

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Firm hired for new county position

Commissioners sign two-year contract with planning district

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

It's been about a year since Jay County's last director of community development resigned.

On Monday, Jay County Commissioners made a hire as they embark down a new path to handle those job duties.

Commissioners approved a two-year contract for nearly \$200,000, effective immediately, with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District.

Bill Waters, executive director of the regional planning district, explained the contract includes East Central Indiana Regional Planning District hiring a community coordinator to work out of Jay County. He said that individual will attend local meetings to learn about the county's needs as they relate to available grants.

The position is intended to replace the former Jay County Community Development role, which has been eliminated from Jay County Development Corporation.

See **Hired** page 2

Getting READI



East Central Indiana Regional Partnership

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership held its first regional workshop for Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0. Attendees representing the eight-county region, including Jay County, discussed regional priorities. A public survey regarding regional needs and goals is available at surveymonkey.com/r/S7XVCLS.

First regional READI 2.0 meeting held Tuesday, public survey is open to assess community needs

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The region is getting ready for another round of READI.

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership hosted the first of its Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 regional workshops Tuesday evening at Ball State University.

A group of about 100 representatives from the eight counties in the East Central region met to discuss priorities for the region as it plans for the second iteration of the

READI. The program targets state investment — \$500 million was allocated for the first round with the same amount slated for READI 2.0 — to “promote strategic investments that will make Indiana a magnet for talent and economic growth.”

While complete details for READI 2.0 will not be available until Sept. 1, state officials have indicated that funding will be targeted toward capital improvement and infrastructure projects. The goal is to fund efforts that will improve quality of life, quality

of place and quality of opportunity for Hoosiers.

Tuesday's regional meeting facilitated by HWC Engineering followed local meetings in each of the eight counties — Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Grant, Henry, Wayne, Delaware and Fayette — in June in the East Central region. Gathering the data from those meetings, housing, quality of life, child care/education, quality of opportunity and population growth were identified as priorities for the East Central region. (Other goals that didn't make the top five regionally

were identified as local priorities, such as broadband access for Jay County.)

Those meetings also identified challenges to addressing those issues, with funding at the top of the list.

During Tuesday's meeting, those in attendance discussed those priorities from the local meetings, making suggestions regarding potential changes or additions and how best to address the issues. The results of those conversations will be used to guide steering committee meetings moving forward.

See **READI** page 2

IREAD scores stagnant

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

One in five Hoosier third graders continue to struggle with foundational reading skills, according to new standardized test results released Wednesday.

Data from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) shows 81.9% out of the roughly 82,000 third graders at public and private schools in Indiana passed the 2023 Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination, also called the IREAD-3 test. Tests were administered statewide this spring and summer.

The results are nearly stagnant from the last academic year, when 81.6% of students' scores indicated reading mastery. The state education department's goal is that 95% of students in third grade can read proficiently by 2027. As of this spring, 242 schools have reached that goal — an increase from 210 schools a year ago.

Latest results indicate Indiana's younger students also still lag behind pre-pandemic reading fluency.

Scores are 5.4% behind the results from the 2018-2019 school year, which is the last data set available prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indiana schools did not give standardized tests in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic.

Reading scores were on the decline even before the pandem-

ic, however. The Hoosier literacy rate has seen a significant drop from Indiana's high of 91.4% in 2012-13.

In total, about 13,000 Hoosier third grade students — more than 18% of those in the state — will need additional support to build their reading skills to meet grade-level reading standards, according to state officials. A student who does not pass the IREAD-3 test typically must receive remediation, or risk being retained in third grade.

The IREAD-3 scores roll in as the state shifts its literacy instruction to implement the science of reading as part of an effort to improve students' reading skills.

“We have to shoot high,” Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner told the Indiana Capital Chronicle on Wednesday. “We have a goal set — we know it's aggressive, and we are following that with some very aggressive tactics to support our current and future teachers to

try to engage our parents and families in getting kids to school.”

“It has to be everyone together to make sure kids can read,” she continued.

Black and multiracial students had the highest percentage gains, while Indiana's Hispanic students recorded declining pass rates from last year.

About 65.6% of Black students and 64% of English language learners passed the multiple-choice IREAD exam in 2023 — slightly more than in 2022, but still nearly 10% fewer than in 2019.

Hispanic students' pass rates dropped from 69.8% in 2022 to 68.9% in 2023.

Reading proficiency additionally improved overall for third grade students receiving free or reduced-price meals by nearly a percentage point.

Special education students had the greatest progress boost — an increase of 2.1% from 2022, for a total of 54.9% passing the IREAD-3 exam in 2023.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Silverhorn stand

Shelly Silverhorn speaks with a visitor to Fort Recovery State Museum and the surrounding area Saturday. She and her husband, Talon Silverhorn, and other members of Native American tribes set up stands outside the museum along the walking path during the “Beyond the Battlefield: Interpreting St. Clair's Defeat through the Eyes of Tribal Citizens” interactive event.

Deaths

Haley Williams, 27, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature Tuesday in Portland was 70 degrees. The low was 63.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s, a 60% chance of rain and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Skies will be sunny Friday with a high in the mid 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council will hold a joint special meeting at 11 a.m. Monday in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse. The agenda includes discussing avenues for funding capital improvement plan projects.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Coverage of the JCHS football team's season opener against Blackford.

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Obituaries

Haley Williams

April 15, 1996-Aug. 13, 2023
Haley Cheyenne Williams, 27, of Portland, Indiana, tragically passed away Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023, near a family residence in Portland, Indiana.

Haley was born in Naples, Florida, on April 15, 1996, to Suzanne Elizabeth (Williams) Hare. She formerly attended Jay County High School and was currently employed by Tyson Foods in Portland, Indiana.

She enjoyed art, music, camping, swimming, writing, scary movies, biking, walking, aquatic animals, fashion, deep fried pickles, el tio nachos, collecting rocks, nature, anytime she could be outdoors and cookouts with her family, and loved her job and her children dearly.

A beautiful, precious young



Williams

woman with a big heart, old soul and the best giggle you ever heard will be truly missed by all.

Haley is survived by her mom Suzanne E. Hare; dad Kelvin Gosa; daughter Iceiss Elizabeth Clubs; son Zerick James Lee Williams; sisters, Shawna M. Williams and Jessica N. Arnold; grandfather David "Bear" Williams; grandmothers, Deb Lee Williams and Luttica L. Williams; six aunts and uncles, Mindy Armstong (Matt), Bryan

Tilley (Amy Eisenhut), Mor-tisha Fuller, Natasha Hansma (Andrew), Rayma Whitman and Joshua Williams; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her aunt, Caitly Tilley.

Visitation will be held Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, from noon to 2 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries – Ridgeville Chapel. Graveside services will follow at 2:30 p.m. in Reitenour Cemetery in Ridgeville, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family

requests donations be made to MJS Mortuaries, P.O. Box 25, Redkey, IN 47373, to help with final expenses.

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

CR almanac

Friday 8/18	Saturday 8/19	Sunday 8/20	Monday 8/21	Tuesday 8/22
76/53	82/61	90/66	92/62	87/65
Sunny skies are expected Friday with a high of 76 degrees. Mostly clear at night.	Saturday's forecast is sunny with a high of 25 degrees. Mostly clear late.	Another day of sunny skies is expected Sunday, when the high will be 90.	Sunny skies are expected Monday with a high in the low 90s.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies and a high of 87 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$236 million	Evening Daily Three: 2-1-2 Daily Four: 7-1-3-8 Quick Draw: 3-5-8-18-22-24-29-30-32-36-40-43-48-50-67-68-71-72-75-80
Mega Millions 18-39-42-57-63 Mega Ball: 7 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-0-6 Pick 4: 1-2-1-7 Pick 5: 4-7-2-5-7 Evening Pick 3: 1-2-3 Pick 4: 8-2-1-5 Pick 5: 0-4-3-1-5 Rolling Cash: 19-23-25-26-35
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 5-4-0 Daily Four: 6-3-4-6 Quick Draw: 9-11-15-24-26-27-28-30-34-41-46-50-59-60-62-64-68-69-71-79	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn5.42 Oct. corn4.62 Wheat5.61	Sept. beans12.82 Wheat 5.41
POET Biorefining Portland Corn5.51 Sept. corn5.51 Mid Sept. corn5.21	Central States Montpelier Corn5.18 Sept. corn5.05 Beans13.67 Sept. beans13.62 Wheat5.46
The Andersons Richland Township Corn5.21 Sept. corn4.57 Beans13.72	Heartland St. Anthony Corn5.00 Oct. corn4.37 Beans13.56 Oct. beans12.76 Wheat5.45

Today in history

In 1790, the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, presented a congratulatory address to President George Washington during his visit to the city. According to the Library of Congress, Washington's response was the "first presidential affirmation of the free and equal status of Jewish-American citizens."

In 1807, Clermont, the first practical steamboat, had its maiden voyage.

In 1933, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees played his 1,308th consecutive game. His record for consecutive games played stood for more than 60 years.

In 1943, actor Robert De Niro was born in New York City. De Niro's first film was Brian De Palma's "The Wedding Party" and he went on to star in movies including "The Godfather, Part II,"

"Taxi Driver," "Goodfellas" and "Raging Bull," for which he won the Academy Award for best actor.

In 1945, Indonesia declared its independence from the Netherlands. Sukarno, who made the declaration, became the country's first president in 1949.

In 2008, American Michael Phelps was part of the winning U.S. 4x100-meter medley relay team in Beijing, becoming the first athlete to win eighth medals in a single Olympics.

In 2021, the Jay County High School boys tennis team won its home opener 4-1 over Alexandria-Monroe. Picking up wins were singles players Crosby Heniser, Abraham Dirksen and Simon Dirksen, and the doubles team of brothers Gavin and Sam Myers.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	land. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Port-	Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

READI ...

Continued from page 1
One of the next steps in the process of preparing for READI 2.0 is a public survey, which is available at surveymonkey.com/r/S7XVCLS. Additional information about the program is available online at forgeeci.com/readi-2-0.

A second regional workshop is scheduled for Sept. 28. Steering committee meetings will continue in September and October, with the final regional development plan and READI 2.0 application to be completed by the end of the year.

In the first round of READI, the East Central region was awarded \$15,000. (The largest award amount to a region was \$50 million.) Funding for projects required an 80% local

Regional survey is available at surveymonkey.com/r/S7XVCLS

match, with a portion to come from private investment and another portion from government entities.

The result was more than \$155 million in investment in the eight-county regional, including \$74.6 million private matching funds and \$58.4 million in public matching funds. Projects awarded funding in the region included renovations to the Salmonia

Schoolhouse in Jay County, the Vision Corner Learning Center in Union City and fairgrounds renovation in Randolph County and broadband expansion in Blackford County. Projects funded in Delaware County included Albany's commercial park development, downtown redevelopment in Yorktown and accessibility improvements in Selma.

Hired ...

Continued from page 1
According to the contract, the organization will provide administrative support and services related to economic development projects, identify and work with consulting firms, assist commissioners in vetting and identifying projects, work with local officials, and be available for meetings as needed.

Commissioners Brian McGalliard and Aker praised the organization for its efforts in the last year with Jay County. McGalliard noted there is a termination clause with a two-month notice if needed in the future.

Commissioners updated the strategic investment plan created through the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP), an Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs process to help communities plan how to use their federal American Rescue Plan Act allocations. They amended the plan to highlight the \$1.1 million purchase in February of 68 acres located on the western edge of Portland along Indiana 67, saying it counts as Jay County's required match for an additional \$1 million through HELP. (The program requires participants to allocate at least a third of

their funds toward items in the plan. Plans have been discussed to use the land to create infrastructure for more housing, a multi-faceted public safety building or a new building for Jay County Solid Waste Management District.)

Commissioners opted into enhanced state funding for Jay County Health Department in 2024. Health department environmentalist and administrator Heath Butz explained in July that the county will receive at least \$222,698 next year and a minimum of \$445,396 in 2025 with the enhanced funding. The enhanced funding will double Jay County Health Department's budget by 2025. Butz has suggested hiring a new position, such as a full-time school health liaison or a health educator.

In other business, commissioners:

- Appointed McGalliard as the commissioner representative for the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 grant process.
- Tabled a \$50,000 request from Firefly Children and Family Alliance, expressing interest to have the organization visit a meeting and share more information about the project it is working on.

Felony arrests

Failed to appear
A Lapel woman was arrested Tuesday for failing to appear in court. Lyndsay M. Krise, 29, 3124 Mrytle Drive, is charged in Jay Superior

Court with a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia and a Class C infraction for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license. She failed to appear July 24 for a hearing. Krise is being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Capsule Reports

Lost control
Five people were hospitalized after an Ohio woman lost control of the vehicle she was driving on Indiana 26, causing them to drive off the road about 2:20 a.m. Monday.

Brianna F. Mason, 22, Sidney, was driving a 2016 Hyundai Veloster east on the highway near the intersection with Indiana 67. According to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, Mason was driving too fast and drove off Indiana 26 — the road curves south near the intersection — and the vehicle rolled off the east side of the road, entering a ditch and a cemetery. The vehicle continued onto Indiana 67, rolling across the highway and into a ditch on the south side of the road.

Four passengers — 23-year-old Mercedes A. Ryan of Anderson, 20-year-old Taylor L. Lemaster of Berne, 22-year-old Araia L. Mullins of Chesterfield, and 21-year-old Steven Butts of Sidney were ejected from the vehicle. Mason was trapped inside the car.

Lemaster and Ryan were found unconscious, with Lemaster being airlifted to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne for a head injury and Ryan flown to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio for entire body injuries. Butts and Mullins were both transported to IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie for a head injury and complaint of neck pain, respectively.

Mason sustained injuries all over her body and was taken to IU Health Jay. She had a 0.086% blood alcohol content level on a portable breath test. She was cited with a felony for operating

a vehicle while intoxicated. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The vehicle was towed.

Turning accident
Three people were injured after a Portland teen turned in front of oncoming traffic on Indiana 67 from Jay County High School about 7:48 a.m. Tuesday.

Sydia M. Castillo, 17, told police she was turning from the high school parking lot onto Indiana 67 in a 2005 Ford Escape. She didn't notice a southbound 2008 Ford Edge, driven by 20-year-old Jessica L. Hernandez of Portland, before turning. Hernandez's vehicle crashed into the car Castillo was driving, causing them both to go into a ditch on the east side of the road.

Castillo complained of pain all over her body, and Hernandez had a lower body injury. Ana Ismay Morales, 22, a passenger in Hernandez's car, also suffered a lower body injury. Hernandez was cited for driving without a license and without financial responsibility on her vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Grain spilled
A Portland woman lost control of her car after the tractor in front of her spilled its contents on Indiana 26 about 10:35 a.m. Friday.

Alixandra G. Bonvillian, 19, Portland, was driving her 2009 Ford Fusion west on the highway near the intersection with county road 350 East when the tractor — it was driven by Larry Hile of Hartford City — in front of her started spilling grain, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Bonvillian told police she lost control of her car after it drove across the grain, causing her to leave the road and hit a concrete culvert.

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Her vehicle was towed.

SERVICES

Thursday
Hall, Mildred: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday
Williams, Haley: MJS Mortuaries, 109 N. Walnut St., Ridgeville.

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Mother threatens to ruin wedding

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q. My second husband, Miguel, and I are divorced, and I am getting married again. Although we never had kids together, he is the only father figure my son from my first marriage has known, and he is also good friends with my fiancé. My son and my fiancé would both like Miguel to attend the wedding. I'm OK with it, but my mother will never forgive how he treated me (he cheated), and she has threatened to make a scene if he attends. What's good ex-etiquette?

A. As the bride, the final guest list is up to you, especially if your son and fiancé are asking to invite

Ex-Etiquette



this man, who continues to act as a father figure to your son.

Plus, it appears your fiancé has cultivated such a good friendship with him that he genuinely wants to invite him to his wedding. That's quite a statement.

Your mother is reacting from a place of pain. She loves you. She saw your hurt as you navigated through the pain of your

divorce. Because she has not forgiven the pain he caused you, she is holding a grudge in your name.

Noble response, Mom, but that energy could be put to better use.

Good ex-etiquette rule #6 is, "Don't hold grudges."

The reason: Grudges don't really serve a purpose. They don't make us feel better, heal our hurt or affect the other person at all. It's a private anger only you feel.

In fact, at the end of the day, all we end up with when we hold a grudge is the all-consuming negativity it holds over us.

We all know the impact stress can have on our body and mental state. A

grudge is that stress pointed inward.

It may help if you point out a few things to your mother in a tactful and loving way.

She should know that it could be detrimental to your son if she interferes in that relationship. When a bonus parent and child become close, denying contact could increase the difficulty the child has dealing with the split.

Unfortunately, your mom may not take the relationship as seriously as it is and not understand the importance of them remaining close.

Just because this man is not your son's biological father doesn't mean your

son doesn't feel like he is. You've even said, Miguel is the only father your son has ever known.

If your fiancé feels comfortable that Miguel attends, his presence can only add to your son's feelings of security. He now has two adult male role models.

Finally, it sounds like your mom is a very supportive parent. She must find a way to be a very supportive grandparent as well.

As kindly as possible, remind her that what you really need right now is her acknowledgment of your effort to make a go of it, not a public reprimand of an ex from whom you have moved on.

Let her know she is stuck in the hurt, but you are not, and if she really wants to be there for you, she will enthusiastically embrace your effort to start a new life.

If she is still looking for revenge after that little lecture, remind her that the sweetest revenge is to successfully move on — and that is what you have done. With a hug, invite her to do the same. That's good ex-etiquette.

Jann Blackstone is the author of "Ex-etiquette for Parents: Good Behavior After Divorce or Separation," and the founder of Bonus Families, bonusfamilies.com. Email her at drjann@exetiquette.com.

Goddaughter's wedding could be healing

DEAR ABBY: I have a lovely goddaughter I'm estranged from. Although I had promised her she would be maid of honor at my wedding in 2015 (my second marriage), I didn't do it. My fiancé was diagnosed with Huntington's disease, so we decided instead to have a commitment ceremony. I felt bad but didn't contact her right away to explain I wouldn't have any attendants after all. It's a blur now, but I think I emailed her or asked her mother (my dear friend) to tell her. My friend denies that her daughter is angry, but my goddaughter hasn't spoken to me since 2015. She is now engaged. I'd like to write her a letter, but I don't know what to say. I was thinking of mailing it without telling my friend because, as I said, she still denies anything is wrong. I found the address on the internet. What do you think? I'm heartbroken knowing I cannot celebrate her upcoming wedding. — SADDENED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SADDENED: If you feel the need to write your goddaughter a letter explaining the legitimate reason you and

Dear Abby



your husband decided to forgo a formal wedding with attendants, do it. Your reason for changing your plans was a valid one.

Although I'm sure things were hectic at the time you made that decision, it would have been better had you explained directly to her the reason for your abrupt change of plans. Because this is weighing on your mind, apologize for the delay in contacting her, tell her you were delighted when you heard about her forthcoming wedding and you would love to celebrate it with her. Then cross your fingers because the ball is in her court.

DEAR ABBY: I am having an

issue with the lady who lives above me. I moved into my apartment a month ago because it seemed so quiet in the complex. Before signing the lease, I asked my landlord if the tenant above me is quiet because when you live on the first floor, you can sometimes hear everything going on above you. The landlord assured me that it was pretty quiet. A couple of weeks went by, and it was quiet until one Friday I heard this stomping noise above me. I thought it would go away.

Little did I know, the lady upstairs watches her two grandsons and another boy. Abby, this stomping around goes on all weekend, and it drives me crazy. I was tapping the ceiling to let her know it was getting too loud. She called our landlord and complained! My landlady is also a client of my daughter's, who is a hairstylist, so I caught heck from my daughter, too. Must I just grin and bear it, or should I say something to the lady upstairs? — CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS: When your landlady

told you the renters upstairs were quiet, she lied and misled you. What you need to do now is get out of that lease. The quickest way to do that would be to consult a real estate attorney. You do not have to live like this, and your daughter should not be blaming you and siding with the person who is causing the problem.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have some money in a mutual fund. Our new, very young financial adviser, "Alec," seems sexist. He has phoned us four times asking to speak with my husband, and each time my husband refuses to speak to him. Since my name is also on our account, my husband said that I should speak to him. I have told Alec twice that my husband has hearing aids and it's difficult for him to hear people on the phone, which is why he wants me to be the contact. But Alec continues to ask for my husband.

I've told him that I feel he's being sexist, but he denies it. He said he tries very hard not to be, and he's sorry if I feel he is. Alec

called asking for my husband again today. We let it go to voicemail. Now I'm wondering if I should return his call and complain again, write him a letter or complain to his superiors. Should I continue to let his calls go to voicemail? Should I complain in writing to him? We don't want to move money around or change our investments in any way, which he has been told already by me, but then, I'm not a MAN! — BEYOND FRUSTRATED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR BEYOND FRUSTRATED: You have suffered enough. Don't bother writing that kid a letter. Contact his supervisor, explain what has been going on, and make it clear that you want someone more service-oriented on your account. If you are contacted by the supervisor, explain in detail your reason. This financial adviser needs more training.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact her at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday STITCH AND CHAT-

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

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.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet Thursday, Aug. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Jay County Historical Society. Kathy Selman will provide the meeting program. To ask questions, please call Regent Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Susan Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Take a walk down memory lane

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Come with me now to those exciting days of yesteryear, in 2012, when the average weekly wage in the United States was \$1,000. It was thrilling as we emerged slowly from the financial bubble of 2008.

Our national rate of increase in wages was 4.7% compared to a year earlier and it didn't bother us that only 14 of the 50 states enjoyed that stratospheric level above \$1,000. Only three states were \$200 above \$1,000, and nine states \$200 under \$1,000.

Income disparity, we are told, is a condition of nature. Mississippi, Idaho and South Dakota just didn't have the natural resources of New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Eye on the Pie



The bottom three are physically separated and very different from each other. The top three are close both geographically and in character. Perhaps low wages suit the lifestyles of the people who earn them. Is it Chardonnay versus Kool-Aid?

Where was Indiana back in that golden year of 2012? Our average weekly wage was \$816 — 39th in the nation. That figure

was the lowest in the Great Lakes region, but, by the grace of a benevolent Heaven, \$15 above that of Kentucky.

Let us now fast forward to 2022, last year for those who have forgotten where we are in Pope Gregory's calendar.

Without adjusting for inflation, all 50 states, except Mississippi, are now above \$1,000 in average weekly wages. Connecticut has been replaced by California in the top three states. Indiana still ranks 39th.

Where average weekly wages for Hoosiers were 18.4% below the national level in 2012, we were ... wait for it ... 18.4% below the national level in 2022.

Sadly, the other four Great Lake states (Ohio, Michigan, Illi-

nois and Wisconsin remain at a higher level than Indiana. But we are redeemed by the persistence of Kentucky below us.)

That's been the Hoosier way: Keep the engine running, but make no progress in the race.

However, after compiling this record of stability, Indiana is stepping out on the track with a new concept to gain ground.

The much vaunted Indiana Economic Development Corporation, lovingly known as the IEDC, has revealed a new strategy. As they did in Boone County, so will they do elsewhere. Unkindly identified as the Boone Boondoggle, IEDC secretly bought farm property north of Lebanon along Interstate 65 for the benefit of Eli Lilly and Purdue University. This

was a brave break from tradition. Previously, the private sector identified where to locate and the state happily accommodated with infrastructure, training grants and tax forgiveness.

Or was it new? Who sat in the meetings that chose Boone County? Who was there when it was decided to move huge quantities of water from the Wabash River to this less soggy site?

The IEDC is unconstrained by rules of transparency. And now two of its former leaders may be vying for the governorship.

Ain't the Deity good to INdian-ny?

.....
Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Rural closures are a national problem

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

Fully a third of Missouri's rural hospitals are in danger of closing in the next few years, leaving large swaths of the state without access to emergency services, obstetrics or even the most basic health care.

It's part of a national trend that qualifies as a looming crisis — one that might be addressed with a fundamental change in how the private insurance industry pays hospitals on behalf of insured patients.

A study released last month by the national Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform found that 19 of Missouri's 57 rural hospitals are in danger of closing their doors in the next two to seven years because they aren't taking in enough revenue from payments to cover their costs.

Here and around the country, rural hospitals' long-term financial slide was alleviated by federal pandemic aid programs for the past three years but now has resumed with the end of those programs.

The numbers are daunting. One rural Missouri hospital administrator in Hermann told the Missouri Independent that after being kept afloat since 2020 by federal COVID-relief funding, "We are back to losing over \$1 million this year."

Those financial issues are likely exacerbated in Missouri by the widely reported difficulty in getting doctors to come here — a situation that cannot have been improved by last year's enactment of a draconian state abortion ban that threatens doctors with 15 years in prison for violations.

Indeed, as struggling Missouri rural hospitals cut back on services, obstetrics is in danger of becoming a prime target. As the Independent reports, for instance, Cox Monett Hospital in southwest Missouri is shuttering its inpatient obstetrics unit this summer due in part to difficulty recruiting doctors. For local residents, it will mean traveling close to an hour for services.

But the main culprit in the crisis, CHQPR maintains, is the private insurance industry, with its one-size-fits-all approach to paying hospitals.

That approach doesn't take into account the fact that it's inherently more expensive for smaller hospitals to provide care than it is for larger, busier ones, based on economy of scale.

Guest Editorial

... hospitals' long-term financial slide was alleviated by federal pandemic aid programs for the past three years but now has resumed with the end of those programs.

For example, all hospitals with emergency rooms must maintain staff 24/7, but in small rural areas, those ERs often stand empty.

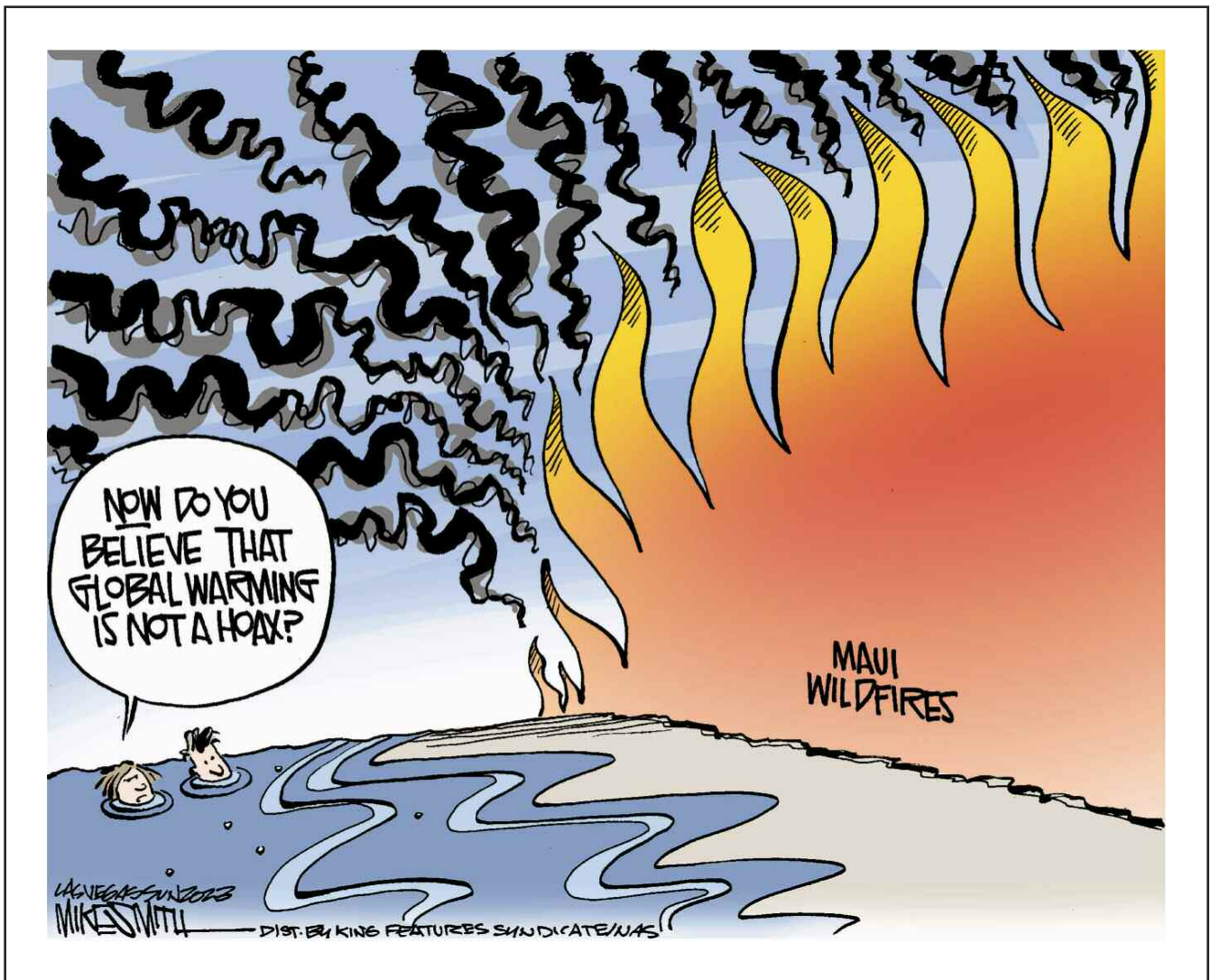
Nationally, CHQPR reports, more than 600 rural hospitals, or about 30% of the U.S. total, are in danger of closing in the next few years.

The organization's report notes the "mistaken belief" that most financial losses for rural hospitals are due to Medicaid patients or the uninsured. In fact, it says, about half of rural hospital patients are under private insurance plans — and those plans, for the most part, "are paying them less than what it costs to deliver services to patients."

The solution, CHQPR says, is to require that private insurers pay enough to prevent closures of endangered rural hospitals. The organization also calls for restructuring the way payments are made so that they cover not just the cost of services rendered but also "standby capacity" — the fixed costs of keeping hospital units open and staff on hand when there are no paying patients being served.

The organization claims these reforms would cost \$4 billion annually. Large as that sounds, it's actually just one-tenth of 1% of America's total health care spending.

Whether these are the right solutions is a broader conversation — but it's one that Missouri's political leaders in Washington should be having, on behalf of their struggling hospitals back home.



We need a path to healthy conflict

By SOLOMON D. STEVENS
Tribune News Service

Spencer Cox, the new chairman of the National Governors Association, is promoting the idea of "healthy conflict."

The Utah governor has become concerned about the growing problem of toxic arguments in society. As the Washington Post reports, Cox wants people to learn how to "disagree better."

We should all try to think of ways we can join him in his quest because this is not just a political issue; it is a problem that permeates our society. Almost any disagreement these days escalates into an angry confrontation. We are better than that. Our disagreements are genuine, but the way we disagree can change.

We have to start somewhere. I recommend that we begin by banishing all ad hominem arguments. What are these? Ad hominem is a Latin phrase that means "to the person." I'm sure you have seen this kind of arguing. It is all around us. What it describes is an argument where instead of actually addressing what someone has said, we insult the person. We call that person's character into question. It is classified as one of the most basic logical fallacies.

Consider these examples. First, a liberal defends the use of a book in schools. Rather than offer a critique of the book, the person disagreeing with them says, "Only a pedophile would defend a book like that." This is an ad hominem attack.

You can see where this goes. The liberal is offended and feels that they have to answer the charge of pedophilia. The real issue of the book is left behind as tempers flare. What started as a legitimate disagreement about what is appropri-

Solomon D. Stevens



ate in the schools has become a back-and-forth personal brawl.

Alternatively, a conservative attacks the use of a book in schools, and the person disagreeing says, "Only a fascist would attack a book like that." An ad hominem insult from the opposite direction. Again, a personal attack. The question of the book is left in the dust as the person responds, "I am not a fascist."

And so it goes. Or reflect on the way in which too many people respond to judicial decisions. Liberals often complain about decisions on gun control by condemning the judges who made the decision. "What can you expect from a right-wing judge?" Or, "This judge has been secretly bought by right-wing billionaires."

On the other hand, we see the same ad hominem attacks come from conservatives. "This judge made a liberal decision on gun control because he's an Obama appointee." Or, "This judge has been secretly bought by left-wing billionaires."

When ad hominem attacks take place, everyone loses. We forget the real issues, which are worth exploring. Because the issues are made intensely personal when these attacks happen, they promote anger, not understanding. They increase suspicions and divisions between people. Most important, we fail to learn from one another, to expand our appreciation of the nuances

present in complex issues. Our disagreements today are serious enough without adding personal attacks to the equation.

How can we avoid ad hominem arguments? When we hear things with which we disagree, instead of descending into the personal, we need to explore the problem. If there is a dispute about whether a book should be taught in schools, then ask: What does the book actually say? That would involve reading the book. And once you learn what it says, explore why that is either good or bad for young people. If you find the book disturbing, explain why. If you think the book is good, explain why. The same would be true for judicial decisions. Do you actually know what the judge in the case said? Have you actually read the decision? And if you have, why is that either good or bad?

We need to learn how to explore the why rather than the who.

Joining Gov. Cox's campaign for healthy disagreement is not naive. He is not asking everyone to join hands and sing Kumbaya. Our country is deeply divided, and he is not suggesting that we all agree with one another. But instead of resorting to personal attacks, we can all benefit by focusing on the argument itself.

The only problem with this is that we might open ourselves up to the possibility that we are all wrong sometimes. We all have to learn from those with whom we disagree. But do we have the strength to risk being wrong? That is the question.

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Stevens is the author of "Religion, Politics, and the Law" (co-authored with Peter Schotten) and "Challenges to Peace in the Middle East."

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—Thomas Jefferson

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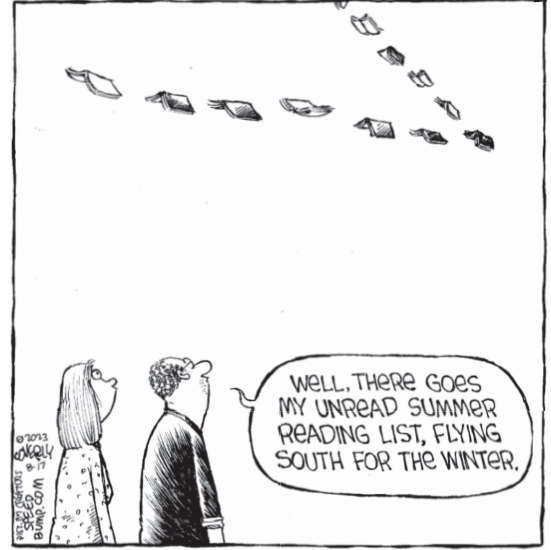
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Hidden asset

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ 9 8 5 4, ♥ K J 7 6, ♦ 8 6, ♣ 7 3 2. EAST: ♠ J 7 6 3, ♥ A 9 4 3 2, ♦ 10 4, ♣ 10 9. SOUTH: ♠ Q, ♥ A K Q J 9 7 5 2, ♦ A K 6 5. The bidding: West North East South 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 5 ♦ Opening lead — king of spades.

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention, and certainly anyone who has played bridge long enough realizes that there are times when a player must improvise to be successful. Take this case where South ruffed the opening spade lead and could see three potential losers — a heart and two clubs. Declarer had a choice of several lines of play to try to make the contract: 1. If the diamond ten fell on the first round of trump, he could con-

cede the heart queen to the ace and then use dummy's eight of diamonds as an entry to take two club discards. 2. He could play the A-K and another club at once, hoping that if the opposing clubs were not divided 3-3, he could ruff his fourth club in dummy without being overruffed by the ten. 3. He could lead the queen of hearts and hope it was ducked by the defender with the ace. Eventually, declarer decided that his best shot for the contract was to lead the heart queen at trick two. In addition to the possibility that the queen might be ducked, this also allowed him to keep in reserve a follow-up plan that virtually guaranteed making the contract. East took the queen of hearts with the ace and returned the ten of clubs at trick three. South won with the ace and thereupon led the five of diamonds to dummy's six!

8-17

CRYPTOQUIP

LGP'S IEQXR GVV VZIC TCRP DRGDMR QSSRBDS SG EQSEC SCRBTZSC XGL QPL XRRM. SCQS QPYRXI QPYMRXI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE CHURCH OFFICIAL CAME TO AMELIORATE THE DESPERATE SITUATION, HE WAS A DEACON OF HOPE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

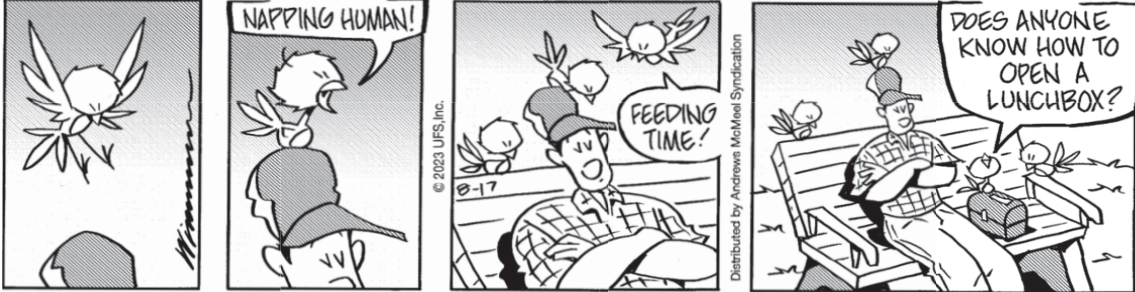
ACROSS 1 Lass, 4 Cheeky, 8 Genesis, 12 Punk, 13 Cosmetic, 14 Bar, 15 Reduced, 17 Israel's, 18 "Goshi", 19 "Guer-nica", 21 Zim-babwe's, 24 Mess up, 25 Football's, 26 Lad, 28 "Deli-cious!", 32 Roman, 34 PBS, 36 Maja, 37 Mike of, 39 Sample. 41 The, 42 Like aspirin, briefly, 44 Of the, 46 Stressful, 50 Small, 51 Flightless, 52 Job-related, 56 Wee, 57 Coastal, 58 Scrap, 59 Poker, 60 Conked, 61 Director, 62 Craven, 20 Weep, 21 Jon of, 22 Multitude, 23 Many, 27 Even so, 29 Swing, 30 "—, 31 Informal, 33 Traversed, 35 Rainbow, 38 Holy Fr., 40 Talked on, 43 Made, 45 Game, 46 Shortens, 47 Skip, 48 Ballet, 49 Sped, 53 Genetic, 54 Letter, 55 Scale. Solution time: 24 mins. Yesterday's answer 8-17

Crossword grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for words.

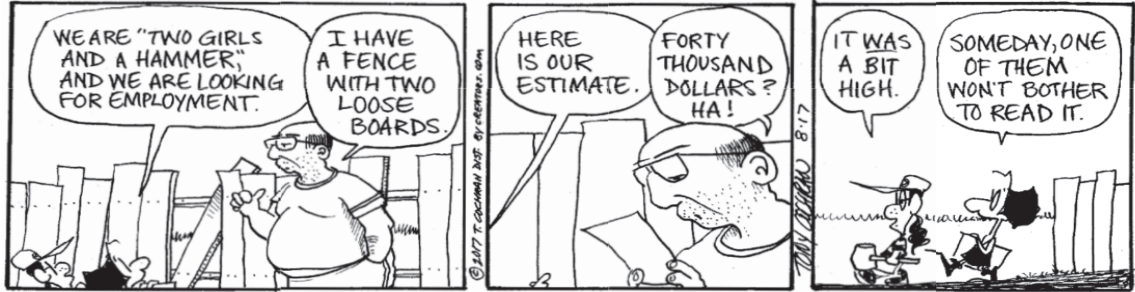
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



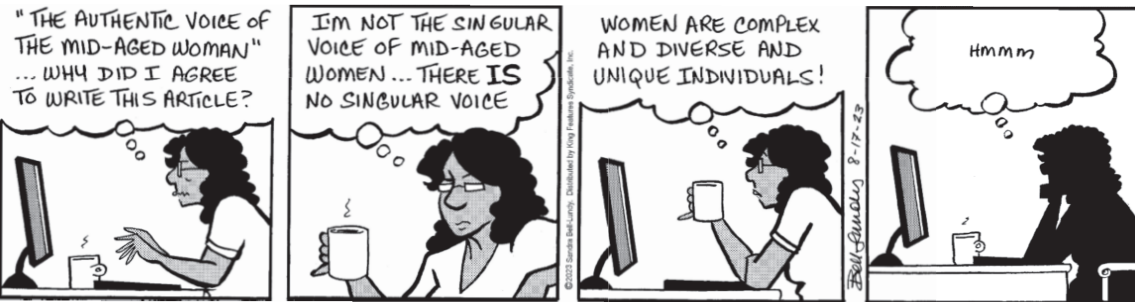
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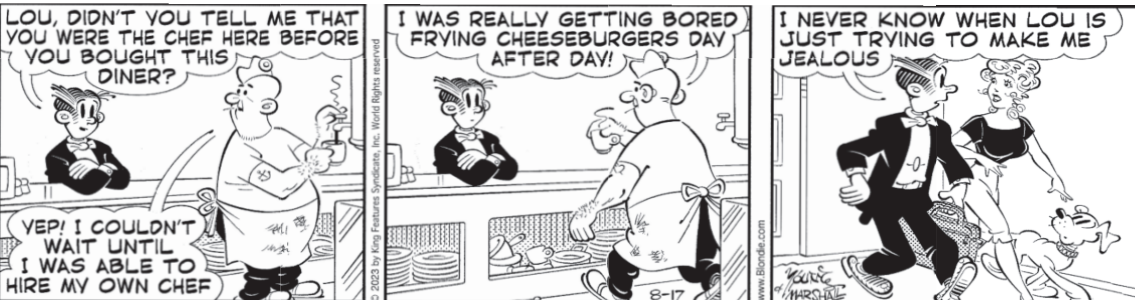
Hi and Lois



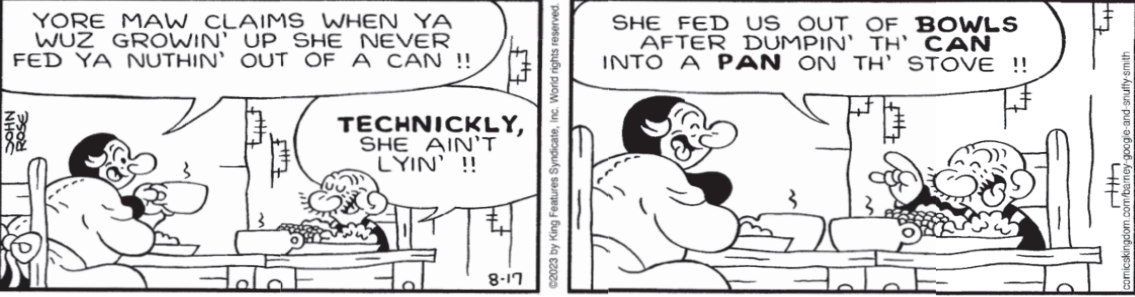
Between Friends



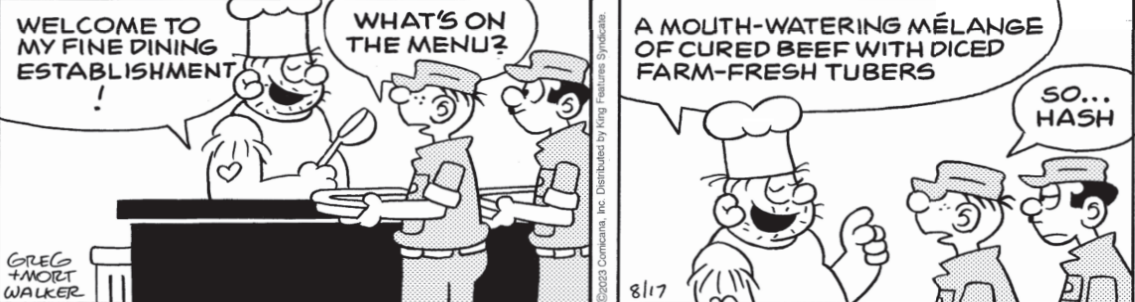
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Sports

Jay falls in opener

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — Josh Dowlen graduated from Jay County High School in June.

The Patriots are learning just how much they will miss him.

The Muncie Central Bearcats took control early against the Jay County High School boys soccer team, allowing them to cruise to a 5-2 victory over the Patriots on Tuesday.

The Bearcats had a big first half, scoring four of the team's five goals.

"They are taller, bigger and faster than us," JCHS coach Bobby Ruiz said. "I expected something like that, but not that strong."

"They are good on the through balls (plays where the ball gets poked past the midfield). We got killed by the through balls because by the time we tried to adjust, they had a couple of plays where they put us down right away."

The first time Muncie Central got a through ball was off of a Jay County corner kick.

Off of the kick, one of the Bearcats' defenders controlled the ball and passed it up to Finn Gruver who was leaking out. From there, Gruver was able to maneuver his way past the two Patriot defenders who came up to contest, to get a good look at the goal. Gruver sent the ball to the back of the net to make it a 1-0 game only 7:13 seconds into the contest.

The Bearcats thrived in transition, creating one-on-one situations where their strikers only had to beat one defender to get a clean shot on the goal.

"You saw us hold the ball a lot more," said Muncie Central

coach Shea Hill, who earned his 100th win at his alma mater. "You saw it sit in our defensive third and we were happy to invite them out to create space for ourselves to pass into."

"It was clinical passing. A lot of those one-v-ones came from a nice progression up the field and then we're just looking for that killer pass."

Ten minutes later, Muncie Central was able to create another one-on-one situation.

The Patriots were drawn onto the other side of the field with most of the defenders hanging out just in front of the line at mid-field. Gruver was given the ball with only senior Brayden Collins between him and the goalie. The senior Bearcat pushed upfield to take on Collins and got the better of him before putting the ball into the left half of the net at 23:14.

"It's pretty difficult when not everyone can keep up," Collins said. "It wasn't necessarily that I couldn't keep up, but he was good. My foot got tangled in the back of his when he was in stride and just ate the ground."

Muncie Central got one final transition goal in the first half at the 15:42 mark as Angel Rueda finished it off.

The only other score of the first half came with 13 minutes left. The head referee blew his whistle for the first time in the match, signaling a free kick. Muncie Central's Josh Sexton took the free kick, but goalie Kaleb Coppock recorded one of his 11 saves of the game. The ball rebounded off of Coppock's chest to a spot where Ollie Beane was able to swoop in and put the rebound in for the goal.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS and Muncie Central seniors Brayden Collins and Finn Gruver run down a ball during Tuesday's season opener. The Patriots fell to the Bearcats 5-2 in the contest. Gruver netted two goals while Collins scored one on a penalty kick.

At the half, Ruiz emphasized two things to his team — staying back to not allow one-on-ones and communication.

"In the first half, we didn't talk much," Ruiz said. "I think we came in nervous. So half-time, we talked about communication."

In the second half, the Patriots started to turn things around, allowing only one goal by Sexton, which the referees consid-

ered calling back for offsides but let stand.

The Patriots also controlled the ball better in the second half. Their first scoring opportunity came on a penalty kick when Mason Nichols fouled Levi Muhlenkamp in the penalty box. Collins took the penalty kick, and converted it for the first goal for the Patriots.

As Miller emptied his bench, Jay County found another oppor-

tunity to score. Collins threw the ball from the slide line into traffic. Muhlenkamp came out of the group with the ball and kicked it just past the contesting Isaiah Voss to find the right side of the net to make the score 5-2 at 2:56.

"It's a live-and-learn lesson for us," Ruiz said. "It's a wake up call. It's important to see our deficiencies and opportunities. I think that's the more important part of this game."

JC sweeps Argylls

FAIRMOUNT — The Patriots lost some of their best attackers from last season.

You wouldn't know it from their season opener.

Jay County High School's volleyball team pulled off a three-set sweep of the Madison-Grant Argylls during the season opener Tuesday night.

The Patriots easily took the first two sets, winning 25-18, 25-16.

Madison-Grant did all they could to force a fourth set, earning 24 points against the Patriots, but couldn't follow through, dropping the set 26-24.

Bella Denton led the Patriots with 11 kills in the match. Maggie Dillon and Mya Kunkler followed with six kills, Kunkler also adding three blocks.

Brenna Haines racked up 15 digs to lead the Patriots' defensive effort. Sophie Saxman fin-

Local roundup

ished the match with 26 assists for Jay County.

Knapke shoots low

ANARCUM, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls golf team is still looking for their first victory after falling to Anarcum 214-230 on Tuesday morning at Beechwood Golf Course.

For the fourth time this season, Olivia Knapke shot the team-low. A par on the fourth hole and bogeys on the sixth and eighth helped her to a 54.

Anarcum's No. 2 golfer, Emma Rogers, shot three pars and three bogeys to earn the match medalist and a score of 46.

Emma Will was only one stroke above Knapke with 55. Will parred hole No. 8 and bogeyed No. 3 and 4.

Also with two bogeys was Eva Kahlig, leading to 60 strokes.

Marrisa Schoen rounded out the team score with 61 strokes recording bogeys on the sixth and eighth.

Ella Westgerdes shot a 67 and Georgia Wenning a 69, not impacting the team score.

JV tops Argylls

FAIRMOUNT — The Jay County JV volleyball team took their match against Madison-Grant two sets to one on Tuesday.

The Patriots won the first set 25-17 before dropping the second 23-25. They took the final 15-8 to win the match.

Maria Hemmelgarn's six kills led the Patriots offensively.

Brenna Schmiesing and Kendal Rowles each had one block in the match.

A team-high 11 digs came from Kayla Jetmore to lead the defensive charge.

Setting up her teammates was Ella Rigby with seven assists in the match.

Richardson to start

command during Saturday's preseason opener against the Buffalo Bills.

"After the game, going back and watching the poise he played with, you got the early interception and you bounce back and he made some really good plays, some really good throws and the way he used his legs, it definitely helps us," Steichen said.

Richardson got the news at the start of a two-hour meeting with Steichen on Monday night. The quarterback said the vast majority of the conversation had nothing to do with football as the two men begin to connect on a more personal level.

It's the realization of a life-long dream for the 21-year-old, but he was quick to note it's just the start of his journey, not the final destination. "Honestly, I was shocked," Richardson said. "I'm a guy who put in work just to get the title, but it's not really all about the title. I'm just trying to make something great for the team. Despite being labeled as QB1, I've still got other guys in the room helping me get to that standard."

See Starter page 7

Rookie coach decides on rookie QB to lead the Colts

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

WESTFIELD — Shane Steichen has seen enough.

The Indianapolis Colts head coach announced following Tuesday's practice rookie Anthony Richardson will be the starting quarterback this season.

It's the culmination of a summer long competition with veteran Gardner Minschew and was clinched when the No. 4 overall pick displayed poise and



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