improvement.

The commission met Wednesday morning to review its role and discuss how it can best help improve the city's downtown.

Established in 2008, the historic preservation commission is concerned with development, redevelopment, rehabilitation and preservation that affect visual quality in the his-

toric district. Its purview can include landscapes and streetscapes and generally anything in the public view.

Commission members were reminded that their guidelines were changed in September 2023. Portland City Council amended the city's ordinance

related to historic preservation to eliminate the need for a "certificate of appropriateness" unless city funds are being requested.

There was some discussion about that change, with Ceann Bales of Jay County Development Corporation expressing con-

cern about being too loose with the rules. (JCDC will be taking a more active role with group.) Redevelopment commission president Emily Goodrich explained that there had been a lot of pushback and that the certificate of appropriateness requirements seemed to be dis-

couraging downtown business owners from making improvements.

Without taking any action Wednesday, commission members talked about the need for flexibility while also enforcing rules.

Also discussed during the meeting were ways to make sure business owners within the historic preservation district know about the tools that are available to them, such as the facade grant program that can help pay for exterior improvements to buildings.

See Role page 2

Group will seek to be more active, inform businesses about opportunities



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Chandan Khanna

Storm assistance

Volunteers assemble relief packages for Hurricane Melissa on Monday at the Global Empowerment Mission headquarters in Miami. The National Hurricane Center said Melissa came ashore in Santiago de Cuba with 120 mph winds, marking the strongest storm to make landfall in Cuba since Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Session could address tax code

Braun has expressed concern about impending 'chaos'

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana lawmakers could use the upcoming special session not only to draw new legislative maps but also to head off what tax experts call impending "chaos" for taxpayers and businesses.

Gov. Mike Braun has asked legislators to bring the state's tax code in line with recent, major federal changes — warning of

"discrepancies" between Indiana and federal law that could complicate 2025 tax filings.

Tax experts say that differences stem from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or OBBBA, which made significant revisions to the federal Internal Revenue Code.

Indiana currently conforms to the federal tax code as it existed on Jan. 1, 2023, meaning recent federal changes aren't automatically reflected in state law.

The Indiana Department of Revenue said it has identified 42 provisions in the OBBBA that could affect state tax filings, including five with direct implications for 2025 returns filed in 2026.

DOR officials told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that the agency is still evaluating the overall fiscal impact of all provisions.

In review

Jay County Development Corporation will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Weather

The high temperature was 62 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 39.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 30s with a 50% chance of rain. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with a high in the mid 50s and winds gusting to 25 mph.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

A Jay County Fair Collectibles Show is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Bubp Building at Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St., Portland. The event, for which admission is free, will feature sports cards, Pokemon items, coins and a variety of other collectibles.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of Fort Recovery volleyball's regional semifinal match.

Saturday — Photos from Friday night's Halloween-related activities.

Tuesday — Coverage of the FRHS volleyball team's regional title match.



CR almanac				
Friday 10/31	Saturday 11/1	Sunday 11/2	Monday 11/3	Tuesday 11/4
				
57/35	53/33	54/38	63/35	63/37
Partly cloudy skies are expected Friday when winds may reach 10 to 20 mph.	Saturday's weather looks like partly cloudy skies, when the low may dip around freezing.	Partly sunny on Sunday when the high will be in the low to mid 50s.	Sunny skies are expected Monday when the high will be around 63.	Sunny skies are in the forecast for Tuesday when the low will be around 37.

Lotteries	
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$376 million	Daily Three: 2-6-4 Daily Four: 5-9-0-9 Quick Draw: 1-4-6-11-12-15-16-17-23-26-29-33-37-39-45-51-53-76-78-80
Mega Millions 2-19-33-53-61 Mega Ball: 14 Estimated jackpot: \$754 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 2-1-1 Pick 4: 1-8-6-0 Pick 5: 4-7-9-7-9 Evening Pick 3: 8-6-4 Pick 4: 5-1-0-1 Pick 5: 4-4-2-4-3 Rolling Cash: 2-7-11-34-37 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-4-1 Daily Four: 7-4-1-1 Quick Draw: 5-10-12-13-15-21-23-24-30-32-39-42-43-44-45-51-64-71-78-80 Evening	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.27 Nov. corn4.29 Dec. corn4.37	Nov. beans10.75 Wheat 4.85
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.26 Nov. corn4.31 Dec. corn4.41	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.19 Nov. corn4.22 Beans10.53 Nov. beans10.53 Wheat5.20
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.22 Nov. corn4.24 Beans10.70	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.17 Nov. corn4.17 Beans10.33 Nov. beans10.33 Wheat4.75

Today in history	
In 1485, Henry Tudor (Henry VII) took over as king of England. His reign accolades included ending the Wars of the Roses between the Lancaster and York houses. In 1735, John Adams was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. Among other accomplishments, Adams served as the first vice president and second president of the United States. In 1821, Russia’s Tsar Alexander I declared the country’s sovereignty over Alaska and parts of the Pacific Northwest. The claim was later sold to the United States in 1867. In 1871, the U.S. Congress approved the establishment of the United States Weather Bureau, now known as the National Weather Service. In 1895, Gerhard Domagk was born in Germany. Domagk was the 1939 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering antibacterial effects in Prontosil. In 1922, Benito Mussolini was appointed prime minister of Italy following his “March on Rome,” marking the beginning of his fascist regime. In 1935, the U.S. government dedicated President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration, which created mil-	lions of jobs during the Great Depression. In 1938, Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre on the Air group performed a radio adaptation of H.G. Wells’ “The War of the Worlds.” Some listeners mistook the broadcast for an actual Martian invasion of New Jersey, leading to the act making nationwide news by the next day. In 1961, the Soviet Union detonated “Tsar Bomba,” the largest nuclear weapon ever tested. The blast in the Arctic was over 3,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. In 1972, the chartered plane carrying the Marshall University football team crashed near Huntington, West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board. In 1974, Muhammad Ali defeated George Foreman in the “Rumble in the Jungle” match in Zaire, securing the world heavyweight boxing title. In 2003, LeBron James debuted in the National Basketball Association with the Cleveland Cavaliers. He was drafted directly out of high school. In 2015, China officially ended its one-child policy, allowing couples to have two children for the first time in more than 35 years. — The CR

Citizen’s calendar	
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.	

Firetruck ...

Continued from page 1

After discussion, Leavell, Kolodka and council members agreed they didn’t want to fully deplete the cumulative capital improvement fund. (They also pointed out the need to replace the fire department’s other truck in the future.)

Council then agreed to use \$75,000 from the fund for purchasing a truck, with the additional amount to come from Indiana Bond Bank as well as other funding sources, such as grants or dollars from Redkey Economic Development. “Watermellon” Jim Phillips dissented, saying he would prefer they look into grant options before committing funding.

Kolodka also announced that the town has joined the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Technical Assistance Program. Kolodka said Redkey is the first town in Indiana to participate in the program.

According to EPA’s website, its free Water Technical Assistance services may include identifying lead pipes for removal, enhancing resilience against cybersecurity threats, identifying adaptation strategies, providing resources for workforce development, addressing stormwater challenges and complying with the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water acts. The program can also help entities apply for federal funding to go toward those efforts.

Redkey’s wastewater treatment plant regularly becomes overwhelmed with stormwater during heavy rain, explained Kolodka. Plans are to bring in construction engineering firm AECOM to analyze the town’s wastewater operations using hydrologic modeling over the next few years. From there, the company will propose solutions to help solve the plant flooding problem.

Redkey’s participation in the EPA Water Technical Assistance program was announced at the beginning of this month. Kolodka noted representatives have met a few

times this month to get the process moving. He planned to meet Wednesday with county officials to discuss the combined sewer overflow (CSO) that originates in a rural part of the county just north of town and lets out near Main and George streets.

A few different entities are involved in the project, including Indiana Finance Authority and Alliance of Indiana Rural Water. Tina Henderson of Mendenhall and Associates, a partner with Indiana Finance Authority, will help the town to secure funds for studies and construction, according to a press release from Kolodka.

Council members Brenda Beaty, Jenny Staver, Byron Daugherty, Floyd Life and Phillips also introduced three new ordinances.

The weeds and vegetation regulation ordinance, as the name suggests, would set guidelines for weeds, grass and vegetation growth across town. It excludes shrubs, trees, cultivated plants or crops. According to the ordinance, property owners would be required to remove, cut or dispose of weeds, grasses and vegetation taller than 10 inches. Property owners would also need to maintain bushes, trees or hedges to prevent them from obstructing street signs, roads, intersections or sidewalks.

The solid waste collection, disposal and fees ordinance would require residential units to participate in the town’s solid waste collection program unless exempted. It would also require the town or its contractor to collect trash weekly and assign residential units one solid waste container each. (Additional containers may be rented at an extra cost.) Violations could incur a \$25 fine with an additional \$25 fine per day if not paid within 30 days.

The municipal utilities account administration ordinance would establish “uniform procedures for managing utility accounts to ensure accurate billing, protect Town resources, and maintain service continuity.” It

would require Redkey residents and businesses to maintain active utility accounts with the clerk-treasurer’s office and lays out guidelines for new accounts, account transfers, discontinuance of service, deceased account holders, charges and billing, delinquency and enforcement.

Plans are to approve all three ordinances at the council’s November meeting.

Also Tuesday, council hired Jonathan Filameno as a police officer.

Filameno, a Dunkirk resident and Eastbrook High School graduate, previously worked as a jailer with Jay County Sheriff’s Office for one year, Grant County Sheriff’s Office for three and a half years and Van Buren Police Department for three and a half years.

Council also approved making Alex Heath the permanent town marshal. Heath, who was previously serving in the role on a temporary basis, recently returned from Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

Also Tuesday, council approved the 2026 budget.

Redkey’s budget sits at \$753,217, which includes \$173,044 in home-ruled funds not reviewed by Indiana Department of Local Government and Finance. Its \$646,173 spending plan for 2026 is a \$22,687 increase from the current year.

In other business, council:

- Approved the following: a 2025 contract between Redkey Fire Department and the Town of Redkey retroactive to the beginning of the year; purchasing a \$10,135 snowplow, with Phillips dissenting; installing flashing stop signs at the intersection of Main and Harrison streets; bought partitions for the town’s police vehicle for \$3,153 from Passive Security Solutions of Indianapolis; purchasing \$2,499 in additional lights for the town’s utility truck from Passive Security Solutions; \$249.31 in water bill adjustments; and reimbursing \$250 to resident Roger Clay for a survey completed on his land

surrounding Redkey Junior League’s grounds.

- Learned Staver is creating an application for folks interested in joining park board. To apply, contact Staver.
- Heard the following streets will be paved next year, with most of the cost covered by Community Crossings grant: Spencer Street from Sherman to Sheridan streets, Logan Street from George Street to Indiana 1, Plum Street from Indiana 1 to Oak Street, Oak Street from Main to Railroad streets, Burr Street from High to Main streets, Nixon Street from High to Main streets, Butler Street from Delaware Street to Bell Avenue, Spencer Street from Bell Avenue to Main Street, and Walnut Street from Central Avenue to High Street.
- Learned Indiana Department of Transportation didn’t recognize a few of the sections of streets previously submitted for the Community Crossings grant because they weren’t added to the state’s map of the town. The following streets will be added to the state’s map next year: Oak Street, which enters from Indiana 67 and has no outlet, Holmes Avenue, Union Street from Grandview Avenue to Sherman Street, Cleveland Street, Harrison Street, which is currently listed as an alley, Walnut Street from Union Street to Central Avenue, and Elm Street from Central Avenue.
- Were informed Phillips is organizing a program honoring veterans Nov. 8 at Redkey Masonic Lodge, with plans to also stream at least one movie at the old fire station across the street.
- Heard a report from Heath, who said he’s conducted 42 traffic stops and taken 15 calls for service since returning from the academy.
- Awarded Brian Waldo with an outstanding citizen certificate and Heath with a certificate for graduating from Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and his recent police work in the town.

Role ...

Continued from page 1

Options included mailing information to business owners and attaching deed restrictions in order to provide information to new owners when they purchase historic buildings.

Commission members also agreed to be more active beginning in January, with plans to schedule regular meetings.

In other business, the commission:

- Re-elected Goodrich as president and Rusty Inman as vice president.
- Reviewed terms for all members. The term for Hannah Long ends this year, Ashley Hilfiker and Inman in 2026, and Reda Theurer-Miller and Goodrich in 2027.



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SERVICES

Today
Moneysmith, Nancy: 11 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Affolder, Twila: noon, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Friday
Timmerman, Bernard: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Saturday
Ford, Debra: 1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 402 N. Ship St., Portland.

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Photo provided

Trustworthy kindergartners

East Elementary School recognized kindergartners for demonstrating trustworthiness. Pictured above in the front row are Sylus Spahr and Gryffin Cook. In the back row are Evelyn Best, Haddie Detro, Ryker Lothridge and Alayna Rigby. Not pictured is Aiden Petro.

Promise to grandma hasn't been fulfilled

DEAR ABBY: My grandmother passed away 16 years ago. Before she passed, she told me and my two kids that she had an account for each of them for their college. After she was gone, my aunt was in charge of her will. My kids never got their money, and my aunt would never let me see my grandmother's will.

I heard my grandmother ask my aunt if she had filed her will at the courthouse, and my aunt told her she did. But when I went to the courthouse, the will was not on file. How do I raise the subject of my kids' inheritance with my aunt? Right now, I'm living with her. How do I do this without causing an argument in the family? — OWED IN GEORGIA

DEAR OWED: If you were named in your grandmother's will, you had a right to see the document. For your aunt to disregard her mother's wishes and hoard the money for herself is theft. There may not be a way to avoid an "argument" about this, which is why you should have a lawyer raise the subject with her if you can afford to consult one. (I hope there is still money left after all this time.)

.....
DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in a condo with a fireplace. We burn a wood fire regularly when the weather is cool. It's how we heat our living room and TV area. One of our neighbors is complaining that the smoke from

Dear Abby



the fire is bothering her — she has pulmonary problems and says she can't breathe or even keep her windows open for fresh air. She has asked us to stop using it. She says if we don't, it will affect our friendship.

We have cleaned our fireplace regularly and placed a new, larger flue on the chimney, but it didn't help. No other neighbors have complained. What can we say to her, and what obligation do we have to her? — TWO SENIOR FIREPLACE LOVERS

DEAR TWO: Your neighbor is a sick woman. She's complaining about the smoke because when you use the fireplace to heat your living area, it affects her breathing — something people need to do in order to LIVE. Your obligation to her depends upon how you feel about observing the Golden Rule. If you feel any compassion for the plight of others, buy an electric heater (there are many good ones that won't break the bank), quit smoking your poor neighbor out and thank your higher power you don't have her problem.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.
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.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction 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.
ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.
MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND 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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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.

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

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne.

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

History should not be covered up

By **JIM HIGHTOWER**
OtherWords

Our country’s magnificent National Park System has been called “America’s greatest idea.”

These 433 treasures — along with our rich diversity of national museums and historical sites — each have their own stories to tell. But the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, for together they express America’s egalitarian spirit and “little-d” democratic possibilities, urging us to keep push-

Jim Hightower



ing for economic fairness and social justice for all.

And that’s exactly why Trump and his cabal of moneyed elites and right-wing extremists are out to purge, erase, and official-

ly censor the parks’ historical presentations. After all, it’s hard to impose plutocratic autocracy if such tangible examples of historic truth and democratic rebellion are openly displayed!

Thus, as dictated by the GOP’s secretive anti-democracy clique, Project 2025, Trump’s ideological Thought Police have set themselves up as an Orwellian “Ministry of Truth” to sanitize and Disney-fy the telling of our people’s real history.

For example, Trump complains that parks and museums

hurt America’s self-image by telling “how bad slavery was.”

Donald, that’s not an image — it’s reality. It’s as central to our national character as our historic commitment to equality. And the explosive conflict between ugly repression and flowering egalitarianism is ever present today.

Consider the push by Senator Eric Schmitt (R-Missouri) and others in the GOP’s Christian Nationalist movement to deny the unifying principle that “all men are created equal.”

There’s not enough white-wash in the world to cover up the deep ugliness of slavery, and it’s self-destructive for the government to try. The fundamental purpose of recording our shared history is to learn from it.

.....

Hightower is a radio commentator, writer and public speaker. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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New diploma system is embarrassing

By **MICHAEL J. HICKS**

In crafting Indiana’s new high school diploma requirements, the state Department of Education identified only one of the two deep challenges to education in Indiana.

The new diploma might, and I stress might, help the smaller of the two problems. At the same time, it risks making the larger problem worse.

Indiana’s largest, and growing, problem is that we send too few young Hoosiers to college. The decade-long decline has been so bad, and so sustained, that we are now graduating and keeping young people beneath the replacement rate of our already dismal educational attainment.

This ensures we will slide toward the bottom of the nation in our share of college graduates by mid-century. That matters for our economy because over the past half-century more than 100% of economic growth accrued to places in the top half of educational attainment. So, if you wish to grow the place where you live — whether it’s a county, city or state — it needs to have better than average educational attainment.

The second problem is that too many young Hoosiers who don’t head to college lack the job skills to obtain meaningful employment that will lift them out of poverty. And, just to be clear, we have an excess supply of young Hoosiers who haven’t been to college.

I’m aware that large employers complain to economic devel-

Michael J. Hicks



opers and legislators that they struggle to find qualified workers for entry-level jobs. However, taking these complaints seriously is one of the worst examples of selection bias available today.

Employers that need college graduates or applicants with advanced degrees don’t typically complain to legislators. They recruit elsewhere.

That doesn’t mean the new diploma changes are without benefits. The new diploma does increase student exposure outside the classroom. Schools will be charged with finding more internships and developing more hands-on learning opportunities. Few Hoosier adults would find fault with that, except to acknowledge that these changes also come at a steep cost.

To accommodate work outside the classroom, the new diploma requirements reduce academic requirements across the board. In fact, under the new rules, it is now possible to get a high school diploma with mathematics courses that are mostly taught in middle school and have been since the 1920s. Math, science, literacy, history and writing requirements have all been reduced. These are the lowest

diploma standards in modern state history.

The good news is that many families will ignore the minimum standards and aim for much more. If your parents are affluent college graduates and you attend a school in an affluent community, you’ll be fine. In fact, you may even be better off. Because so many smart kids in rural and poor school corporations will be funneled into less exacting academic programs, the competition for college slots will weaken.

That’s not good news, of course. The appropriate description of this likely outcome is unprintable in a family newspaper.

The reliance on Hoosier businesses crafting tens of thousands of new internship or externship positions is an obvious weakness.

The fact that many families will be unable to send kids to these internships should trouble anyone who prizes fairness in opportunity. Unpaid internships are great for affluent families, not so much for everyone else.

On top of these, the large tax revenue reductions to schools in Senate Enrolled Act 1 this year is already ending field trips in many schools. How in the world are schools going to find the resources to transport kids to and from the businesses offering these internship-type opportunities?

That might have been a good topic to discuss in the last legislative session.

The new diploma offers some nice soundbites, but it’s an

engine of unequal opportunity and a near guarantee that we’ll send fewer kids to college, and that we’ll send them there less prepared. That will be a panacea for businesses looking to hire folks for \$15-an-hour jobs, but will do nothing to promote prosperity in Indiana.

Of course, none of these concerns appeared in the briefing slides or implementation guidance of the new diploma. State officials simply didn’t do their homework, which is a damning observation for folks involved in education. To illustrate that, I saved the silliest aspect of the new diploma for last.

The new diploma offers a “military option” for graduation. When I first saw that, it warmed this old soldier’s heart. Then I read the rules and discovered it was a scam.

High school students can obtain a “military diploma” in three ways. Here, I think I should warn you to put down your coffee so you don’t spill it laughing.

The first way is to obtain an appointment to a service academy. That plausibly affects 50 or 60 Hoosier kids each year, all of whom would have met academic requirements for the “college preparatory” diploma by the time they finished their sophomore year of high school.

The second way is to enroll in a college ROTC program, which is the most common pathway to commission in the armed forces. But, you cannot enroll in a college ROTC program until you are in college. It’s almost like no one in the Department of Educa-

tion knew that readily knowable fact. Some are probably learning it as they read this column.

The military has a special acronym for this sort of situation. It’s called a SNAFU.

Finally, you can enlist in the armed forces before high school graduation to satisfy the graduation requirement. To be clear, I love these options for post-secondary education. I chose that path, as did my father, all my uncles, my brother, a large share of my cousins and all three of my children.

But, as a recognized way to get a diploma, the best thing this can do is reveal how terribly little homework Indiana policymakers did when preparing these new diploma requirements. It is embarrassing.

I hope I’m very, very wrong about this new diploma and the damage I think it will do to academic standards and college preparedness. I hope I am wrong about the implementation. I hope that I am wrong in saying that students in the poorest schools will suffer. Nothing would make me happier than being wrong.

Sadly, for more than a decade, I’ve been crushingly right about Indiana’s education policy failures.

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Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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Josh Arthur
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
Jack Houck
(260) 729-2164
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

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

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

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

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

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

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

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

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

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

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

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

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

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

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

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
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Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

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

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Ron McCallum
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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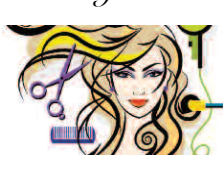

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By Bil Keane

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Discovery play

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 7
♥ J 10 5
♦ A 10 8 4 2
♣ 8 7 6

EAST

♠ J 8 4 3 2
♥ 3
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ Q J 2

WEST

♠ 9 6 5
♥ 9 8 6
♦ —
♣ A K 10 9 5 4 3

SOUTH

♠ A K 10
♥ A K Q 7 4 2
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ —

The bidding:
South 2♠
West 3♣
North Pass
East 4♥
Pass

*strong, artificial
Opening lead — ace of clubs.
Assume you reach seven hearts on the bidding shown and West leads the ace of clubs, which you ruff. The contract seems very easy to make; the only conceivable complication is the possibility that one defender might have all four missing diamonds.
You begin by drawing trump. West turning up with three and East only one. You then have to decide whether it's better to start the diamond suit by first cashing the king or the ace. (Remember, you are assuming a 4-0 division because if the suit is divided 3-1 or 2-2, the grand slam is cold.)
To settle the question beyond the shadow of a doubt, you next cash the ace of spades, and when everyone follows suit, you know that playing a low diamond to the ace is certain to bring home the grand slam.
This is because West cannot have less than a six-card suit for his vulnerable three-club bid, and since he has already shown up with three hearts and a spade, he cannot hold four diamonds.
Sure enough, when you lead the diamond six to the ace, West shows out. You then continue with the deuce and trap East's J-9-5, whatever he does. If he plays the five, you finesse the seven; if he plays the nine instead, you win with the king, cross to the queen of spades and return the four of diamonds, gobbling up East's J-5 with your Q-7.
Ordinarily, when you hold K-Q-x-x opposite A-10-x-x-x, you would cash the king first — and it would be easy to make that mistake here from force of habit. But in the present case — where you hold the seven and eight in the two hands and also have the benefit of West's three-club bid — cashing the ace first is clearly the correct play.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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10-30

CRYPTOQUIP

XYNVCYDKGON VQAKDL UOXUSYB
ZCQZ DBMGHN LDTYKDAYBW
GBD-TYBDAN ZG DKDAHGBD:

Q MGSD-G'-TQBZDAB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL SOMEBODY WHO IS HIRED TO BABYSIT THAT IMPISH SIMPSON BOY? THE BART-TENDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals J

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Set down
5 Gun the engine
8 Frosts a cake
12 Alan of "The West Wing"
13 "Evil Woman"
14 — gin fizz
15 Inside info
16 Dogpatch adjective
17 "Video Games" singer — Del Rey
18 Oracle setting
20 Taxi alternative
22 Train puller
26 Back street
29 Corp. boss
30 After-tax amount
31 Fibbed
32 Rds.
33 Viewed

DOWN

1 "Dragnet" org.
2 Medicinal plant
3 Teen fave
4 Spotted
5 Museum artifact
6 Quarter-back
7 Library array
8 Archipelago part
9 Instrument in a Dixieland band
10 Long time
11 Mermaid's home
19 Today, in Mexico
21 Halloween greeting
23 Group of eight
24 Swerve
25 Sicilian volcano
26 Utah ski resort
27 Stead
28 Moto jacket materials
32 Tipsy
33 Reacts to pollen
35 Texter's "Wow!"
36 — had it!"
38 Expels
39 Bum-bling
42 Lingerie fabric
43 Unique
44 Legend-ary loch
45 Stern-ward
46 Tic-tac-toe loser
48 Equi-

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-30

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Tie ...

Continued from page 8

The Dodgers’ two-way superstar was outpitched by Bieber, the Blue Jays newcomer who returned from Tommy John surgery in late August. The 2020 AL Cy Young Award winner gave up just one run in a resilient World Series debut.

An Orange County native with friends and family roaring for him from the loge level at Dodger Stadium, Bieber issued three walks, but repeatedly got out of trouble. He stranded four runners before Mason Fluharty relieved him in the sixth and stranded two more — and the Blue Jays took control moments

later with their seventh-inning rally.

“We really didn’t get a whole lot of good swings,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “Conversely, you see these (Blue Jays) grinding and using the whole field. ... We didn’t have an answer.”

Ohtani took the mound again 11 days after he hit three homers and struck out 10 Milwaukee Brewers in arguably the greatest single-game performance in baseball playoff history to clinch the NL pennant.

Ohtani threw his first pitch to the Blue Jays 17 hours and 21 minutes after celebrating with

his teammates when Freddie Freeman’s walk-off homer cleared the fence to win Game 3. Although his fastball velocity was down to 97.6 mph from his season average of 98.5, Ohtani largely stayed out of trouble with effective breaking stuff.

“In this situation, I wanted to go seven (innings), and it was regrettable that I wasn’t able to finish that inning,” he said.

Ohtani also drew a six-pitch leadoff walk to reach base for the 11th straight time, extending his World Series record — but he didn’t get on base again.

The Dodgers scored first for the fourth consecutive game

when Kiké Hernández’s sacrifice fly brought home Max Muncy in the second. But the Blue Jays finally got to Ohtani in the third, ending their 13-inning scoring drought with a big swing from their star slugger.

Nathan Lukes got a one-out single before Guerrero hammered a misplaced breaking ball from Ohtani over the left-center wall. Guerrero has set Toronto postseason records with seven homers and 14 RBIs this month.

“Looking back, it was just a regrettable pitch, something that I wish I could have taken

back,” Ohtani said. “It was just in a bad spot.”

Ohtani retired 11 of 12 after Guerrero’s homer, but the Blue Jays chased him with Daulton Varsho’s single and Ernie Clement’s double off the wall to start the seventh. Toronto scored on Andrés Giménez’s single and Ty France’s ground-out off Anthony Banda before Bo Bichette and Barger added RBI singles off struggling reliever Blake Treinen.

Toronto played without ALCS hero George Springer, who left Game 3 in the seventh inning after injuring his right side on a swing.

Sign ...

Continued from page 8

Instead, he’ll be in the NBA with the injury-plagued Pacers (0-3), who play at Dallas on Wednesday.

“Thank you God!!!” McClung posted on his X (formerly Twitter) account 6:29 p.m. on Monday.

McClung, 26, is no stranger to the city of Indianapolis.

He competed in his final game as a college basketball player in the city: Texas Tech’s second-round NCAA tournament loss to Arkansas at Hinkle Fieldhouse in 2021.

McClung won the second of his three straight NBA slam dunk titles at Gainbridge Fieldhouse — home of the Pacers — in 2024. He also played in the Rising Stars Challenge held at Indiana’s arena during All-Star weekend festivities that year.

He also worked out for the club prior to the 2021 NBA Draft.

McClung went undrafted and since has been a well-traveled individual as Indiana will be the sixth NBA franchise he’s spent time with.

He had previous stints with the Los Angeles Lakers, Chicago Bulls, Golden State Warriors, Philadelphia 76ers and Orlando Magic.

His three victories in the dunk contest have been his most notable achievements as a pro and have brought him national notoriety.

He has appeared in six regular-season games with the Bulls, Lakers, 76ers and Magic and has career averages of 5.5

points, 2.3 rebounds and 2.2 assists.

McClung has spent most of the time in the G League and his resume in the top minor league circuit includes rookie of the year, MVP, scoring leader and league champion while suiting up for the South Bay Lakers, Windy City Bulls, Delaware Blue Coats and Osceola Magic.

Indiana is helmed by coaching legend Rick Carlisle, who played at the University of Virginia, and the Pacers are the defending Eastern Conference champions.

Johnny Furphy, Tyrese Haliburton, Kam Jones, Benedict Mathurin, T.J. McConnell, Andrew McNBhard, Taelon Peter and Obi Toppin are all currently injured for the team.

McClung will be reunited with center Jay Huff, who hooped it up at UVa and played alongside McClung with the South Bay Lakers during the 2021-22 season.

Post player Oscar Tshiebwe, who played at Mountain Mission School in Grundy, Virginia, and was once McClung’s AAU teammate, appeared in eight games with the Pacers during the 2023-24 season. He is now on a two-way deal with the Utah Jazz.

McClung was the main man for Gate City as the Blue Devils won the 2018 VHSL Class 2 state title and became a viral sensation for his gravity-defying dunks and high-scoring performances.

He played collegiately at Georgetown and Texas Tech.

Corner ...

Continued from page 8

“But it’s a story of hard work, his faith in God and believing in dreams will come true — even if odds are against you,” said Edwards’ mother, Veronica, by phone Tuesday.

Yep, the former Tulane and Indiana State cornerback became the only UDFA to make the Colts this season.

But even that didn’t guarantee playing time. And sure enough, in the first three games, he only logged 11 total snaps. Injuries and underachievement, however, opened up opportunities for Edwards. He’s emerged as an intriguing cog in the Indianapolis secondary. His playing time has increased — in the past three games, he’s played the following percentages of defensive snaps: 97.3, 50.0 and 52.1.

Oh, and the Colts are 7-1. Best record in the NFL.

“It’s so unreal,” said Veronica, who now sports blue hair to honor the Colts. “The joy of your son living out their dream? ... It’s unbelievable. I have friends ask me all the time, ‘Like, how do you feel?’ And I can’t explain it. It’s such a wonderful feeling. When I put on his jersey for the first time, I was like, ‘My son had a whole jersey with his name on it? Like, this is crazy!’”

For the Edwards family — Veronica and Craig and their children Naomi, Johnathan and Isaiah — it’s even more rewarding if you consider the toughest thing they had to overcome.

“Homelessness,” Veronica said.

About a decade ago, for a period of five months, the family didn’t have a home.

There wasn’t enough money to pay rent, and Craig was out of work. The family spent some of the time in the basement of

‘It’s a story of hard work, his faith in God and believing in dreams will come true — even if odds are against you.’

— Veronica Edwards, Jonathan’s mother

Veronica’s parents. Other times, “people would give us money to get a room,” Veronica said. The family was soon guided by a social worker and got assistance from an elementary school teacher. And, as Veronica asserted, “My husband did work very, very hard to get us back to a good place.”

Johnathan’s first sport? It was actually soccer. By middle school, he gave this football thing a try. Veronica was afraid to let him play at first.

“And then one day, his dad said, ‘Well, if you really want to do this, let’s go in the backyard.’” she recalled. “They threw the ball, and Jonathan came and tackled him, his dad — and made him fall. And Craig was like, ‘He’s ready.’”

Johnathan played high school ball for Parkway North. But now, the Viking is a Colt.

“I’ll never forget,” Veronica said. “There was this one camp during his junior year. He was like, ‘Mom, Mom, I got to go.’ It was a camp at UMSL. ‘I got to go.’ And we were like, ‘Well, Johnathan, we don’t know if we can afford for you to go.’ He said, ‘Mom, I got to go.’ And so, my husband and I, we scrambled up to make sure he could go. And that’s that particular camp (from which) he received,

I believe, like, eight offers for college.”

The Edwards are Baptists. Extremely faith-based family. Their family is entrenched with Liberty Community Worship Center in Ferguson. Veronica called their family “prayer warriors.” Faith gives them, well, faith. And it’s kept the family unit strong and tight.

“Even in our struggle, we had a very unique way of sticking together,” said Veronica, whose 28th year anniversary with Craig is this December. “We’re very close-knit. We talk to each other several times a day, and when something is going on, we support each other. We have a very unusually tight-knit unit. I would often say, ‘Why is it that all of the kids’ friends want to hang around us?’ We don’t have a lot, but they saw the love and support from our family. And that’s what the unique thing is about us.”

Johnathan, his mother, explained, is quite humble. Down to earth, despite the hundreds of thousands he’s already made this year. He’s married at age 23. An article in the Indianapolis Star recently profiled him and his dedication and work ethic. It’s what got him his jersey, after all. And it’s what will let him keep his jersey. And thus, will keep Veronica’s hair blue.

Sports on tap

Local schedule Friday Jay County — Football sectional semifinal vs. Mississinewa — 7 p.m. Fort Recovery — Football regional opening round at Cincinnati College Prep — 7 p.m.	7 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Tampa Bay Lightning (TNT) 7:30 p.m. — College football: Marshall at Coastal Carolina (ESPN2); Tulane at UTSA (ESPN) 8 p.m. — NHL: Vancouver Canucks at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana) 9 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Wisconsin (BTN)	Cross Country Championships (BTN) 7 p.m. — College football: Memphis at Rice (ESPN) 7 p.m. — NBA: Atlanta Hawks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana) 7:30 p.m. — College football: North Carolina at Syracuse (ESPN) 7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Championship (FS1) 8 p.m. — MLB World Series: Los Angeles Dodgers at Toronto Blue Jays (FOX)	10:30 p.m. — College football: Idaho at Northern Arizona (ESPN2)	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. To have an event listed in “Sports on tap”, email details to sports@thecr.com
TV schedule Tuesday 6:30 p.m. — College hockey: Penn State at Ohio State (BTN)	Friday 10:30 a.m. — College track and field: Big Ten			

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Jay County Patriots

Portland, 4-6
Coach: Eddie Fields, first year (fifth overall)
Conference: Allen County
Last week at Bellmont: It was a slow start for the Patriots, but once they moved to the double wing, the offense moved down the field with ease for a 35-0 victory. Leighton Brown had a career day, scoring three touchdowns with 255 yards on 24 carries. The defense forced four turnovers with two interceptions and two fumble recoveries.
Season leaders: Passing — Nick Laux — 72-of-128 for 756 yards and seven touchdowns. Rushing — Leighton Brown — 146 carries for 886 yards and eight touchdowns. Receiving — Brady Jetmore — 21 catches for 270 yards and three touchdowns.



VS.

Mississinewa Indians

Gas City, 9-1
Coach: Jeremy Lochner, first year
Conference: Central Indiana
Last week at Oak Hill: The sixth-ranked Indians chipped away at Oak Hill, scoring touchdowns in the second third and fourth quarters. MHS scored all three TDs on the ground while gaining 223 yards.
Season leaders: Passing — Jacob Schwartz — 58-of-104 for 787 yards and seven touchdowns. Rushing — Ah'lijah Monday — 177 carries for 1,294 yards and 15 touchdowns. Levi Crandall — 102 carries for 737 yards and 15 touchdowns. Receiving — Kallen Quaderer — 20 catches for 321 yards and four touchdowns. Defense — Kadin Fouce — 65 tackles and seven sacks.



Last matchup: The Patriots met the Indians in 2021 and got rolled in a 49-0 loss in Grant Zgunda's first year as coach. Jay County only managed 64 yards of total offense while giving up more than 400 to Ole Miss. Carson Campbell did more than enough damage on his lonesome with four touchdowns with 218 yards.
Game notes: The Patriots and Indians have met just once in the past 40 seasons. Mississinewa won that game 49-0 in the 2021 sectional opener ... The Indians' sole loss came to an undefeated Eastbrook team that is No. 4 in Class 2A ... Last year, Jay County fell in the sectional semifinal 41-8 to the state runner-up Bishop Luers ... Mississinewa has made the sectional final four years in a row, winning the title in 2021 and 2023. It also lost to Bishop Luers last season ... The Indians have run all over teams with 2,146 rushing yards on 318 carries and 32 touchdowns ... Jay County has a 41.2 Sagarin rating, which is 195th overall and 36th in Class 3A. Mississinewa's 62.04 rating is 94th overall and 15th in Class 3A ... John Harrell projects Jay County to lose 31-14.

Byrum books it

Brooklynn Byrum of Jay County High School sprints toward the finish line on the Huntington University cross country course during Saturday's regional meet. The sophomore finished 87th in 21 minutes, 01.8 seconds. Ava May was the only teammate to finish above her.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Blue Jays tie World Series

By GREG BEACHAM
The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, Calif.
Tribune News Service
LOS ANGELES — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a two-run homer off Shohei Ohtani, Shane Bieber pitched four-hit ball into the sixth inning, and the Toronto Blue Jays shook off their epic 18-inning loss to even the World Series with a 6-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 4 on Tuesday night.
Addison Barger had two hits and an RBI for the AL champion Blue Jays, who coolly rebounded from their heartbreaking, late-night defeat in Game 3 with stellar work at the plate and on the mound.
"Yesterday was a tough loss, but we flush it right away," said Guerrero, who spurred the Jays with his seventh homer of the postseason.

"To us, it's one game at a time, one pitch at a time."
By sending the defending champion Dodgers to just their third loss in 14 games this postseason, the Blue Jays reclaimed homefield advantage and guaranteed the World Series trophy will be won at Rogers Centre.
"I believe in this team, man," Guerrero said. "This team is something special."
Game 5 is Wednesday at Dodger Stadium, with Game 6 in Toronto on Friday.
Ohtani redefined the concept of short rest by taking the World Series mound just more than 17 hours after he reached base nine times and smashed four extra-base hits in the Dodgers' stirring victory. He yielded six hits and four runs

while pitching into the seventh inning with six strikeouts in Game 4. After Guerrero hit his majestic homer in the third, the Blue Jays added two more while chasing Ohtani during their four-run seventh.
Ohtani couldn't make up for it at the plate, going 0 for 3 with a walk and two strikeouts. He was on deck when the game ended.
The Dodgers had just six hits — only one for extra bases.
"We're facing quality arms at this time of year against really good teams," Ohtani said through his interpreter. "We're facing the best of the best, so I think it's not that easy. At the same time, we could do at least the bare minimum and put up some runs."
See Tie page 7



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Undrafted corner standing out for Indianapolis Colts

By BENJAMIN HOCHMAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service
Colts cornerback and St. Louis native Johnathan Edwards (35) breaks up a pass intended for Raiders wide receiver Dont'E Thornton Jr. (10) during the first half of a game Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025, in Indianapolis.
Even Mr. Irrelevant was regarded highly.
In the 2025 NFL draft, St. Louis native Johnathan Edwards wasn't picked — though understandably so, considering he wasn't even invited to the NFL scouting combine (there are generally 330 players working out there in Indianapolis, while the draft has 224 picks in its seven rounds).
But Edwards ultimately did make it to Indianapolis — the Colts signed him as an undrafted free agent last spring.

Benjamin Hochman



Still.
Odds were against him actually making the team, considering the Colts had a packed and stacked cornerback depth chart — and because the franchise famously doesn't sign many UDFA's to its 53-man roster.
See Corner page 7

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Pacers sign McClung

Bristol Herald Courier
Tribune News Service
Mac McClung's professional basketball odyssey took a major turn on Monday.
ESPN hoops insider Shams Charania first reported that the Indiana Pacers had signed the former Gate City High School star to a non-guaranteed contract as he joins a team in dire need of backcourt depth.
Before signing with the Pacers, McClung was acquired by the G League's Windy City Bulls.
See Sign page 7