

‘Truth’ debuts



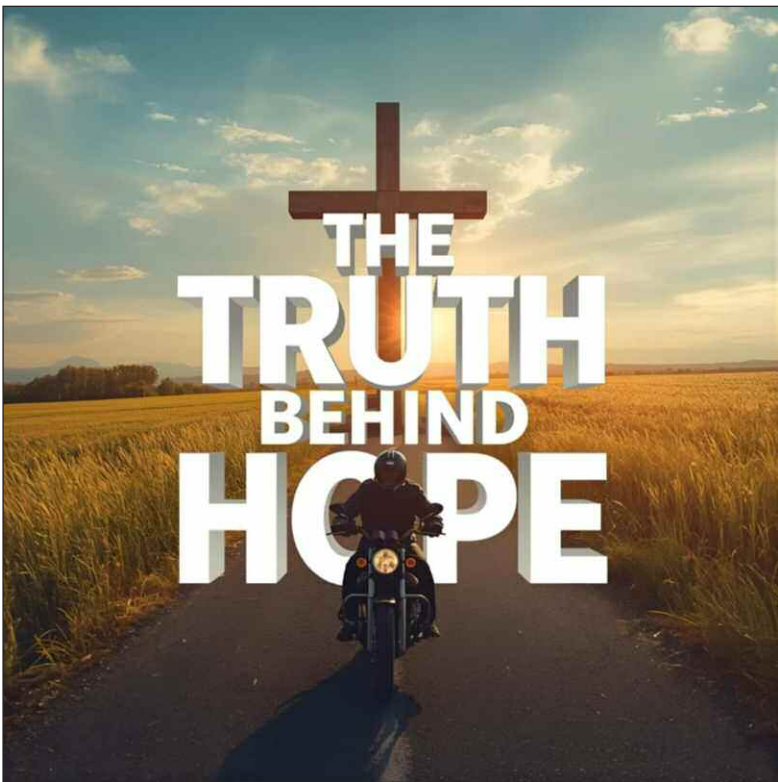
Photo provided

A Better Life – Brianna’s Hope founder Randy Davis (right) and Dr. Robb Kelly chat in a studio for the “Faith in Your Recovery podcast. The organization’s new TV show “Faith In Your Recovery – The Truth Behind Hope” debuted Wednesday on Roku TV’s new MPowermeTV channel.

TV show on Roku’s new MPowermeTV combines podcast and mini-documentaries

**By BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review  
A Better Life – Brianna’s Hope extended its reach Wednesday. The faith-based addiction recovery program’s new TV show, “Faith in Your Recovery – The Truth Behind Hope,” premiered Wednesday on new Roku TV channel MPowermeTV. New episodes air Mondays and Wednesdays, with reruns slated for Fridays. “This is a faith-based, family-friendly effort,” explained Randy Davis, founder of Brianna’s Hope. “So it’s right down the alley of what we’ve been doing with our podcast. It’s a perfect fit for us.” Plans are for the show to include Davis’ podcast, “Faith In Your Recovery,” as well as a 15-minute segment for “The Truth Behind Hope,” a mini-documentary series led by Jay County native Aric Hartvig. Davis, a retired Jay County pastor, founded A Better Life – Brianna’s Hope in 2014 following the death of Brianna DiBattiste. What started as a faith-based addiction support group has grown in the last decade to

include 44 chapters, with groups in 28 Indiana counties and three Ohio counties. Four years ago, Davis launched “Faith in Your Recovery,” a podcast focused on “all things recovery.” It’s had more than 200 episodes since then and releases a show weekly. Brianna’s Hope leaders saw an opportunity to expand its reach when they read a Facebook post from former professional wrestler Ira Mark Smith gauging interest for establishing a faith-based, family oriented channel. Organizations and individuals from across the United States have joined to create shows for the new TV channel. According to its website, MPowermeTV aims to “help families and individuals overcome struggles such as marriage issues, drug dependency, depression, grief, and those needing encouragement.” Brianna’s Hope received \$25,000 in opioid settlement funds from Jay County Commissioners last month to go toward producing the new hour-long TV show. See “Truth” page 2



Logo provided

“Faith in Your Recovery – The Truth Behind Hope” combines the podcast and a segment from Jay County native Aric Hartvig’s mini-documentaries on hope and overcoming challenges.

Motion filed in lawsuit against police

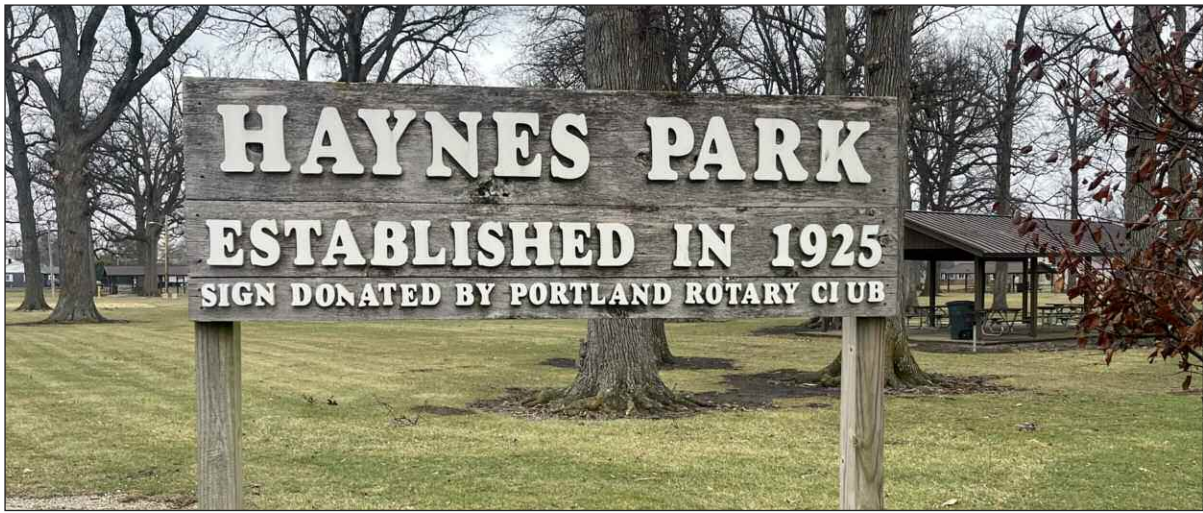
Attorney says department, individuals can’t be sued under state law

**By RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review  
A motion to dismiss is pending in one lawsuit against Portland police. Another was filed this week. Portland Police Department, Police Chief Dustin Mock and investigator Jeff Hopkins filed a motion to dismiss Monday in a lawsuit brought by former Portland police officer Patrick Long. Douglas Mawhorr of Delaware Circuit Court 3 is serving as special judge for the case. He gave the plaintiff and other defendants 30 days to file a response to the motion to dismiss. Also Monday, a hearing on a motion to dismiss from Mock and Hopkins in a lawsuit filed by Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips was rescheduled. The City of Portland is a defendant in both suits but was not a party to either motion. Monday’s motion from attorney Katlyn M. Christman of Clark, Johnson & Knight asks that the lawsuit be dismissed on several grounds, saying it fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted, it is not legally sufficient and the facts are incapable of supporting relief. Christman is making the same arguments for dismissal in the Long suit as she has in the Phillips lawsuit. Long is seeking judgment from the court on several counts. See Motion page 2

Park board looks toward the summer

Water park needs, dates discussed, Haynes Park to get new sign

plans to return as water park manager this summer, with Hannah Laux again to serve as her assistant manager. Both were in their first year in those roles in 2025. He added that Bader recommended keeping the same hours of operation — noon to 8 p.m. Sunday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. (The facility has typically been rented for private events on Saturday evenings.) Ison projected that opening day for the water park would be May 23, with a likely closing day of Aug. 8. The board plans to consider pool admission rates over the next couple of months. Board members Michael Brewster, Jennifer Weitzel, Kyle Carpenter, Emily Goodrich and Ison also discussed water park needs with street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver and parks manager Ronnie Reynolds.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

News signs are planned for Haynes Park. Signs were donated to the city, with Portland Rotary Club providing funding to create new faces. The existing signs, also donated by the Rotary Club, are beginning to rot, parks manager Ronnie Reynolds said.

On top of the list is a new covering for the top of the water slides. Previously, the area has been shaded with a cloth canopy. It was starting to look dilapidated, Shauver said, and then was damaged in a windstorm. He suggested a permanent steel covering as an alternative, saying it would be cheaper and more durable. He and Reynolds are in the process of obtaining quotes for fabricating the piece. Reynolds also noted that there is a small area of the pool floor that has plaster coming up. He said city staff will try to fix the issue. Ison asked Shauver and Reynolds to consider what other pool and lifeguard equipment needs there might be. See Summer page 2

Deaths

Annette Coblentz, 58, Portland  
Judith Briner, 85, Fort Recovery  
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature Wednesday hovered between 38 and 45 degrees.  
Tonight’s low will be in the upper 30s with a slight chance of rain after midnight. Rain is expected Saturday with a high in the mid 40s. The low will drop into the 30s Saturday night.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

There are now three candidates slated to vie for the Republican nomination for Jay County assessor. Kerioka Henkle of Portland filed to run for the office Wednesday afternoon. Henkle joined Angela Moeller and Cherrie Geesaman, who filed earlier in the day Wednesday.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of the JCHS girls basketball game against Bluffton.  
Tuesday — Details from Monday’s Jay County Commissioners meeting.  
Wednesday — Coverage of next week’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.

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# Summer ...

Continued from page 1  
He emphasized that the board needs to work to stay within its \$70,000 repair and maintenance budget for the water park this year.  
Reynolds also told the board that a 12-foot by 2-foot business sign that is no longer being used has been donated for Haynes Park. Portland Rotary Club has donated funds to create new

faces for the sign. Plans are to install it at the park this spring.  
Existing wood signs, which were also donated by the Rotary Club, are beginning to rot, Reynolds said.  
Ison shared a list of other projects the park board will need to consider this year. They include stabilizing the edge of the pond at Hudson Family Park, remodeling restrooms at Weiler-Wilson






and Milton Miller parks, dugout improvements at Weiler-Wilson Park and repairs to the retaining wall in the playground area at Hudson Family Park.  
He also noted that there is \$50,000 in the budget for asphalt work. The board used those funds last year to resurface a section of the Hudson Family Park walking path.  
In other business, the board:

- Re-elected Ison as president, Brewster as vice president and Weitzel as secretary.
- Approved a request from Arts Place for alcohol sales during its summer concert series performances at the Hudson Family Park Amphitheater on June 4, July 16 and Aug. 13.
- Was reminded that the board's next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3.

# Obituaries

**Annette Coblentz**, Portland, Aug. 22, 1967-Jan. 6, 2026. Services will be held at a later date.  
Judith “Judy” E. Briner, Fort Recovery, Sept. 8, 1940-Jan. 6. A celebration of life will be held at noon Friday at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.  
.....  
*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*  
*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# CR almanac

Saturday 1/10	Sunday 1/11	Monday 1/12	Tuesday 1/13	Wednesday 1/14
				
<b>46/23</b>	<b>30/21</b>	<b>36/28</b>	<b>41/32</b>	<b>37/32</b>
Rain is likely, mainly before noon. Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high of 46 and winds up to 20 mph.	The high will be near 30. There is a 20% chance of snow.	Expect mostly sunny skies with a high of 36.	Skies will be partly sunny with a high of 41. There is a 20% chance of rain in the evening.	There is a chance of rain with a high in the upper 30s.

# Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 15-28-57-58-63 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$124 million	Daily Four: 6-9-6-3 Quick Draw: 1-2-15-19-24-27-28-29-31-35-37-39-45-48-58-65-68-75-76-80 Cash 5: 12-16-26-36-37 Estimated jackpot: \$125,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$199 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 7-3-7 Pick 4: 5-6-1-8 Pick 5: 9-3-7-2-5 Evening Pick 3: 2-0-4 Pick 4: 3-9-9-7 Pick 5: 4-6-1-7-1 Rolling Cash: 5-15-18-33-37 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 8-2-3 Daily Four: 5-6-9-0 Quick Draw: 19-21-25-27-30-32-34-36-41-43-44-45-49-58-59-62-65-66-67-79 Evening Daily Three: 2-9-0	

# Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.65 Feb. corn .....4.67	Wheat ..... 4.75
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.65 Feb. corn .....4.59 March corn .....4.59	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.42 Feb. corn .....4.44 Beans .....10.36 Feb. beans .....10.43 Wheat .....4.88
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.52 Feb. corn .....4.52 Beans .....10.49 Feb. beans .....10.58	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.62 Jan. corn .....4.57 Beans .....10.17 March beans .....10.32 Wheat .....4.76

# Today in history

In 1431, the trial against Joan of Arc began. Joan had liberated Orleans and succeeded in other victories against the English before she was captured by the Duke of Burgundy's forces in 1430. She was put on trial for heresy, witchcraft and “violating divine law” for dressing like a man, and she was burned at the stake on May 30.  
In 1768, British equestrian Philip Astley opened a riding school in London. He later became known as the father of the modern circus for his performance tricks during afternoon shows.  
In 2001, iTunes was

introduced by Apple as a digital media player application.  
In 2019, three local candidates filed for the Dunkirk mayoral election. Incumbent mayor Gene Ritter, a Republican, was running for a second term in office, with Democrats Jack Robbins and Sandra (Lawhorn) Rollins seeking a nomination to the ballot in November. Robbins went on to face off against Ritter, earning 58% of the vote. Robbins secured a second term in November 2023, doing away with a decades-long streak of Dunkirk mayors being limited to a single term.  
—The CR

# Citizen’s calendar

<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.	6 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. <b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire department, 302 N. Walnut St.
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# ‘Truth’ ...

Continued from page 1  
The show combines Davis’ podcast as well as a segment from Hartvig.  
Having recently joined the world of independent filmmaking, Hartvig connected with Davis and seized the opportunity to produce and air mini-documentaries on hope and overcoming challenges. He initially met Davis while creating a documentary on the opioid crisis.  
The new series follows Brianna’s Hope activities as well as addiction recovery stories and other topics.

“In my belief, that is Jesus,” said Hartvig, a 1998 Jay County High School graduate and current Upland resident who worked with “PBS New5Hour” for more than 20 years. “It’s kind of like a fly away of talking about, trying to create Christian content, but just through a magazine storytelling type of format.”  
Hartvig said he’s hoping to continue producing episodes about folks in Jay County and east central Indiana. He noted the show will travel outside of Indiana at times, pointing to an episode about visiting a Philadelphia neighborhood. While in the area, which he said is known for its drug epidemic, his team used NARCAN provided by Jay County through Brianna’s Hope on an individual, and it saved their life.  
Another story involves

*‘It goes beyond just a guest, and we try to tell some inspiring stories, and hopefully we’ll be able to keep those inspiring stories coming.’*  
—Aric Hartvig

women from a local church selling pies at Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show to raise money for missionaries.  
“It goes beyond just a guest, and we try to tell some inspiring stories, and hopefully we’ll be able to keep those inspiring stories coming,” Hartvig said.  
Davis said it’s humbling to see the organization’s outreach expand to TV. At 75, he talked about the privilege he feels to share the word of God and addiction recovery stories to a wider audience. He said one of the group’s goals is to help reduce the stigma associated with folks in recovery.

# Motion ...

Continued from page 1  
They include constructive termination (an employer purposefully makes working conditions so intolerable that an employee has no option but to resign), intentional infliction of emotional distress, tortious interference (interfering with a business relationship), defamation and a wage claim (failure to pay wages). He alleges that he was coerced regarding an Indiana State Police investigation, harassed and threatened. He also alleges that there was a campaign to sabotage his job application with Winchester Police Department.  
In court documents, Christman says Portland Police Department is not a suable entity under Indiana law, referencing Indiana Code saying a county, municipality or township may be sued. She argues that because the police department is only a division of the city, it is not a suable entity.  
She also argues that Mock and Hopkins cannot be sued as individuals based on the allegations in Phillips’ complaint. Again she cites Indiana Code, saying “a plaintiff is barred from suing employees who were acting within the scope of their employment at the time the alleged loss was sustained.”  
In the Phillips suit, the motion to dismiss the police department was granted. The motions to dismiss Mock and Hopkins

from the case are still pending.  
Also Monday, Mawhorr moved the hearing on the motion to dismiss Mock and Hopkins from Phillips’ lawsuit to 2:30 p.m. April 25 in Delaware Circuit Court 3. It had been scheduled for Tuesday.  
The suits stem from two of the eight tort claims that were filed against the city in 2024 and 2025. Four others remain active while two have been resolved.  
The other active claims are as follows:  
•Two from former Portland wastewater department employee Brad Clayton alleging that his Family Medical Leave Act information was illegally made public, he was berated by wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues and that city representatives, including Mayor Jeff Westlake, spread false information about him and his job  
•One from former Portland police officer Kyle Denney alleging that Westlake made statements that included allegations of misconduct against him  
•One from Mock and Hopkins — it also names Phillips and her office, and council members Mike Aker, Ron May and Dave Golden — alleging retaliation by council members, an institutional failure to intervene, improperly deleting email accounts, violating the city handbook, harassment and other issues.



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# Family game show night set for Thursday

Take family game night to a whole new level.

Jay County Public Library will host a family game show experience for children and their parents Thursday.

Families may play rounds similar to those in shows like “Wheel of Fortune,” “Name That Tune,” “The Price is Right” and “Family Feud.” Each team will compete to win a family game night basket, with second and third place earning a board game of their choos-

## Taking Note

ing. Teams may include between three and six members. Sessions are from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., 5 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call or visit the

library to sign up. Other activities going on next month also include:

- Adult book bedazzling, 1 to 2:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday
- Wintergreen “Take and Make” activity bags, available Jan. 19

### Oratorical contest

Jay County Optimist Clubs are accepting speeches to enter into the annual Optimist International Oratorical Contest.

This year’s topic is “The Moment I Realized I Belonged- My Definition of Community.” Local Optimist clubs will judge students’ speeches based on content and presentation. Winners will receive awards, with winners advancing to zone, district, regional and world championships, with a chance to win up to \$22,500 in scholarships. The contest is open to all students 18 years old and younger as of Oct. 1.

The deadline is March 10. To participate or learn more, contact the Dunkirk and Redkey chapters at (765) 744-4092 or Portland chapter at (260) 766-9131.

### Book sale

Fort Recovery Public Library will host a used book sale Monday through Jan. 17. Free will donations will be accepted for materials from the sale.

# Marriage licenses

Sergio V. Ortiz Olivar, 30, Portland, and Seyli N. Vasquez Santos, 19, Portland

Christopher E. Best, 42, Portland, and Melissa A.

Carter, 37, Portland

Olivia R. Bragg, 20, Portland, and Jason R. Woolslager, 45, Portland

Nathan L. Link, 36, Pennville, and Erin E. Nemeth,

39, Pennville

Sierra J. Adkins, 29, Portland, and Casey D. Shawver, 32, Portland

Sergio J. Avila, 35, Tehachapi, California, and

Emma J. Foster, 29, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Hossam M.O. Al-Jaghamin, 30, Portland, and Chelsea R. Castro Martell, 32, Portland

Justin T. Call, 27, Portland, and Bailey A. Cline, 27, Portland

Bradley S. Eldridge, 34, Portland, and Avery M. Moore, 25, Portland

Eric M. Timmerman, 22, Portland, and Gentry E. Clark, 20, Portland

Anthony J. Harvey, 34, Dunkirk, and Angela C. Gehrett, 56, Dunkirk

# Boyfriend is in no rush to make commitment

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship for almost two years with an incredible man who makes my heart sing. We are both in our mid-30s. I have three children. He has one whom, for lack of better words, his own parents co-parent.

We are at the point in our relationship where I want to marry, move in together and do the whole family thing. He often says he wants to marry me and wants that life, but “not yet.” When I ask him why, he says, “I wish I knew why. I wish I could snap my fingers and make it something I want to do now.”

His parents are amazing, but they always come before anyone else. If he had to choose right now, it would be his parents over me or any of the kids. I feel like I’m in a never-ending cycle of “Is he going to?” or “When will he get there?” What should I do? We’ve had long and extensive conversations, but I don’t feel he

## Dear Abby



is actually trying to “get there.” — WANNABE WIFEY

**DEAR WANNABE WIFEY: Your boyfriend clearly likes the status quo. After two years, it’s time to offer him the option of couples counseling. If he refuses and you still want to take the relationship to a higher level, you will have to recognize that nothing is likely to change and act accordingly.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: I’ve been with my boyfriend for 12 years. We have two children and a third on the way. Three years ago, we got our family a dog, “Astro,” the

love of our lives. She passed away three months ago from heat exhaustion. She was only 2 years old. I was driving while my boyfriend held her as we drove to the vet. She died before we got there.

I am now in grief therapy. I expressed my grief to my boyfriend, and he has expressed his to me. I’m adamant about not wanting another dog. He told me he wanted another one, but that I had nothing to worry about for a while — more than likely, a year. I was OK with it because I felt it would give me time to grieve.

Well, this past weekend, my boyfriend came home with a new dog. He didn’t warn me. The new dog looks exactly like Astro, the same breed and color. I am heartbroken. I feel like my trust has been betrayed. I’ve been a wreck ever since, and I don’t think I can compromise.

This is a no-win situation

because one of us will end up unhappy. I’m thinking about ending our relationship over this. Am I being unreasonable or selfish? — OVERWHELMED IN KANSAS

**DEAR OVERWHELMED: You are neither unreasonable nor selfish. What your boyfriend did was inconsiderate and underhanded and showed disregard for your feelings. At the very least, you deserve an apology. That dog should be returned to the breeder or rescue from which it came. However, while I don’t blame you for having second thoughts about the relationship after this man’s display of insensitivity, after 12 years (and three kids), ending the relationship may be impractical.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: About six months ago, I began arranging a group dinner for the wives of

my husband’s poker buddies. It started out great. However, a new wife to the group has instigated praying in the restaurant along with holding hands as we pray.

This is not my style nor is it for a few others. We feel held hostage to her request and aren’t sure how to put a stop to this display. I’m very private about the spiritual side of my life. Another member of the group is agnostic. Please advise me on a tactful way to address this dear woman. — UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE WEST

**DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: I’m glad to help. Address this privately. Explain to the woman that not everyone in the group is comfortable displaying their religiosity in public, and some may prefer to do their worshipping privately. If necessary, remind her that silent prayer is just as effective as praying aloud.**

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Friday**

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Jan. 9, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

**Saturday**

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For

more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

**Sunday**

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

**Monday**

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Cam-

pus of Arts Place, 131 E Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio.

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

**Tuesday**

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

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

## Thursday's Solution

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

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

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# Dark money has put us in danger

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Will money be the death of America?

There is no vaccine against money. With the advent of digital currency, money itself has no substance. It remains merely our long-held faith that others will accept it in trade. No moral goodness or evil attaches to it.

These thoughts arise from the Netflix series “Death by Lightning.” As the program makes clear, President James A. Garfield was not killed by the bullet that struck him, but by the doctor who attended him. The gunman was hanged for his intent, while the physician who denied science was not held accountable.

Charles Guiteau was mentally unstable and angry that he had

Morton J. Marcus



been rebuffed for a job by everyone he approached. Today, unstable people still have access to guns. In the absence of political courage, the endless flow of money from the gun industry leaves us with little hope that our nation will be spared further deaths by firearms.

Today, our government is run by money. It is more destructive than the guns it supports. Money elected our president. He was

able to spend his way to popularity with voters who knew little of our history or his.

Blame public education if you must. But much of the responsibility rests with parents who seized control of public education. They were enabled by other parents who failed to support teachers and administrators in maintaining meaningful standards.

In their place came a noisy, self-righteous mob that demanded an end to imparting knowledge and its replacement with entertainment. They elevated athletic prowess over intellectual development.

Thus, our nation was undermined and made ready for the calamity from which we now suffer: an incompetent, deranged

president accompanied by ill-prepared and ignorant administrators who seek to eviscerate the Constitution.

Seeing the moral weakness of Donald Trump and his entourage, many wealthy donors supported his campaigns in 2016, 2020 and 2024. They purchased the attention of an ethically estranged electorate that had been outraged to find itself led by an articulate, educated African American president.

Thus, we got a man who lied repeatedly and who, now in a second term, lies on a larger stage. Our president is a danger to world peace. He attacks other nations with impunity, unconstrained by domestic or international sanctions.

His minions undermine public

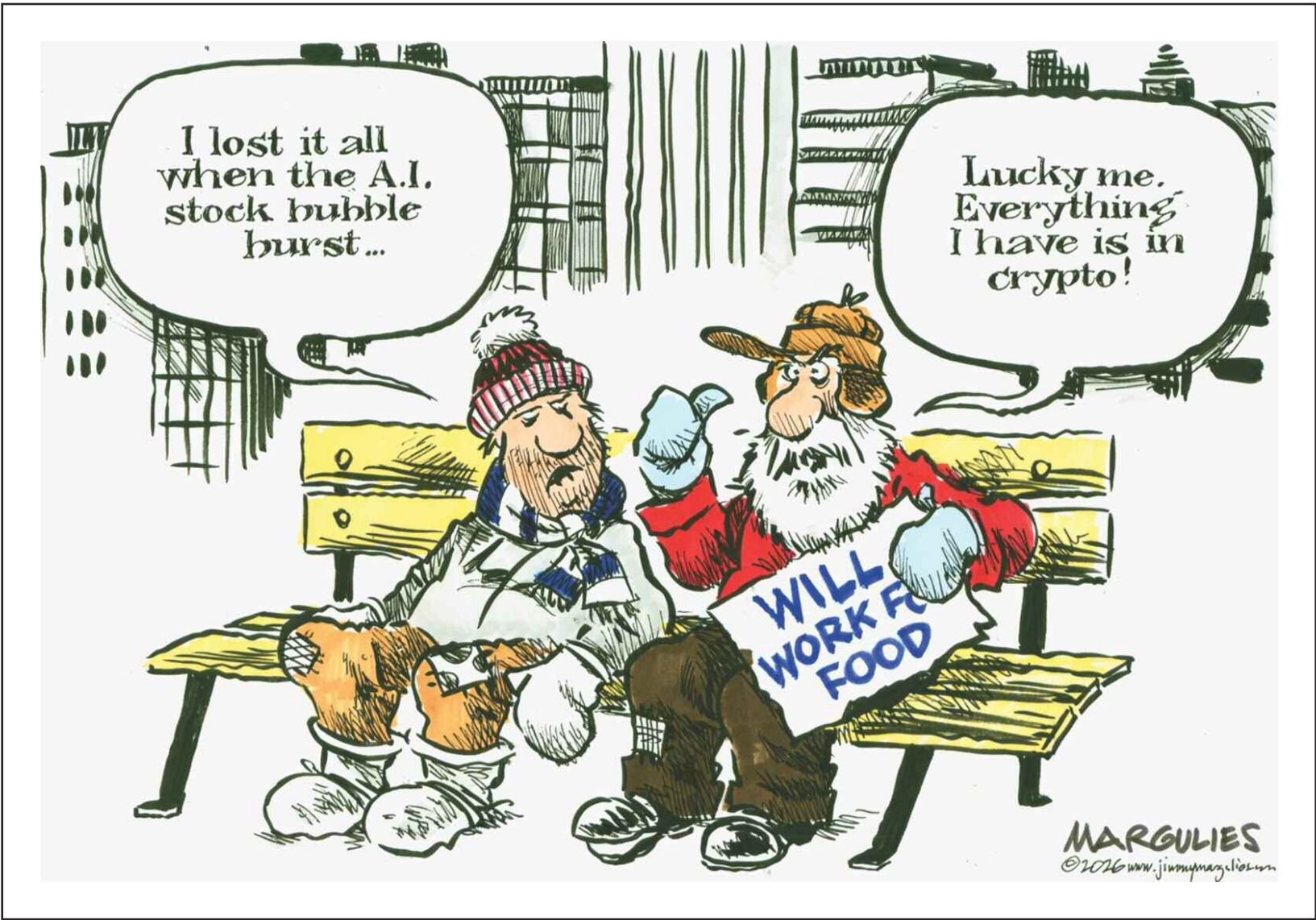
health, enable the unraveling of ties to our allies, facilitate narcissistic attacks on our institutions and assist efforts to diminish freedoms of speech, the press and liberty.

We must speak out. We must work to end dark money in politics. We must encourage those who are fearful and speak boldly to those who fail to see the danger.

The first order of business is reclaiming Congress and state governments. This year’s primaries and elections will require strong, well-financed candidates committed to protecting America from the evil among us.

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Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Contact him via email at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).



# Trump has tied his legacy to Venezuela

By ANDREAS KLUTH  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Possibly, just possibly, Donald Trump just scored a foreign-policy success that could define his legacy. By striking Venezuela and whisking away Nicolás Maduro (along with Maduro’s wife), the U.S. president removed a patently illegitimate dictator and, in theory, opened the door for a wretched nation to return to democracy and stability. And Trump appears to have done it without dragging America into another “forever war” of the sort that he promised his MAGA base to avoid. If all goes well, this American coup in Venezuela could become exhibit A of a newly proclaimed “Donroe” or “Trump Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine.

That’s a big if. Any number of other scenarios can still mar this achievement and instead confirm the trajectory that Trump’s foreign policy has mostly taken since he began his second term — one that points toward regional and global chaos and lawlessness.

Trump, along with most Venezuelans and the world, obviously hopes for an orderly transition in Caracas to the democratic opposition. Instead, the Chavistas may remain in charge, and a new dictator may clamp down even harder. Or the country could descend into civil war among its warlords. As a former U.S. secretary of state used to say, chaos would be

Andreas Kluth



down to Trump: You break it, you own it.

In a nightmare scenario, Venezuela, already a big exporter of tired, poor, huddled masses fleeing to the U.S. and other places, could become a new sort of Libya or Afghanistan, a failed state that destabilizes its entire region to America’s detriment. “Our record of forcible regime change in general is not that great,” Richard Fontaine told me before Maduro’s capture. He’s the chief executive of the Center for a New American Security and a veteran of the National Security Council and the State Department. “It’s particularly bad in Latin America, and it often seems to invite a lot of unintended consequences.”

A bad turn in Venezuela would raise the same questions that have dogged the unlawful U.S. strikes against alleged drug boats in the Caribbean: Why now, and why at all?

Trump’s stated aim has been that he is waging war against “narco-terrorism.” This can be dismissed as a pretext: The drug that kills most Americans, fen-

tanyl, enters the U.S. via Mexico from China. The cocaine on the U.S. market largely comes from Colombia. By contrast, Venezuela is a minor exporter of drugs and sends them mostly to Europe. Yes, the U.S. has indicted Maduro on drug charges in a New York court. But Trump already put an asterisk of risibility on this rationale last month, when he pardoned a former president of Honduras who was actually doing time in the U.S. for his narcotics conviction.

The strategic rationale for intervening in Venezuela — as opposed to deploying all that military might in Asia or Europe, say — is no clearer: “There are a lot of dictators who have stolen elections and are running their country into the ground around the world,” Fontaine told me. Alexander Lukashenko in Belarus leaps to mind, with whom Trump is talking deals instead of regime change. For some hard-to-fathom reason, Fontaine added, Trump “seems to care about Maduro in a way that he doesn’t care about the other ones.”

In the best case, as represented by Marco Rubio, Trump’s national security advisor and secretary of state, the fall of the Venezuelan dictatorship will also undermine the regime in Cuba. In every other scenario, it will do nothing of the sort and merely distract the U.S. from pursuing its more vital interests in resisting Russian aggression

in Europe and Chinese expansion in Asia.

The cost that is hardest to quantify but has perhaps the longest tail is the damage that Trump has done to international law. Maduro was bad, but he had not attacked the U.S., and this intervention violated Venezuelan sovereignty. Mexico’s president, Claudia Sheinbaum, drew attention to this lawlessness by posting Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, the one stipulating that “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.” Even if the situations are very different, the coup in Venezuela is in effect what Russia attempted (but failed) to do in February 2022 in Ukraine.

The intervention probably also violates domestic U.S. law. It comes well after the period (if one starts the clock on Sept. 2, when the U.S. struck the first boat in the Caribbean) during which the administration, under the Nixon-era War Powers Resolution, should have sought Congressional approval. Democrats in the House and Senate have tried and failed to reassert the legislative branch’s constitutional authority over waging war, but the Republicans in the majority have shielded Trump. Whether they will continue to do so depends on what happens next in Venezuela.

As indeed does everything. “We are going to run the country” until a transition is complete, Trump told the press. That’s quite a non sequitur from a man who spent years accusing his predecessors of trying and failing to administer Iraq and other places they barely understood.

If Venezuela and its region instead spiral into chaos and suffering, Trump will merely look like a bully, a president who cowers when facing the mighty — in Moscow or Beijing, say — but bombs those who can’t return fire, whether in Nigeria, Yemen or Venezuela. He will go down in history as an American president who buried international law and ushered in anarchy.

But if Venezuela, after inevitable turmoil in the near term, thrives, perhaps even helping to spread regional prosperity and security, those qualms won’t matter. Trump will have made one part of the world better, and freed resources that America can, if it is wise, redeploy to stabilize other regions. In that outcome, the costs will have been worth it, and Trump will deserve credit.

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Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist.

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Corn likely to grab acres again

*Turbulent markets mean there are no clear choices*

By **EMILY BEAL**  
Agweek Magazine  
Tribune News Service

As a new year begins, farmers are thinking about what to plant on their acres in 2026. Turbulent markets across the board for commodities mean there are no clear choices for farmers and a lot of indecision, unlike some years where a certain crop reigns king or appears the likeliest to make money.

While no crop is the obvious choice, seeds will still need to be planted and the land will still need to be tended to.

Carl Peterson, Peterson Farms Seed president, said one commodity is continuing to perform well.

“Corn is continuing to be strong. The growers have had a good crop, and the genetic improvements for this region over the last 8 to 10 years have been just absolutely stunning. So I think we’ll continue to see more corn,” he said. “The soybean crop last year was a little bit dis-



Tribune News Service/dpa/John Messinea

Corn is harvested in Colorado. As 2026 begins, uncertainty in commodities markets mean there are no clear choices for farmers regarding what to plant this year. Experts expect the situation will lead to more acres of corn being planted.

appointing ... but year after year for this region, soybeans have been a pretty strong crop. So even though maybe right now it doesn’t look that good, soybeans are still a go-to and of course, you know, wheat is under pressure. Really, everything is under pressure.”

With major crops like soybeans and wheat falling under pressure, Peterson predicts that specialty crop acreage will continue to rise; he noted sunflowers

as one particular commodity of budding interest.

“I think we’re going to see an increase in sunflowers over the next year or two, but that’s a small market, and we can’t see that there really isn’t anything on the horizon that can replace the huge quantities of weak corn-soybeans that we have. So I think there will be more niche markets,” Peterson said. “If we think it’s going to be the same in 20 years, we’re kidding ourselves.

So we need to be looking forward.”

The crop mix is very different in the region compared to what it was 20 years ago. Soybeans have been moving across the region, both north and west. Corn follows suit, but a little behind the adoption rate of soybeans in the area. Peterson attributes this trend to a longer growing season the region now experiences compared to years or decades past. And with a longer growing sea-

son comes increased yields. Genetic improvements have also made the planting of corn and soybeans possible in places they once weren’t.

Besides the growing popularity of corn and soybeans, Peterson looks for a lower production rate of small grains, such as durum. He also notes those small grains have been migrating up to Canada and believes that trend will continue in the coming years.

# Farmer sentiment dipped in December

By **MORGAN FRENCH**  
Purdue Ag News

WEST LAFAYETTE — Farmer sentiment dipped slightly in December, with the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer dropping 3 points to 136. The decline was attributable to a softening in producers’ long-term outlook. The Future Expectations Index fell 4 points from the previous month to 140, while the Current Conditions Index

*Drop attributed to concern about long-term ag outlook*

remained steady at 128. Crop producers expressed increased concern about the competitiveness of U.S. soybean exports as Brazil expands

its role in global markets, contributing to the more cautious outlook. The survey was conducted Dec. 1-5, 2025.

Producers’ expecta-

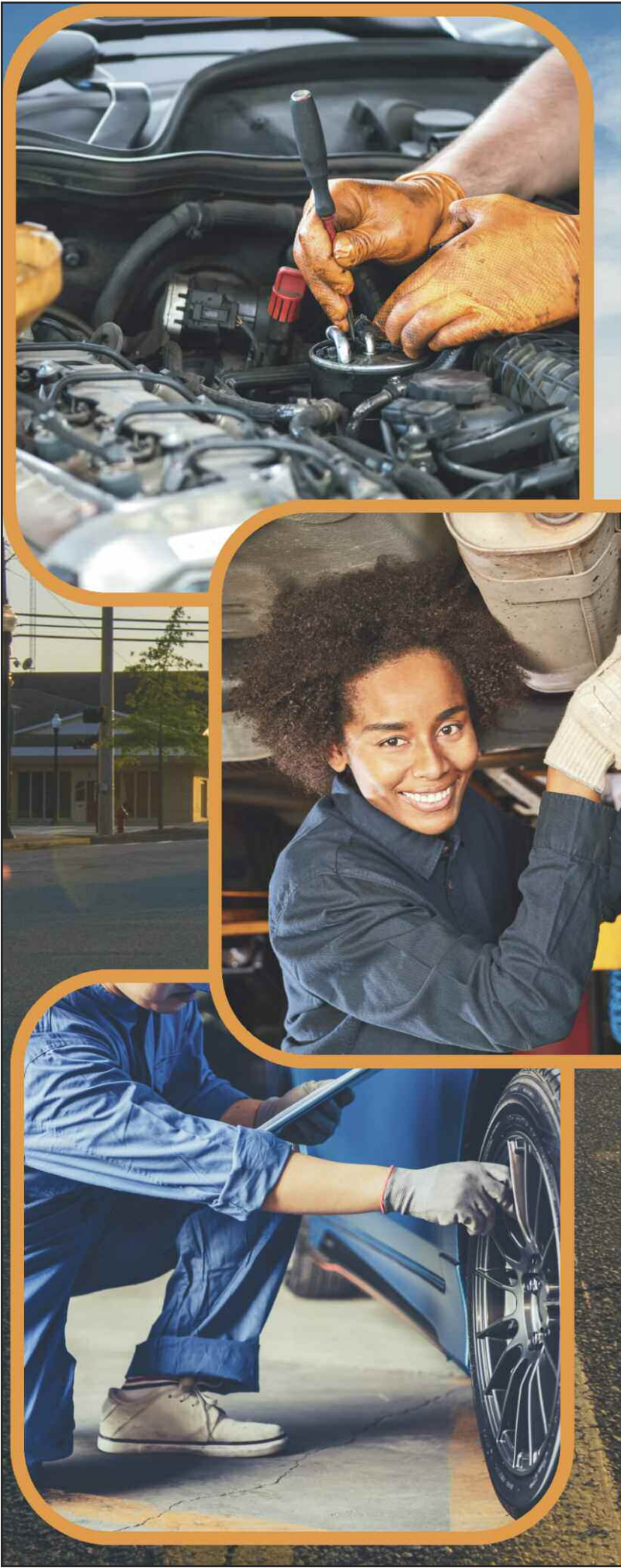
tions for their farms’ financial performance remained mostly unchanged in December. The Farm Financial Performance Index inched up 2 points to 94, reflecting more producers expecting this year’s farm financial performance to be similar to last year’s. The Farm Capital Investment Index also rose 2 points to 58. Despite this increase, most producers (60%)

still see December as a bad time to make large farm investments.

“Even with some stability in expectations for their own operations, producers remain cautious about longer-term decisions,” said Michael Langemeier, the barometer’s principal investigator and director of Purdue’s Center for Commercial Agriculture. “Uncertainty surrounding agricultural trade and grow-

ing concern about global competitiveness continue to influence how farmers think about the future.”

Farmers’ views on U.S. agricultural exports were mixed in December. When asked a generic question about the long-term outlook for agricultural exports, producers offered one of their most optimistic readings of the year, with only 5% expecting exports to decline over the next five years.



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♥ 10 6 2  
♦ 8 5 3  
♣ A J 7

**WEST**  
♠ K  
♥ Q J 9 8  
♦ A Q 7 4  
♣ 9 8 5 3

**EAST**  
♠ J 9 6  
♥ 7 5 4 3  
♦ J 10 9  
♣ 10 6 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10 7 5 3  
♥ A K  
♦ K 6 2  
♣ K Q 4

The bidding:  
South 1 ♠ Pass West 2 ♠ Pass North 2 ♠ Pass East 4 ♠

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

The outcome of most contracts depends largely on how the defender's cards are distributed. This refers not only to how the suits are divided, but also to the location of the missing high cards.

Nevertheless, a thoughtful declarer can sometimes overcome a bad lie of the cards by allowing for the possibility that it may exist and adopting the proper precautionary measures.

Consider this deal where West leads the queen of hearts against four spades. Declarer sees immediately that he will lose at least one trump trick and two or three diamond tricks. He doesn't know at the outset how he will fare in either suit because he doesn't know how the opposing cards are divided.

South begins by taking the heart queen with the ace and cashes the ace of spades. As it happens, West's king falls. Declarer now knows he will eventually have to lose a trump trick to East's jack.

With the trump situation clarified, declarer now turns his attention to the question of how many diamond tricks he will lose. If the diamond ace is on his right, he is in good shape, but if it is on his left, he is in danger of losing three diamond tricks and the contract.

The challenge at this point is to make the contract even if West has the ace. To guard against this contingency, declarer first cashes the king of hearts and queen of spades. He then plays the K-Q-A of clubs, followed by dummy's ten of hearts. But instead of ruffing the ten, South discards a diamond!

West takes the ten with the jack but unhappily has no safe exit card. He must either lead a diamond or hand declarer a ruff-and-discard, and whichever he chooses, South makes four spades.

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UT X JXLMF THZCGL OGGWR  
PLZCUDP AXBO GXBJ YUKG  
FZE WUBO UY, RJZEHM FZE

BXHH UY X AHZZKGLXDP?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I WOULD LIKE A BOOSTER TO HELP ME TIDY UP WITH A BROOM, I MIGHT TAKE MY SWEEPING PILLS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals C

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Umps

5 Some printers

8 Criminal, to cops

12 Jai —

13 Sushi fish

14 During

15 Gold depository

17 Eliza-bethan collar

18 Succor

19 Coin flips

21 Brainy

24 'Auld Lang —'

25 Scene stealers

26 Jewelry container, often

30 Wagerers' site (Abbr.)

31 Maximum

32 Leading lady?

33 Chicago baseball team

35 Hammer part

36 Eternities

37 Oscar-winning director Frank

38 "Heaven forbid!"

41 "— Blue?"

42 "The Kite Runner" boy

43 "Trans-formers" actress

48 Arizona river

49 Blunder

50 Small combo

51 Envelope abbr.

52 Stephen of "Still Crazy"

53 Missile shelter

2 "Xanadu" band

3 Distant

4 Indian instruments

5 Royal flush, e.g.

6 Saigon soup

7 Famous route

8 3.26 light-years

9 Flightless birds

10 Teeming

11 Share-able PC files

16 DIY buy

20 "Step —!"

21 Broadway offering

22 Algebra or trig

23 Both (Pref.)

24 Japanese wrestlers

26 Incorrect term

27 Gridlock sound

28 Done with

29 TV's "Warrior Princess"

31 Author Uris

34 Capital of Iran

35 Emulates Monet

37 Nashville awards org.

38 Lady — ("Poker Face" singer)

39 Skip

40 River deposit

41 Taj Mahal site

44 Before

45 Thurs. follower

46 Peanut product

47 Tic-tac-toe loser

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Hart signs

Brodie Hart signed his national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Wright State Lake Campus on Wednesday. Pictured in the first row from left are mother Tanya Hart, Brodie Hart and father Tim Hart. Back row are sister Paisely Hart, Fort Recovery High School baseball coach Kevin Eyink, FRHS assistant coach Ben Homan and Wright State Lake Campus coach John Bailey.

Fire ...

Continued from page 8  
Instead, his reign as the second-longest-tenured coach in the NFL behind only the Pittsburgh Steelers’ Mike Tomlin came to an abrupt denouement following an astonishing 8-9 season that began with Baltimore entering the year as Super Bowl favorites only to flame out by missing the playoffs for the first time since 2021.

With the decision, it also means that offensive coordinator Todd Monken and defensive coordinator Zach Orr are unlikely to be back. The Ravens also likely have a replacement for Harbaugh already in mind, and that candidate would bring in his own staff, though it’s possible he could retain some of Baltimore’s other coaches.

Whatever Baltimore does, moving on from Harbaugh was a surprising development.

Harbaugh became just the third coach in franchise history when team owner Steve Bisciotti hired him from the Philadelphia Eagles, where he was a longtime special teams coordinator and then defensive backs coach, after firing Brian Billick in 2008. Five seasons later, he led Baltimore to its second championship with a 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers and coach and younger brother, Jim, in Super Bowl 47 in New Orleans.

But more than a dozen years later, that stands as the Ravens’ last title, with just one appearance in the AFC championship game since.

That came during the 2023 season, when quarterback Lamar Jackson led Baltimore to the NFL’s best record at 13-4 to earn the AFC’s top seed and home-field advantage and took home his second league Most Valuable Player Award after also winning it in 2019.

NASCAR ...

Continued from page 8  
NASCAR has not announced any additional leadership or personnel changes. There are no immediate plans to replace the commissioner role, either, NASCAR wrote in a statement, adding that Phelps’s responsibilities will be

delegated internally through NASCAR president Steve O’Donnell and executive leadership team.

Phelps made an annual salary of \$2.5 million in 2025, with another \$2.5 million in bonuses.

The news comes about a month after the conclu-

sion of the trial that pitted NASCAR against two of its Cup Series teams, including Michael Jordan-owned 23XI Racing. In that trial, which ended in a settlement in mid-December, attorneys revealed to the jury several internal messages among NASCAR officials — and a few par-

ticularly damaging ones were ones sent by Phelps.

The one that quite possibly tipped the scales were the texts Phelps exchanged about team owner Richard Childress with O’Donnell and NASCAR executive vice president Brian Herbst. Phelps was reacting to an

appearance Childress made on television where he criticized the sport just as negotiations of NASCAR’s media deal were heating up. He called the Hall of Fame team owner a “stupid redneck” and a “total (clown)” who “needs to be taken out back and flogged.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Swim hosts JCHS Invitational – 6 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Bluffton – 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Centerville – 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Bremen – 6 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Girls wrestling regional at Muncie Central – 9 a.m.; Boys wrestling in Class 2A Team State Duals at Brownsburg – 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at Pendleton Heights – 12 p.m.; Boys basketball at Adams Central (including freshman) – 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Versailles at McBo’s Lanes – 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Arcanum – 1 p.m.; Boys bowling vs. Versailles at McBo’s Lanes – 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Bradford – 6 p.m.

TV schedule

**Today**  
2:30 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: Eintracht Frankfurt at Borussia Dortmund (ESPN2)  
6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)  
7:15 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating Championships (NBC)  
7:30 p.m. — College Football Playoff Peach Bowl: Indiana vs. Oregon (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Rose BC at Vinyl BC (TNT)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: USC at Minnesota (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — High school basketball: La Lumiere at Long Island Lutheran (FS1)  
8:45 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Hive BC at Breeze BC (TNT)

9 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Utah Mammoth (FDSN Indiana)  
11:30 p.m. — High school basketball: Notre Dame at Sierra Canyon (ESPN2)

**Saturday**  
10 a.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Promotions (FS1)  
12 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Florida (ESPN); Kansas at West Virginia (FOX); Fordham at St. Bonaventure (USA); Nebraska at Indiana (BTN); Georgia Tech at Miami (ESPN2)  
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: DePaul at UConn (TNT)  
1 p.m. — High school football: Navy All-American Bowl (NBC)  
1 p.m. — College basketball: Wisconsin at Michigan (CBS)

1 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Boston Bruins (ABC)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: Penn State at Purdue (BTN); SMU at Duke (ESPN); St. John’s at Creighton (FS1); Rhode Island at Davidson (USA); Georgia at South Carolina (ESPN2)  
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Marquette (TNT)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at TCU (ESPN); Oklahoma State at Iowa State (ESPN2); Saint Louis at La Salle (USA); Providence at Xavier (FS1)  
4 p.m. — College wrestling: Penn State at Rutgers (BTN)  
4 p.m. — College gymnastics: Sprouts Farmers Market Quad Meet (ABC)  
4:30 p.m. — NFL Wild Card: Los Angeles Rams at Carolina Panthers (FOX)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Auburn (ESPN); Seton Hall at Georgetown (FS1); Clemson at Notre Dame (ESPN2)  
6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — NFL Wild Card: Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears (FOX)  
8 p.m. — College basketball: Texas at Alabama (ESPN); Maryland at UCLA (FOX); BYU at Utah (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — College gymnastics: Sprouts Farmers Market Quad Meet (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — U.S. Figure Skating Championships (NBC)

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PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026 10:00 A.M. Location: 7851 W. 400 N., Pennville, IN 47369 OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026 -12:00 PM -2:00 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT REAL ESTATE BEING OFFERED: 1 Ω STORY HOME - 3,208 SQ. FT.; 3 BDRM; 1 BATH; KITCHEN; DINING RM/LIVING RM COMBO; UTILITY RM; BASEMENT W/ WOOD STOVE; DETACHED GARAGE; 2 BARNs; PASTURES; STEEL GRAIN BIN; 6.44 +/- ACRES. CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION!! TERMS OF SALE: 10% Non-refundable deposit day of sale. Property being sold as-is, where is. New Survey has been completed in December 2025. Taxes prorated until day of closing. Possession at closing. Closing to be held within 45 days or less from day of auction. Title Insurance will be provided and taxes pro-

90 SALE CALENDAR

rated to the day of closing. ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DAY OF AUCTION WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANYTHING IN PRINT. OWNER - LARRY MOSER ESTATE Mel Smitley's Real Estate & Auctioneering 119 E Main St. Portland, IN Laci Smitley - AU10600051 260-729-2281 -Cell Ryan Davidson AU10600063 260-726-5076

49TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Saturday February 14, 2026 The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio. For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096 Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800 Machinery consigned by January 17, 2026 can be advertised

PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday, February 14th, 2026 10:00am OPEN HOUSE February 2nd, 4-6 PM BLACKFORD COUNTY HOUSE~

90 SALE CALENDAR

BUILDINGS~POND APPROX 5 ACRES BLACKFORD SCHOOLS 3 BEDROOM ~ 2 BATH 1576 SQUARE FEET~2 CAR GARAGE TRACT 1: Buildings~ Pond~ Approx. 5 Acres TRACT 2: Approx. 30 Acres TRACT 3: Tract 1 & 2 Combined Seller: JUDY KAY WASHBURN ESTATE IAA Auctioneer HEARTLAND Auction & Realty, INC. 445 E 100 N, Decatur, IN 260-724-3499 ELLENBERGER Auctions, Inc. AUCTION COMPANY NUMBER, AC30200063 PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER, RON KING, AU19500129 JESSTON NUSBAUMER, AU19600119 AARON SCHAEFER, AU1160015 KENT ARNOLD, AU19600255

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Public Notice

ORDINANCE 2025-04  
TOWN COUNCIL OF REDKEY, INDIANA  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017-6 ADDRESSING ABANDONED VEHICLES, TRASH, GARBAGE, RUBBISH, WEEDS, DEBRIS, RANK VEGETATION, AND PUBLIC NUISANCES EXISTING IN THE TOWN OF REDKEY  
WHEREAS, the Town Council of Redkey has established ordinances addressing abandoned vehicles, trash, garbage, rubbish, weeds, debris, rank vegetation, and public nuisances existing in the Town of Redkey.  
WHEREAS, property owners are responsible for all costs of removal, cutting, or destruction of weeds, grasses, trees, bushes, and rank vegetation subject to a destruction order by the Town of Redkey.  
WHEREAS, the Town Clerk-Treasurer, Town Marshal, or Town Council President may employ the services of town employees to abate violations and shall set and assign an appropriate per hour rate for employees, equipment, and supplies which may be used.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Redkey Town Council that the following rates and charges apply for municipal labor and equipment. These rates and charges are based on time with a minimum of one hour. If subcontracted, contractor's final invoice charges apply.  
EMPLOYEE LABOR RATES  
Administration Fee: \$200 per work order (abatement)  
Tax Lien Fee: \$100 per lien  
Employee Labor: \$50.00 per hour  
Supervisor Labor: \$100.00 per hour  
Police Labor: \$75.00 per hour  
EQUIPMENT RATES  
Blower, Weed Whip, Chainsaw: \$25.00 per hour  
Mower, Trailer, Vehicle: \$50.00 per hour  
Dump Truck: \$100.00 per hour  
Tractor Mower, Backhoe, Skid Steer: \$150.00 per hour  
Street Sweeper, Snow Plow: \$150.00 per hour plus cost of supplies  
Boring Machine: \$150.00 hour  
Dumpster Fee: \$200.00 plus cost of disposal  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this ordinance supersedes any previous ordinances or resolutions regarding employee and equipment rates previously passed by the Common Council of the Town of Redkey that are in conflict herewith.  
ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Redkey, Indiana, this 16 of December 2025.  
Brenda Beaty, Town Board President  
Floyd Life, Town Board Member  
Jimmy Phillips, Town Board Member  
Jenny Staver, Town Board Member  
Byron Daugherty, Town Board Member  
Attest:  
Gloria May, Clerk-Treasurer  
CR 1-9-2025-HSPAXLP

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2025 football  
All-GPC team



Graphic Printing Company  
Player of the Year  
Breaker Jutte

Fort Recovery High School junior

Breaker Jutte was selected as the 2025 Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for football.

“It means a lot,” Jutte said. “My whole life, I’ve been working my butt off just to get stronger and faster. Just to be able to get a reward like that, it truly shows how my hard work has paid off. It feels awesome and is a big accomplishment for me.”

Jutte was a leader on both sides of the ball for the Indians.

On the offensive end of the field, he largely played as a tight end, while also taking snaps out of a wildcat set and running the ball directly.

Jutte finished the season with 266 rushing yards on 52 carries while punching the ball in eight times.

He reeled in 18 catches as well for another 266 yards, while scoring four touchdowns.

He even went 3-for-3 throwing the ball with all three passing attempts resulting in a score.

Between rushing, passing and receiving, Jutte collected 15 touchdowns and 594 yards.

“Offensively, you may have seen him line up at that quarterback spot and that’s an easy way to get him touches, getting the ball in his hands and then running north and south,” said FRHS coach Wes Wenning. “That’s something he did tremendous for us. But he also spent time as a lead blocker in more of a fullback position. He would put his hand down as a tight end and he’s blocking as a tight end, running routes, catching passes.

“There’s just a lot of versatility there. But it all goes back to having that tremendous skill set that he’s developed in the weight room and then the work ethic and the unselfishness to do any role and give that role 110%.”

The FRHS junior was no slouch on the defensive end of the field either; as he had 75 tackles, 2.5 sacks for 13.5 yards lost, one interception for 14 yards, three passes broken up and one fumble forced.

“Anytime you have a guy that big and with that skill set, we like him on the edge of our defense,” Wenning said. “We like him in space on our defense because of his length. He’s 6 (foot), 4 (inches) and every bit of 215 (pounds), and he covers a ton of ground. So we’ll bring him off the edge and if you try to run at him, he’s the guy taking on blockers head on and he holds his point so well. If you try to run away from him, he’s knifing in on the play, tracking the ball and it’s that 110% that we’re talking about, he’ll run the play down with his speed. So it became evident that teams along the way would try to run away from 18 because that’s the kind of presence he has on the defensive side of the ball.”

Jutte’s efforts ultimately helped the Tribe to a 7-6 record (the first winning record since 2016). The Indians also made its first regional semifinal appearance since 2016, doing so as a 12 seed, and finished the year ranked ninth in Division VII. FRHS only fell to Midwest Athletic Conference foe and four-time defending state champion Marion Local.

While the team found plenty of success between the lines, Jutte noted how the group was able to come together as a unit after a couple of down seasons.

“Mostly it’s been great to see these guys come together just to get a team back that we’ve been missing for the last couple of years,” Jutte said. “Just to grow with these guys and build relationships with these new coaches and these new teammates that joined. It just made the experience so much more fun. It’s definitely something that I’m never going to forget. I mean, the seniors really helped us and it just made the season so much better with all these guys.”

- All-Graphic Printing Company first team**
- Offense**
- Quarterback** – Caleb Hummel (Winchester)
- Running back** – Reece Wendel (Ft. Recovery)
- Receiver** – Carter Campbell (Winchester)
- Receiver** – D’Shaun Ware (Union City)
- Tight end** – Breaker Jutte (Fort Recovery)
- Tight end** – Aiden Phillips (Jay County)
- Offensive line** – McCormac Anderson (Win.)
- Offensive line** – Xavier Hill (Union City)
- Offensive line** – Freddie Lingo (Jay County)
- Offensive line** – Hudson Overman (Ft. Rec.)
- Offensive line** – Dylan Sommers (Mon. Cen.)
- Defense**
- Defensive line** – McCormac Anderson (Win.)
- Defensive line** – Grey Backus (Delta)
- Defensive line** – Josh Evers (Fort Recovery)
- Linebacker** – Xavier Hill (Union City)
- Linebacker** – Breaker Jutte (Fort Recovery)
- Linebacker** – Cole Mynett (Delta)
- Linebacker** – Reece Wendel (Fort Recovery)
- Defensive back** – Carter Campbell (Win.)
- Defensive back** – Ian Hardwick (Winchester)
- Defensive back** – Isaac Roessner (Ft. Rec.)
- Defensive back** – Amir Wright-Hill (Delta)
- Special Teams**
- Punter** – Caleb Luedike (Monroe Central)
- Kicker** – Caleb Hummel (Winchester)
- Returner** – Kyler Bogue (Monroe Central)

- Honorable mention**
- Brady Bannister (Blackford), Garrett Bennett (Jay County), Alex Gaerke (Fort Recovery), Brodie Hart (Fort Recovery), Ethan Hunt (Monroe Central), Landen Porfido (Winchester), Colson Post (Fort Recovery), Aven Thomas (Delta), Bryce Tippet (Winchester), Julius Ullom (Monroe Central), Aidan Weatherhead (Winchester), Gage Zigler (Winchester)



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NASCAR commissioner  
Steve Phelps resigns

**By ALEX ZIETLOW**  
The Charlotte Observer  
Tribune News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The commissioner of NASCAR is stepping down.

The premier stock car racing sanctioning body announced Tuesday that Steve Phelps, who was named commissioner in March 2025, has “made the personal decision” to leave the company. Phelps will transition out of the company by the end of January.

Phelps, who joined NASCAR in 2005, served as president before his appointment as NASCAR’s first commissioner.

“As a lifelong race fan, it gives me immense pride to have served as NASCAR’s first commissioner and to lead our great sport through so many incredible challenges, opportunities and firsts over my 20 years,” Phelps wrote in a statement. “It has been an honor to help synthesize the enthusiasm of long-standing NASCAR stakeholders with that of new entrants to our ecosystem, such as media partners, auto manufacturers, track operators and incredible racing talent.”

He continued: “As I embark on new pursuits in sports and other industries, I want to thank the many colleagues, friends and especially the fans that have played such an important and motivational role in my career. Words cannot fully convey the deep appreciation I have for this life-changing experience, for the trust of the France family, and for having a place in NASCAR’s amazing history.”

See NASCAR page 7

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Ravens  
fire John Harbaugh

**By BRIAN WACKER**  
The Baltimore Sun  
Tribune News Service

BALTIMORE — The John Harbaugh era in Baltimore has come to a stunning end.

After 18 seasons, Harbaugh, 63, and the Ravens agreed to part ways on Tuesday, according to a source with direct knowledge of the team’s decision. The move comes less than a year after Harbaugh signed a three-year extension that would have kept him with the organization through the 2028 season.

See Fire page 7