

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

New air

Portland Board of Works chooses Donley for new SCBAs for all of county's fire departments

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Every fire department in the county will be getting new air packs.

Portland Board of Works on Wednesday decided to buy the new self-contained breathing apparatus through Donley of Indianapolis.

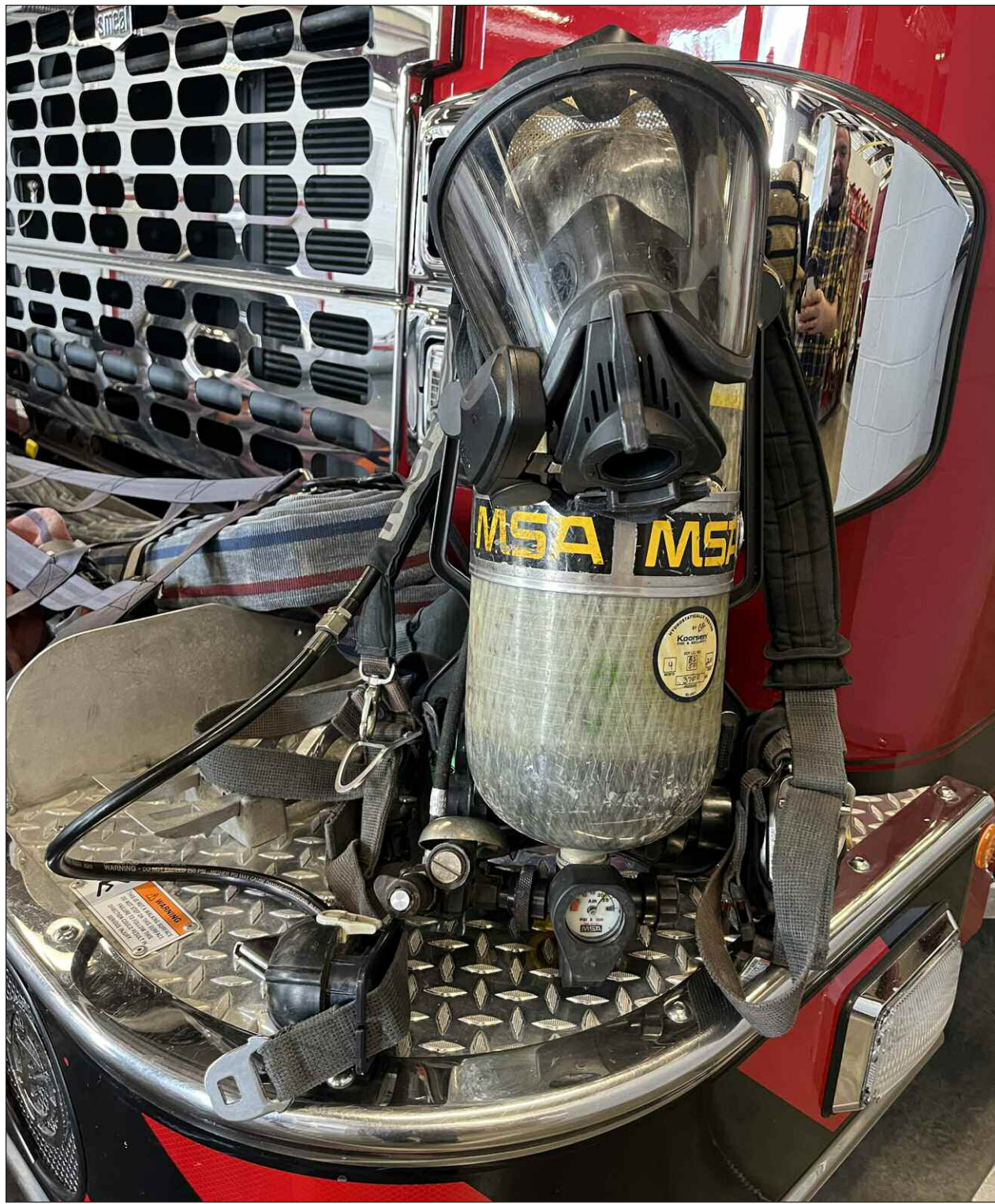
The purchase, which is being predominantly funded through a federal grant, will provide new equipment for all of the county's six fire departments.

"Air packs are probably, behind the apparatus itself, our most important piece of equipment," said Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel after the meeting. "It protects us when we go inside IDLH (immediately dangerous to life or health) conditions, smokey conditions. ... We breathe the air out of the tanks. That saves us from having to breathe the smoke."

The board had opened bids for the self-contained breathing apparatus at its Aug. 11 meeting. Those bids were updated ahead of Wednesday's meeting to ensure apples-to-apples comparisons from the three interested firms.

Updated bids for the 98 self-contained breathing apparatus units and related equipment were \$758,000 from Minnesota-based MacQueen Emergency, \$762,974 from Hoosier Fire Equipment of Greenfield and \$766,590 from Donley Safety of Indianapolis. (The equipment from MacQueen and Donley was from the same manufacturer while Hoosier Fire offered similar equipment from a different manufacturer.)

Board of Works member Steve McIntosh asked a series of questions about the new self-contained breathing apparatus, including regarding life of the tanks, specifics about equipment, how the tanks will be filled



The Commercial/Ray Cooney

Portland Fire Department's self-contained breathing apparatus (pictured) are 15 years old and need to be replaced. Other departments in Jay County have air pack equipment that dates back to the 1980s. The county's six fire departments partnered together to receive an \$815,545 grant that will be used to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus for all of them.

and Portland Fire Department's previous experiences with the bidders.

Weitzel explained that the new air tanks are rated at 45 minutes, as compared to the fire

department's current tanks at 30 minutes. (The increase in capacity is achieved with greater air pressure — 4,500 pounds per square inch compared to the current 2,200

— to keep the weight of the tank the same.) Each tank will come with a backup cylinder.

The Portland department recently received a donation of a compressor

to fill the tanks via surplus equipment from Fort Wayne Fire Department, Weitzel said. He estimated it saved the city \$58,000.

See Air page 2

ECIRP's new plan lays out blueprint

Document sets 'north star' for regional organization

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership's goal is to bring economic growth to the region.

It now has a detailed plan for how to make that happen.

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership last week released its strategic plan that it will use as a blueprint for the region for the next two to three years.

"If you don't have a north star ... that you're aiming for, how do you know where you're going? How do you know where you've been? That, for me, was the No. 1 most important thing," said Trevor Friedeberg, CEO and president of East Central Indiana Regional Partnership.

Friedeberg, who took over as the organization's leader last year, noted the importance of having trackable, traceable goals and evaluating progress regularly. They will give the regional partnership the ability to ensure it is making an impact and to readjust if needed.

The plan, which was developed with assistance from Smart Solutions Group of Iowa, lays out trends in the region that includes Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Wayne, Rush and Fayette counties. Those include a declining population (a loss of more than 5,300 residents over a 5-year period), decline in available jobs (a loss of more than 8,000 in five years) and a low level of residents who have a bachelor's degree (11.9% compared to nearly 20.5% nationwide).

To help address those issues, the plan — it is available online at ecirp.org/strategic-plan — lays out themes of diversifying industry, improving communication and establishing a clear identity.

See Plan page 2

First Lady discusses student mental health at Westfield HS

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Students' mental health was top-of-mind Wednesday for First Lady Jill Biden, who traveled to Westfield High School to speak with students and counselors.

Biden visited the suburban public school just north of Indianapolis alongside U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

Their two-hour stay included a presentation from students in the school's student mental health club. The First Lady and Murthy also participated in a roundtable discussion with Westfield administrators to discuss how the school — and Indiana, overall — are taking advantage of federal dollars to support students' mental health needs.

"There is resilience in finding a way out of darkness, through treatment, through community, through storytelling, and holding our hands to pull others through. And families and educators are working to support them every

step of the way," Biden said while speaking before a group of Westfield students and staff. "I think that you can feel that there is a sense that people can share their stories and get help. That's what's happening here."

The visit came one year after President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), marking the most sweeping and significant gun legislation to become law in decades.

The legislation also included historic levels of funding to address youth mental health. Close to \$2 billion was earmarked for the U.S. Department of Education to create safer, more "inclusive" learning environments for students and hire and train more mental health professionals for schools.

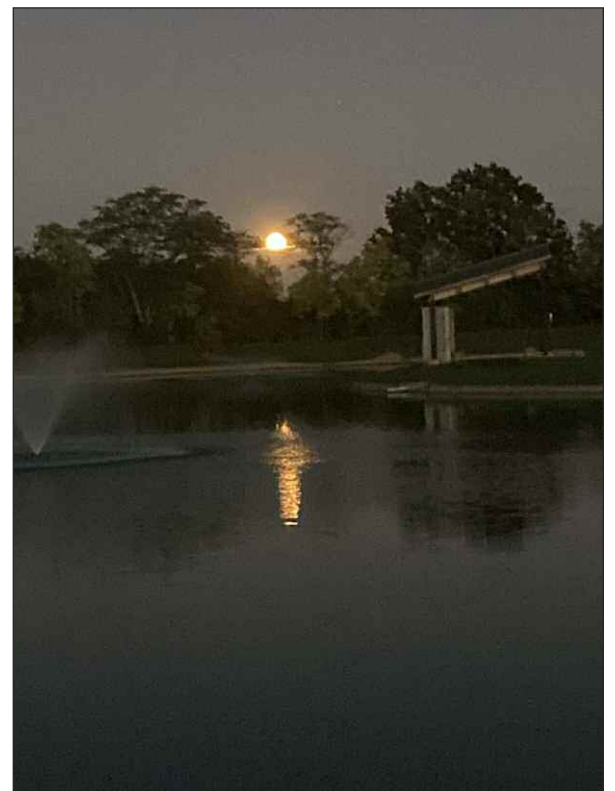
Through the BSCA, Indiana has so far received over \$14 million in Stronger Connections grant funding.

Some of that funding is already being used by the Westfield school district to make available on-site outpatient mental health services to students.

See Health page 2

Going up

The super moon rises over and between the trees on the east side of Hudson Family Park on Wednesday night. Lows have been in the low 50s the last couple days, but highs are headed into the 90s beginning Sunday.



The Commercial Review/Connie Ronald

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 70 degrees Wednesday. The low was 52.

Fog early Thursday led to Jay County schools being closed.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s. Expect

sunny skies Saturday with a high in the mid 80s. Highs Sunday through Wednesday are projected to be in the 90s under sunny skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamon Fire Station.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of this afternoon's Jay County Development Corporation meeting.

Tuesday — Results from the Jay County High School girls soccer game Saturday against Coldwater.

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Air ...

Continued from page 1
(The City of Dunkirk recently purchased an air compressor as well.)

Weitzel added that Portland Fire Department has worked with all of the companies that bid and has had positive experiences.

With all of the bids within \$10,000 of each other, McIntosh expressed his preference for Donley because he felt the firm presented a more detailed description of the equipment being offered. He made a motion to make the purchase from Donley, with fellow board members Mayor John Boggs and Jerry Leonhard also voting in favor.

Weitzel said after the meeting that the county's six fire departments — Portland, Dunkirk, Redkey, Pennville, Bryant and Salamonina — came together because of their common need.

"Everybody needs air packs," he said, explaining that Port-

Fire departments partnered to receive \$815,545 grant

land's current equipment was at the end of its intended 15-year life. "So we were there. We needed to spend the money on it.

"Other departments are 23 and 28 years old. There's a couple departments that are newer than ours. But in general, everybody needed them. And there's always a better opportunity when you include a whole region when you go for a grant like that."

The six departments hired Lexipol, a nationwide firm that specializes in public safety equipment, to write the grant

application. The county's departments were awarded an \$815,545 Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency in June. (The grant requires a 10% local match, which is being split between the departments based on the amount of air packs each will receive.)

"It's great," said Salamonina Fire Chief Scott Hilfiker, noting that his department's current tanks are 20 years old. (New tanks cost about \$7,500 each.) "That much money, it's tough

for a small department like ours."

Redkey Fire Chief Randy Young said his department is still using self-contained breathing apparatus with steel bottles dating back from the 1980s and '90s. They're heavy and cumbersome. With his department's equipment budget this year at less than \$5,000, he said the county's departments working together on such a purchase was essential.

Both he and Hilfiker mentioned the benefits of all of the county's fire departments using the same equipment.

"It's huge, for the safety, for the town and the whole community," said Young. "If I need help on one of my fires and they come here, they'll all come here then they'll know how to use them. ... It works better for everybody with safety that way for everyone to have the same packs."

Weitzel noted that the county's departments will have the opportunity to request to use the excess funding — the total cost of the self-contained breathing apparatus came in about \$50,000 under the grant total — on other equipment expenditures.

Also Wednesday, Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips informed the board that each block of Meridian Street (U.S. 27) that is involved in the ongoing storm sewer project will need to be fully closed when work is being done in that area. Originally, the plan was to close only for work between the Salamonie River and Water Street, and then to maintain traffic with a partial street closure while working north to between Arch and Race streets. On Tuesday, crews shut down the block of Meridian Street between Water and Main streets as work began moving to the north.

CR almanac

Saturday 9/2	Sunday 9/3	Monday 9/4	Tuesday 9/5	Wednesday 9/6
85/65	90/66	91/67	93/67	91/66
Saturday will be sunny. The high may reach the mid 80s, and at night, it may dip to 65.	Another day of sun is slated for Sunday, when the temperature will hit around 90 degrees.	Labor Day looks to be sunny and hot. The high temperature is expected to be 91.	Sunny skies with hot temperatures swelling to nearly 93 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday with highs again in the low 90s.

Lotteries

Powerball 4-13-35-61-69 Power Ball: 4 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$420 million	Daily Four: 7-3-1-4 Quick Draw: 12-14-24-27-31-35-38-39-45-51-53-55-58-62-63-65-67-72-73-80 Cash 5: 19-20-25-28-31 Estimated jackpot: \$206,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$85 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 0-2-2 Pick 4: 3-3-7-3 Pick 5: 5-0-9-1-6 Evening Pick 3: 1-7-9 Pick 4: 7-0-3-1 Pick 5: 6-2-4-6-4 Rolling Cash: 2-21-26-28-31 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 1-5-6 Daily Four: 8-6-3-4 Quick Draw: 1-4-10-15-18-19-22-27-45-51-52-56-57-59-64-70-72-74-75-79 Evening Daily Three: 6-7-0	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.84 Sept. corn5.84 Wheat5.23	Sept. beans13.33 Wheat 5.28
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.94 Sept. corn5.89 Mid Sept. corn5.34	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.32 Sept. corn5.12 Beans.....14.14 Sept. beans14.09 Wheat5.65
The Andersons Richland Township Corn5.24 Sept. corn5.24 Beans14.01	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....5.24 Sept. corn5.24 Beans13.61 Sept. beans13.26 Wheat5.27

Today in history

In 1715, King Louis XIV died, ending a 72-year reign.
In 1923, boxer Rocky Marciano was born Rocco Francis Marchegiano in Brockton, Massachusetts. He is the only world heavyweight boxing champion to retire undefeated, finishing his career at 49-0.
In 2004, the Jay County High School cross country teams cruised to victories in a home meet against Monroe Central and Union City. Alyssa Johnson led the girls team in its 4K race in 17 minutes, 5 seconds, while Mitchel Thomas won the boys 5K event in 19:44.
In 2021, Jay County Council adjusted its 2022 budget, bringing it down about \$13,000 from the initial estimate to \$20.17 million. It was an increase of 5% over the previous year.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, school-house community center.
Wednesday 5:30 p.m. — Jay County Council budget review, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Plan ...

Continued from page 1
It also identifies target outcomes with strategies to help achieve those goals.

In the area of communication, the No. 1 strategy is to form an East Central Indiana League of Cities and Counties in order to build and take advantage of the knowledge base throughout the region.

"How I'm looking at that is to be able to provide just more communication and educational opportunities to elected officials and other stakeholders throughout the region," said Friedeberg. "Sometimes I feel like there's not enough discussion happening across counties and even sometimes within a county about different efforts that are taking place."

That will include planning training for elected officials about the economic development process, likely in early 2024.

Other target outcomes include:
•Diversifying funding and support base by putting together a goal-oriented investor recruitment campaign
•Developing a regional branding effort, including utilizing Forge Your Path (forgeeci.com)
•Targeting business segments that

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership's new strategic plan is online at ecirp.org/strategic-plan

would make a significant economic impact on the region

"Identifying new areas in which East Central Indiana Regional Partnership can be of assistance to its communities

•Focusing on projects, such as broadband, early childhood education and housing, to improve "quality of place"

Each outcome is broken down into smaller goals that the regional partnership plans to address.

"It is bite-sized," said Friedeberg. "There's little pieces that we can chip away at and continue to make progress. ...

"We're gonna continue to chip away at these until we can get everything implemented and then reassess and keep growing from there."

Smart Solutions Group worked with the regional partnership to develop the plan through a series of meetings that included board members, local economic development officials and other stakeholders.

The next step is to engage those same groups and begin working toward the outcomes laid out in the plan.

"I think this is a huge step for the regional partnership just to show that we are here and we are working very diligently on behalf of everyone and all the residents of east central Indiana to make sure that we've got our priorities in the right place so that we can set the entire region up for growth and sustained growth as we move forward," Friedeberg said.

Health ...

Continued from page 1

"Never underestimate your power to help, to hope, to heal," Jill Biden told students on Wednesday. "You're shining a light in the darkness, helping so many find their way through."

"It's okay not to be okay — you are not alone," she continued. "You shouldn't have to face the rough edges of life, of this world, by yourself. There are people around you, educators and peers, who want to listen and who are there to support you."

Mental health resources

for Hoosier students are in increasing demand.

In a 2021 advisory report, Murthy, the U.S. Surgeon General, said a "widespread" mental health care crisis was already affecting children, adolescents, and young adults — and it was only accelerated by the pandemic.

More recently, in May, Murthy released another advisory, warning about the potential effects social media use has on youth mental health, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Murthy reiterated those concerns Wednesday, saying it will take "nothing short of a movement" to properly address the country's ongoing mental health concerns.

"I worry about what the future holds for all of our children, given the crisis that we're seeing, and I know this is personal for so many of us," he said, emphasizing that the youth mental health crisis in America "represents the defining public health challenge of our time."

SERVICES

Friday

Cook, Mary: 1 p.m., Claycomb Cemetery.

Service listings provided by

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Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to: Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

"Celebration of Life Service"

of the Dunkirk Bethel / Ridertown Church



4 miles north of Dunkirk on Hwy 167

Sunday, September 24 from 2:00-4:00

Service will include:
2:00-2:30- Finger food carry-in w/fellowship
2:30-4:00- Music, mini-message, and memories
Bring a poem, story, reflection of your time at Bethel.
Recognition of families.
A time of thanksgiving unto God!

Celebration Leaders: Pastor Scott McClain; former parishioner and Pastor, Randy Davis; Pianist, former parishioner Kathy (Woodard) Jutte; Song leaders- Joel (former parishioner) and Sharon Taylor.

The church held its last official worship service July 31, 2023. For additional info contact Randy Davis: 765-730-4979 randy.Davis@inumc.org

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Ads must run in September. Rate does not apply to special sections.

RESTAURANT

Food & Drink

menu

Reach out to customers in Blackford, Jay and Randolph counties

4x4 ad once a week in
The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette, The News-Times and The News and Sun throughout September

\$415 (85% off regular price)

Or run a

4x4 ad once a week in
the publications of your choice:
The Commercial Review — **\$275**
The News-Gazette — **\$250**
The News-Times — **\$210**
The News and Sun — **\$210**

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

Free shows scheduled for this month

Charles W. Brown Planetarium has more free shows coming up.

“Moons: Worlds of Mystery,” takes its audience on a journey through the solar system and the significance of moons. Showings are set for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8, Sept. 9, Sept. 15, Sept. 16, Sept. 29 and Sept. 30.

“Eclipse: The Sun Revealed,” walks its viewers through solar and lunar eclipses and why they happen. The show will be at 5 p.m. Sept. 9, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30.

“Magic Treehouse: Space Mission,” follows characters from the best-selling children’s book series as they travel to an

Taking Note

observatory and beyond into space. Showings are at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 9, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30.

All regular programs are free of charge, but cash donations are accepted at the door. Tickets or reservations are not required.

Pennville supper

Pennville Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a free ham and beans supper

from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 9.

The dinner will include ham and beans, cornbread, dessert and a beverage. Attendees may give free will donations for the meal.

Internships available

The Indiana Senate Republican Caucus is accepting applications for paid internships for the spring semester.

In order to be eligible, a student must be at least a college sophomore. Recent college graduates, graduate students and law school students can also apply.

The full-time positions are open to Indiana residents and anyone attend-

ing an Indiana college or university.

For more information, visit indianasenatepublicans.com/Intern.

McLean in Muncie

Don McLean is performing in Muncie this weekend. A Blackford High School graduate will open the show.

The show set for Saturday at the new Brown Family Amphitheater at Ball State University is a part of McLean’s 2023 American Pie 50th Anniversary Tour, which is traveling through the United States and Canada.

Jerry Barker, a 2019 graduate of Blackford High School, will kick off

the show starting at 7 p.m. Sept. 2. Country band Mike Martin and The Peaceful Revolution will take the stage from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., with McLean to follow.

McLean, 77, will be performing “American Pie,” as well as other renowned pieces from his decades-long career, including “Vincent (Starry Starry Night),” “Castles in the Air,” “And I Love You So,” and “Cryin’,” and some of his more recent songs.

Tickets are not required. For more information, visit donmclean.com.

Auction items

Fort Recovery’s One-of-a-Kind Auction is looking

for items. The annual auction will be held at Fort Recovery Elementary Middle School on Oct. 22.

This year’s theme is “‘Tis the Season to Sparkle!” Committee members encourage anyone who has a “one of a kind” item, or an item that is special or interesting, to donate it to the auction.

Donations may be handled by texting or calling chairman Mary Diller at (419) 852-3374 or Nancy Knapke at (419) 852-6110. Items may be dropped off at Be You Boutique. Profits from the auction are used to maintain Fort Recovery’s historic sites.

Insensitive comments eat away at mother

DEAR ABBY: I had my daughter later in life. I was almost 41. I am no beauty queen, but now, 12 years later, I have been asked by two different people if I am my daughter’s grandmother. It was so upsetting, I cried for weeks. I have always been self-conscious about my looks.

My daughter is now going to be a teenager. I don’t want her future high school friends

Dear Abby



thinking I am her grandma, so I’ve been contemplating plastic surgery. My family insists I don’t need it. They’re calling

me vain, foolish, selfish, etc. My husband is discouraging me because of the cost. (He’s pretty frugal.)

Would it be selfish if it will make me feel better about myself? In the meantime, how do I handle any more “grandma” comments without punching someone in the nose? — NOT THAT OLD IN FLORIDA

DEAR NOT THAT OLD: In case you haven’t noticed, an

increasing number of women are having children in their 40s (and a few even older). If you are contemplating cosmetic surgery only because you have a young child, a cheaper and more effective way to deal with it would be to simply tell the truth, which is that she’s your daughter.

While cosmetic surgery can make someone more confi-

dent about their looks, it is not the case for everyone. Your family should not be ridiculing you for wanting to explore the option. A licensed mental health professional can help you decide whether you need a surgical procedure or an attitude adjustment. If it’s the former, schedule an appointment with a qualified surgeon to discuss your options.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

GOODYEAR FAMILY REUNION — Will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, at Greek’s Pizzeria in Portland.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is

located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., 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.

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.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and

after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

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

Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

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 Cen-

ter for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who’s lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

JOB OPENING

FULL TIME HEALTH DEPARTMENT IMMUNIZATION CLERK
JAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2023 SALARY: \$31,922.80

DUTIES

- Schedules/coordinates appointments for clients and sends out reminder/recall notices regarding upcoming and/or missed appointments
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- Conducts billing to insurance and Medicaid companies for vaccines administered
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- Issues certified birth and death certificates to authorized individuals
- Receives/receipts monies for permits, certificates, and immunizations and files reports as necessary
- Answers telephones and greets office visitors, responding to inquiries, providing information and assistance

REQUIREMENTS

- High School diploma or equivalent
- Possession of or ability to obtain TB skin testing certification and CPR/AED certifications
- Possession of or ability to obtain Notary Public License and National Incident Management (NIMS) Certifications
- Ability to serve the public with diplomacy and respect, including occasional encounters with difficult persons
- Ability to problem solve and collaborate as a team player
- Ability to operate standard office equipment
- Ability to travel off-site (active Indiana driver's license)

HOURS

- 35 hours weekly (Monday through Friday)
- Occasional evening and weekend hours as needed for department operations and out of town meetings
- Follows the Jay County government office holiday schedule

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Health Department at:
504 W. Arch St., Portland, IN 47371
Ph. 260-726-8080 Fax 260-726-2220 Environmental@jaycountyhealthdept.org
Applications will be accepted until September 8, 2023

Education should take precedence

The Free Press
(Mankato, Minnesota)
Tribune News Service

Why it matters: School test scores for basic skills remain far below pre-pandemic levels.

The social upheaval and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic continues its “long haul” effect on the education of the state’s children based on the recent number of students failing to meet reading and math basic skills with testing results that are 10% to 15% below the pre-pandemic level.

It’s a grim reminder of the health and emotional costs of the pandemic and the isolation it required. It’s also a reminder that much work remains to even get the state’s children back to where they were a few years ago.

The Northwest Evaluation

Guest Editorial

Association, an education policy group that creates Minnesota tests, estimated students would need four to five months of tutoring to get back to pre-pandemic levels in math and reading competency.

Seven of 17 regional school districts were below the already low state average in math proficiency at less than half of the students (45.5%) meeting the standard. Nine of 17 districts were below the state average in reading which was almost half statewide at 49.9%.

Minnesota Education Commissioner Willie Jett takes the right attitude, saying: “We will not shy away from what the data are telling us. These results send a renewed sense of urgency and underscore the importance of key supports that are already underway.”

The department has provided a report card on each school. It shows test scores for the past five years, graduation rates and school attendance rates. Parents should use this to start discussions with administrators and teachers on how their schools will get better.

Jett and others point to recently passed school funding legislation that will provide schools an additional \$2.3 billion, a 10% increase that amounts to a 2 to 4% increase per year in spending on the

classroom. The Legislature also allocated \$15 million to hire more school counselors and provided \$700 million for special education.

Jett also notes schools will embark on a new strategy to teach reading and the state will support funding for the new science-based curriculum.

More money will help. Better strategies will help. More emotional support for students will be critical. But schools are not just about teachers and administrators. They’re about parents and community support, and parenting will be critical to get students back to where they were and excel after that.

While the poor test scores are troubling, attendance rates are just as concerning. Statewide, only 70% of students attend school regularly, meaning 90%

of the time. In the Mankato school district, the attendance rate is 57%.

Students can’t learn if they’re not present, and parents have the main responsibility to make sure their kids are in school.

The education funding critics will point to the test scores and argue even more money doesn’t help, but that’s narrow thinking. The pandemic foisted a burden on the normalcy of society so significant even billions more in spending cannot quickly resolve the damage done.

We must redouble our efforts to make sure the education of children takes precedence in all we do with the resources we have, and that everyone plays a role in making sure children get the education they need to live happy and productive lives. Our society depends on it.

Disabled workers are at a crossroads

By **OLIVIA ALPERSTEIN**

OtherWords

This Labor Day, it’s time to talk about disabled workers.

This issue is personal for me. I debated for years about whether to disclose my disability status to potential employers.

I have rheumatoid arthritis, which is largely managed thanks to medication. I’m extremely lucky — I get to choose whether and how to disclose my disability, instead of needing to disclose it to get access to tools I need to succeed on the job. Usually, the only visible evidence of my disability at work is when an occasional flare-up gives me pain.

At least one out of every four Americans has a disability, and conditions like long COVID may have bumped that number even further. Millions of disabled American workers rely on a variety of visible and invisible workplace accommodations to help them do their jobs and do them well.

As the U.S. Department of Labor explains on their website, workplace accommodations “may include specialized equipment, modifications to the work environment, or adjustments to work schedules or responsibilities.” That can mean anything from adaptive technology to ergonomic office furniture to a hybrid or fully remote work schedule.

We still have a long way to go to make American workplaces around our country more accessible, inclusive, and more likely to hire and retain disabled workers. Labor Day is the perfect time to talk about how to raise the standard across the country when it comes to disability accommodations in the workplace.

Three years into the pandemic, changes in remote and hybrid work policies have transformed the job market for disabled workers, vastly expanding opportunities for employment and making it more feasible for disabled workers not only to survive but to thrive. Workplaces in turn benefit from disabled workers’ talents, perspectives, and adaptiveness.

Disabled workers are a growing portion of the labor force and a vital asset to our economy. But with a growing employer push-back against remote work and other basic accommodations, these pandemic-era gains could end up

Olivia Alperstein



being temporary if we’re not careful.

We’re at a crossroads: we can either continue to build on this progress that has opened doors for an entire section of the labor force — and for improved labor policies in general — or we can undo those great strides and shut disabled workers out.

Despite some protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which just turned 33, disabled workers still face stigma when it comes to hiring, employment, and navigating workplace environments that require accommodations.

Although a lot of progress has occurred over the past several decades, workers like me can still face an uphill battle when trying to access workplace accommodations to fulfill our job duties. Doctors’ notes, medical records, complicated human resources processes, and other hurdles can be a barrier to getting even the most basic requests accommodated.

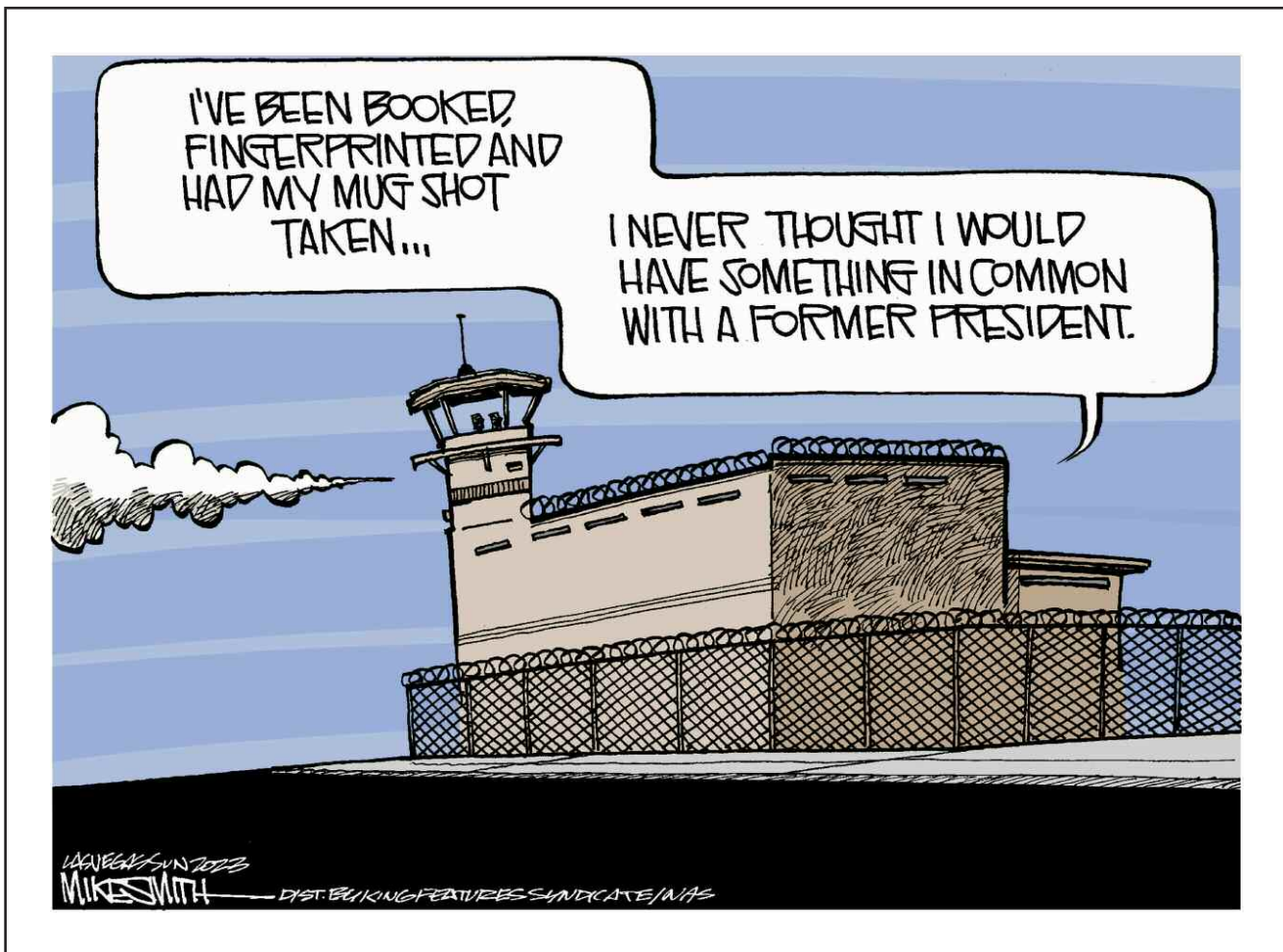
The cost for employers tends to be pretty small. A May survey of employers by the Job Accommodation Network found that fulfilling an accommodation request cost half of them nothing at all. Of those that did incur an expense, the median cost was just \$300.

Meanwhile, staff-wide workplace measures like flexible scheduling, paid sick leave, intermittent breaks, or ergonomic office furniture tend to benefit everyone, not just disabled employees.

Let’s raise the standard this year. Let’s treat disability accommodations like we treat safety standards or anti-discrimination statutes — as common-sense measures that help employers retain great employees and ensure their full potential, for the benefit of everyone.

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Alperstein is the Deputy Communications Director at the Institute for Policy Studies.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



Milei should be a wake-up call

By **ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD**

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Argentina has been pummeled by one economic crisis after another for a generation. It has the third-highest inflation rate in the world and a bad habit of defaulting on debt, and 40% of its population is living in poverty.

The country’s political class has failed to find a way out, and its people are angry. It’s no wonder that a radical outsider pulled more votes than any other candidate in the recent presidential primary.

Javier Milei, an anti-establishment libertarian economist and former TV commentator, shocked the nation by securing 30% of the vote. In the October election, he will face the two other candidates who secured enough votes to qualify, and a likely runoff thereafter will determine the president.

Milei is a capitalist extremist who wants the government totally out of the economy. He wants to adopt the dollar as Argentina’s legal tender, close the central bank, and privatize public education and health care. He’s even argued for legalizing the sale of human organs and, unsurprisingly, claims climate change is a lie.

His pitch to privatize might make sense since so many of Argentina’s financial problems lie in unaffordable government services. The country has heavy subsidies on health care, energy, universities and public transportation. A global economic slowdown and the COVID-19 crisis only magnified existing economic troubles. Slashing public benefits isn’t so popular, though, when poverty is high and people are struggling to make ends meet. Simply reining in spending wouldn’t have secured this enthusiasm.

Milei’s appeal is more a vote against the establishment than a vote for anything in particular. And it

Elizabeth Shackelford



draws attention to an acute problem facing democracies around the world: Good governance and good politics don’t always align. It’s hard to make the case for hard, long-term solutions in a sound bite. Compromise and checks and balances throw breaks on rash, emotional decisions, but that slows everything down. Sometimes, voters are sympathetic to a slow pace. When they’re angry, they aren’t.

Milei is just the latest populist to ride this wave of anger. It’s what drove Donald Trump to the White House in 2016 and is the source of his enduring appeal to part of the U.S. population today. Recep Tayyip Erdogan rallied that anger to continue his rule despite Turkey’s own economic slump. Then-United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson rallied the masses against the constraints of European Union membership without offering anything in return.

These populist leaders all secured support by laying blame rather than offering real solutions. In Argentina, since no one is offering real solutions, Milei is even more appealing in comparison. This is particularly true with the younger population, where he finds much of his support. Youth unemployment is nearing 19%, far higher than that of the rest of the population. The members of this angry constituency have no stake in a system that has been broken their entire lives, so they aren’t concerned about the consequences of blowing it up.

The establishment offers two

options, neither promising a credible path to a better future. The governing coalition is Peronist, a political movement that also had populist origins and has dominated politics in Argentina for decades. Its candidate, Economy Minister Sergio Massa, would likely continue the modest reforms that have been insufficient to turn the country’s fate around. It finished third.

Center-right opposition candidate Patricia Bullrich presents a shift, but her coalition looks quite establishment by comparison to Milei.

Milei’s surprise win in the primary will undoubtedly mobilize those who fear his extreme policy proposals. But will it be enough to wake up Argentina’s political and governing class?

Unfortunately, the economic woes facing Argentina have no easy fixes. Even the smartest recovery efforts will require sacrifice and years to take root, and democratic politicians are rarely accorded trust and power long enough for that kind of reform. Milei’s empty promises will lead only to harder times ahead, should he rise to power. But since populist political leaders tend to weaken checks and balances, and Argentina’s aren’t strong to begin with, he might be hard to rein in, or vote out, if he does.

Argentina’s poor-performing political dynasties are to blame for the popularity of Milei’s extreme propositions. Hopefully this acts as a wake-up call, so those who understand how to govern will work harder to do so and to find new answers to win back the trust of the people. But if the alternative is only more of the same, who can blame those who are seduced by Milei’s rallying cry?

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Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat.

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“Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter.”
—Thomas Jefferson

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Short corn, big potential

Researcher believes he found 'just right' hybrid

By NANCY ALEXANDER
Purdue Ag News

Gurmukh (Guri) Johal is a scientist, not a teller of fairy tales. But the Purdue professor of botany and plant pathology likens his recently patented genetic mutation in corn to "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." Like the girl's three tries to find the perfect porridge, chair and bed, Johal tried two other mutations on his 35-year path to high-yield dwarf corn before discovering the one he says is "just right."

"I found the Goldilocks mutation in 2020 when Covid started," Johal says. "So we could not do research in the lab and that year could not hire anybody to work in the field. I was doing everything on my own. Then I found this mutant in the field — I'd never seen anything like it before. That was my aha moment."

This short corn variant, D16, generates a hybrid plant optimal in both height and vigor, he says.

Johal's focus on the mechanism of dwarfing in corn dates to 1988, when he was a postdoctoral researcher with Pioneer Hi Bred Seed Company (now Corteva). "That's where we cloned the first gene for disease resistance ever in plants, which happened to be in corn," he says. That particular gene was closely linked to the brachytic2 (br2) mutation, which the researchers used as a genetic marker to clone the gene for disease resistance.

"Brachysm" refers to dwarfing in plants in which only the internode — the plant stem between two nodes from which leaves emerge — are shortened. The work sparked Johal's interest in plant height regulation and architecture. "Definitely disease resistance is very important, but height is important as well," he says.

A short corn variant could benefit farmers, industry and the environment. Based on its financial potential, D16 has attracted interest from several large agribusinesses, for obvious reasons: U.S. farmers plant 90 million acres of corn annually. The trait is non-GMO so can be planted worldwide and, when permitted, can be easily introduced into any elite line by gene editing.

"This trait has the potential to impact the entire crop of corn in the U.S. and beyond," Johal says.

In working toward D16, his research increased understanding of two other corn-dwarfing mutations. In 1995 he began working with anther ear 1 (an1), a gene in the same pathway that rice and wheat breeders, including Norman Borlaug, used to make dwarf varieties in the



Purdue Ag News/Tom Campbell

Gurmukh (Guri) Johal, a Purdue University researcher who has developed a variety of dwarf corn, checks on some corn in a field.

1960s. These were key to the Green Revolution of the late 1960s, heading off famine on the Indian subcontinent and in Southeast Asia.

But corn isn't like rice and wheat, Johal explains. "In the 1960s when people were working on rice and wheat and were very successful there, people did try it on corn. But they did not find anything that was just right, so they kind of gave up on it."

Johal's own research with an1 resulted in dwarf corn, but of variable height. He showed that the mechanism that worked in wheat and rice — a limitation in the pathway that leads to the production of the plant hormone gibberellic acid — didn't work in corn because it impacted the differentiation of male and female sexes of flowers.

Johal next focused on the brachytic2 (br2) mutation of maize. Although br2 was first identified in 1951, scientists did not understand its underlying genetic mechanism until Johal and his research team published their results in the journal Science in 2003. "We showed why plants that had the brachytic2 mutation were short," he says.

Johal's team cloned and patented the br2 gene in 2002 in

collaboration with Pioneer. Once the patent expired, other companies began applying the brachytic2 mutation to reduce the height and generate what they called smart, or short, corn.

But plant breeders didn't get it just right, either. "Corn, unlike all other plant species, has two aspects of plant height," Johal explains. "One is the overall height. The second is the height of the ear." These seemed to conflict with each other, he adds: Shortening the overall plant height lowers the ear too far; bringing the ear up mitigates against the short stature of the plant.

"Working with these mutations, it became clear to me that the only way we can generate short corn plants that would be commercially viable and very beneficial, would be if the mutation were dominant, so it has to be in only one of the two inbred lines used to make hybrid plants," Johal says. "And secondly, it has to make a plant not too tall and not too short. But that window of height range is very narrow."

His D16 mutant reduces corn from 9-10 feet in height to 6.5-7 feet, which keeps the ear at a height that can be harvested

mechanically with a standard U.S. combine.

Since the 1960s, corn breeders have increased yield by developing germplasm that allows plants to be grown closer together. "Some people think there's still potential to increase density," Johal says. "But to be able to realize that potential, we first must bring the height of the plant down. Tall and dense plants become vulnerable to wind damage. This domino effect basically causes the entire crop to fall down."

Short corn's durability in wind is especially important as climate change increases the frequency of high-speed Midwest storms called derechos. In 2020, a derecho flattened 2 million acres of corn in Iowa alone, causing \$8 billion in damage. Growers lost not just their crops; costly inputs like fertilizer, fungicide and water all went to waste.

Financial impact and environmental impact "go hand in hand," Johal says. He cites fertilizer as an example. Normal hybrids get so tall so quickly that farmers have to provide fertilizer at the time of planting, he notes. "But plants use very little of it early on; they need it later." In the meantime, much of the fertil-

izer runs off or degrades. "If farmers can provide this crop fertilizer at later stages, we would need less fertilizer," he says.

The D16 mutation offers this possibility, he says. And because dwarf corn allows for more plants per acre, Johal believes it may allow growers to use less land, which means less energy, fertilizer, water and other expenses.

He cites a hypothetical situation: "If you have 1,000 acres of land — but only 300 acres of that land is really the best for planting — only use that much. Put your best genetics in there and give it the utmost attention and treatment, then you probably can get more from those 300 acres than the entire 1,000 acres. So then 700 acres can be left to nature."

When Johal drives through current cornfields he envisions that balance of agricultural crops and nature — fields interspersed with forested land, especially in low-lying areas, and all the benefits of more trees, including wildlife habitat and carbon dioxide capture.

And when you come to a rural intersection in Indiana, he notes, you'll be able to see around the short corn.

Vilsack offers ag vision

By BRENDEN MOORE

The Pantagraph
(Bloomington, Illinois)
Tribune News Service

DECATUR — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack made multiple appearances Wednesday afternoon at the Farm Progress Show, offering a broader glimpse into his view on the future of agriculture and his take on still-ongoing Farm Bill negotiations.

Vilsack, who addressed U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski's agriculture advisory council at Richland Community College in the morning before making a brief presentation at the trade show early in the afternoon, urged gathered farmers not to view agriculture policy simply through the narrow lens of the bill and to diversify their revenue streams in wake of a changing industry.

"We put a lot of emphasis on the Farm Bill and I totally understand why," Vilsack said. "But the reality is... the emphasis needs to be on the vision. And then on all of the tools that are available to make that vision happen."

Vilsack mentioned various programs funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, American Rescue Plan, the regular budget and other pieces of legislation.

To hammer home his message, Vilsack put on his professorial hat, map-

Secretary of Agriculture says smaller operations need to be more diverse

ping out on a whiteboard the challenges facing the vast majority of farmers and possible revenue streams to help them stay afloat amid competition from larger-scale operations.

The nation's top agricultural official pointed out that despite U.S. farms reporting a record level of income in 2022, about 89% of the total is attributed to about 150,000 farms, or just more than 7% of the nation's 2.1 million farms. He attributed this to a "get big or get out" structure that favors larger operations.

To reverse this, Vilsack said farmers had to get creative by opening different revenue streams beyond their traditional means of production, such as taking advantage of incentives encouraging climate smart practices, generating renewable energy on their properties and taking advantage of emerging markets for bioproducts, among others.

"So instead of one,

you've got ... seven different opportunities," Vilsack said. "This is the future. It's got to be the future."

"If it's not the future, this is the future," he said, pointing to the continued consolidation of agriculture into large-scale farm operations. He said this would have a downstream impact as well.

"If you have fewer farmers, you have fewer farm families," Vilsack said. "If you have fewer farm families, you have fewer kids in school, which means the schools have to consolidate. Schools consolidating means there are fewer people in those downtown businesses."

While Vilsack, now in his second tenure as ag secretary, focused on bigger picture issues, there was still much chatter at Farm Progress about the stalled Farm Bill.

The once-every-five-year omnibus bill directs programs having to do with the nation's agriculture and food programs.



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NEWSPAPERS

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South and hold the following hand:
 ♠AJ96 ♥KQ853 ♦10 ♣KJ4
 The bidding has gone:
 North: 1♣, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥.
 South: 1♥, 2♣, 3♣, 4♣.
 What would you bid next if North now bid:
 1. Two notrump.
 2. Three clubs.
 3. Three hearts.
 4. Four hearts.

2. **Four clubs.** The chance of a slam increases greatly when partner rebids three clubs rather than two notrump. Partner almost surely has six clubs, and probably has only three hearts, but if his high cards happen to include the A-Q of clubs and ace of hearts, a slam is likely. The alternative of jumping to four hearts risks missing a sound slam, as partner might easily pass with a hand that offers a good play for 12 tricks.

1. **Four hearts.** You know at this point that partner started with a minimum opening bid (he raised one heart to only two); that he has only three-card heart support (he would not bid two notrump with four hearts); and that he probably has a balanced hand that includes at least one diamond stopper (judging from his two-notrump bid). There is consequently very little chance for a slam, so you should settle for game in hearts. A typical hand for partner on this auction might be something like: ♠Q4 ♥AJ7 ♦K83 ♣Q9762, which would offer an excellent chance for 10 tricks in five clubs, and almost no chance of making nine tricks in three notrump after a diamond lead.

3. **Four hearts.** You have to abandon hopes for a slam after partner has shown willingness to let the bidding die at two hearts and is now willing to stop at three hearts. True, he almost surely has four hearts, but you need much more than that to justify a slam undertaking. Alternatively, you could bid four clubs instead of four hearts, but this delicate slam try might lead to a partnership misunderstanding. 4. **Four notrump.** A slam in hearts is likely, and the best way to deal with the situation is to use Blackwood. If partner shows either two or three aces, you next bid six hearts. The key here is to recognize that partner's jump to four hearts, after his minimum raise on the last round, indicates that he has four-card trump support as well as a maximum for his previous bids.

Tomorrow: Strange exchange. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

9-1 CRYPTOQUIP

P B U T C X P V W P D E D C B
 D S P V D M E D W O C S D T A F U A
 C W P M P C M T C M D F C X V T U O D

B U X T D , P A Y D X P D T Y D X P D B T .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE TIME WHEN PERUMER ESTEE WAS TOO ILL TO DO THE WASH HERSELF, I HELPED LAUDER LAUNDER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals O

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 "You've got mail" co.
 4 Juan's home
 8 Pinnacle
 12 Part of TNT
 13 "... three men in —"
 14 Cool veggie
 15 25th U.S. president
 17 Pundit's piece
 18 Pop singer Easton
 19 Navy address
 21 "I do," for one
 22 Quarterback Donovan
 26 Resurrected
 29 Menlo Park monogram
 30 "Norma —"
 31 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
 32 Indian lentil dish
- DOWN**
 1 \$ dispenser
 2 Symphonic gp.
 3 Facebook action
 4 Big gun
 5 Attorney—
 6 Take to court
 7 Very bad oak
 8 Future seal
 9 Young (out)
 10 Squeeze (out)
- 33** Put the kibosh on org.
34 Motorist's org.
35 Trendy land
36 Agra's land
37 TV role for Flockhart
39 Swelled head
40 "Evita" role
41 Turned to mush
45 Old radio part
48 "Bridesmaids" actress
50 Gymnast Korbut
51 Earth orbiter
- 52** Calendar
53 Bump into
54 "— girl!"
55 Annex
- 11** Deleted abbr.
16 "When will — learn?"
20 "Rocks"
23 Desertlike
24 Island near Java
25 Composer Bartok
26 Meander
27 Apple variety
28 Swedish car
29 Spigot
32 Pickle
33 Soup mix brand
35 "So there!"
36 Big lizard
38 Brilliance
39 Space-ship Earth locale
42 Jazz singer James
43 Barak of Israel
44 Turned blue?
45 — Pérignon
46 Land in la mer
47 Get older
49 Camp bed

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	S	H	F	U	L	L	Y	D	S
A	L	T	I	A	N	T	E	O	U	R
Y	O	U	D	E	C	I	D	E	U	S
S	U	B	D	U	E	R	A	F	T	S
E	R	S	U	S	H	I				
B	R	Y	N	O	P	A	R	G	O	
E	E	O	H	A	D	S	I	R		
G	L	U	E	O	V	O	O	T	T	O
O	L	L	I	E	D	R				
H	A	W	K	E	M	I	A	S	M	A
A	B	E	Y	O	U	B	E	T	T	E
M	U	M	T	A	T	A	E	R	S	T
S	T	E	E	K	E	S	D	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 9-1

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pearson's rally

Mara Pearson of Fort Recovery swings at a ball near the net during the Indians' three-set win over the Jay County Patriots on Tuesday. The Patriots had game point, but Pearson's kill kept the Indians alive. She rattled off three more points to propel the Indians to the victory in the set, putting them in position to sweep.

Record ...

Continued from page 8

How good was Volleyball Day in Nebraska? Most people stayed until the end of the match. And then they stayed even longer to watch a light show that included flames. Scotty McCreery ended the night with a nice 75-minute show. He got the crowd singing along by playing several classic country songs — and got bonus points for the Husker volleyball shirt he wore.

It was during the intermission that it became official that the record had been set for the largest crowd for a women's sporting event.

The players heard that as they came back to the court from the locker room.

"We had heard on the speaker that we had just broken the world record and everyone was trying to stay locked in, but we were so excited," Jackson said.

It felt like a gameday for most of the afternoon, with fans streaming into downtown more than five hours before the match.

For the Nebraska-Kearney vs. Wayne State exhibition match, there was already a nice crowd.

And when the Nebraska players took the court about 50 minutes before the match, there was a massive ovation. Husker middle blocker Bekka Allick had one of the biggest grins you'll ever see.

About 10 minutes before the match began came what some people will no doubt tell you was one of the best Tunnel Walk player entrances this stadium has seen.

When the camera came on, the team was leaving the locker room with Merritt Beason, Rodriguez and Cook in front.

Beason tried to have her game face on. Rodriguez tried that, too, but could only do that for a second before she flashed a big smile. Rodriguez may play tough, but she's a walking smile.

Lining the Tunnel Walk were some of the 95 former Husker volleyball players in attendance — with players from each of the five national championship teams.

As Cook stepped up the court, he shook hands with Alberts. It was Alberts who convinced Cook a stadium match could work and that the fans would come. He was right.

One of the biggest questions from the start was the weather. It turned out pretty ideal — it was 82 degrees at the start of the Huskers' match with some wind.

And the level of play was pretty good. A few times the setters had a hard time when the second touch went too high. There were a combined 23 serving errors. Nebraska finished with a .263 hitting percentage, while the Mavs (0-3) had a negative hitting percentage.

"The wind on one side was kind of blowing into our faces," Rodriguez said. "And then on the other side, it was blowing away from us. So with our serves, we had to adjust and not hit it as hard on one side, and then trying to really hit it hard going into the wind."

Near the end of the third set, Beason dropped in an ace serve for a 21-12 lead, and the countdown was on. Maggie Mendelson had the match-point kill.

The Omaha players enjoyed the once-in-a-lifetime experience, too. Omaha setter Oliva Curry said it's probably the only time she's had a smile after she lost.

At times it was a normal match, Omaha coach Matt Buttermore said, and at times it was an out-of-this-world experience.

"It was always a little weird with the wind and the elements and helicopters flying over the court," Buttermore said.

For Cook, the whole day was emotional as he interacted with fans, and saw players he hadn't seen since they graduated, such as Briana Holman.

Part of Cook's emotion came about from a note that setter Kennedy Orr gave him. He read part of the note at a pep rally earlier in the day at the NU Coliseum.

"I just read the last line, which was, 'Coach, tonight the impossible we're going to make it possible,'" Cook said.

Repair ...

Continued from page 8

The Colts are in uncharted waters this summer with their best offensive player estranged from the team.

Taylor — a 24-year-old running back in the prime of his career who led the NFL in rushing yards in 2021 — asked for a trade when training camp began July 25 and has been on the physically unable to perform list ever since.

On Tuesday, Indianapolis

turned down offers from the Miami Dolphins and a mystery team later revealed by ESPN to be the Green Bay Packers, leaving the situation in limbo less than two weeks before the regular season begins.

At the heart of the issue is a depressed running back market across the NFL and Taylor's desire for a long-term contract that gives him some guarantees beyond the 2023 season.

The Colts have been unwilling to negotiate an extension before the end of this season, during which Taylor is scheduled to be paid \$4.3 million under the final year of his rookie deal.

Taylor — who is still rehabbing an ankle injury that cost him six games last season — has made it clear he's not interested in assuming the risk of playing without a long-term agreement in place.

There's little — if any — middle ground between the two positions. But Ballard is still holding out hope for reconciliation.

"It sucks for the Colts. It sucks for Jonathan Taylor. And it sucks for our fans. It does," Ballard said. "And it's where we're at, and we've gotta work through it. And we're going to do everything we can to work through it. Relationships are repairable. They're repairable."

What comes next is anybody's guess.

Because he's on PUP, Taylor can not play in the first four games and can not practice until Oct. 2.

By all accounts, Taylor still would like to be dealt to a new franchise before the NFL's trade deadline Oct. 31. But Ballard was very clear he will not simply give away the former All-Pro without proper compensation.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Football at Southern Wells — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football at Coldwater — 7 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Girls soccer vs. Coldwater — 10 a.m.; JV football vs. Southern Wells — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Cross Country Treaty City Invite at Greenville City Park — 9 a.m.; Volleyball vs. Arcanum — 10 a.m.; JV football vs. Coldwater — 10 a.m.; Middle School cross country Treaty City Invite at Greenville City Park — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
7:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — U.S. Open (ESPN)
1 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
6 p.m. — U.S. Open (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: Miami (OH) at Miami (ACCN)
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: Central Michigan at Michigan State (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Louisville at Georgia Tech (ESPN)
7 p.m. — High School Football: Providence Day at Catholic (NC) (ESPN)
8 p.m. — WNBA: Connecticut Sun at New York Liberty (ION)

Saturday
11 a.m. — U.S. Open (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Colorado at TCU (FOX)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Ball State at Kentucky (SECN)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Louisiana Tech at SMU (ESPN)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Virginia at Tennessee (ABC)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Arkansas State at Oklahoma (ESPN)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Northern Illinois at Boston College (ACCN)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Utah State at Iowa (FS1)
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Fresno State at Purdue (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Boise State at Washington (ABC)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Ohio State at Indiana (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Tennessee State at Notre Dame (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Rice at Texas (FOX)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Towson at Maryland (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Buffalo at Wisconsin (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: UMass at Auburn (ESPN)
4 p.m. — NCAA Football: Southeast Louisiana at Mississippi State (SECN)
4 p.m. — NCAA Football: Cal at North Texas (ESPN)
7 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: New Mexico at Texas A&M (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: UTSA at Houston (FS1)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open (ESPN2)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Milwaukee Brewers (FOX)
7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: West Virginia at Penn State (NBC)
7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Middle Tennessee at Alabama (SECN)
7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: North Carolina at South Carolina (ABC)
7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Texas Tech at Wyoming (CBS)

7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Toledo at Illinois (BTN)
8 p.m. — NCAA Football: South Alabama at Tulane (ESPN)
10:15 p.m. — NCAA Football: Sam Houston at BYU (FS1)
10:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Coastal Carolina at UCLA (ESPN)

Local notes

Cheer clinic scheduled
The Jay County Junior/Senior High School cheerleading clinic is scheduled for Sept. 5 and 6.

The clinic will be at East Jay Elementary School with sessions for kindergarten through second graders from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. and third through sixth graders from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Participants will cheer at halftime of the JCHS football game against Adams Central on Sept. 8.

The fee is \$35 per participant, which includes a t-shirt. A registration form is available on the Jay County Cheerleading page on Facebook.

For more information, contact Lindsey Peterson via email at lpeterson@jayschools.k12.in.us or by calling (260) 703-0267.

Adams Memorial Hospital 5K

The Worthman Fitness Center and the Diabetes Education Team of Adams Memorial Hospital will host the "Catch Your Breath ... while you Dash for Diabetes 5K Run/Walk" on Sept. 9 in cooperation with Adams County Parks and Recreation.

Pre-registration is open for \$20 through Friday, Sept. 1 at which point the entry fee will be raised to \$25.

Participants may also sign up at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 9 at the Adams Memorial Hospital under the Cancer Institute terrace.

For more visit adamscounty5kchallenge.com or contact Macy Jauregui at (206) 724-2145 ext. 11036.

Hunt applications

Beginning Aug. 20, hunters can apply for a variety of reserved hunts by visiting on.IN.gov/reservedhunt.

Applications for the following hunts can only be applied for online. They include waterfowl and deer hunts in fish and wildlife areas, deer hunts on state park property, November game bird area

hunts, Indiana private land access hunts, and December game bird area hunts.

Applications are due Sept. 24 by 11:59 p.m.

JC season tickets

Season tickets are available for the 2023-24 Jay County high school season. Tickets may be purchased during the school's office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Patriots Passes and Senior Patriot Passes that provide admission to all high school and junior high events will be available. They cost \$105 and \$60 respectively.

Also available are super tickets. High school adult super tickets cost \$80, junior high super tickets come out to \$60 and senior super tickets are \$45.

A pre-paid sports pass that is good for 12 regular season events may be purchased for \$50 as well.

Boys basketball and football season passes will cost \$50 and \$25 respectively.

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

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<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN Monday Morning September 4th, 2023 9:30 A.M. MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS Charles 3 cushion sofa; Lazy Boy lift chair; Ridgeway grandfather clock; Victrola with 78 records; VINTAGE TOYS: Buddy L truck, wooden horse and rider on wheels; GI Joe in box; HALLMARK ORNAMENT SETS; Aunt Jemina door stop; Pepsi and Coke wood crates; Harley Davidson jacket; and many other items not listed. POTTERY Gonder pieces; Hull pieces; Shawnee pieces; Royal Copley; LARGE COLLECTION OF MCCOY; Roseville urn; California Pottery planters; Other pottery pieces. MOWERS-SCOOTER-TOOLS Toro Timecutter 14382 zero turn mower; 2003 Honda Metropolitan scooter; John Deere 175 Hydro 38" mower; Dixon ZTR 6025, 60"</p>	<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>mower; assorted hand tools; and many other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Auction preview will be held on Sunday September 3 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction. Visit auction zip for photos. RALPH BLACKFORD, Deceased By Dave Blackford and Barb Caster And LIGHT FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Sale to be held in the Montpelier Civic Center, 339 South Main Street, Montpelier IN Thursday Evening SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 6:00 P.M. 203 ACRES IN HARRISON TOWNSHIP - BLACKFORD COUNTY INDIANA TRACT 1 - 40 acres located in Section 20 at the corner of CR 300 E and 500 N. There are 38.79 acres of mostly level tillable land with</p>	<p>90 SALE CALENDAR</p> <p>1.21 acres of roadway. TRACT 2 - 67.54 acres located in Section 32 on CR 400 E. There are 30.97 acres of tillable land along with 31.5 acres of Classified Forest and balance in ditch and roadway. TRACT 3 - 95.832 acres located in Section 29 with an address of 3402 N 400 E. There are 62.32 acres of slightly sloping tillable land, 27.58 acres in woods with the balance in ditch and scrub. This tract also has an easement for a utility tower. For more information please contact GARY LOY, AUCTIONEER at (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, BROKER at (260) 726-2700. BEULAH HISER TRUST By Mike Landers and Pam Hart, Trustees Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p>	<p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>HELP WANTED Pressure washing in Fort Recovery. Call 419-852-0309.</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>APPLES FOR SALE Menchhofer Farms; 5679 Wabash Rd., Coldwater, OH. 419-942-1502</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p>	<p>190 FARMERS COLUMN</p> <p>AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p> <p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com NEED MORE STORAGE? PJs U-Lock and Storage, most sizes available. Call 260-726-4631. 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p>WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage</p>	<p>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Public Notice PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING The Jay County Redevelopment Commission will meet at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11th, 2023 in the Jay County Courthouse Auditorium, 120 N Court St. Portland, IN 47371 CR 9-1-2023-HSPAXLP</p> <p>GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS You never know what you might find in The Commercial Review Classifieds. From a new car to a new home, to a new job, the Classifieds deliver! Go to theocr.com or call 260-726-8141</p>
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Paige Fortkamp sets career kills record, see story below

JC football opens ACAC play at Southern Wells, see Sports on tap

Sports

Husker fans break record

By BRENT WAGNER

Lincoln Journal Star, Neb. Tribune News Service

LINCOLN, Neb. — On a picture-perfect evening, the people of this state showed the world again that they really love their Husker volleyball on a day many people will never forget, with 92,003 spectators there and a world record for a women's sporting event.

And not only did they attend the Nebraska volleyball outdoor match at Memorial Stadium, they were all in on it, cheering all of the players and dancing to the music in a two-hour celebration of this sport in this state.

And the Huskers sent their fans home with a huge smile Wednesday evening with a 25-14, 25-14, 25-13 win in an in-state clash against Omaha.

Nebraska's defense, as usual, was excellent. And the Huskers' offense was pretty good in some challenging conditions in the open night air.

Freshman middle blocker Andi Jackson was exceptional hitting with eight kills on just 12 attempts. Outside hitter Harper Murray kept a great start to her college career going with six kills. Lexi Rodriguez had three ace serves and 14 digs.

Outside hitter Lindsay Krause, the Papillion native playing in her home state's most famous venue, had five kills and one block.

After the match got going, you wondered what the crowd would be like, with many people taking

in their first match. The fans quickly showed they knew what they were doing, figuring out how to do that "roof, roof, roof" cheer for a Husker stuff block with about 90,000 people.

And when Nebraska reached set point in the first set, the fans snapped right to their feet to clap. After Nebraska won, they shot off fireworks, just like they do for touchdowns.

Nebraska athletic director Trev Alberts and hundreds of other staff members gave Nebraska four-time national championship coach John Cook and his 14 players an amazing experience.

Fans filled every side of the stadium, with thousands more on the field level. A night spent right in the middle of Memorial Stadium? Yeah, the students will leave the dorms for that.

"I think the biggest thing is women's sports are a big deal here," Cook said. "And they got to experience what the men get to experience on the same level as all of the greatest football teams that have played here. We just got to experience it, and in some ways maybe even more because of how the crowd interacted."

"And the students on the field. I think that's what also set this thing off. I mean, you're just surrounded by all of these people on the field, and then you got the whole stadium part of it."

See Record page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

On the attack

Jay County High School's Bella Denton swings at a ball while Teigan Fortkamp and Paige Guggenbiller of Fort Recovery try to block it during their match on Tuesday. Denton led the Patriots with nine kills in the 25-22, 26-24, 25-21 loss to the Indians.

Ballard wants to repair JT relationship

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — Moments after making his opening statement Wednesday, Indianapolis Colts general manager Chris Ballard quickly addressed "the elephant" in the room.

"Just so y'all know, and I want everybody to know, Jonathan (Taylor)

is well respected and a really good human being and a damn good football player," Ballard said. "I think we all know this, all right? Things like this happen. I tell every rookie that comes in there's gonna be a point where we disagree, and it's usually about money. And it's gonna be hard. And just know that doesn't change my care level for you."

"I care deeply for Jonathan Taylor. I have great respect for Jonathan Taylor. Our relationship I will tell you is — look, even when it gets hard, I won't quit on the relationship. I won't do it. I think too much of the young man, think too much of what he's given our organization and how hard he's played for us."

See Repair page 7

FRHS grad posts 28 kills

Paige Fortkamp sets new career kills record

Paige Fortkamp made some big improvements from the first week of the season.

Fortkamp set a new career high in kills in the University of Saint Francis' five-set loss to William Woods on Aug. 25 and was the driving force for the Cougars that day.

The junior had 28 kills in the Cougars' (4-2) match. Her previous career high was set on Sept. 2, 2021 when she had 26 against Spring Arbor as a freshman.

Fortkamp had nine hitting errors and attacked the ball 58 times to earn a 0.328 hitting percentage against William Woods. She was responsible for 28.5 of the Cougars' 76.5 points in the match (37.3%).

Fortkamp also had two assists and 12 digs in the match.

In the Cougars' match against the Trinity Christian Trolls on the same day, Fortkamp struggled with hitting errors. She finished with 11 kills and 10 errors on 38 attempts for St. Francis in the loss.

At 4.25 kills per game, Fortkamp continues to lead the Crossroads League.

Whitney Rammel FRHS — 2022

Started in one match and played in another for East Tennessee State University as the Buccaneers dropped a trio of matches to start the season.

In ETSU's season opener against Bowling Green, Rammel had two

Collegiate Check-up

kills off the bench. She played in all three sets of the Falcons' sweep where she also committed four hitting errors.

After not playing in the 3-1 loss at Northern Kentucky, Rammel was awarded the start against Ohio State. She had her best match of the season, recording three kills and two blocks.

Rammel had five of the Bucs' 33 points (the fourth-highest on the team).

Jalyn Bruns FRHS — 2022

Tied for 45th-place at the Trine Women's Kick-off Classic as the IU-East girls golf team B placed eighth out of 15 competing teams on Tuesday.

The team shot a total 369 for 81 strokes over par. Grace College (323) took first place in the tournament while the IU-East A team (328) finished second.

Bruns shot a 96 in the round to be 24 over par to tie for 45th in the meet. Tied with her were Caroline Boyd (Trine B), Lauryn Jerke (Cleary) and Magan Paczas (Siena Heights).

She finished fourth among the second team golfers, behind Lainey Jackson (13th, 85), Gracie Williams (37th, 94) and Baylee Wissler (37th, 94).



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