The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Bizy Dips plans expansion

The Commercial Review

A local business is looking to expand.

Portland City Council voted Monday to move forward with creating a development agreement with Bizy Dips for an expansion that would include purchasing The Flower Nook.

Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips presented details discussed during a Portland Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) Advisory Committee meeting earlier in the evening, noting that Bizy Dips is requesting a loan to help with the expansion. It would be a 10-year loan with no interest for

Council sends loan request back to advisory committee to create development agreement

50% forgivable if the business meets benchmarks set out in the development agreement, including the addition of jobs.

Bizy Dips owner Hannah Long for Learning.

Flower Nook. The flower shop is located at 111 E. Main St., adjacent to the existing Bizy Dips location inside John Jay Center

a section of the flower shop with a full commercial kitchen. Doing so would allow Bizy Dips to expand its food production.

Long said plans are to keep the current Bizy Dips location, which has been in place for just over five years, and to operate the flower shop under a different name.

Council members the first five years and then 1% explained that she is in the McClung, Michele Brewster, over prime. The loan would be process of purchasing The Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ashley Hilfiker and Ron May approved sending the proposal back to the EDIT advisory committee to continue the

process. The committee will

She said the goal is to renovate work with Long to work out section of the flower shop with details of the loan and development agreement, which will then be subject to council approval.

Golden also asked that creation of a single dispatch for police and emergency responders be placed on the agenda for the next council meeting. (Currently, Jay County Sheriff's Office and Portland Police Department both have dispatch units.) The topic was discussed briefly at the Nov. 3 meeting.

He said he understands that such a decision would ultimately be made by Portland Board of Works.

See Council page 2

Stadium revisit



This rendering shows how new bleachers could look at Jay County Junior-Senior High School's Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium. Jay School Board revisited the possibility of a more extensive stadium renovation project Monday after a better-than-expected bonding process made additional funds available for a multimillion-dollar project at the school.

Jay School Board takes another look at option to demolish grandstand and install new bleachers

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The bonding process was more favorable than expected. The money that has been freed up has put a shelved

option back on the table. Jay School Board on Monday awarded a contract for work on the pool at Jay County Junior-Senior High School and revisited the possibility of more extensive work at Harold E.

Schutz Memorial Stadium. Superintendent Jeremy Gulley explained that the school new bleachers and construct a

corporation had a more favorable bond sale than expected lower-than-estimated issuance costs. Those factors made an additional \$1.77 million available for the project. The school board had already budgeted \$1.01 million for work to extend the life of the current concrete grandstand. Those funds combined would bring the school corporation close to the estimated \$2.95 million that would be needed to demolish the existing grandstand, install

Utilizing the planned funds and the additional money available from the bonding process, Gulley said the board could consider revisiting plans for the sta-

dium. An earlier proposal called for demolishing the existing grandstand on the southeast side of the stadium that was opened in 1975 and installing a new steelframe structure with aluminum bleachers and a new press box on the northwest side of the field.

new storage/restroom build- (The new seating would accommodate 1,750, an increase of about 10% from the current grandstand.) The existing visitors bleachers would be moved to the site of the current grandstand. The work would also include creating a new main entrance from the north "driving range" parking lot and constructing a new storage and restroom building on the northwest end of the new bleachers that could service both the stadium and the baseball field.

See **Stadium** page 5

Board OKs a new phone policy

Devices will not be allowed during school day

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review Fort Recovery students will be required to leave cell phones in designated areas during class.

Fort Recovery School Board approved amendments to the district's communication devices policy Monday.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed legislation into law in May 2024 stipulating that every Ohio school district must establish a policy regarding cell phone usage

during school by July 2025. In June, Ohio legislators enacted a law requiring school districts to adopt policies prohibiting cell phone use by students during the school day by Jan. 1. That includes during passing periods, meals, recess

and field trips. Fort Recovery Local Schools' policy relates to all personal communication devices, including cell phones, smart watches and other technology capable of transmitting or receiving communications. Its

policy dates back to 2007.

According to the newly amended policy, students must leave their devices in lockers, backpacks or purses. They must store their devices when entering classrooms. Previously, students were still able to use their phones during lunch and between classes, but the policy now prohibits use during the entire school day to adhere to state law.

Fort Recovery Local Schools superintendent Tony Stahl explained the district looked into Yondr phone pouches, which lock students' phones in a case they carry around during the school day, although concerns about the cost and logistical questions have led the district in a different direction.

See Policy page 5

Equipment can be used to

purchasing a new radar message sign. Fort Recovery Village

FORT RECOVERY

Village officials will be

The Commercial Review

Council heard from police chief Jared Laux about plans to purchase the new equipment Monday.

Laux explained the village received a grant from nonprofit organization Win on the Wabash Super Raffle, allowing him the funds to buy the new device.

warn drivers about speed or display messages

All Traffic Solutions of

Plans are to purchase es by 60 inches and folds the SpeedAlert 24 from for travel. It provides radar signage, giving Pennsylvania. According drivers messages related to the company's website, to their speed or displaythe sign measures 24 inching messages such as

Village will get new message sign

or Village of St. Henry. warnings AMBER Alerts as needed. Operators can remotely access and monitor the sign over the internet. The weatherproof sign can also be mounted to a portable post or trailer or hitched to a vehicle.

After negotiations, Laux said the cost came to about \$17,100. The cost is covered by the grant. Laux shared plans to

use the equipment similarly to the roughly 10year-old sign the village has been sharing with the

sign to St. Henry now that Fort Recovery will have its own.) The village's police and street departments may use the sign for radar speeds, road work or other needs.

(Plans are to hand over

full ownership of that

"I look at it all as safety, because if you can slow speeders down, that's safety, if we can protect workers, that's safety," explained Laux after the meeting.

See Village page 2

Deaths

Betty Dailey, 95, Bryant Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 51 degrees Monday Portland. The low was 28.

Tonight's low will be around 40. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the mid 50s and a 30% chance of rain in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org.

Coming up

Thursday — Photos from the FRHS girls basketball scrimmage against Newton.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game at Class 3A No. 6 Bellmont.



Village

Continued from page 1 authorized village administrator Randy Diller to "zero out" the four real estate tax levies

with the Mercer County auditor.

Approximately 73% of the vote earlier this month support-0.5-percentage-point increase in the village's income

Fort Recovery will begin colcouncil indicated it would "zero ATV accident.

out" the village's real estate tax Also Monday, village council levies if the income tax increase passed.

Diller also announced plans for foundational work to begin soon for the Sawyer Overman Ninja Park near Fort Recovery Community Park.

A local fundraising committee has been raising dollars for the project for years. It's named after Sawyer Overman, a Fort lecting a 1.5% income tax from Recovery child who died in 2020 residents in 2026. The village from injuries sustained in an

bers Lucas Knapke, Scott Pearson, Greg Schmitz, Al Post and Cliff Wendel, absent Erik re-election. Fiely:

•Authorized Diller to execute a capital improvement park grant agreement with the state, a formal process to receive the \$450,000 allocated to Fort Recovery from Ohio's capital budget bill for Ambassador Pool renovations.

•Learned the village is look- Fort ing for applicants to the two Elementary/Middle

Also Monday, council mem- council seats open in January, and connecting it to Sharps-Council members Erik Fiely and Cliff Wendel did not seek

> •Heard the village is seeking requests for proposals through Dec. 10 for the Safe Routes to School project, an effort funded through an Ohio Department of Transportation grant. Plans are for the work — it involves installing 625 feet of sidewalk on the east side of

burg Road — to begin in summer 2027.

·Learned about Ohio House Bill 503, a recently introduced bill which if passed in its current state would require voter approval on changes to municipal tax reciprocity credits, and Ohio House Bill 92, which addresses unpaid utility bills by tenants.

·Heard the village's old Recovery police cruiser sold for \$2,724 in School auction.

CR almanac

Thursday 11/20	Friday 11 /21	Saturday 11/22	Sunday 11/23	Monday 11/24
	-			
52/47	53/43	54/40	56/41	54/36
Another day of cloudy skies is slated for Thursday, when the high may reach the low 50s.	There's a 40% chance of showers on Fri- day, with low temperature dipping to the mid 40s.	Saturday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with a low temperature around 40.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny with a high temperature around 56.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday when the low may hit the mid 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball

Monday 7-33-50-57-66 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 5 Estimated jackpot: \$593 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Hoosier

Monday Midday Daily Three: 4-1-2 Daily Four: 1-1-5-1 Quick Draw: 6-7-17-19-20-23-24-28-31-38-40-46-49-51-52-55-56-66-71-72 Evening

Ohio

\$304,500

Monday Midday Pick 3: 6-3-3 Pick 4: 7-1-9-1 Pick 5: 1-3-7-7-8 Evening Pick 3: 7-1-7 Pick 4: 0-8-3-4 Pick 5: 7-1-8-4-1 Rolling Cash: 6-14-19-24-32

Daily Four: 1-8-8-7

Quick Draw: 1-4-6-8-13-

15-27-32-37-42-44-47-65-68-

Cash 5: 5-14-29-43-45

Estimated jackpot:

71-74-76-77-79-80

Estimated jackpot: \$300,000

Daily Three: 3-5-2

Cooper Farms

Markets

Fort Recovery	W
Corn4.48	_
Dec. corn4.54	A
Jan. corn4.54	N
	C
POET Biorefining	D
Portland	B
Corn4.49	D
Jan. corn4.52	W
Feb. corn4.52	
Feb. Col II4.52	Н
	S
The Andersons	C
Richland Township	\mathbf{D}
Corn4.39	\mathbf{B}
Dec. corn4.44	\mathbf{D}
Beans11.39	W
1	

Dec. beans Wheat	
ADM	

lontpelier

Corn	4.34
Dec. corn	4.35
Beans	11.40
Dec. beans	
Wheat	5.02

leartland t. Anthony

Corn4	.44
Dec. corn4	.49
Beans11	.14
Dec. beans11	.14
Wheat4	.92

Today in history

Treaty, with Britain. It helped calm new birth of freedom relations between the evacuation of the Northwest Territory — land that later became Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin by June 1, 1796.

Abraham Lincoln deliv- for the Indians in a 44-31 ered the Gettysburg season-opening victory Address, dedicating the battlefield cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It concluded: "It is of Redkey pleaded guilty rather for us to be here to voluntary manslaughdedicated to the great ter in the August 2020 task remaining before fatal shooting of Shanna us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full enhancement. measure of devotion -

In 1794, Supreme that we here highly Court Chief Justice resolve that these dead John Jay negotiated a shall not have died in treaty, known as the Jay vain — that this nation, Great under God, shall have a and that government of countries following the the people, by the peo-American Revolution ple, for the people, shall and called for British not perish from the earth.

In 2004, Holly Stein and Tiffany Gaerke sparked the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team and each In 1863, President finished with 12 points over the Memorial Roughriders (St. Marys).

In 2021, Cory Jones Jones of rural Dunkirk. Jones had been charged with murder and a habitual offender

-The CR

Phone

Citizen's calendar

Today

4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse,

120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Betty Dailey

Feb. 16, 1930-Nov. 16, 2025 Betty L. Dailey, age 95, of Bryant passed away on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

She was born in Muncie on Feb. 16, 1930, the daughter of George and Margaret (Sonntag) Grogg. She was married on June 22, 1948, to Virl Dailey and he passed away on Aug.

Betty was a homemaker and had worked for 13 years at CTS in Berne. She graduated from Redkey High School in 1948 and was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church,

Society. She enjoyed crocheting, knitting, water skiing and swim-

Surviving are three sons, Marion Dailey (wife: Ann) of Bryant, Kerry Dailey (Sharon) of Bryant and Jeffrey Dailey (wife: Dee) of Upland; one daughter, Claudia Caster (husband: Roger) of Portland; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph Grogg.

Mass of Christian burial is Friday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Fr. Peter Logsdon presiding. Burial will fol-Rosary Makers and Altar Rosary low in Maple Lawn Cemetery in homes or mortuary services.

Parade of Lights is

Pennville. Visitation will be Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. in Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to Masses or Bryant Volunteer Fire Deptart-

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral

Council

Continued from page 1 "I think it needs robust discussion," he said.

Hilfiker also spoke in support of looking into a single dispatch unit, noting safety and cost savings as two key issues. She also said that while the board of works would make the administrative decision, the council is the city's fiscal body and determines how funds are allocated to each department.

Portland resident Bryan Alexander addressed the council regarding Flock Safety cameras, which involve license plate reading and video surveillance. They can provide detailed information about vehicles and their occupants. They can be used by law enforcement agencies to locate suspects or missing per-

Goldsworthy brought the cameras to the attention of the council at its last meeting, though there are no current plans or proposals to put them into use. (Winchester and Randolph County both recently approved purchases of the cameras.)

Alexander noted concerns about liberty and what could be done with the data the cameras collect.

'The argument to use the technology to improve law enforcement I think is dangerous, that precedent," he said. "And I think the history of the world has shown that when we give up free-

Saturday in Portland

dom, often in the sake of safety, that's often led to irreversible deterioration of civil rights and free-

In other business:

•May made a \$100 donation to Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County, which provides Christmas gifts, a gift card for a Christmas dinner and other items to local families in need. Mayor Jeff Westlake donated \$200 in gift cards. Those who would like to donate to the organization, which served 151 families last year, can do so at secretfamiliesjc.org or by sending a check to P.O. Box 4, Dunkirk, IN 47336. Those interested in volunteering can do so by meeting at Walmart to shop at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, or at Jay County Fairgrounds at 8 a.m. to wrap gifts or 10:30 a.m. to make deliveries.

Phillips offered reminder that Jay County Chamber of Commerce's Winterfest celebration kicks off this weekend and includes the Parade of Lights at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in downtown Portland. Other activities include the tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Jay County Courthouse and the Little Miss Winterfest pageant at 1 p.m. Saturday at Fellowship Baptist Church.

•Golden thanked the city's street department for Christmas decorations.

·May asked about a State of the City address, saying he believes it is required annually. The mayor said he was unaware that it was a requirement and will work on getting something set up.

SERVICES

Friday, Nov. 21 Dailey, Betty: 10 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

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., Redkey 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

Felony arrests

Domestic battery A Redkey woman was

arrested Saturday for domestic battery.

Christina B. Rhum, 35, in Jay County Jail

526 W. High St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony. She was being held on a \$10,000 bond

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER If you need a meal it will be delivered on Thanksgiving Day,

Nov. 27, 2025. There will be no charge - it is Free! Please fill out the form and mail to one of the addresses below or call so we will know how many to prepare.

() YES I need a meal delivered on Thanksgiving Day () I am diabetic

Name Address

ALL OF JAY COUNTY WELCOME **Drop off or mail to:**

Asbury U.M. Church 204 E. Arch Street Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8464

Zion Lutheran Church 218 E. High St., PO Box 602 Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8832 Mornings

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm



Photo provided

Respectful Kindergarteners

East Elementary School recognized kindergarteners for displaying respect. Pictured above are (front row) Loyaltee Childs, Amelia Huntsman and Molhim Elshiekh. In the back row are Tucker VanSkyock, Tinsley Bruggeman, Hank Spoonemore and Henry Schwieterman.

Hubby brings up late ex in sleep

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 41/2 years had an old girlfriend he was on and off with for 15 years. She passed away while he was in prison. We got married three months after he was released. The thing is, when he sleeps, almost every night, he says her name and how much he loves her. He says because he's doing it in his sleep, he doesn't know he's doing it. It seems to upset him that I'm upset. He doesn't want to hurt me. What can I do to deal with it or get him to stop doing it? — DREADS THE BED IN COLORADO

DEAR DREADS: Your husband was on and off with his late girlfriend much longer than he has been married to you. Old habits die hard. If he wakes you when this happens, don't hesitate to gently wake him. If he asks why you did it, explain that he was talking in his sleep. (Do not be

Dear Abby



specific about what.) Then try to remember that she is history, and you are right next to him.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior widow who has been dating an older man for a year now. He's caring and thoughtful and has many good qualities, but one thing he does is creating difficulty for me. He constantly stares at other women. I've talked with him about a "five-second rule," but he doesn't hear me. He told me he was raised by his mother and grand-

mother and that's why he's attracted to women in general. He says it doesn't mean anything.

I have never been with a man who constantly looks at other women. He also prefers to have women friends rather than men friends. I don't want to be jealous, but sometimes it's hard keeping those feelings down. I'm trying to decide whether I should end this relationship or stay in it and try to overcome my feelings of jealousy. RED FLAG IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RED FLAG: If this person makes you feel less good about yourself, recognize it IS a red flag. His behavior is insensitive and rude. Because you have asked him to stop staring at women when he is with you and he makes excuses to continue, my advice is to find a companion who is more considerate of your feel-

FR Honor Roll students named

School has announced its first quarter honor roll.

On the list with all A's were sophomores Joscie Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Haley Easton, Makenzie Evers, Will Faller, Claire Gaerke, Malia Grisez, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Elizabeth Kahlig, Courtney Klenke and Cora Pearson. Also Kendall Ranly.

Madilyn Reinhard, Ally Roessner, Eliza Smith, Charlie Stammen, Mathilde von Schaper and Madelyn Weigel.

Making the honor roll with A's and B's were sophomores Raya Androne, Layla Armstrong, Brooke Bihn, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Evan Diller, Braylon Dilworth, Jackson Dues, Pete Guggenbiller, Madeline Lizzie Hardwick, Heitkamp, Macy Kaffenberger, Tyler Kahlig and Liza Knapke.

Also Kinlee Kremer, Hudson Overman, Chari-Pohlman, Schlarman,

Fort Recovery High Schmitz, Lilah Thien, Kolton Thompson, Livy Timmerman, Jazmyne Welling and Jadyn Wyer-

> Earning a spot on the honor roll with all A's were freshmen Chloe Brockman, Brinley Fortkamp, Gavin Heitkamp, Yoselin Juarez-Gomez, Addison Jutte, Alex Roessner, Andon Roessner and Lana Wuebker.

> Also making the list with A's and B's were freshmen Kaiser Albers, Allison Bergman, Jenna Bertke, Kali Brunswick, Kale Diller, Bentley Dilworth, Jordan Dues, Tony Evers, Hope Evers, Stetson Fullenkamp, Kayla Gaerke, Claire Grube, Addie Heitkamp, Brynn Huntsman and Carter

Also Andrew Martinez, Isaac Niekamp, Courtney Overman, Kayden Ranly, Andrew Rehmert, Ethan Schmitz, Jett Tobe, Ben Vogel, Mara Wendel, Vincent Wenning, Lydia Will, Liliana Williams, Reid Liana Willmann and Hovt Zehringer.



Community Calendar

space is available. To submit an item. email news@thecr.com.

Ioday

WEDNESDAY MORN-ING 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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY mation, call (260) 726-8229. CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian

St., Portland. COMMUNITY

Community Calendar as LY TRAINING — A nonconfrontational, evidencebased intervention for more information, call by addiction meets at 4 (765) 369-2085. p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

FAMILY AL-ANON GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more infor-

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 REIN- p.m. each Wednesday at

Notices will appear in FORCEMENT AND FAMI- Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For helping families affected Pastor Randy Davis at

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — 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.

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.

EN AVANT CLUB Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY **SUPPORT** GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of

diversion

PORTLAND LIONS p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W.

"SHIP is here to help with your Medicare questions." Kristi Lee

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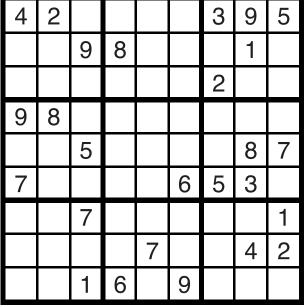
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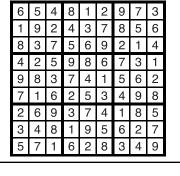




Level: Intermediate

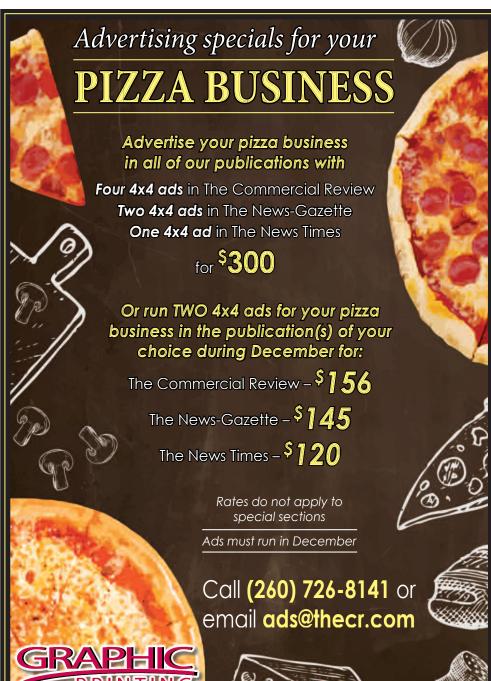
Tuesday's Solution

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





100 North.



Book, photos sparked memories

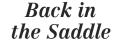
Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Nov. 17, 2010. One of Jack's favorite topics for storytelling was his experience with The Great American Race. This piece introduced us to one of the personalities he met along the

By JACK RONALD The Commercial Review

The postcard arrived Friday.

By Sunday, I'd ordered the book. The image on the postcard shows a wet, black bear intensely chewing on a fish it has just scooped from a mountain stream. I knew before I read a word that the photo was of one of Kelsey's.

Anyone who takes pictures likes to fancy himself or herself as a photographer, and technically that's correct. But when you encounter someone who truly has the gift, the eye, and the skills, you realize that there are photographers and there are Photographers. Thomas Kelsey is a photographer with a capital P





and maybe boldface italic type. He's operating at a level those of us who just take pictures can only

I first met Tom back in 1987 when Spirit of Jay County, George Reitenour's 1936 Studebaker Dictator, was competing in the Great American Race. The Commercial Review had paid for naming rights to the car as a way of supporting George's effort, and covering the race seemed to be a good way to build both civic spirit and reader interest that

Appropriately enough, Tom and I met in Disneyland. It was on

Main Street U.S.A. to be precise. The race (actually a rally) was about to start. In short order, Tom introduced himself and his wife, said goodbye to her, and informed both her and me that for the next eleven days or so we'd be "nitwits" as we made our way across America. Only he didn't say, "nitwits." Although it would have been appropriate.

The pace of the Great Race was such that we would be in a different city every night and gone the next morning. We'd roll into towns for lunch or pit stops, schmooze and grab some refreshments, then be down the road before we realized where the heck we were.

Kelsey and I traveled together in a "pace car," moving in and out of the field of vintage vehicles. We'd take pictures. I'd look for story ideas. Then at the end of the day, I'd file a story for The CR and Tom would pitch some of his pictures to metro papers or the wire

services. He was a photojournalist for The Los Angeles Times, but during the Great Race he was the official race photographer. He used a couple of weeks of work for the race to help make his mortgage payments in Califor-

From the beginning, we were an odd couple, the California kid and his boring big brother from the Hoosier State. But we hit it off instantly. It helped that we shared a love for old cars and great photography. In Tom's case, you'd have to add a love for the American West and the great outdoors.

We got along well enough that I did a repeat of the race coverage the next year, then in 1997 I spent about a week as a Great Race staff member. My official title was driver for the official race photographer. My paycheck was a couple of T-shirts and my housing along the way.

when the Great Race made its pit

stop in Portland. But we've kept in touch, and I was delighted to receive the postcard announcing publication of his new book. It's called "The Spirit of the West," and the images are compelling.

Tom has been a photojournalist for more than 30 years. He's covered popes and presidents, the NFL and Major League Baseball, but what he loves most is the outdoors. That's the focus of the book: Mountain streams, big old clouds high in the Sierras, moose, foxes, and other wildlife.

And so, when the postcard came, it was easy to place an order. There are no shots of the Great Race, no views of our exploits with a crop duster in Colorado, no pictures from when we got lost on the Yuma Proving Grounds, and nothing from our "nitwit" behavior from Lubbock to Erie, Pennsylvania.

But maybe that's for the best. It The last time I saw Kelsey was looks like a pretty good book just

National debt is a long-term threat

The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington)

Tribune News Service

With a seemingly endless string of immediate crises (a government shutimmigration enforcement, tariff policies, etc.), it is easy to forget about long-term issues.

A recent report by the U.S. Treasury Department, however, serves as a reminder of the dangers that come with failing to plan for the future. In its final report of the fiscal year, the treasury noted that the federal government spent more than \$7 trillion in 2025 while bringing in approximately \$5.2 trillion in revenue. That means the government borrowed \$1.8 trillion to pay the bills equivalent to more than one-quarter of federal spending.

The national debt is more than \$38 trillion. It has grown under both Republican and Democratic administrations, and under every president since at least World War

To place it in more manageable terms: The federal government owes more than \$111,000 for every person in the country. And to illuminate the immediate impact: The United States in fiscal year 2025 paid approximately \$970 billion in interest on the debt more than \$2,800 per per-

Economists have differing opinions about the impact of the national debt on the economy, but there is no question that decades of irresponsible fiscal management have created an untenable situation.

When he first ran for office in 2016. President Donald Trump said: "I'm the king of debt. I'm great with debt. Nobody knows debt better than me. I've made a fortune by using debt, and if things don't work out, I renegotiate the debt. ... We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt." He also claimed he could erase the national debt in eight years.

At that point, Trump companies had filed for bankruptcy six times leading to questions about situation that threatens why anybody believed he the nation's long-term stacould manage the nation's bility.

Guest **Opinion**

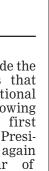
debt; but that is beside the

Debt, obviously, is a combination of too much spending and/or too little revenue. Trump this year implemented the Department of Government Efficiency, appointing Elon Musk to oversee the operation. Musk claimed that he could find \$2 trillion in government wasteful spending and started firing employees and canceling contracts; he left the federal government in June.

Through July, DOGE claimed it had saved tax-A debt of \$38 trillion is payers \$52.8 billion solely difficult to comprehend. by canceling contracts; an analysis by Politico.com found the total was closer to \$1.4 billion. In another example, DOGE claimed that three large contracts provided \$6.4 billion in savings; an August analysis by CBS News found that the savings actually were \$165 million — less than 3 percent of the amount claimed.

The point is that, for decades, the federal government's approach to fisresponsibility has been performative rather than genuine. Unsustainable spending and indefensible tax cuts have ballooned the debt while handing the invoice to taxpayers. Yearly deficits continue to grow the debt and increase the burden of interest payments, and frequent debates about the debt ceiling threaten label the United States as an unreliable financial partner.

and representatives of both parties continue to ignore the urgency of the national debt. And if they don't take the debt seriously, why should voters? The cumulative result is a



point. The fact is that since then, the national debt has doubled, growing during Trump's first term, one term of President Joe Biden and again in the first year of Trump's second presiden-

Meanwhile, presidents



State must put students first

By CATHY FUENTES-ROHWER

Six Hoosier school communities sought to pass referendums in the most recent election. Five succeeded, and one fell short.

ret just a iew weeks earlier, post cards went out to constituents all across Indiana in which state representatives touted the 5% increase in K-12 funding last session as the "highest funding level to date for Hoosier students." In addition, they claimed that the latest educational results prove that Indiana is leading the way by "putting students first." To be clear, adding even one penny to last vear's budget would also produce "the highest funding level to date." While we at the Indiana Coalition for Public Education (ICPE) celebrate the successes of our public schools and the hard work of educators and students, we urge Hoosiers to look beyond the glossy postcard for a fuller picture.

While the highest dollar amount for K-12 education funding may have emerged from last session, it is not the highest level of funding we have seen. Economist Michael Hicks of Ball State has written that currently, when adjusted for inflation, "in K-12 we are spending \$100 less per student each year today than in 2010." Also, in 2024, the Education Data Initiative reported that Indiana ranks 37th of 50 states in education spending per pupil.

Fewer resources

Alongside the lack of budget support for public schools, bills passed last session are poised to reduce public education funding. A property tax bill (SEA1) will cut the revenue that public schools rely upon for transportation, capital projects, and referendums. Another new law will require public school districts to side dollars poured into improving education.

Cathy Fuentes-Konwer



share their property taxes with charter schools - publicly funded, privately run entities — further draining resources. While Indiana struggles to pay teachers a competitive salaries during a teacher shortage, these priorities do not add up.

Last session, lawmakers lifted the income cap on Indiana's largest voucher program, making millionaires and billionaires eligible to receive taxpayer-funded subsidies for their private school tuition payments. More students are now getting a smaller piece of a shrinking education pie. Last school year alone, nearly a half billion dollars went to voucher schools, which legally don't have to account for where the money goes.

Literacy is foundational to all learning, and early childhood education is foundational to all educational outcomes. Yet, while our legislature gave K-12 vouchers to the wealthiest Hoosier children for their private school tuition, they simultaneously took away vouchers for daycare and slashed access to state-funded preschool for many of our most vulnerable kids.

Hold accountable

While we celebrate the progress of Hoosier students and the dedication that got them back to pre-pandemiclevel scores on the IREAD test, we should recognize the impact of out-

reading. Much of the touted gains in literacy were made possible thanks to the \$2.9 billion distributed to Indiana by the federal government to help in recovery from the pandemic and learning "loss. Additionally, students benefited from generous private funds from the Lilly Endowment for literacy. Money does matter.

The aforementioned postcard also highlighted Indiana as ranking 3rd in a Parent Power category by an organization promoting "school choice." Hoosier parents overwhelmingly choose to send their children to public schools. Parents know the value of strong public schools. It is time for them to use their voices, their power, to ensure that the state funds and supports the public schools every child deserves. It is time to ask why we must vote locally to tax ourselves through referendums when the state fails to meet its constitutional obligation to ensure our public schools have what they need — while opportunity gaps widen for Hoosier kids.

scores, as well as the magic that happens every day in our public schools. Yet, we also look to the future with concern and hope. Public schools are the heart of our communities -places that unite us across all backgrounds, accept all students, and empower our kids to become contributing members of our society. True commitment to "putting students first" means fully investing in our public schools so that every Hoosier child can thrive.

We celebrate the recent rise in test

Fuentes-Rohwer is the president of the Indiana Coalition for Public Education, a nonpartisan advocacy organization that works to engage communities on the issues surrounding public

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Stadium

Continued from page 1 Gulley reminded the board that a similar proposal was first presented in late 2023. The board eventually opted to allocate funds to keep the current grandstand in place after a structural engineer's assessment indicated that it could have as much as 50 years of life left if properly sealed and maintained. But this summer "a section of concrete on the front (field side) of the stadium ... separated from the plate," resulting in \$125,000 in repairs and improvements.

"Not a good look," Gulley said. "I didn't like seeing it; I don't think anyone did.'

Board members had questions about the potential stadium renovation, including questions regarding its impact on renovation of the track and whether the proposed new storage/restroom building would provide enough

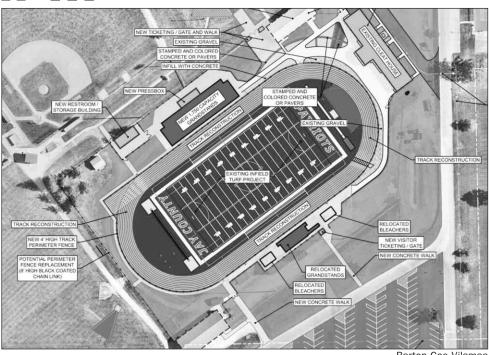
If the board chooses to change the orientation of the football stadium, the track would be adjusted as well. Athletics director Alex Griffin said storage space is tight and would continue to be so with the new building.

Gulley said the board has three options:

•Stick with the original plan to spend \$1.01 million to extend the life of the existing grandstand

 Spend minimal funds on the stadium to keep it viable in the short term with an eye on considering the more extensive project in the future. (Based on when existing bonds are expected to be repaid, Gulley estimated such a project December. But Gulley shiftcould come in 2033.)

•Implement the larger project to demolish the current grandstand and install new bleachers on ary or March for renova-



Barton Coe Vilamaa

This graphic from Barton Coe Vilamaa shows how a renovated Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium could look with the existing grandstand demolished and new bleachers installed on the northwest side of the facility. Such a project would also include a new storage/restroom building that could be used for both the stadium and the adjacent baseball field.

age/restroom building

Either of the first two options would allow the school board to allocate the additional available funding to other areas of the junior-senior high property. (A Barton Coe Vilamaa report from 2024 identified items such as repairing exterior masonry cracks, refinishing the auditorium stage floor, installing an updated access control system and replacing carpet-

Originally, plans called for seeking a decision regarding the stadium stadium from the school board in ed gears Monday, saying he feels it would make more sense to wait until after bids are opened in Febru-

field along with a new stor- high building. (The work will include new HVAC controls, upgrading the electrical system, kitchen work and renovations for the band, choir and wrestling areas.) Once those bids are official, the school board will have a clearer picture of whether funds are available to cover the more extensive stadium project.

Board members Donna Geesaman and Aaron Clark expressed concern about the expense that could come from keeping the current grandstand in place. They and other members expressed support for tearing down the current grandstand and installing new bleachers, if funding is available.

The board also awarded a contract for the first phase of the project — upgrades the opposite side of the tions to the junior-senior and repairs to the pool — to

Current Mechanical of Fort Wayne. The firm was the low bidder for the project at \$1.61 million, coming in \$8,000 over the estimate for the project. (Other bids ranged as high as \$1.78 million.)

The work in the pool area will include replacing pool treatment equipment, the dehumidification unit and the roof. The board opted against including replacement of lighting in the pool area, which would have cost an additional \$99,000.

The board also awarded a project to replace dugouts at the high school baseball field to Mid-States Construction of Redkey at \$80,500. Existing dugouts will be demolished with a new 10-foot-by-60-foot home dugout and 10-foot-by-50foot visitors dugout.

Gulley asked

whether the dugouts would be equipped with electricity, which was not a part of the quote. Director of maintenance Gary Cagle said the electrical work could be handled in-house.

In other business, board members Ron Laux, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Jon Eads, Geesaman and

•During the Patriot Pride moment, recognized that Bloomfield Elementary School, Redkey Elementary School, West Jay Elementary School and the juniorsenior high school were named Purple Star Schools for their "significant display of commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military." Gulley said the remaining schools in the corporation are expected to gain approval next year.

•Received thanks from Paul Szymczak of Jay Classroom Teachers Association for how well the bargaining discussions went with the school corporation. He noted struggles in other areas of the state. (Hamilton Southeastern teachers staged a walkout last week as part of an ongoing contract dispute.) "We certainly do appreciate that and hope for more continued success in the future," Szymczak said.

•Approved the following: a field trip for German class students to Chicago on Dec. 1; the hiring of several employees including "success coach" Todd Gibson and LifeSkills teachers Candice Brooks and Maria Huelskamp; allowing business manager Shannon Current to make year-end transfers in order to avoid any fund ending the year with a negative balance; new bus driver contracts based on raises that were OK'd last month; the purchase of four buses from

\$733,856; a transportation service agreement with Jay County Christian Academy; and allowing Current to transfer up to 15% of funds from the education fund to the operation fund.

·Heard the financial report, which projects negative cash flows of \$9,339 in the education fund and \$17,161 in the operation fund for 2025. That would leave year-end cash balances of \$8.22 million and \$6.42 million, respectively. Business manager Shannon Current added that she is hopeful state support will be increased this month as the result of an increase in enrollment for the current school year.

 Approved the 2026-27 school calendar with a first day of Wednesday, Aug. 12 the week after Indiana State Fair Band Day — fall break from Oct. 21 through 23, winter break from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1, spring break from March 18 through 26 and the final day of school on Wednesday, May 26.

 Accepted a donation of \$1,000 from Patriot Fitness for rebranding at the junior-senior high pool.

•Heard Gulley comment on a potential agreement with Jay County Redevelopment Commission that would guarantee a certain amount of funding from new tax increment financing (TIF) districts to go into the school system's coffers each year. He said he appreciates the consideration from the redevelopment commission as it works toward implementing the new districts.

 Accepted the resignations of junior-senior high LifeSkills teacher Heather Fugate and East Jay Elementary School LifeSkills instructional assistant Jamie Faller. ·Heard Laux wish every-

about Kerlin Bus Sales for one a happy Thanksgiving.

Policy

Continued from page 1

More than half of high school teachers already require students to leave their phones in wooden boxes or plastic pocket holders during class time, noted principal Ryan Steinbrunner.

Middle school principal Holly with the new policy, saying stu- website. dents won't be taking "brain breaks" with their phone while

in the restroom or hallways. Exceptions to the policy include needs for educational or medical reasons. Students are able to use their devices if they're on an individualized educational program, for monitoring health concerns, in case of an active threat or emergency or when authorized by staff. They're also still able to use cell phones during school-related events, such as extracurricular activities, and while riding school vehicles.

Stahl explained the district met with high school and middle

develop the amended policy. Education policy consultant firm Neola shared feedback for making tweaks to the policy in September.

Monday's meeting served as the second reading and adoption Wermert said she's interested to of the new policy, which will be see if bathroom breaks decrease available to read on the district's

School board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel, absent Greg LeFevre, approved the amended policy.

Also Monday, Steinbrunner talked about a trend in absenteeism at the high school.

Last year, approximately 8.4% of students missed 10% or more of the school year. (The elementary and middle school rates were 1.8% and 2.6%, respectively.) Steinbrunner noted the state's target area of concern for chronic absenteeism sits at more than 25%.

'Our (state) report card doesn't alarm this as being someschool leadership teams from thing that's extremely concern-

August through October to ing, but to me and our staff, that's a lot of students missing a lot of instruction time," he said.

Ways in which high school staff are hoping to improve on the issue, explained Steinbrunner, include monitoring attendance reports weekly to identify students earlier and communicating with families to identify barriers to attendance. He also suggested improving how the school tracks college visits and shadows, which count toward a student's attendance if they turn in proper paperwork.

In other business, school

 Heard sophomores Paisley Hart, Ally Roessner and Kendall Ranly were nominated as finalists for the annual \$1,000 Carson scholarship.

•Learned Fort Recovery Elementary School's Cents for fundraiser Cincy earned \$5,061.29 for patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Student council members will use the dollars to purchase gifts for patients on an Amazon wish list.

•Approved the following: an annual motion to establish board members' compensation at \$80 per meeting for a total of 20 meetings per calendar year; Memoranda of Agreement for depositing public funds with First Financial Bank and Park National Bank to serve as public depositories from Jan. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2030; the district's plan for Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid; several supplemental contracts, including Christy Diller as girls track coach and Charlie Vasey as boys track coach for Fort Recovery High School and Bob Heitkamp as track and field coach for Fort Recovery Middle School.

•Accepted junior high cheerleading coach Christy Kaiser's resignation.

•OK'd hiring several volunteer coaches, including Jill Ranly and Bailey Muhlenkamp as junior high cheerleading coaches and Matt Roessner as indoor track coach.

•Hired the following: Nicole Fenning as a high school English teacher; Tatsiana Wood and Michelle Stammen as substitute teachers; Leah Koesters, Doug Stone and Kylee Sutter as van drivers; Doug Stone as a substitute bus driver; Amy Bihn, Denise Bruns, Ashley Eichenauer, Karli Jutte, Alyssa Lewis and Rose Moeder as van drivers retroactive to Aug. 19; and Brittany Siefring as a non-

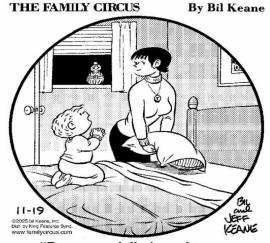
teaching employee.

•Heard about changes to the eighth graders' trip to Washington D.C. in October because of the federal government shutdown. Middle school principal Holly Wermert expressed appreciation to K&K Tours for offering new opportunities, including a visit to The People's House museum and a private tour of United States Capitol arranged by Ohio congressman Bob Latta.

 Accepted \$1,728 in donations, with \$518 from Spark*l for cheerleading and \$500 from Jutte Electric for athletics.







"Does our daily bread mean crusts too?"







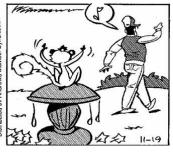










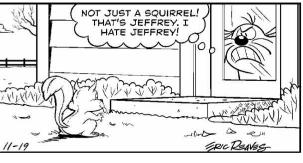


















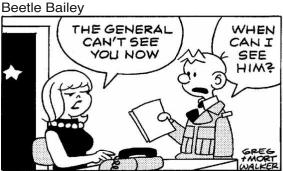


















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A very valuable signal

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♦ Q 10 5 2 EAST **♣**J 10 6 2 SOUTH The bidding: North East North 1 ♣ 2 ♦ South West

Opening lead — four of clubs.

The suit-preference signal is one of the more effective weapons available to the defenders. The signal can be utilized in many different situations, depending on the cir-cumstances of that particular deal. Consider this case where South wound up in five diamonds after his Blackwood inquiry disclosed that the opponents held two aces. West led the four of clubs, which East had no trouble diagnosing as a singleton, not only because West

can be seen, a heart return would have handed South the contract. Pass Pass The signal is easy enough to use. In a potential ruffing situation, the 4 NT Pass play of an unnecessarily high card is a signal indicating an entry in the higher ranking of the two side suits. (There are ordinarily only two suits to choose from, since the trump suit and the suit to be ruffed are obviously not considered.) Conversely, the play of a low card indicates a preference for the lower-ranking side suit. Here, if East had

held the ace of hearts instead of the ace of spades, he would have played the deuce of clubs at trick one to suggest a heart return.

had led dummy's suit, but also

had led dummy's surt, but also because the four was the lowest missing club. Had West started with, say, the 7-4, he would have led the seven initially. When South played the queen from dummy, East played his jack on it! This was intended to show

that East had an entry card in spades. Accordingly, when declarer next led a diamond from dummy,

West took the ace and returned a spade. East won and led a club, and

preference signal, West would have been hard-pressed to guess the right suit to return at trick three. As

South went down one.

Note that without the

Tomorrow: How the other half lives.

11-19 **CRYPTOQUIP**

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SINGER PATTI GOES TO A VERY LAVISH PARTY, SHE'LL UNDOUBTEDLY BE LABELLE OF THE BALL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Runner of the Year **Mason Tomboni**

Wapahani High School senior

Mason Tomboni was selected as the second Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for boys cross country. He follows former teammate Caleb Aber, who won in the inaugural award in 2024.

"It's all the hard work I put in to get there," said Tomboni. "It means a lot.

'It just takes more time, every year. So you've got to be more dedicated to your training.'

That training paid off in a big way for Tomboni this season as he continued Wapahani's streak of sending runners to the state finals. He left no doubt at the regional meet, running a time of 16 minutes, 5.8 seconds, at Huntington University to claim 12th place. (The top 15 individuals not on advancing teams earn state berths.)

He finished 103rd out of 250 athletes at the state meet with his time of 16:26.2.

"It's awesome because for Nick (Cook), (Caleb) Aber, I came here every year," he said after the race. "And I always wanted to run here. It looks scary, but once I got out there and started running, it was good. It was fun.'

His state race capped a standout senior season in which he won the Mid-Eastern Conference championship. He also took first place at the Randolph Southern Invitational and posted a career-best time of 15:53.18 to win the Wapahani Invitational on his home course.

"Mason's been great all four years," said Wapahani coach Bo Stevenson. "He's been all-county all four years. He's been all-conference all four years. He's been a linchpin for us since day one. ... So we're really proud of him here and everything that he was able to accomplish in the four years here running cross.'

All-Graphic Printing Company first team

Peyton Engle Delta junior

Nolan Hutchison Delta junior

Kason Thrasher Wapahani senior

Carter Friend Delta junior

Caleb Garringer Jay County junior

Alex Roessner Fort Recovery freshman

Engle had a breakout tournament series in which he won the individual sectional title, his first high school victory. He went on to qualify for state, where he finished 11th.

Served as the Eagles' consistent No. 2 runner behind Engle, running to a ninth-place sectional finish, and had times steady between 17:10 and 17:30.

Made a run at what would have been a surprise state berth, ultimately finishing 47th in the regional and breaking the 17-minute mark (16:57.9).

Friend was at his best in his home race, placing 12th and posting a time of 17:16.5 in the Delta Invitational. He finished 17th in the sectional to help the Eagles to second place.

After a strong finish to his sophomore season, he missed the middle of his junior campaign with an injury. He bounced back for a regional time of 17:00.8 for 49th place.

The only freshman to make the first team, Roessner closed his season with a 47th-place regional finish and a time of 17:34.03. He was 17th in the Midwest Athletic Conference.



Honorable mention

Noah Parrott, senior, Delta Jason Rahe, senior, Wapahani Jedidiah Ferguson, sophomore, Monroe Central Cameron Deckman, senior, Delta Alexander Coe, sophomore, Monroe Central Zadok Lloyd, junior, Monroe Central Preston McCorkhill, senior, Wapahani Gavin Bartrum, freshman, Blackford

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday Jay County — Girls wrestling at Columbia City - 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Muncie Southside -5:30 p.m.

dle Tennessee at Michigan (BTN)
7 p.m. — College football: Miami (OH) at Buffalo (ESPN) 7 p.m. — NBA: Houston Rockets at

TV schedule

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Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN); Charlotte

Hornets at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indi-

at UConn (FS1)

bama at Illinois (FS1) 9:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks

Thursday College basketball: Linden-

6 p.m. — College basketball: Lindenwood at Indiana (BTN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Bucknell at St. John's (TNT); Pitt at UCF (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Philadelphia Flyers (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: 7:30 p.m. — College fo Louisiana at Arkansas State (ESPN) football:

7:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN) 8 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Memphis Grizzlies (NBC)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Western Michigan at Ohio State (BTN) - College volleyball: Iowa at

Nebraska (FS1) 8:15 p.m. — NFL: Buffalo Bills at Houston Texans (ABC) - College basketball: Rider at Houston (TNT)

9 p.m. — Women's college basketball:

lowa at Baylor (ESPN2) 10 p.m. — College College basketball: Trov at USC (BTN)

11 p.m. — For Grand Prix (ESPN2) Formula 1: Las Vegas

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Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a Decree to me directed by

the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in cause no. 38D01-2507-MF-000017, wherein ZACHARY P. MILLER, Trustee of the Zachary P. Miller Revocable Trust is Plaintiff and BLAKE M. ALIG is Defendant, rendering a Judgment in favor of Plaintiff in the sum of \$142,640.53, together with interest and costs thereon, ordering me to sell the real estate hereinafter described to make assets for the payment of said Judgment, and having served notice of this sale upon each owner claiming interest in the real estate hereinafter described, pursuant to the provisions of I.C. 32-29-73, including publication upon any owner whose I{ whereabouts are unknown. I will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on the 18th day of December, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Office of the Sheriff of Jay County, Indiana, 120 North Court

Street, in the City of Portland, Indiana 47371, the real estate described as follows:

A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION THIRTY-FOUR (34) TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FOUR (24) NORTH, RANGE TWELVE (12) EAST IN JAY COUNTY, INDIANA, CONTAINING . 75 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING DESIGNATED A LETTER "G" ON THE PLAT BOOK FOR THE TOWN OF PEN-NVILLE, JAY COUNTY, INDIANA.

ALSO, BEGINNING EIGHT AND TWENTY-FIVE HUN-DREDTHS (8.25) RODS EAST OF THE NORTHWEST COMER OF A PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED BY WILLIAM S. ROYE TO JOHN MOORE AND STEPHEN E. SCOTT FOR A SAWMILL IN THE MIDDLE OF SECTION THIRTY-FOUR (34) TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FOUR (24) NORTH, RANGE TWELVE (12) EAST, IN THE CENTER OF ROAD LEADING FROM CAMDEN, NOW PENNVILLE, JAY COUNTY, INDIANA, TO HARTFORD CITY, BLACK-FORD COUNTY, INDIANA, RUNNING THENCE EAST EIGHT AND TWENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (8.25) RODS: THENCE SOUTH FIFTEEN AND THIRTY-TWO HUN-DREDTHS (15.32) RODS; THENCE WEST EIGHT AND TWENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (8.25) RODS; THENCE NORTH FIFTEEN AND THIRTY-TWO HUNDREDTHS (15.32) RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. (Parcel No. 38-01-34-300-006.000-010).

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws, and the purchaser at such sale will receive a Sheriff's Deed to said real estate as by law provided.

Larry Ray Newton. Sheriff Blake M. Alig 9047 W 350N Pennville, Indiana 47369

Rick L. Sprunger Attorney at Law 1540 Shady Oak Drive Berne, Indiana 46711 CR 11-12,19,26-2025-HSPAXLP

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

2025-26 Jay County girls swim preview



Pictured is the 2025-26 Jay County high school girls swim team. Front row from left are Ariel Beiswanger, Kaylynn Clark, Kali Newell, Ava May, Elly Byrum, Kali Wendel and Brooklynn Byrum. Middle row are Kaitlyn Fisher, Gillian Keller, Eloise Teeter, Maria Laux, Madison McLaughlin, Gabrielle Gibson and Alvvia Muhlenkamp, Back row are Maisev Keller, Sophia Hoevel, Avery Wentz, Lauren Fisher, Fatine Lamziouag and Anja Vujnovic.

2024-25 season

The Patriots put together a solid season, finishing with a 10-4 record, but fell short in conference with losses to South Adams in the regular season and at the Allen County Athletic Conference meet. They were able to get some revenge on the Starfires, finishing fourth at the sectional, while SAHS placed fifth with a 57point difference. The highest sectional finish for the Patriots came from the 400yard freestyle relay team of Brooklynn Byrum, Aubrey Millspaugh, Lauren Fisher and Sophia Hoevel. The group placed third in the event with a time of 4 minutes, 0.24 seconds. Maddy Snow made it to the diving regional for a third year in a row, but didn't advance to state.

Projected lineup

Seniors

Lauren Fisher – Butterfly, sprints Sophia Hoevel - Freestyle Maisey Keller - Backstroke, freestyle Ávery Wentz – Backstroke

Juniors

Ariel Beiswanger - Distance freestyle Kaylynn Clark – Distance freestyle

> **Sophomores** Kali Newell - Diving

Brooklynn Byrum – IM, butterfly Kaitlyn Fisher – Butterfly Alyvia Muhlenkamp – Breaststroke

Freshmen

Elly Byrum – Butterfly Gabrielle Gibson – Distance freestyle Gillian Keller – Distance freestyle Maria Laux – Free, back, breast Madison McLaughlin – Utility Eloise Teeter - Freestyle, breaststroke

Kali Wendel – Mid-distance freestyle

Games to watch

Monday, Dec. 15, vs. South Adams

The Patriots suffered their sole Allen County Athletic Conference loss to the Starfires last year. If Jay County wants to reclaim the ACAC title, it will need to secure its home pool against the neighbors to the north.

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 9-10, vs. JCHS Invitational

The Jay County Invitational is a key midseason meet when the team starts to figure out the roles of the individual athletes. It also comes quickly after the winter break and helps whip the Patriots back into shape.

Saturday, Jan. 24, vs. ACAC Invitational

The Allen County Athletic Conference meet holds importance for bragging rights of the ACAC title and is an opportunity to get an idea of a lineup before heading into the sectional.

Coach Matt Slavik says

"I think going into this season, we're pretty blessed to have a strong freshman group coming in. Girls wise, we're bringing in six young ladies with some good experience and melding in nicely into our program and will be able to step up and contribute right off the bat. We lost a decent sized senior class, (but) we've got a decent sized senior class this year. We've got some great leadership on our team and some great talent coming back. The expectation is, on paper, this should be the best team that we've seen in a couple of years as far as times wise. It's just about where we can fit everybody in and make it work together for a solid team performance. I think our goals for this year, we set high goals every year, and this year is no exception. Our No. 1 goal as a team is to have above a 3.8 GPA and second is to win our conference and third is to represent well at sectionals."

Girls swim

Opponent

Saturday, Nov. 22 Tuesday, Dec. 2 Thursday, Dec. 4 Saturday, Dec. 6 Thursday, Dec. 12 Monday, Dec. 15 Tuesday, Dec. 16 Monday, Dec. 22 Tuesday, Dec. 30 Tuesday, Jan. 6 Thursday, Jan. 8 Friday, Jan. 9 Saturday, Jan. 10 Tuesday, Jan. 13 Tuesday, Jan. 20 Saturday, Jan. 24 Tuesday, Jan. 27 Thursday, Jan. 29 Thursday, Feb. 5 Saturday, Feb. 7 Home meets in bold

Westfield Bluffton Anderson **Celina Sprints** Norwell **South Adams** Delta Adams Central Battle of the Border 8 a.m. Bellmont Celina/Coldwater **JCHS Invite JCHS Invite** Yorktown **Muncie Central ACAC Invite** Blackford/Burris Marion Sectional prelims Sectional finals

6 p.m. 6 p.m. 10 a.m. 6 p.m. 10 a.m. 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 a.m. 6 p.m.

6 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

<u>Time</u>

10 a.m.

Jalen Ramsey claims he only threw punch after Ja'Marr Chase spit on him

By RAY FITTIPALDO

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Tribune News Service

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers safety Jalen Ramsey and Bengals Cincinnati receiver Ja'Marr Chase were talking trash to each other throughout game Sunday's Acrisure Stadium, but it was something else that apparently came from Chase's mouth that got Ramsey ejected.

Ramsey said he threw a punch at Chase after the Bengals receiver spit on him in the fourth quarter of the Steelers' 34-12 victory. The incident took place one play after Ramsey and Chase were called for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"After the first one, the play before, he tried to crack block me or what-Ramsey said. "Then we got up talking [crap] or whatever. He slaps my mouthpiece off my facemask. That's when I grabbed his facemask. The refs told us right after that to chill.

"The next play it was the same [crap]. We were talking [crap], which I'm cool with. And then as soon as he spit, I was like, [screw] that. I'm sure the nobody.'

'The NFL has 100 cameras out there. It was one play after [the first altercation]. We just talked to the refs. I'm not going to just do something to get myself kicked out of the game. The refs just told us the play before. You can just use your common sense.'

Jalen Ramsey, Steelers

NFL will do their due diligence. They have 100 cameras out there. They'll investigate and see everything I just told you. They should be able to pull it up and see that he spit."

Chase denied the accusation, saying it was his trash talk that set off Ramsey, but video shows Chase spat on him as they were jawing at each other.

"I ain't ever open my mouth to that guy," Chase said. "He didn't like some of the words I told him. We were going back and forth the whole time. I'm sure something got under his skin. I ain't spit on

Referee Bill Vinovich said officials on the field did not see Chase spit on Ramsey, but Ramsey was adamant the league will be able to see it with the right camera angles. Chase did not receive a penalty on the play and was allowed to stay in the game.

"The NFL has 100 cameras out there," Ramsey said. "It was one play after [the first altercation]. We just talked to the refs. I'm not going to just do something to get myself kicked out of the game. The refs just told us the play before. You can just use your common sense.'

ENDS THANKSGIVING DAY! 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 HOMES!





acers fall to Pistons

By COTY M. DAVIS

The Detroit News Tribune News Service

DETROIT — Jalen Duren delivered an impressive performance in his return from a right ankle sprain.

He recorded his eighth double-double of the season, scoring 31 points and grabbing 15 rebounds, to go along with three assists. His efforts helped lead the Detroit Pistons to a 127-112 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Monday night at Little Caesars Arena. The win gave the Pistons their 10th straight vic- half.

tory, improving their overall record to

Daniss Jenkins added 26 points and seven assists. He scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to prevent the Pistons from blowing a once 24-point lead. Javonte Green notched 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting, four rebounds and two

steals. Pascal Siakam led the Pacers with 29 points and six rebounds, while Bennedict Mathurin added 25 points (7 of 16 FG), 23 of which came in the second