The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Shrack to take over for **Sutton**

Head of security will be new superintendent

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review The courthouse has a new superintendent.

Jay County Commissioners hired Monte Shrack as Jay County Courthouse superintendent on Monday.

Former courthouse superintendent Bruce Sutton resigned Oct. 28. Commissioners president Chad Aker said Sutton retired from the job. He worked at the courthouse for nearly 11 years, starting as a custodian and moving into the superintendent position approximately eight years

Shrack currently serves as head of courthouse security. He's worked a few different stints for law enforcement agencies for about 10 years, having spent time at Redkey Police Department as well as Jay County Sheriff's Office.

Shrack explained after the meeting Monday that he's ready for a change of pace and looks forward to starting a different job. He pointed to nearly 35 years of experience in maintenance. Shrack spent 18 years in the heat treat department at Key Fasteners Corporation in Berne before shifting to become a police officer. He also spent about four years as a maintenance worker at Jay County Hospital amid its transition to IU Health

things apart," Shrack said. Commissioners Doug Horn and Aker, absent Duane Monroe, formally offered the position to Shrack at the meeting Monday. Shrack accepted and submitted his resignation to Jay County Sheriff's Office, with plans to

begin his new job Nov. 24. Also Monday, commissioners formally approved a resolution to transfer several properties to Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation.

Commissioners agreed last month to move forward with the process after Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales explained 19 properties in Dunkirk were up for tax sale. Those properties, along with 11 others across Jay County, have not sold in the last two tax sales. More than \$150,600 in back taxes are owed on those properties. Dunkirk locations makes up the largest portion of the list for a total of just over \$96,000 in

back taxes owed. Hopes are to remove any existing structures and seek private developers to build. For lots unsuitable for construction work, they could be offered to adjoining property owners.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur explained the resolution Monday served as the first step in the process.

See Commissioners page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Happy 250th

Museum of the Soldier in Portland held a birthday party Sunday for the U.S. Marine Corps, celebrating 250 years since its founding. The event included a presentation from Jessamyn Harter, also known as The Pint-Size Patriot, about her grandfather's service on Iwo Jima and his lifelong effort to return artifacts to their rightful owners in Japan decades after World War II, and recognition of all Marine veterans in attendance.

State fair to downsize grandstand

By CHLOE WHITE

TheStatehouseFile.com The State Fair Advisory Com-"I just like being a little mittee met recently to discuss more active and just like the impact of the 2025 state fair the hands-on and taking and challenges members hope to address before next summer.

Cindy Hoye, Indiana State Commission executive director, shared statistics from the 2025 fair — which drew 854,977 attendees in 15 days, a slight increase over 2024's attendance — as well as plans for renovation of the fair campus.

One topic of conversation for the committee was the renova-

Seating will be rebuilt to accomodate an audience of 5,000

Grandstand.

Currently seating roughly 14,000, the Grandstand will be rebuilt to hold a smaller audi-

ence of around 5.000.

tion of the Hoosier Lottery we've taken a look the last three to four years, from band attendance, from tractor pull attendance, from harness racing and the rodeo, and have found that the maximum tickets that we

we think by coming back with a 5,000 seat facility would accommodate the events that are using that space," said Hoye.

While the fair brought in over 850,000 guests this summer, one shortfall mentioned by guests was the price of concessions.

Rep. Beau Baird, R-Greencas-

tle, agreed.

"I would personally echo that concern, I took my nephew — he wanted to try the specialty pizza," he said. "I think it was \$18, \$19, \$20 for a slice, and I was thinking, I could buy two large "So the rationale behind it is have ever sold is around 4,000, so pizzas back home for that."



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Farmland finds

Lori Lloyd of Farmland chats with customer Julia Howard on Saturday during The Delts' Holiday Crafts and Gifts Show. Xi chapter of Delta Theta Tau celebrated its 40th anniversary hosting the show at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Portland scholarships.

Senate moves to end shutdown

Temporary funding bill now moves to House

By ASHLEY MURRAY States Newsroom

statesnewsroom.com

WASHINGTON — Seven U.S. Senate Democrats and one independent joined Republicans on Sunday night in advancing legislation to reopen the government and temporarily keep it afloat until the end of January, after a recordbreaking shutdown that began Oct. 1.

Democratic Sens. Dick Durbin of Illinois, John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Tim Kaine of Virginia, and Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen of Nevada voted with most of the GOP to advance the stopgap measure through a 60-40 procedural vote.

Sen. Angus King of Maine, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, also voted in support.

Fetterman, King and Cortez Masto had already voted with Republicans on the previous 14 votes to reopen the government. Until Sunday, Republicans who control the chamber did not have the 60 votes needed to clear the filibuster threshold.

GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has consistently voted against the temporary funding measure, again cast a "no" vote.

See **Senate** page 2

In review

Jay County Public Library will host a Farm-to-Table Thanksgiving Dinner for preschool and elementary school children at 6 p.m. Thursday. Sessions are scheduled for 4 and 6:15 p.m. Registration is required by calling (260) 726-7890 or by stopping in at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 42 early Sunday, dipping throughout the day to a low of 29. About 2.5 inches of snow fell between Sunday evening and 10 a.m. Monday. The temperature will be steady in the mid 30s tonight. Wednesday's high will be in the upper 40s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Portland Foundation is accepting applications for its winter grant cycle. Deadlines are Jan. 5 for The Foundation, Pennville Endowment and Dr. Donald Johnson grant applications, and Feb. 20 for

Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball opener against South Side.

Friday — Details from this week's Jay County Council meeting.



Felony court news

Drunk driving

A Portland man was placed on house arrest after pleading guilty in Jay Superior Court to drunk driving.

John P. Randall, 46, 522 W. Water St., pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person with a passenger younger than 18 years old, a Level 6 felony.

He was sentenced to 910 days in Indiana Department of Correction and given two days credit for time served. His sentence will be served on home detention. Randall was fined \$1, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. The court also recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for 910 days retroactive to Feb. 24.

As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony for oper-

ating a vehicle while intoxicated. a Level 6 felony operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more, a Level 6 felony for resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license and a habitual offender enhancement.

Dealing drugs

A man was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty in Jay Circuit Court to dealing methamphetamine.

Harley H. Golder, 29, pleaded guilty to the Level 4 felony. He was sentenced to 10 years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Golder was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning

abuse program the court would consider modifying his sen-

As part of his plea agreement, a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe were dismissed.

Dependent neglect

A Berne man was placed on house arrest after he pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent and leaving the scene of an acci-

Alexander J. Mathews, 24, 117 W. Parr Road, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to neglect of a dependent and leaving the scene of an accident with bodily injury, both Class A misdemeanors.

He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but of his habitual offender

days credit for time served. His sentence will be served on home detention. Mathews was fined \$25, assessed \$189.50 and placed on probation for 305 days.

As part of his plea agreement, the neglect of a dependent charge was lessened from a Class A misdemeanor.

Drug possession

Two Jay County residents were sentenced to serve time for possession of methampheta-

Ernest Fifer II, 52, 203 E. Main Street, Bryant, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He also admitted to being a habitual offender. He was sentenced to one year in Indiana Department of Correction, and his sentence was enhanced to 1,460 days because

268 days credit for time served. He was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Cassandra M. Steinbrunner, 38, 310 South Middle St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 360 days in Jay County Jail with all but 60 days suspended and given 14 days credit for time served. Steinbrunner was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was also upon completing a substance 60 days suspended and given two enhancement. Fifer was given placed on probation for 300 days.

CR almanac

Wednesday 11/12	Thursday 11/13	Friday 11 /14	Saturday 11/15	Sunday 11/16
				0
54/32	56/39	62/48	66/51	57/33
Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday when the low may hit around freez-		warmer, with	Mostly cloudy on Sat- urday, with temperatures climbing to the 50s and 60s.	There's a nearly 60% chance of rair on Sunday when the low at night may dip to 33.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated \$900 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$490 million

Hoosier

Sunday Midday Daily Three: 6-2-4 Daily Four: 5-6-6-6 Quick Draw: 2-6-7-11-20-21-25-27-30-36-38-39-41-44-45-46-52-60-65-72

Evening Daily Three: 6-0-1 Daily Four: 8-5-2-7 Quick Draw: 5-10-11- \$120,000

13-19-24-29-39-40-42-43-45jackpot: 48-49-53-67-68-72-74-79 Cash 5: 10-12-26-32-45

Estimated jackpot: \$180,500

Ohio Sunday

Midday Pick 3: 2-6-2 Pick 4: 7-4-8-5 Pick 5: 5-2-2-9-9 **Evening** Pick 3: 9-9-3 Pick 4: 1-5-4-5 Pick 5: 9-6-6-9-5 Rolling Cash 5: 17-20-28-30-34 Estimated jackpot:

Senate

Continued from page 1

The deal would also unlock fullyear funding for a vital food aid program that serves 42 million Americans and bring back federal workers fired by President Donald Trump when the government was closed.

It does not include language addressing skyrocketing premiums for those enrolled in individual health insurance plans in the Affordable Care Act marketplace, a major sticking point for Democrats.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-South Dakota, said late Sunday on the Senate floor that he commits to holding a separate vote on health insurance subsidies no later than the second week of December.

In a press conference following the vote, Rosen said Democrats have "an opportunity also to put Republicans on the record on the ACA.

"Are they committed to doing this? Are they committed leaders who said, 'You can come to the table on health room.com.

care once the government was open'? And now he must follow through. If Republicans want to join us in lowering costs for working families, they have the perfect opportunity to show the American public," Rosen said.

New text of a temporary stopgap funding deal proposes to keep the government open until Jan. 30.

This story was edited for length. To read the full version, visit statesnews-

Commissioners

Continued from page 1

According to the resoluthe matter at 9 a.m. Nov.

commissioners approved a financial commitment letter to the Federal Highway Administration for reconstructing a bridge along county road 400 North.

Jay County Highway Department is applying for a grant through the federal office to complete the work estimated at \$1.97 million. If approved, the county would pay 20% of the cost, or about \$394,000. The goal is to begin construction in 2031.

Administrative talked about the highway department's work Monday morning amid the season's first snowfall, starting with trucks taking to the roads to begin spreading salt about 5 a.m. Several workers who had been scheduled for paid time off were called in to help clear the roads, Klarer said.

"We thank them for not using their time off, and we will see what tomorrow brings," she said. "I thought today would be OK, but I just got another notification that there's another possible system coming in tonight, so we'll have to kind of keep an eye out for that and possibly working on holiday tomorrow, so we will see how

Additionally, noted plans for Brice Fox recent state legislation tion, commissioners will to begin as a highway host a public hearing on mechanic starting Nov. 17 as well as to move parttime worker Jack Scott into a full-time truck driver position pending his results on a Commercial Driver's License test.

Commissioners also: Approved the follow-

ing: a resolution setting health savings account rates for employees next year, with the county to contribute \$125 to singlemember plans quarterly and \$250 to plans with additional members quarterly; a right-of-way agreement with American Electric Power to bore under Brookview Drive at tant Stephanie Klarer also Golf Brook Estates just south of Portland; a \$591,797.85 claim from Brumbaugh Construction for work completed on the Seventh Street bridge in Portland, with a majority the cost covered through a state Community Crossings grant; \$42,445.40 in claims for work completed in the owner-occupied rehabilitation program; and a \$2,713 agreement with Robert Brelsford for rightof-way work along county road 350 West just north of Indiana 26.

•OK'd handling financial institutions tax and commercial vehicle excise tax distributions in the same manner for Novem-

Klarer Emily Franks explained gave local legislative bodies the option to change how those dollars are distributed, allowing commissioners to deposit distributions into the county general fund if desired.

Re-appointed Carpenter and Carolyn Journay to Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees.

·Accepted a \$25 donation from the Mississinewa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to Jav County Emergency Management Agency.

SERVICES

Saturday, Nov. 22 Bowen, Luetta: II a.m.,

Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E.Arch St., Portland.

Saturday, Nov. 29 Moore, Stephen: 2 p.m., Red-

key Church of the Nazarene, 801 W. High St., Redkey.

Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS** 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

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for you - and get paid!

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.41

Dec. corn4.47 Jan. corn4.50 **POET Biorefining**

Portland

Nov./Dec. corn4.47 Jan. corn4.48

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn	4.24
Dec. corn	4.34
Beans	11.11

Wheat	4.88
ADM	

Dec. beans11.16

Montpelier Corn......4.24

Dec. corn	4.28
Beans	11.07
Late Nov. beans.	11.09
Wheat	4.88

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn	4.19
Dec. corn	4.24
Beans	10.71
Nov. beans	10.81
Wheat	4.78
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	

Today in history

1775, the U.S. Marine Corps was found-Congress ordered two battalions to be raised for and Zambezi rivers and

In 1865, Confederate months at a time. prison commander Henry Wirz was hanged collected from 143 donors in Washington, D.C. The during a Fort Wayne Red leader of the infamous prison in Andersonville, Georgia, he was the only Confederate officer exe-

In 1871, Henry Stanley of the New York Herald greeted explorer David Livingstone with "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" upon finding him in farms. Africa. Livingstone had

gone on various government-backed missions exploring in the headwaters of the Nile, Congo often disappeared for

Cross Bloodmobile visit

Council approved ecodevelopment agreements and tax abatements with Leeward Renewable Energy and Scout Clean Energy for their planned solar

—The CR

ed as the Continental the Revolutionary War.

cuted as a war criminal.

In 1972, 136 pints were

to Portland. In 2021, Jay County nomic

Citizen's calendar

Town Council, fire station, 302 N. Walnut St.

Wednesday

5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

6 p.m. — Jay County 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Council, auditorium. courthouse, 120 Court St., Portland.

Thursday

6 p.m. — Jay County Commission, Plan Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.



Former navy man felt unqualified to be veteran

By JAMES FULKS

The Commercial Review It's Veterans Day. Nov. 11 every year.

I've always been pretty awkward about thinking of myself as a veteran, because to me as a youth a veteran was a guy like Gaylord Grubbs, Walt Rogers, Herb Heston, Ed Clark, Gene Moran, Keith Noller, Chuck Johnson, John Austin, Daniel McCowan, David Hatzell, J.B. Faulkner and so many

Real heroes.

Guys who quite literally saved the world — in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Not like some Marvel or DC blockbuster. Nope. The real deal.

Mayhem

planet — evil unlike anything this old mortal coil had ever seen. Genocide on such a scale that it boggles the imagination. So much so that, to this day, there are those who falsely claim it never happened.

Well, happen it did. And thankfully the future president from Abilene, comic book "hero" in a Kansas, had the foresight to order camera crews to document the horror, Men who eradicated an because he rightly predict-

occurred.

So it came to pass that one day I willingly volunteered to wear the uniform of a United States Navy Pacific Fleet sailor.

I saw no combat, never personally witnessed a shot fired in anger. Yes, I endured a few hardships and saw death up close and personal, but it was not from combat.

I returned home after the adventure of a lifetime — serving alongside fine boys who were forged into men by the common bond of the sea and the ship we crewed. The ports we visited. The shared experiences. The sacrifice for the common

evil scourge from this ed that someday people myself as a hero and did- of sight.

would try to deny it ever n't really think I was a real veteran.

I came home and became active in commemorating the real veterans through Memorial Day ceremonies, Veterans Day ceremonies and military graveside honor guard services. To this day I continue to do so, some 36-plus years after my honorable discharge from active duty in the U.S.

I'll never forget the day I was with a group of my old World War II pals years ago at an event where we were all attending as guests. They asked for visiting veterans to stand and be recognized. Of course, I prompted them all to stand and be recognized as I started to So no, I never thought of move to the back to get out

and said, "Well, Jim, c'mon. What are you wait-

ing for?'

I looked at him, and for some reason I wasn't making the connection. You see, he was a real veteran. I was just some kid who went off to the Navy.

I guess I had the epiphany that day — dragged kicking and screaming, so to speak. I'm actually a real veteran. But I still felt unwor-

uncomfortable,

unqualified and uneasy calling myself that. But there's photographic proof.

In a picture shared on shipmate, our group of U.S. Navy aircraft carrier radar air traffic controllers is shown aboard

And Ed looked at me ship as it transited the Strait of Malacca, with Singapore sliding past the port beam.

Yes, we were sailors once.

We went to sea.

We were young. It truly was the adventure of my lifetime.

And it made a rural kid who worked on a farm with a sawmill, steam engines, draft horses and teams of oxen and mules from landlocked east-central Indiana a genuine world-circumnavigating seafarer.

And a veteran.

To all veterans out there — no matter how you social media by a former came to terms with being called one — thank you for your selfless sacrifice and service to our great

Last words from 'friend' dig deep into old wound

DEAR ABBY: After my father died by suicide, my mother moved the family across the country. I was 13, and I never discussed my father's death with

Now, 50 years later, my best friend from high school has terminated our friendship because I don't support her politics. Her parting comment to me: "I was only nice to you because your mom told me how your dad died.' Abby, I had plenty of friends in high school. I was senior class president, and I have gone on to have a successful life.

I was always there for my friend when she had marital and other difficulties. I am struggling with processing such profound cruelty from a lifelong friend, and I would welcome your guid-— GRAPPLING IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR GRAPPLING: The statement from your "lifelong friend" was mean, cruel and unnecessary. It was intended to hurt you.

I don't know if you realize what a strong woman you are. Although your family experimouthy. He has always been enced a severe trauma that whiny and entitled, but now he

Dear Abby



necessitated geographic relocation, you managed to thrive in your new environment. You were popular with peers and have gone on to build a successful life. Count your bless-

The person you describe may have been a friend at one time, but she has used the current political climate as an excuse to distance herself. Step back and be glad she showed her true colors. You are well rid of her.

DEAR ABBY: Although my wife and I (we are both women) have stuck it out for nearly 40 years, there has been some dysfunction. Her brother was snuck in 10 years ago, and he's very

likes to yell, expecting silence in brother-in-law to find another

We live in a small house. What if I flipped out every time he disturbed my sleep? It's half my house! I'm disabled and retired and living on Social Security benefits. My wife refuses to back me up and tell her brother he doesn't get to disrespect me. I don't want to spend the end of my life like this. It would be my hell. Things are not looking great. I love her, and she has stepped up in so many ways, but not in this. Please advise. — CROWDED IN

CALIFORNIA DEAR CROWDED: What do you mean your wife "snuck her brother in" 10 years ago? (Did a two-week visit magically turn into 10 years?) As half owner of that house, you are entitled to live in it without being berated by a deadbeat.

Talk to an attorney. Learn your rights as a spouse in California. If the house were sold and you received your half of its value, your life might be brighter than it is now. Of course, the alternative is that you and your wife tell your

roost to rule.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, we renovated our house. We now have a south-facing roof that is ready for the installation of solar panels. Our utility company has an incentive program to lower the cost of the equipment, but it ends in six months.

The only thing holding us back is the next-door neighbors' old, tall tree that shades our roof where the panels would go. The tree is cracked and has been coming down in sections over the last several years. Previous owners of the house had to repair their front windows and gutter after a large branch came crashing down in a storm.

The current owners are a young couple with a small baby. We have had occasional, friendly driveway conversations but don't really know them. Would it be presumptuous to ask if they would be willing to let us pay to have their tree removed? People can be prickly about their property. But maybe they wouldn't mind someone else covering what is probably an inevitable cost.

We want to continue having a friendly relationship, while also moving forward with our project. Thoughts? — UPGRADING IN NORTH CAROLINA **UPGRADING:**

DEAR Because you have a cordial relationship with these neighbors, it shouldn't be offensive to point out that their tree presents a problem. When you do, tell them that a falling branch had damaged their front windows and gutter, which caused an expensive repair. Explain that the cracks in the tree could present a danger to their little one, then volunteer that you are more than willing to pay the cost of having it removed.

DEAR VETERANS: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You personify patriotism, self-sacrifice and dedication to our country. I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made while you were serving your country. — LOVE, ABBY

Community Calendar

Community Calendar as meeting is from 6:30 to 8 played from 11 a.m. to noon space is available. To sub-p.m. every Tuesday at the on Wednesdays at West Jay news@thecr.com.

Today

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOV-ERY 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., Port-

land. A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased recovery group for

3

Notices will appear in starts at 6 p.m. and the an item, email Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — 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

Sudoku

8

5

9

4

WEDNESDAY MORN-ING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are substance abuse. Meal invited to attend.

2

6

8

3

2

5

6

3

Level: Beginner

5

PING PONG — Will be Community Center.

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

COMMUNITY FORCEMENT AND FAMI-LY TRAINING — A nonconfrontational, evidencebased 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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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. For more information, call 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

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings 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.

and



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RN/LPN/QMA - Healthcare

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- New shift premiums up to \$3.75/hour!

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260-589-3173 1350 West Main Street Berne, IN 46711



nine eac eac thre bloo the one

3

4

8

	Sa	atı	ırd	lay	'S	So	lu	tic	n
	5	1	8	9	2	4	6	3	7
The objective is to fill a ne-by nine grid so that	9	2	3	8	7	6	1	4	5
ch column, each row, and	6	7	4	3	5	1	2	8	9
ch of the nine three-by-	7	4	9	2	1	5	8	6	3
ee boxes (also called ocks or regions) contains	8	3	2	6	4	9	5	7	1
e digits from 1 to 9 only	1	5	6	7	3	8	9	2	4
e time each.	3	9	7	1	8	2	4	5	6
	4	8	1	5	6	3	7	9	2
	2	6	5	4	9	7	3	1	8

9

Election was good for the middle

The Dallas Morning News

Tribune News Service Any way you slice it, Tuesday night was big for Democrats, and there will be endless analy-

sis about what it all means. From where we sit, elections across the country did lift Team Blue, but it would be a mistake to read them as an endorsement of the progressivism that has seen Democrats pile up losses.

If anything, we saw a correction within the Democratic Party that will spell trouble for national Republicans embracdefining characteristic.

Guest **Editorial**

competent candidates for governor with strong public service backgrounds who are focused on local issues and

In New Jersey, former Navy pilot and federal prosecutor Mikie Sherrill trounced Repubing MAGA populism as their lican Jack Ciattarelli in a race she made about President Don-Middle-of-the-road voters in ald Trump and the kitchen-New Jersey and Virginia, in sink issues of housing affordparticular, showed they want ability and economic uncer-

tainty. She also leaned into sup-socialist mayor-elect? It's a fair proposition that will lead to port a major infrastructure project, the Gateway tunnel, that Trump killed in a petty political spat with Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-New York.

In Virginia, Abigail Spanberger showed how easy it is to win when political parties embrace serious, accomplished moderates focused on working across the aisle for solutions. Like Sherrill, Spanberger has a long record of public service, including casework in the CIA. Her membership in Congress' Problem Solvers Caucus was politically uncomfortable in her own party. She stuck to her principles, and voters rewarded her.

But what about New York's

question. First, New York City is its own political universe. It's true, though, that Zohran Mamdani had to at least wave at moderation to overcome terribly weak opposition. His policies are the wrong ones for New York, and if they are implemented in full, it will be a feast for the right.

We can only hope national Democrats are wise enough to embrace the Spanberger model over the Mamdani model. If they do, they can expect to get used to winning. If they don't, it's back to the cheap seats.

Where the American Middle took its worst hit Tuesday was in California, where voters overwhelmingly approved a

more radical gerrymandering. That would not have happened had Gov. Greg Abbott not paid foolish fealty to Trump and insisted Texas redistrict to add yet more congressional seats for Republicans. Wrong was repaid with wrong, and we will all be worse for it.

On balance, though, we believe Tuesday was a good signal for the middle. We are seeing moderate, issues-focused governors elected across the country. We believe Spanberger and Sherrill will follow that

If the national parties wake up to this winning formula, it will be a brighter day in American politics.

Veterans are being neglected

By BEN FREEMAN and **WILLIAM D. HARTUNG** Tribune News Service

This year, for the first time, the Pentagon's budget topped \$1 trillion. We're told this is to "support the troops." Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth. While tens of thousands of veterans are homeless and hundreds of thousands are going hungry the Pentagon is wasting billions on things like \$1,500 coffee cups and \$150,000 on soap dispensers.

More than half of the Defense Department's budget goes to private companies, not to military personnel. Those Pentagon contractors spend our taxpayer dollars to help pay for things like \$20 millionplus CEO salaries, more than a thousand lobbyists, and multi-billion-dollar stock buybacks that artificially inflate the value of their shares, but do nothing to actually keep Americans safe, let alone, "support the troops.'

While weapons contractor executives get rich–and buy the multi-million dollar mansions to prove itmilitary personnel are literally going hungry, with an estimated 25% facing food insecurity that has been exacerbated by the government shutdown. Moises Montalvo, a veter-Nebraska, from has observed that for many

happens more often than not" and many vets grapple "every day" with the choice of "cutting food to yourself so you can feed your children." Then there is the impact of serving in the post-9/11

wars on the lives and health of veterans. More than 7,000 service members died in America's post-9/11 wars, and an astonishing 600,000 suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) or traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Even worse, as documented in the film What I Want You to Know, many veterans don't know why they were sent into our recent wars, and they decided early on that the conflicts were unwinnable. They further felt that their government had lied to them, and many were haunted by the things they were asked to do to other human beings in the course of fighting the wars. As Gregory Daddis, a 26 year Army veteran and now a professor of history at Texas A&M has noted, "endless wars lead to end- Statecraft."

Guest **Opinion**

less veterans who are often

As we celebrate Veterans Day, we owe our veterans more than a perfunctory "thank you for your service." We need to put our money where our mouth is, funding programs to make sure they and their families can acquire basic necessities, and investing more in treating PTSD and other consequences of their military service.

Most importantly, we need to adopt a more restrained foreign policy that emphasizes diplomacy over the use of force, so our courageous military personnel aren't put at risk in unnecessary wars that consume mass quantities of our tax dollars that could have been used to address other urgent national needs. We must avoid the kind of unnecessary conflicts that inflicted such widespread physical and psychological injuries inflicted on veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars.

Unfortunately, our budget priorities are moving in the wrong direction. While people returning from arms contractors cash in, America's wars "hunger over one and a half million veterans will suffer losses in food assistance and health care, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

president's Golden Dome anti-missile which the vast majority of independent experts agree can never provide the leak proof shield promised by the president, could receive up to \$40 billion of our tax dol-

and wasteful spending, let's work to craft policies that actually support and respect our veterans, rather than diverting huge sums to enrich contractors that too often underperform even as they receive ever higher amounts of government funding. To honor veterans, we need to change our approach to national security, and the sooner the better.

Institute for Responsible

left wondering if their efforts mattered."

At the same time, the program. scientific lars next year.

Instead of hollow words

•••••

Freeman and Hartung both work at the Quincy



Turn on the green lights

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

Tucked after Halloween trick-ortreating and before Thanksgiving turkey and cranberries is an oftenoverlooked holiday — Veterans Day, which is always on Nov. 11.

But it wasn't always called that. On Nov. 11, 1918, an armistice between the Allied countries and Germany was signed to end active fighting in World War I.

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11, 1919 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations," the proclamation reads.

Congress, in a 1926 concurrent resolution, officially recognized the end of the war and declared that Nov. 11 should be a legal holi-

The resolution says:

"Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed; and

"Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date for veterans.

Kelly



should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations;

"Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.'

From there, it became a legal holiday in 1938, and in 1954, was updated to honor American veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day is so much more important than food, and yet it gets short shrift in the holiday schedule.

Some of us are off work for the day, but not all. And even those who have the day off usually don't recognize or do anything specific

That's why I'm excited about seeing displays for Operation Green Light for Veterans. Counties all around the state have drawn attention to veterans and their military service in recent years by lighting up their courthouses and other public spaces. And the program is growing every year.

The Association of Indiana Counties, in collaboration with the National Association of Counties, the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Indiana War Memorials, Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana and Amazon held a special event in downtown Indianapolis on Thursday night to honor veter-

As part of the fifth annual Operation Green Light for Veterans, the event featured remarks from distinguished leaders and culminated in a ceremonial lighting of the War Memorials and Monument Circle in green.

"This symbolic gesture serves as a powerful tribute to veterans, letting them know they are seen, appreciated, and supported by their communities," the news release said.

And if you want to participate on your own, grab a few green lightbulbs and light up your own porch for our veterans.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

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Bank donates

First Bank of Berne recently donated \$2,000 to Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County. The funds will go toward the charity's efforts to provide gifts, Christmas trees and a holiday meal to families that might otherwise go without. Pictured, from left, are Secret Families board member Don Hall, cofounder Kadie Hall and board member Amanda Foreman, accepting a check Tracy Carpenter, Portland branch manager for First Bank of Berne.

Winterfest kicks off next weekend

County Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its Winterfest celebration.

Winterfest will kick off with Christmas at the Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. The event will include tree lighting and a performance by the Jay County Junior-Senior High School choir.

Following on Saturday, Nov. 22, will be the Little Miss Winterfest pageant at 1 p.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church and the Parade of Lights at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Portland.

The chamber also recently welcomed Enlightened Lens Collective as a new member.

Training offered

John Jay Center for Learning in Portland will host a free QuickBooks workshop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 3 and 4.

The in-person training will feature interactive and handson learning about the financial software. It is being offered in partnership with the Indiana Small Business Development Center.

Advance registration is required by visiting isbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/17247.

Hospital honor

Becker's Hospital Review recently named The Orthopedic Hospital among the top 100 orthopedic programs in the nation.

The Orthopedic Hospital is part of the Lutheran Health

Network.

Business roundup

profound honor that truly belongs to the entire, dedicated team," said chief administrative officer Amy Hochstetler in a news release. "This achievement reflects the commitment of our orthopedic surgeons, nurses, rehabilitation specialists and support staff to clinical excellence and compassionate care. Our ranking validates our constant effort to ensure every patient receives the highest standard of treatment and the best possible outcome."

Hosting drive

Menards is hosting a toy drive through Dec. 15.

Toys collected will be donated to those in need. Menards is requesting donations of new, unwrapped toys.

Menards locations Muncie, Anderson, Richmond and Celina, Ohio, will have drop boxes available for donations.

Acquisition complete

completed its purchase of Westfield Bancorp from Ohio Farmers Insurance Company.

The acquisition brings First "Being named to this list is a Financial's assets to \$20.6 bil-

Financial's existing presence in northeast Ohio.

"This is an exciting step in the growth of First Financial, as the addition of Westfield Bank opens new possibilities for growth and profitability for us in an attractive market," said Archie Brown, president and CEO of First Financial, in a news release. "We can now bring our wide range of solutions in consumer, commercial, specialty lending and wealth management to new clients, while expanding our geographic footprint for our current clients. The First Financial team is thrilled to welcome the Westfield Bank team members to the First Financial family."

First Financial has locations in Portland, Fort Recovery, Union City and Hartford City.

IEC honors

tives honored Amanda Steeb with its 2025 Tom Taylor Award for excellence in leaderto electric cooperative principles.

Steeb is director of marketing and communications for indianachamber.com. Kankakee Valley REMC.

"Amanda has shown leader-First Financial Bank has ship across Kankakee Valley ior board initiatives and building comprehensive communication plans for complex projects," said Scott Sears, CEO of Medicare, Medicaid and cash-

lion. All Westfield Bank loca- Kankakee Valley REMC, in a pay programs, Reuters reporttions will become part of First news release. "Her impact ed. extends beyond cooperative walls, where she is involved with multiple community efforts and is seen as a model of kindness, optimism, and steady leadership."

Courses scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce has several programs coming up.

"Train the trainer" courses for lockout/tagout are set for 8 a.m. to noon and for permit required confined space from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., both Wednesday, Nov. 12. Another session for forklift safety will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13.

General Occupational Safety and Health Administration courses will be held beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Also, the Indiana Safety and Health Conference & Expo will be held from Feb. 23 through Indiana Electric Coopera- 25. It will feature a variety of speakers as well as more than 60 educational sessions.

The courses and expo will be ship, attitude and commitment held at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Conference Center in Indianapolis.

For more information, visit

Deal reached

Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and REMC, including guiding jun- President Donald Trump announced a deal Thursday to reduce the cost of Lilly's GLP-1 weight-loss drugs through news@thecr.com to be included in

The government said the agreement will reduce prices by \$149 to \$350 a month. Costs currently range from \$500 to \$1,000 per month.

New leader named

Dollar General has named Travis Nixon as its first senior vice president of artificial intelligence optimization.

Nixon has worked in AI and machine learning for more than 10 years, most recently as head of AI for Dropbox's security division. He previously worked for Meta and Microsoft. "At a time when our customers

rely on us more than ever, we're excited to welcome Travis and his transformative AI leadership to streamline operations enhance the experience for Dollar General employees and customers," shared Steve Deckard, Dollar General's executive vice president of strategy and development, in a news release. "This new role represents our commitment to driving innovation to unlock value in our operations, making us stronger now and in the future. With greater strategic integration of AI, we look forward to accelerating and expanding existing efforts to drive operational excellence, cost efficiency, and customer-centric innovation."

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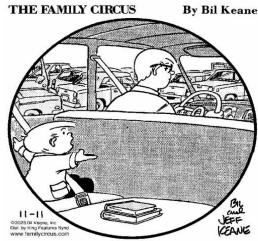
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"If this is RUSH hour, why is everybody drivin' so slow?"

Peanuts









Rose is Rose





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Between Friends









Blondie DIDN'T YOU GET MY OOPS, SORRY! ON SILENT





Snuffy Smith

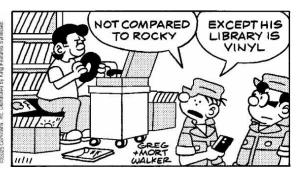






Beetle Bailey





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and returning a spade through the

The most obvious way to avoid

three spade losers was to establish dummy's diamond suit, but if East

had the guarded diamond queen, declarer might lose four tricks before the diamonds could be uti-

After pondering his options, South found the solution: He allowed West's king of clubs to hold the first trick! West could do no better than lead another club to dummy's ace at trick two, on which South discreted a dimend. Two

South discarded a diamond, Two

South discarded a diamond. Iwo rounds of trump were followed by the A-K of diamonds and a diamond ruff, establishing dummy's two remaining diamonds. Declarer then crossed to dummy with a

trump and discarded two spades on

the J-5 of diamonds to finish with an overtrick.

Note that the same line of play

would succeed against a 3-1 trump break, declarer simply ruffing the third diamond high before crossing

to dummy with a trump to cash the

By ducking the opening club lead, South substantially increased his

chances of making the contract. In effect, he substituted a nonexistent club loser for a potential diamond

established diamonds.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ♦ Å K J 5 4 ♦ A 8 WEST AQJ92 ♥54 ♠KQJ6 The bidding:
West South 1 ♥ 2 ♥ North East

Pass 4 ♥
Opening lead — king of clubs.
In many deals, it is more dangerous for declarer to have one defender on lead rather than the other. In on lead rather than the other. In such cases, declarer should try to organize the play so that the dangerous opponent cannot gain the lead. Today's deal features an unusual application of this strategy.

West led the king of clubs against four hearts, and South saw immediately that there was a poscibility he

ately that there was a possibility he could lose three spades and a diamond. Given the bidding, it was highly likely that West had the ace of spades, so it was imperative to keep East from gaining the lead

loser. It was an application of the avoidance principle carried to an extreme. Tomorrow: Top-notch defense.

11-11 CRYPTOQUIP

OG H GUMR MU H UHEEOI PHC NMWAUL IHCIAC HLW HZIC ZMMF, MLA NORPI ZHFF OI H PQT PMTTAU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LONG GERMAN STREAM KNOWN TO ATTRACT NUMEROUS MASSIVE MAMMALS WITH THICK SKIN: THE RHINO RIVER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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5 USMC	Welty	charge	vessel
rank	41 Ann	4 Nap	26 Life-
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All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Runner of the Year **Ava Cook**

Wapahani High School junior

Ava Cook was selected as the second really enjoy it. And I think that's become Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for girls cross country. She follows former teammate AnnMarie Gibson, who won in the inaugural award in 2024.

"That's something that I should be really proud of," said Cook. "It took a lot to get there. It takes a lot of mental stuff for me. I have to really hype myself up.

"To me, that's an incredible achievement and it's really exciting."

Cook hit her stride in the second half of the season.

She was the only girl in The Graphic Printing Company's coverage area to break the 20-minute mark this season, finishing the regional race in 19 minutes, 52.7 seconds. She finished 44th.

She said she was especially focused for that race throughout the week, paying attention not only to her training but to diet, sleep and attitude.

"I have progressed a lot ... since my freshman year, definitely a whole lot," Cook said. "I thought I was gonna be some average, mediocre kind of runner. "It really has become my main sport. I

a big part of the leap is that I'm starting to enjoy it more because I'm getting better and seeing improvements. A lot of hard work goes into that."

Cook had a breakthrough run at the Randolph Southern Invitational on Sept. 13, beating rival Avery Thomas of Monroe Central for the first time and finishing third overall. She went on to win the Mid-Eastern Conference championship in 20:01.04 and led all area runners with a fourth-place finish in the sectional meet at Taylor University.

"The thing that makes me so proud of her is a lot of times on the girls side especially it's the same names that are the top runners from middle school throughout high school," said Wapahani coach Bo Stevenson. "And she's one that was a good runner in middle school but she wasn't necessarily elite. Same thing her freshman year. ...

"To see where she was and to see her improvement to where she is now and what she's able to accomplish, it just says everything about her work ethic to excel at whatever she does.

All-Graphic Printing Company first team

Avery Thomas

Monroe Central senior closed her career with 54th-place regional finish.

Makenna Huelskamp Fort Recovery junior

Ella Taylor Wapahani sophomore

Andi Watson

Monroe Central junior

Ava May Jay County sophomore

> **Everly Carter** Delta sophomore

Thomas was the Randolph County champion and Mid-Eastern Conference runner-up, finishing only behind Cook. She

Leading the Indians, Huelskamp narrowly missed earning a state berth. She set a new career-best time of 20:03.9 at the Tour De Sewer hosted by Versailles.

As the No. 2 runner for the Raiders, she finished fourth in the MEC behind Cook, Thomas and Watson. She ranked fourth in the region for both average time and best time.

Watson started with a third-place finish in Monroe Central's season-opening Meister Family Memorial Run. Her best time was a 20:30.10 for third in the Mid-Eastern Conference.

The sophomore came through in the tournament again, pacing the Patriots with a 14th-place sectional finish. She also led Jay County to a conference title repeat.

After she was unable to run in the tournament as a freshman because of an illness, Carter placed 10th in the sectional and 70th with a career-best 20:38.6 in the regional.



Honorable mention

Abby Fifer, Sophomore, Jay County Brooklynn Byrum, Sophomore, Jay County Christiana Teegarden, Freshman, Union City Haileigh Allen, Senior, Randolph Southern Jessie Homan, Sophomore, Jay County Kinsley Bowman, Freshman, Randolph Southern Riley Heitkamp, Sophomore, Fort Recovery

Effort

third wrestling place, and with the Patriots needing every point, Gracie Rowles escaped potential trouble when she slipped out of a Candice Matson headlock for a takedown with 5 seconds left in the opening period. She started the second period from the top position, found her way to a half nelson and pinned the Cowan senior in 2:13.

"It was really good," said

success with the half nelson and continued to use that move throughout the day. "It's a good experience ... getting the feel for it and wanting to proceed.'

Tipton needed only one victory to take second place among the four wrestlers in the 115-pound bracket. She finished off Beautiful Criglar of Richmond in 55 seconds before falling to Cami Davis of Centerville in the final.

newcomers to the team included two victories each for freshmen Kelly Jones (145) and Kenady Lyons (235) and one for their classmate Chloe Torres (105).

"Our focus for day one was effort," said Jacks. "With so many new girls, all I said was, 'Give us effort and good things will come.' And we had some surprise wins because of the effort. We had some really close matches

Continued from page 8 Rowles, who said she found Other high points for the because of the effort. And before pinning her in 1:41 have a slow bone, so she we seem like we're reloauing, not rebuilding."

Katie Rowles, who finished fourth in the state last season, needed just over three minutes to sweep her way through the 100-pound bracket and could have finished much faster had she wanted to. She worked on some tactics with a takedown-andrelease pattern against Franklin County's Isabel-McEwen-Merre

m the opening round and then scored her semifinal and championship pins each in less than a minute.

Parsons pinned each of her three opponents to win the 140-pound title, and Crawford notched her two wins for the 190-pound crown in just 1:17 total.

"Lead by example," Jacks said. "They work hard in practice and girls feed off of that.

"(Katie Rowles) doesn't

oes 110% with anybody she's practicing with. ...

"It's also teaching them that intensity and then they're carrying that over with their practice partners. And I think we saw that today.'

Also placing for Jav County were third-place finishers Chloe Torres (105), Willoughby (110) and Jones (145), fifth-place Lyons (235) and sixthplace Allison Lopez (155).

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Jay County — Girls basketball vs. South Side -

Thursday

Jay County — Girls wrestling vs. Muncie Central/Richmond – 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball scrimmage vs. Fort Recovery – 5:30 p.m. Fort Recovery — Girls basketball scrimmage at Leahman Catholic - 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball scrimmage at Jay County - 5:30 p.m.

TV schedule

Today 6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Clemson at South Carolina (ESPN2) 6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Navy at Penn State (BTN); Wake Forest at Michigan (FS1) 7 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at Boston

- College football: Ohio at Western Michigan (ESPN2) 76ers (NBC)

8 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Philadelphia

9 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Utah Jazz ana Pacers (FS1) (FDSN Indiana) 9:30 p.m. — NHL: Anaheim Ducks at Colorado

Avalanche (TNT) 11 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Sacramento Kings (NBC)

> Wednesday — College football: Toledo at

7 p.m. Miami-Ohio (ESPN2) New York Knicks (ESPN); Milwaukee Bucks at Indi-

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Orlando Magic at

7 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Tampa Bay Lightning (TNT)
9:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Oklahoma City Thunder (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: New Jersey Devils at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)

Local notes Tournament announced

Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County will host a golf tournament at 10 a.m. on Nov. 15 at Portland Golf Club on Nov. 15. Entering a team costs \$260, or a business

can sponor a hole for \$50. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start to follow. Lunch will be provided.

The deadline to register a team is Nov. 8. For more information contact Don Hall b

emailing don@gowithevolve.com or calling (765) 744-2247.

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

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AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Page 8 **The Commercial Review** www.thecr.com

Championship effort

New Patriots come up big while veterans lead JC at invite

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review The referee's hand slapped the

As Alayna Willoughby got to her feet, she threw her arms in

"I did it," she shouted excitedly to her coaches.

The first career victory for the sophomore newcomer was one of a long list of highlights for the Jay County High School girls wrestling team Saturday, combining with championship performances from veterans to give the Patriots the trophy at the Monroe Central Invitation-

"It was awesome," said senior Katie Rowles, who was a tournament champion along with Maleah Parsons and Amara Crawford. "It's just a great feel-

ing.
"There's a whole different this year. dynamic to the team this year. Everybody's learning and getting better as fast as they can. And there's a lot of effort that goes in the room every single day. And there was last year, too, but it just feels different when girls are playing catch-up, and they're so hungry to get out there and win some matches. ...

"I can only imagine that's gonna get more intense after getting a taste of victory.

The Patriots eked out the title with 163 points, finishing just five ahead of Warsaw in the field of 17. Franklin County was a distant third at 117.

In addition to the champions, three other JCHS wrestlers finished in the top half of their bracket. Two of them — freshman Alexis Tipton and sophomore Gracie Rowles — were wrestling in their first high school tournament.

"I did not expect that at all," said Jacks, whose team lost 2025



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Alayna Willoughby of Jay County High School pins Northeastern's Sophia Campbell for her first career victory during Saturday's Monroe Central Invitational. The Patriots got big moments from several newcomers and first-place finishes from three veterans to win the tournament.

and Lina Lingo to graduate and Brenna Ruble to an injury. "Warsaw's a senior team. ..

"It was a dogfight to the end. ... That was exciting, and the girls were super excited."

Willoughby's moment came in the consolation semifinal of the 110-pound bracket as she fell

state medalists Mallory Winner behind Northeastern's Sophia Willoughby, who finished fourth, eventual 130-pound runner-up Campbell 5-0. She picked up her first point on a penalty.

She fell behind 10-2 but continued to fight off Campbell and eventually got an opening. She it." managed to get leverage and hold Campbell down for a pin in 3 minutes, 54 seconds.

"It's really amazing," said back after an opening loss to

"because I really don't know what I'm doing. I'm just going out there and trying to remember what I was taught ... and just going for

Competing in one of the busiest brackets of the tournament, Gracie Rowles bounced

Leia Conner. She scored her first career win by pin over teammate Kaileigh Compton in the consolation bracket and then pinned Marlee Wampler of Richmond and Maria Johnson of Muncie Central to reach the third-place match.

See **Effort** page 7

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Taylor shines in Colts' victory over Falcons

By NATHALIA ARAUJO

Tribune News Service

Berlin — Running back Jonathan Taylor made history for the Indianapolis Colts to give his team a dramatic 31-25 win in overtime against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in the first-ever NFL regular season game in Berlin.

Taylor became the player with most rushing touchdowns for the Colts with his second one in the game after a stunning 83-yard

run in the final quarter. That handed the Colts the lead but the Falcons hit back right after with a touchdown and a two-point

conversion. The Colts received the ball again and tied the game to force overtime with a field goal after quarterback Daniel Jones led a dramatic drive, converting a 4th and 6 despite being sacked twice.

Their defence stopped the Falcons as they had the ball first in overtime and the offence got the job done with a clinical drive as Taylor crowned his special evening in Berlin with his third touchdown.

Taylor will leave Berlin with 66 rushing touchdowns in Colts history.

"To be named among those legends, it means a lot. And I don't take it for granted. These are the kind of games you live for, you remember," Taylor said in a news conference.

The player had previously spoken about how special it was to play in such a historic place such as Berlin, with the city on Sunday celebrating

years since the fall of the "I'm just so appreciative, so humbled to add a piece of history here. I hope that all of the residents of Berlin enjoyed the first ever NFL game here. I hope that we put a good product on

game," he said.

Indianapolis running back rushed for 244 yards and three touchdowns

Jones added: "It doesn't are 3-6 after suffering a get old to hand over (the ball) to this guy. He had some big-time plays in situations that weren't perfect, not exactly how you draw them up.'

Game of 'back and

forth' The Colts had a great start with two touchdowns in the first quarter, but the Falcons took a one-point lead before the half, as Jones threw an interception in his final drive of the second quarter.

The Falcons started the second half with a field goal, while the Colts had a slow start and only had points on the scoreboard again in the fourth quarter with a field goal.

"Phenomenal back and forth. Our guys battled like crazy, a hell of experience," coach Shane Steichen said.

"To win close games like this, I think it says a lot about our football team. Finding ways to win these games is huger in this league."

The Colts now have a 8-2 record as they have been one of the surprises of the season so far. In 2024, they missed the play-offs and

finished the year 8-9. Cornerback Sauce Gardner made his debut for the Colts after a blockbuster

trade with the New York Jets just a few days before the trip to Berlin. "It was a tough week for

me, but football is football," he said, telling reporters that "99% of my the field and to be able to clothes are still in New Jerspread our love for the

The Falcons, meanwhile,

fourth consecutive defeat. "We just didn't execute when we needed to. Our defense got a lot of big-time stops for us, and we didn't put points on the board, Falcons quarterback

Michael Penix Jr said. Coach Reheem Morris added: "We had plenty of opportunities to win it. We've just got to find a way to get better, whether it's stopping the run, whether it's covering kicks better, returning the ball better or converting on third down — all the things that kind of hurt us today."

First regular season game in Berlin and more to come

The NFL played five preseason games in Berlin between 1990 and 1994, but the clash between the Colts and the Falcons was the first-ever regular season game in the city.

The German capital is to host up to three games at the Olympic Stadium in a deal until 2029.

During the week, tickets for Sunday's match were still available. According to the league, 72,203 people the attended between the Colts and the Falcons - a record for a game in Germany.

The Berlin match-up is the fifth NFL regular season game in Germany, with two games each having been played in Munich and Frankfurt since 2022.

This season sees a record number of seven international games, with Madrid and Dublin joining London and São Paulo as host cities.