

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Woman last seen at FCC found deceased

*Ex-husband has been preliminarily charged with murder*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A woman employed in Portland was found dead Thursday in southeastern Delaware County and her ex-husband has been preliminarily charged with murder.

She had been missing for nearly two weeks.

Ceaser L. Curtis was arrested after Muncie police found the remains of Marcia Curtis, 46, at an abandoned property along county road 800 South on Thursday.

Curtis was being held without bond Friday in Delaware County Jail.

An autopsy on Marcia Curtis was performed Friday morning at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. As of Friday afternoon, Delaware County coroner Gavin Greene said preliminary results were not yet available.

Muncie police administration did not respond to calls from The Commercial Review on Friday.

Marcia Curtis filed for divorce from Ceaser Curtis in December, and a decree of dissolution was issued March 28. Ceaser Curtis was charged in Randolph Superior Court in June with a Class A misdemeanor for invasion of privacy in the case of violating a protective order issued to prevent domestic or family violence or harassment. His criminal history includes charges for battery and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Ceaser Curtis posted to Facebook on Aug. 27 accusing his ex-wife of sleeping with other men. See **Deceased** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Patriotic royalty

Jay County High School crowned its homecoming king and queen Friday during halftime of the Patriot football team's 19-7 loss to Class 2A No. 2 Bluffton. Pictured are king Reece Leavell and queen Molly Muhlenkamp. For photos from Friday's homecoming parade, see page 6. And for more on the game, see page 12.

# Vision laid out for downtown

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

A group of design and planning specialists spent Tuesday meeting with and learning from Portland leaders, business owners and residents.

They presented their initial summary Thursday.

Rundell Ernstberger Associates representatives shared the results of focus groups and an open house and their suggestions for the Portland Downtown Economic Development Plan.

Their effort boiled down to the following vision statement, which looks to the future to what is wanted for the downtown area:

"Downtown Portland is the heart of the city and a hub of uses, activities, recreation, education, art and culture that bring people together to live, work, shop and play.

"There is a strong sense of place

because of its charm, historical architecture, eclectic murals, activated streets and its multi-generational spaces providing opportunities to support a diversifying population, thriving businesses, forward thinkers and visionary leaders."

In order to make that vision a reality, Rundell Ernstberger Associates laid out the following goals:

- Create a strong foundation for sustainable revitalization
- Increase Portland's tax base

## Suggestions involve expanding programming and removing barriers to business expansion

•Support Portland's transformation by enhancing its physical and visual assets

•Create, diversify and expand employment opportunities

•Increase housing opportunities

•Enhance the economic health and vitality of Portland

•Create an entrepreneurial environment that supports and fosters small business opportunities

•Increase connectivity

•Sustain, increase and enhance tourism

Among the objectives the organization recommends to help achieve the goals are developing a downtown marketing strategy, forming a downtown investment group, providing training for small business owners, developing co-working and incubator spaces, reforming zoning and other regulations to encourage business development, and strengthening the vacant building ordinance.

See **Vision** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Concert, exhibit

There's been plenty going on in the community the last few days. Pictured above, lead singer Cliff Stanton of New Frontiers, a Journey tribute band, performs Thursday on the Hudson Family Park amphitheater stage as part of the Arts Place concert series. A crowd of more than 500 attended the free performance. At right, students line up Friday afternoon to visit the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit at Jay County Fairgrounds.



### Deaths

**Sioni Curme**, stillborn, Fort Wayne  
**Hedwig Rumpel**, 98, Geneva  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 73 degrees Friday. Today's forecast calls for mostly sunny skies becoming mostly cloudy in the afternoon with a high in the mid 70s. The low tonight will be in the mid 50s with a 20% chance for rain.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

It's a busy weekend with the Indiana Military Vehicle Preservation Association Swap Meet and Rally from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at Jay County Fairgrounds, HopeFest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at Jay Community Center and the 9/11 mobile exhibit from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the fairgrounds.

### Coming up

**Tuesday** — Results from the JCHS girls golf team in the sectional tournament today.

**Wednesday** — Coverage of the Jay School Board and Portland City Council meetings.

7 18122 00780 6

Retrospect

Portland police got new computer system

Twenty-five years ago this week, local police were enjoying a technology upgrade.

The Sept. 19, 1998, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about Portland Police Department's new in-car computer system.

Using money from an Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Law Enforcement Assistance Fund Grant, the department installed the system that included five in-car laptops, a desktop computer at the station and a base radio that allowed the computers to communicate via RF radio frequencies.

"The computers will make the force more efficient," said Portland Police Chief Bart Darby. "Within five years, you're

going to see a lot more of these (in other police departments)."

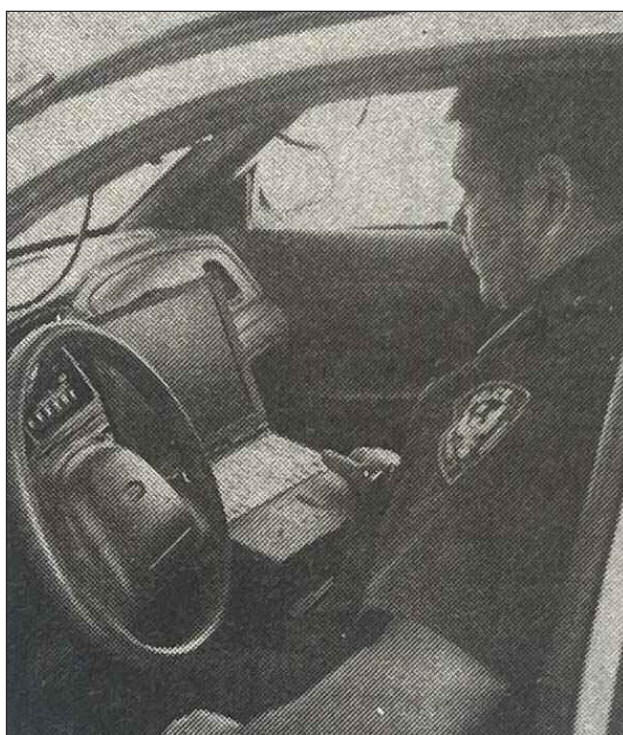
He said the system had already been helpful as it allowed officers the ability to obtain information on individuals and vehicles from state databases, including National Crime Information Center and Indiana Data and Communications, and facilitated more efficient communication. If such information showed that an individual had active warrants or a car was stolen, an alarm would go off in all of the other equipped vehicles to let them know an officer might need assistance.

"The system cuts down about five minutes in communications time to less than 10 seconds," said Darby.

Portland police dispatcher Paula Bonvillian praised the new system's streamlining of searches for information. It allowed officers to gather information on the road instead of calling back to dispatch in order to search and relay details. She also noted that it allowed dispatchers to provide more detailed information.

Via the computer at the police department in Portland City Hall, a log was kept of all of the actions from the mobile computers.

The system had been installed early in the summer, with the department then working out bugs and getting officers and dispatchers trained to use it.



The Commercial Review/Noah Levine

Portland Police Chief Bart Darby demonstrates some of the capabilities of the in-car computers that were installed in department vehicles in 1998.

CR almanac

Sunday 9/17	Monday 9/18	Tuesday 9/19	Wednesday 9/20	Thursday 9/21
<b>70/51</b>	<b>71/48</b>	<b>75/53</b>	<b>79/55</b>	<b>80/57</b>
There's a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms on Sunday.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high of 71 degrees.	Sunny, with a high in the mid 70s on Tuesday. At night, the low may dip to the low 50s.	Wednesday's forecast shows sunny skies, with the low hitting 55 degrees late.	Mostly sunny on Thursday, when the high will reach 80 degrees.

Obituaries

Sioni Curme

Sept. 12, 2023

Sioni Elizabeth Ann Curme was stillborn on Sept. 12, 2023, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

She's the daughter of former Portland residents Elijah Curme and Chanel Jacobs.

Survivors include: Her parents — Elijah Curme and Chanel Jacobs, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Siblings

— Denzel Jacobs, Deniya Morton and Sincere Curme

Grandparents — Teresa Morgan (wife: Stephanie), Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jennifer Jacobs, Indianapolis, Darron Busby, Indianapolis, and Randy Curme, Redkey, Indiana



Curme

Great-grandmothers — Glenda Thomas, Indianapolis, and Phyllis Curme, Redkey, Indiana

There are no services scheduled at this time.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.  
**Hedwig M. Rumpel**, Geneva, Sept. 21, 1924-Sept. 10, 2023. A Catholic Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary of the Presentation Church,

5790 E. 1100 South, Geneva.

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

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 1-3-1 Daily Four: 3-7-0-3 Quick Draw: 3-7-11-12-20-22-24-27-31-34-36-42-45-56-57-64-66-68-77-80	Pick 3: 7-2-8 Pick 4: 3-1-0-0 Pick 5: 6-9-2-4-4 Rolling Cash 5: 21-24-30-31-33 Jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 5-1-7 Pick 4: 4-2-1-3 Pick 5: 9-3-1-6-0 Evening	<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$596 million <b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$162 million

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....5.26 Oct. corn .....4.61 Wheat .....5.04	Dec. beans .....13.31 Wheat .....5.19
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.26 Oct. corn .....4.71 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.61	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....5.32 Oct. corn .....5.12 Beans.....14.14 Oct. beans .....14.09 Wheat .....5.65
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....5.16 Late Sept. corn .....4.86 Beans .....12.92	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.91 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.31 Beans.....12.85 Oct. beans .....12.85 Wheat .....5.19

Today in history

In 1848, France abolished slavery in all of its territories.  
In 1975, Papua New Guinea gained full independence from Australia.  
In 2003, the Jay County High School boys tennis team clobbered the Adams Central Jets 5-0. Kentaro Ohgo led the Patriots with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Matt Bracey at No. 2 singles and Derek Powell gave up just one game in his No. 3 singles victory over Dylan Malone.  
In 2021, Fisher Packing announced during a Redkey Town Council meeting that it would expand its Redkey facility to add a new linking line and smokehouse. Plans called for adding eight jobs. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	<b>Thursday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council 2024 budget public hearing, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.
<b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	<b>Friday</b> 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Deceased ...

Continued from page 1  
He shared more than 100 posts that same day from various sources, including a picture of a sweatshirt with the following words printed on it: "I'll put you in the trunk and

help people look for you don't test me!"

Marcia Curtis' family recently filed a missing person report with Muncie police. They shared several posts on Facebook regarding Marcia Curtis,

who had been last seen leaving her workplace, FCC in Portland, on Sept. 1. She worked at FCC for about three months prior to her death.

Muncie Police Department is handling the investigation.

Vision ...

Continued from page 1  
In order to achieve the goals, Rundell Ernstberger Associates suggests a three-phase effort beginning with lower-cost items such as expanding existing programming and initiatives, reforming zoning and implementing pilot projects to improve streetscapes, specifically along Main Street. Those expand into larger public investment in phase two and greater incentives and marking in phase three.

The plan grew out of focus groups with business owners, elected officials and other leaders as well as a public open house Tuesday. Among the common themes expressed during those sessions were that the downtown area — Rundell Ernstberger Associates's study covered the area

between from the Salamonie River north to Votaw Street between Wayne and Pleasant streets — has a need for more retail, service and entertainment space, more housing, improved parking and way-finding signs and better walkability.

"We have covered a lot of ground over the last few days," said CWC Latitudes' Ed Curtin, who serves as a consultant for Portland Redevelopment Commission.

Prior to this week, the firm also did a study of buildings in the downtown area regarding their condition, if they are occupied and how they are used.

The next step is to develop a draft plan that will then be presented to the steering committee. The goal is that the redevelopment commission can begin the adoption process for the plan in November. (Adoption will include approvals from the redevelopment commission, plan commission and city council.)

More information is available at portland-downtownplan.com.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 211**  
Welcomes the:  
**JAMSTAR BAND**  
Classic Rock & Blues  
**September 16, 2023**  
**7pm to 10pm**  
50/50 drawing • Public Welcome  
Come Enjoy with us at 211 W Walnut, Portland

**W.E.U.**  
Individual House Cleaning  
Office Cleaning  
Painting  
Remodeling  
Commercial and Residential Cleaning Available  
Call: 260-251-6147  
or email: dcrn2021@gmail.com | Anytime Any day!

**SERVICES**  
Today  
**McClung**, Stephen: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
**Mahorney**, Brian: 6 p.m., Cornerstone Community Church, 440 N Standard Blvd., Montpelier.  
Monday  
**Ray**, Jeff: noon, Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
Thursday  
**Rumpel**, Hedwig: 11 a.m., St. Mary of the Presentation Church, 5790 E. 1100 South, Geneva.  
Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

**19th Annual Jay County Heritage Festival**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23 & Sunday, Sept. 24**  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Free Admission!**  
Jay County Historical Museum  
903 E. Main St. • Portland, IN 47371  
**THANK YOU** for your SERVICE  
**SALUTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
Stage presentations, Craft Vendors, Displays, Musicians  
Demonstrations, Reenactors, Kids' activities, And More!  
**FOOD**  
SATURDAY  
Ham & Beans w/cornbread  
SUNDAY  
Chili & crackers  
BOTH DAYS  
Foot-long hot dogs & Spanish Sauce  
Ice Cream, Pie  
Caramel Corn, & more!

# Consider Truffula Pink gomphrena

By **NORMAN WINTER**  
Tribune News Service

A Perfect Score award in a university plant trial is quite an honor and makes a real statement about performance. So consider when that same plant wins Perfect Score in a dozen states, spread across the country. Oklahoma State, University of Minnesota, Mississippi State, University of Tennessee and Iowa State to give you a sampling. Add on FlameProof Plant Award for the Dallas Arboretum and you realize we are talking about a tough plant. I don't know how many plants can tout such a record, but Truffula Pink gomphrena has stood the test.

mer prize-fighter, you would have to wonder if Truffula Pink could handle a summer as torrid as 2023. The Garden Guy started off the calendar year telling you Truffula Pink gomphrena was Proven Winners National Plant of the Year. At the time I mentioned it had won more than 50 awards. Well, you can run that total up to 81.

It has been the pollinator champion at my house for at least four years. The summer of 2023, however, will go down as a benchmark year. This year made me know without any equivocations it is the toughest flower you will ever grow and if you do it up right it will be the prettiest too!

By the time you read

this, commercial plots I have been watching will be roaring past 150 days of what I would call full bloom. I say commercial plots but what I am referring to are large high-traffic beds at the entrance to a shopping and residential community.

It is a benchmark type year because it has been hotter and dryer than most of us have experienced. It has turned The Garden Guy into a real whiner. But the Truffula Pink gomphrena has outperformed any other commercial plantings in town.

The design of the beds also taught us all something that we knew along, but haven't talked about it enough. If I get a com-

plaint on Truffula Pink it is lodging. That means it falls over. Almost always this is associated with being a single plant that will be the tallest one in the bed or in the container. In other words, over time it becomes a wind sail.

In all of these beds, they were mass planted together and encircled by yellow gold/lantanas. The Truffula Pink plants gave structural support to each other in addition to the extra strength provided by the lantanas.

Another real shocker was the show. Truffula Pink blooms are borne on a see-through plant, of somewhat airy stems, and though the bloom color is an iridescent hot pink, one or two plants simply

can't dazzle enough for the car passengers to take notice in a competitive traffic situation. A couple of dozen plants in a full bloom display however, and on one of those searing triple digit temperature days, makes you look in astonishment and wish for something similar at your home.

Since Truffula Pink is such a butterfly magnet The Garden Guy will always want to incorporate it into habitat and cottage type garden designs. I will use taller plants like Rockin' Playin' the Blues salvia, and Meant to Bee agastaches not only as colorful partners but support for each other in the face of storms with rain and wind.

Truffula Pink gomphrena needs full sun and fertile well-drained soil to really perform to its capability. Letting these plants sit in wet soggy soil will be a crime. Plan on spacing your plants about 12 inches and add a layer of mulch. You can expect them to get two-foot tall and bloom until frost. I have never had the need to deadhead.

Truffula Pink is considered an annual and one worth every penny. I garden in zone 8 and most years I will see a spring return on at least half of the plants. They are considered perennial in zone 9 and warmer. Those of you who like to cut flowers for the vase will find Truffula Pink a perfect and long-lasting addition.

# Sister keeps her new romance secret

DEAR ABBY: My sister likes a childhood friend of ours and is hiding the fact that they are together, even though everyone in the family already knows they are living together. She clearly doesn't want me to know, and always finds a way to not be truthful with me.

This guy and I were friends, but whatever my sister said to him made him cut our friendship off. I'm hurt that she needs to lie to me about their relationship, because it doesn't matter to me. I'm happy she has found someone who makes her happy. She even has our mom covering for her. Should I say something, or just let it be? — HURTFUL AND SAD SISTER

DEAR HURTFUL: Did you and your sister's boyfriend ever have a romantic rela-

Dear Abby



relationship? If the answer is yes, it may explain your sister's strange behavior and your mother's willingness to cover for her. Because the cat is out of the bag and "everyone" knows the truth, I see no reason why you shouldn't talk to your sister and clear the air. When you do, wish them well.

DEAR ABBY: My stepson, who is 24, has Asperger's syndrome. He is high functioning,

very intelligent and has a great work ethic. He still lives at home, and I have noticed that he "must" touch his mother every day. There are times he stands behind her and strokes her hair and rubs her neck and shoulders. I think it's odd and, to be honest, it kind of bothers me. It's not a jealousy thing, it just strikes me as creepy.

I don't think a 24-year-old should be caressing his mother that way. She doesn't think it's wrong, and when I mentioned it to her, she became offended. I know I may be wrong, and I try to understand that it may be part of his Asperger's. Am I off base? Help me understand. — CREEPED OUT IN INDIANA

DEAR CREEPED OUT: What you are describing isn't scandalous. It could simply be gestures of affec-

tion. Because your wife isn't bothered by it, I suggest you calm down and stop reading more into it than there may be.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful, generous man for 33 years. Everything is great except for one thing. I have COPD. He's sympathetic, but it goes only so far. An example: Today I was having a terrible coughing spell. I was in the bedroom. He was in the den, one room away. The spell lasted at least 30 minutes. Not once did he come in to check on me, ask if I needed anything, etc. It was as if we weren't in the same house. After about half an hour, he did come in and said: "What do you wanna do this afternoon?" It really irked me. Am I making

too much of this? — IRKED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR IRKED: Your husband may be "wonderful," but he also appears to be a tad INSENSITIVE. He may have thought that as long as you were coughing, you were still breathing and didn't need his help. Because his failure to grasp the seriousness of your predicament irked you, take the precaution of telling him — BEFORE your next coughing fit — how you would like him to respond, and why.

.....  
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.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](mailto:news@thecr.com).

## Saturday

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

LOCALS MARKET — Is held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in May through October on East Main Street in Portland. For more information, contact The Flower Nook at (260) 726-7166.

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 SOL-

DIER — 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 [museumsoldier.com](http://museumsoldier.com).

## Sunday

A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'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.

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

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

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.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Jay County Public Library community room. For more information, call Deb Tipton at (260) 729-2806 or Elasha Lennartz at (765) 729-4567.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'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.

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.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

## Friday's Solution

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

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.

**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!**

Limited Time Offer! SAVE!  
50% OFF + 10% OFF  
ON YOUR INSTALLATION

Additional savings for military, health workers and first responders

**ERIC** Metal Roofs  
FREE ESTIMATE 1.866.781.6023  
Expires 9/30/2023  
MADE IN THE U.S.A.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Eric Construction Mid-West, Inc. (Eric). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Eric or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homerservicescompliance.com](http://homerservicescompliance.com). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [ericmetalroofs.com/eric-licenses/](http://ericmetalroofs.com/eric-licenses/).

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
1-855-743-1911

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

**WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?**  
For Jay County Schools  
September 18-22

**Monday: Main Entrees:** Classic chicken sandwich  
**Alternate Entrees:** Muffin yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick  
**Sides for all meals:** Smile potatoes

**Tuesday: Main Entrees:** Pepperoni pizza pasta bake, garlic breadstick  
**Alternate Entrees:** Muffin yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick  
**Sides for all meals:** Seasoned zucchini

**Wednesday: Main Entrees:** Fresh baked biscuit, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs with bacon & cheese  
**Alternate Entrees:** Muffin yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick  
**Sides for all meals:** Tater tots

**Thursday: Main Entrees:** Mashed potato & chicken bowl  
**Alternate Entrees:** Muffin yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick  
**Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

**Friday: Main Entrees:** Classic pepperoni pizza  
**Alternate Entrees:** Muffin yogurt & cheese fun lunch, popcorn chicken salad base, breadstick  
**Sides for all meals:** Seasoned peas & carrots

**Arnold Lumber Co.**  
Serving Indiana, Ohio, Southern Michigan and Northern Kentucky  
260-724-3108  
1-800-903-4206

Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
Friday: 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. • Saturday: 7 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.  
Decatur, Indiana

# O'Bannon was an amazing mentor

By JEFF COYNE

"Stand on your Principles or Stand on your Head."

This quote was in the signature line of my mentor's personal AOL emails.

This upcoming week, I will reflect more on this man because this is the 20th anniversary of his passing. That man was Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

When I got out of college in 1995, I wanted to change the world. I had dreams of working in Washington, D.C.; however, so does every idealistic political science major when they get out of school. At the age of 23, you can be more idealistic than at 51 years of age.

The Rolling Stones said succinctly, "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometime, you'll find, you get what you need." Moving to Indiana and working for his campaign as his driver and staffer was what I needed. Looking back, it was a graduate degree in what our politics should be and what we should have as an elected official.

Jeff Coyne



Some items he taught me while we traversed 75,000 miles in a car together were listening, staying true to your beliefs, serving with humility, compromise and always being on time.

When it came to listening, Gov. O'Bannon would say to me, never assume what someone may be thinking; listen to them and their stories. Sometimes, a solution can come up because it was something you did not think of, or that person has an experience that you did not.

I guess this came from his years serving in the state Senate, where he would work with all parties to develop solutions. If we talk over one another, nothing can get accomplished.

Sure, 20 years ago, there was

no social media. People can go off on a tangent at any time. We live in a time where we are entertained by hosts and guests giving their point of view with little differentiating opinion; it is just an echo chamber. However, if we listened more to other points of view, maybe we could overcome some of what divides us. It doesn't mean we will agree, but it helps you understand where they are coming from.

By staying with your true beliefs, serving with humility and compromise, all are tied to the person he was. Gov. O'Bannon was the person you saw on TV. He grew up in the small town of Corydon, and those life lessons of what made him who he was stuck with him. He realized that no matter what his elected position, the governor was the caretaker of that office, and he wanted to lift up all that he represented. It didn't matter where you came from, you could be living in public housing or a mansion on Geist Reservoir; he treated everyone respectfully. He wanted to make Indiana a better

place to work, live, and raise a family. When elected to office, he always wanted to make the most of it with the time he was graced to occupy. When it came to compromise, he did not see that as a weakness. He saw it as a strength.

It is a shame that our politics today have become so bitter that if a member of one party is seen in a public establishment having dinner or a drink with someone of the opposing party, they are called a sell-out or worse, the extremes of both parties try to run someone against them at the next primary election. No one side of the aisle has all of the answers. Only by working together can we solve what ills our state and nation.

Lastly, he always wanted to be early or on time. He would say to me, Jeff, I am no more important than those who I am meeting or visiting with. Their time is just as precious as his. You must remember this was before GPS in our cars and phones. However, I was never to speed in the car because he would have the officer

double my ticket if I got caught. It's a great lesson to get rid of a lead-footed 23-year-old.

Have I been as successful as he was with what he taught me, probably not. However, I have kept these and all of what I learned from him and Judy O'Bannon all these years. They took in an out-of-state kid just out of college and showed me what was good about being a public servant, and I will never forget the lessons, kindness, and, most importantly, their friendship.

Gov. O'Bannon, all of us who enjoyed working for you are so much better off because of it. Your wisdom, wit, and presence are sorely missed, but your legacy will live on from those you touched. I would not be where I am today without what I learned from you. All I can say with much gratitude is, thank you!

Coyne is director of government and political affairs for AFT- Pennsylvania, the state federation of the American Federation of Teachers.

## Fed should ignore political pressure

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Two essential questions are facing the U.S. economy right now: whether the Federal Reserve's next change in its policy rate will be a cut or an increase, and whether the central bank's inflation target of 2% needs to change. Give Fed Chairman Jerome Powell credit for being forthright in addressing each in a recent speech.

On the first question, he said it's too soon to say, but left no doubt that further increases will follow if necessary. On the second, he said no: His commitment to the existing target, much in question among academic economists these days, was firm. He's exactly right on both counts.

The Fed's recent tightening of monetary policy, once it started, was unusually swift and severe. By most measures, it's working. Headline consumer-price inflation has fallen from a stunning 9.1% in June 2022 to 3.2% last month — partly due to the easing of supply shocks (which the Fed can't affect) but also thanks to much tighter financial conditions (which it can). Powell and his colleagues pay especially close attention to a measure of underlying inflation called core PCE (personal consumption expenditures excluding food and energy), which has also fallen, but by much less — from its peak of 5.4% in February last year to its current rate of 4.3%.

Taken together, the data suggests that the fight against inflation is going well, but isn't yet won. In his address, Powell drew attention to a main component of core PCE called non-housing services — meaning industries such as health care, transportation, hotels and restaurants. These were relatively insulated from the supply shocks, hence less distorted by temporary factors. They're also unusually labor-intensive, so more affected by higher wages in a tight labor market. In this sector, inflation has held roughly steady at more than 4% year-on-year since late 2021.

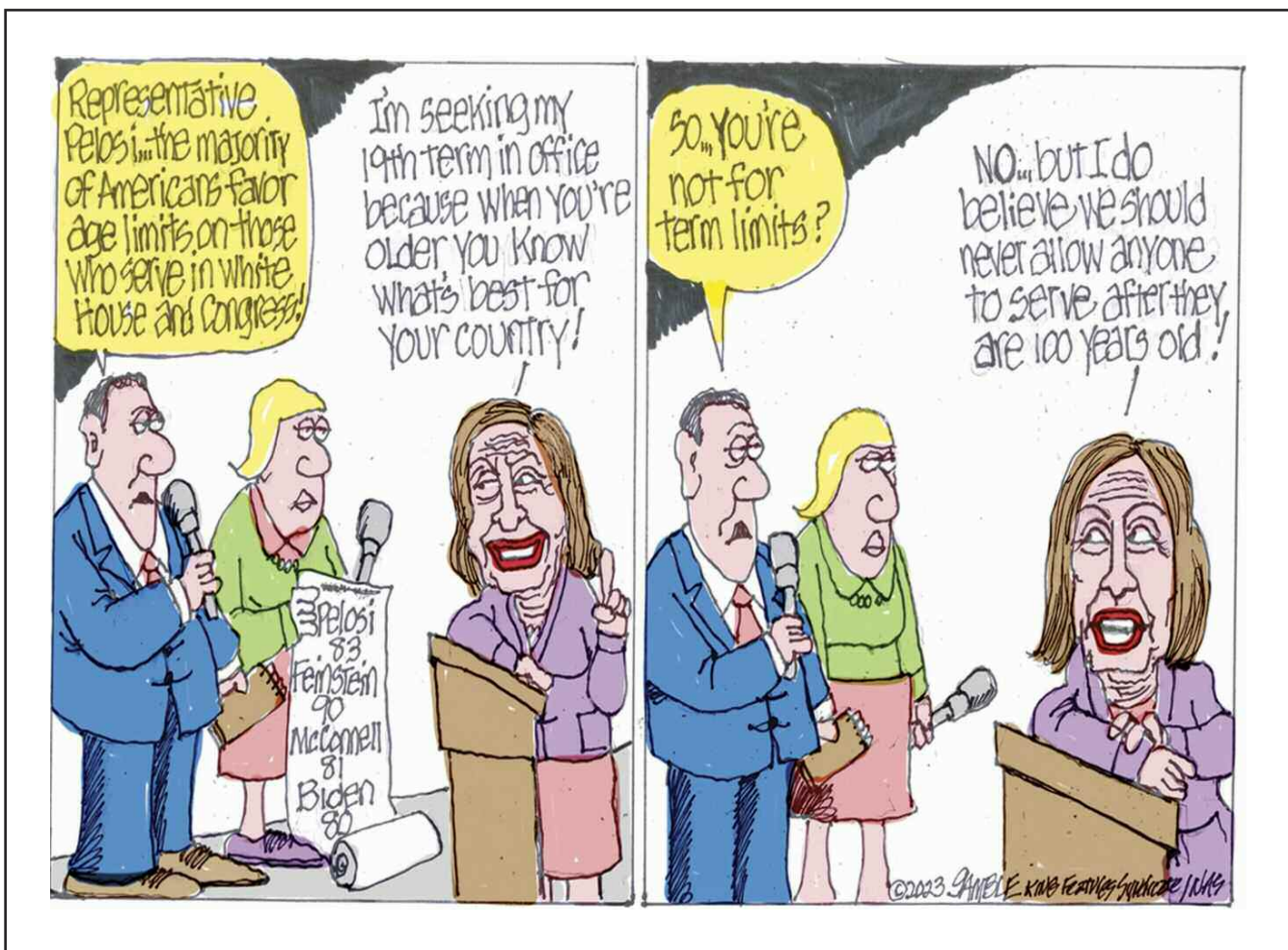
The most recent readings suggest that this measure of inflation might soon decline as well. Signs of a gently cooling labor market

### Guest Editorial

*Powell is right that the Fed needs to see clearer results before ruling out additional tightening ...*

point the same way, while the current policy rate will continue to apply downward pressure. Even so, Powell is right that the Fed needs to see clearer results before ruling out additional tightening, let alone contemplating a lower policy rate. A soft landing is still possible, but far from guaranteed. If progress toward lower inflation stalls, a higher rate will be necessary to get down to 2%, even if that means an economic downturn.

This possibility is partly why the 2% target is being questioned. Would it really be worth a recession to cut inflation from 3% to 2%? The short answer is yes. Otherwise, when the economy next encounters such difficulties, the Fed will be asked whether it makes sense to get inflation back down to 3% from 4% ... and so on. Remember that progress on inflation to this point is partly thanks to the Fed's success in anchoring expectations. Deviating from the 2% commitment would discard one of its most powerful instruments. No one wants a recession. The resulting human costs shouldn't be minimized. But meddling with the Fed's target, and tarnishing its credibility, would only cause greater harm to workers and to the economy over the long term. Powell is right to say so plainly.



## AI literacy needs a compass

By KEVIN FRAZIER  
The Fulcrum  
Tribune News Service

"Smart" people know all the answers, right? That may have been true decades and centuries ago when things were less complex. Today, it's the opposite: certainty of any one thing is a sign of ignorance of many more. The smartest person these days knows that the odds of things remaining fixed and known diminishes with every new AI model, each trade deal, and all increases in interdependence among people, nations, and ideas.

The old definition of "smart" has worked its way into every facet of our culture. From pre-k to Jeopardy, we reward the kid or Ken who can produce the "right" answer. This sort of knowledge reflected the time a person spent studying the tools at our disposal: novels, textbooks, and other sources of information that remained — more or less — unchanged.

New educational tools, however, can render the whiz kids of one era the fools of another. Whether someone knew how to use an abacus, for instance, once marked intelligence. Now it's mainly a sign of someone with some spare time on their hands. The people and communities that embrace these new tools have the best odds of leading the future and avoiding the turbulence of an ever more complex world.

ChatGPT3 ushered in a new set of tools that require us to redefine "smart" to center on "curiosity" rather than "certainty." As with any change, this one will induce push-back from those who benefit from the

Kevin Frazier



earlier set of tools and from certain ideas being regarded as fixed and frozen. Yet, just as water works its way through any rock, tools that expand access to knowledge eventually grind down (or simply outlast) their opponents.

The fundamentals of using AI tools should not be left to chance. "AI Literacy" should be a "thing." In other words, every American should have access to AI tools and develop the understanding necessary to use them in a productive manner. A key part of that literacy must include an appreciation of the limits of AI tools. If folks don't learn those limits then AI may foster a certainty mindset rather than one grounded in curiosity.

A lawyer who lacked AI Literacy recently made this clear by assuming the AI tool had greater accuracy, using it to answer a question rather than help ask better ones, and failing to do background research on the tool's limitations. This misuse goes to show that even highly educated professionals are ill equipped to use tools they don't understand. No one's an expert in the unfamiliar and unknown.

AI Literacy efforts should complement and augment related drives to increase "traditional" literacy as well

as digital literacy. These latter efforts have languished despite becoming all the more important in a world defined by content. Absent knowing how to read and write, how to safely and smartly use the Internet, and, now, whether and when to employ AI tools, folks will fall behind in the labor market, in the classroom, and in their ability to advocate for themselves and the causes they support. Progress in any one of these literacy rates should further progress in the others.

A major step toward AI literacy is possible sooner than later: AI developers should produce guidelines on how to use their products in a way that's readily understood by people with varying degrees of "traditional" and digital literacy. Ideally, these guidelines would be translated into a multitude of languages and perhaps be accompanied with visual explanations.

Unleashing our collective curiosity could reshape how we work, govern, and build community. A first step toward that lofty goal is directing our social institutions and norms away from a "certainty" mindset. A second step is equipping people with the various types of literacy required to ask big questions and act on new information. AI won't wait for us to catch up. Let's not fall behind. Now's the time to define and develop AI Literacy initiatives.

Frazier will join the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University as an assistant professor starting this Fall. He currently is a clerk on the Montana Supreme Court.

# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

**LOUISE RONALD**  
Board president  
**TONIA HARDY**  
Business manager

**RAY COONEY**  
Editor and publisher  
**BRIAN DODD**  
Production manager

VOLUME 150-NUMBER 99  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto:letters@thecr.com). They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

"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

Subscription rates  
Internet-only: Three days - \$3; Monthly auto-pay - \$10; 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108.  
City (walking - where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$11; 13 weeks - \$35; six months - \$66; one year - \$118.  
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$12; 13 weeks - \$43; six months - \$72; one year - \$136.  
Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$47; six months - \$78; one year - \$147.  
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.



**SPECIAL SECTION**



Our fall harvest special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

**GRAPHIC**  
PRINTING  
NEWSPAPERS

full-page color – **\$625**  
full-page B&W – **\$525**  
1/2-page color – **\$500**  
1/2-page B&W – **\$400**  
1/4-page color – **\$350**  
1/4-page B&W – **\$300**  
Big business card (3x3.5) – **\$120**  
Business card (2x2) – **\$80**



**Contact Lindsey at [L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com) or (260) 726-8141**



### Jay County High School homecoming 2023



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



### Patriots on parade

The homecoming festivities got started Friday night with the parade beginning at Jay County Fairgrounds through downtown Portland and finishing at Weiler-Wilson Park. Pictured above, 2022 Little Miss Winterfest Aria Barnett drives herself in the parade on a Polaris ATV, making the turn from Meridian Street onto Walnut Street on the modified parade route because of construction at the south end of the downtown area. Below, Lilly Johnson, dressed as Mr. Monopoly, rides on the sophomore class float. (The homecoming theme was "Game On!," with each class basing their float on a classic board game.) At left, a candy-striped Dominic Steveson plays the snare drum for the Jay County High School Marching Patriots.



# Advertise WITH COLOR

Make any ad in October color for **\$50**

**GRAPHIC PRINTING**  
NEWSPAPERS

The Commercial Review  
The News-Gazette  
The News Times  
The Red Ball Express  
The News and Sun

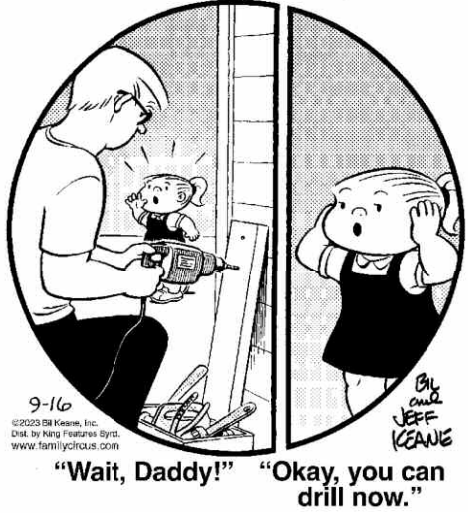
Call (260) 726-8141 or email [ads@thecr.com](mailto:ads@thecr.com)



### SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



### SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



### Peanuts



### Peanuts



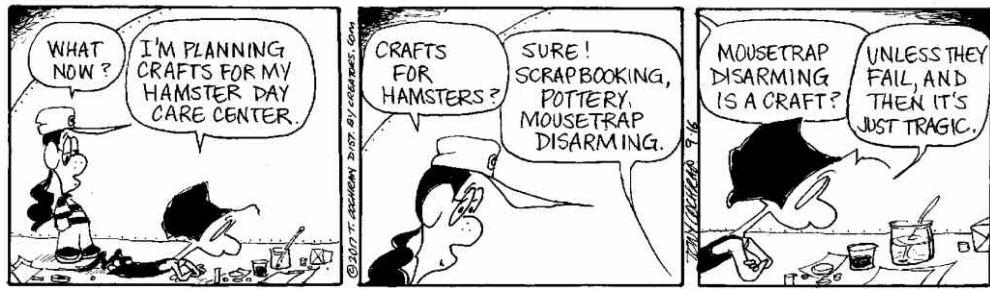
### Rose is Rose



### Rose is Rose



### Agnes



### Agnes



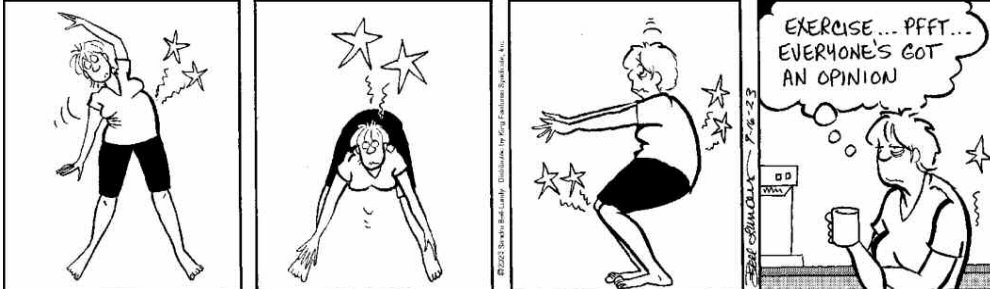
### Hi and Lois



### Hi and Lois



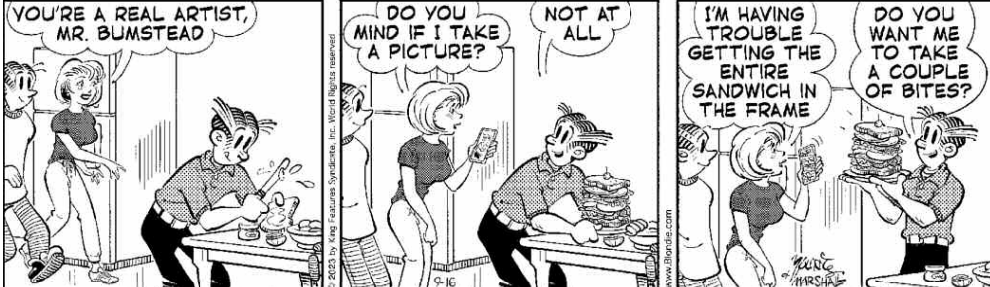
### Between Friends



### Between Friends



### Blondie



### Blondie



### Snuffy Smith



### Snuffy Smith



### Beetle Bailey



### Beetle Bailey



# We Deliver

# Laughter



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*





# Effort, energy and intensity

## Jay County dominates possession in 3-1 win over Braves

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

Every loose ball had a player wearing red going after it. Every Brave had two red jerseys trapping them when they got the ball. Every play featured multiple red jerseys hustling.

The Jay County High School boys soccer team brought the intensity in its 3-1 win over the Belmont Braves on Thursday.

Jay County coach Bobby Ruiz gave the guys a pregame speech urging them to bring a high level of intensity and give it their all while they are on the field, regardless if they are a starter playing all 80 minutes or coming off the bench just to give someone a break.

"I said, 'If we play the way we played (against Richmond), with that intensity, we can achieve,'" Ruiz said. "If we put that together, the way we know our teammates with that intensity we can achieve it. I want you to come out with intensity and we can do it."

It was a message well received.

Every player stepped out onto the pitch with the intensity Ruiz was asking for, and it resulted in the Patriots dominating the first half.

Kaleb Coppock wanted to save every shot that was taken.

Gavin Young wanted to stop every Belmont forward that attacked Jay County's side of the field.

Brayden Collins wanted to blow up every play during which the Braves tried to get a through ball.

Alan Ortiz wanted to win every 50/50 ball that the goalies kicked into the mid-field.

Dylan Marentez wanted to keep possession of the ball every time Belmont sent multiple defenders at him.

Levi Muhlenkamp wanted to put pressure on the Braves and steal the ball away every time the defenders tried to retreat and regroup.

Many more players put forth that level of effort as

well, and it resulted in a lopsided match in which the Patriots dominated control of the ball while Belmont's players and coach got more and more frustrated with each other.

"Honestly, we played about as poorly as we possibly could have and it showed," Belmont coach Derek Trobeck said. "We don't play the style of play we played tonight. We decided to divert to their style of play and we won't be successful (without) playing our style again."

While Ruiz was impressed by the effort from all of his players, the play of Gavin Young stood out to him.

Young was a key part to a defense that only allowed Belmont to take four shots on the goal and kept the ball near the Braves' goal for most of the match.

"We all support each other, always coming back to help when someone gets turned around or something," Young said. "It's all about working together."

Marentez was Jay County's offensive catalyst. Every goal that was scored came through him in some way.

He delivered two perfect passes for assists and scored another goal himself.

Marentez scored his goal just over 22 minutes into the first half. As he brought the ball up field, Belmont sent a total of five different defenders at him, all of which he found ways to dribble past to get a clean look at the goal. From there he took an open shot that got past goalie Parker Frietas for the score to put the Patriots up 2-1.

His first assist came less than five minutes into the game. With 35:53 in the first half, Marentez lined up for a corner kick. On the kick, he found Muhlenkamp, who headed the ball in to tie the game.

"I usually see Levi (Muhlenkamp) and he's one of the best ones using his head," Marentez said.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS junior Cayden Buckland (10) makes a move to cross up Belmont's Jake Hackman (9) as he dribbles upfield during the Patriots' 3-1 victory on Tuesday. Buckland took one shot at the goal that Belmont goalie Parker Frietas saved.

"When I see him, I try to aim the ball at the very far back where he usually is. ... I'm just natural to it and I send it there."

Ten minutes into the second half, Marentez delivered his second assist. Marentez gained

control of the ball just beyond the midfield line, when he kicked it high and forward to Aryan Montes who ran it down to send in the score for extra insurance.

The only goal Jay County gave up was on a

through ball as Andrew James assisted Daniel Vogel with 36:46 left in the first half.

The mistake didn't hurt the Patriots too much, as they soon found their confidence and took control of the game.

"I was expecting a harder game, to be honest," Ruiz said. "When we saw they weren't as hard as we thought, we got confidence and were able to move the ball around. We knew it was doable."

## Spikers remain undefeated

DELPHOS, OHIO — Indians coach Travis Guggenbiller likes to take things one game at a time.

This one game, the Indians picked up another win.

Fort Recovery High School's volleyball team remains undefeated in 2023, as they notched a 25-17, 25-21, 22-25, 25-11 win against the Midwest Athletic Conference-foe St. John's Bluejays.

Teigan Fortkamp was the only Indian with double-digit kills. She had 15 successful attacks to go along with seven digs and a block.

The closest to Fortkamp were Mara Pearson and Kennedy Muhlenkamp with nine kills apiece and Saige Leuthold with eight.

The group of hitters and blockers also tallied eight blocks, and 13 digs. Muhlenkamp also added two aces and 14 assists.

Fort Recovery's setter, Kayla Heitkamp, led the team in aces (five) and assists (23). She also contributed three kills and four digs.

Cali Wendel led the defensive effort with 12 digs while assisting four attacks.

## FRHS roundup

### Boys win MAC match

CELINA, Ohio — The Fort Recovery boys golf team won their final MAC-match of the season, topping the New Bremen at Mercer County Elks Golf Club on Thursday.

Reece LeFevre returned to form as he earned match medalist honors with a 42. LeFevre's highlight came on hole No. 1 when he shot a birdie on the par-5. He also shot three pars and three bogeys.

New Bremen's best score came from James Nelson who only managed a 48.

Eli Lennartz pulled out a 44 for the second-best score for the Indians (6-6, 5-4 MAC).

He also shot a birdie, his on the par-4 third hole. He had five pars, but was held back by hole No. 8 where he had 11 strokes (one over double par).

Nate Jutte was only one

stroke over Lennartz with a 45. While he only parred the fourth, he only had one double-bogey to average out every hole as a bogey.

Keegan Muhlenkamp's 48 was the final qualifying score for Fort Recovery.

Matthew Romer (50) and Alex Dues (54) did not affect the team score.

### Girls golf falls

Fort Recovery's girls golf team fell in its final MAC-match of the season 202-211 to the New Bremen Cardinals at Portland Golf Club on Thursday.

Brynn Stammen shot the low score for Fort Recovery (7-6, 5-3 MAC). She shot for par on the fourth, fifth and ninth holes en route to a 49.

New Bremen's Abbie Burden was match medalist with five-over par at 41.

Emma Will and Olivia Knapke finished only one stroke apart with 53 and 54 respectively.

Knapke shot the only par between the two on the 290-yard, par-4 fourth hole.

Ella Westgerdes rounded out the team score with a 55.

Marissa Schoen's 57 and Eva Kahlig's 59 did not affect the team score.

## Patriots netters are heating up

WINCHESTER — The Patriots are building momentum.

With its sectional a week and a half away, Jay County has strung together four wins in a row.

Jay County High School's boys tennis team earned a quick 5-0 victory over the Winchester Golden Falcons on Thursday.

The Patriots (8-8, 1-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) dominated the singles positions. Abraham Dirksen swept Cooper Hummel in the No. 1 singles match while Eli Dirksen handled Foster Kratoska in the No. 2 singles 6-0, 6-0.

Winchester didn't have enough players for a No. 3 singles match, resulting in an automatic forfeit, giving Jay County all three positions.

Isaac Miller and Luke Muhlenkamp received a little bit of resistance from Rogan Auker and Aiden Mendenhall in the No. 2 doubles match, but figured things out to pull through 6-3, 6-0.

Sam Myers and Gage Sims did just enough to take down Jayden Beeson and Levi Hanes 6-4, 6-4 to win the No. 1 doubles position.

The win pulls the Patriots to .500 as they prepare to take on Belmont Monday before competing to be ACAC co-champions with South Adams Sept. 21.

## Jay County roundup

### DeHoff scores

DECATUR — The Jay County girls soccer team couldn't hang on in a 2-1 loss to the Belmont Braves on Thursday.

Morgan DeHoff scored the lone goal for the Patriots (3-6-1, 2-3) in the first half. Molly Muhlenkamp found DeHoff with a long through ball that she controlled and beat the defender for the goal.

Jay County managed six shots on Belmont's goal.

The score was DeHoff's 10th of the season, the most anyone on the team.

Hannah Hawkins and Arabelle Laurent scored for the Braves, one in the first half and the other in the second. Lilly Alberding assisted both goals.

JCHS goalie Angel Clairday finished with nine saves in the contest.

Aixa Lopez went to work in the midfield with 20 steals for Jay County. The Patriots also got 17 steals from Muhlenkamp and 15 from DeHoff and Jayla Huelkamp.

## Luck returns to football as high school coach

By **ZACH MENTZ**  
cleveland.com

Tribune News Service

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck has returned to football, but this time without the helmet and pads.

Luck, 34, is serving as

an assistant coach at Palo Alto High School in California, located less than a mile from Stanford University, where he starred for the Cardinal from 2009 to 2011.

"It's great to have someone of that caliber on your staff," Palo Alto Vikings

coach Dave DeGeronimo told The Mercury News. "The kids love it."

Luck is coaching part-time two days a week while also working towards completing his master's degree at Stanford's Graduate School of Education, per The Mercury

News. The four-time NFL Pro Bowler is listed on the Vikings' coaching staff on MaxPreps.com.

Luck, the first overall pick by the Colts in the 2012 NFL Draft, shocked the football world when he abruptly retired from the NFL at age 29 just days

ahead of the 2019 season. He spent seven seasons in the NFL — all with the Colts — including missing the entire 2017 season due to a shoulder injury. However, he returned in 2018 to throw for 39 touchdowns and 4,593 yards en route to being named the NFL AP

Comeback Player of the Year.

The former Colts quarterback finished his NFL career with a 53-33 record in 86 games played, throwing for 23,671 yards on a 60.8% completion percentage, 171 touchdowns and 83 interceptions.

## Box score

**Jay County Patriots**  
(3-2, 1-2 ACAC) vs.  
**Bluffton Tigers** (5-0, 3-0 ACAC)

**Bluffton 13 6 0 0 —19**  
**Jay Co. 0 7 0 0 — 7**

### First Quarter

B — Andrew Hunt 15 pass from Braxton Betancourt (Yaroslav Serdiuk kick), 7:32.  
B —Tucker Jenkins 5 run (kick failed), 1:11.

### Second Quarter

B — Cooper Craig 2 run (run failed), 9:37.  
JC — Rhysin Blowers 3 pass from Sean Bailey (A.J. Myers kick), 13.1.

### Third Quarter

No scoring

### Fourth Quarter

No scoring

### Team Statistics

	B	JC
Rushes - yds	37-207	29-48
Comp-Att-Int	7-15-0	1-13-1
Passing yds	55	35
Total Plays	52	42
Total Offense	262	83
Punt ret - yds	0-0	0-0
Kickoff ret - yds	2-27	3-33
Sacks - yds lost	0-0	2-14
Punts - yds	2-52	2-63
Ints - yds	1-14	0-0
Fumbles - lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties - yds	8-78	8-45

### Individual Statistics

**Rushing** — Bluffton — Tucker Jenkins 15-84, Cooper Craig 16-83, Braxton Betancourt 4-45, Andrew Hunt 1-0, AJ Streveler 1-(-5). Jay County — Bryce Wenk 5-28, A.J. Myers 18-26, Sean Bailey 5-2, Justin DeHoff 1-(-8).

**Passing** — Bluffton — Braxton Betancourt 7-15-0 55. Jay County — Sean Bailey 1-13-1 35.

**Receiving** — Bluffton — Andrew Hunt 4-40, AJ Streveler 2-8, Brody Lewis 1-7. Jay County — Benson Ward 1-35.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Ben Crouch of Jay County leaps to try to make a catch against Hutch Craighead of Bluffton on a fourth-down play during the second half Friday. The Patriots were only able to complete one pass and totaled only 83 yards of offense as they slipped to 3-2 overall and 1-2 in the Allen County Athletic Conference.

## Fight ...

Continued from page 12  
“Ben Ramseyer has been a three-year starter for us, made a fantastic play on the ball, was able to give us some momentum right from the jump.”

The Tigers (5-0, 3-0 ACAC), who won their first four games by an average of 36.5 points, covered the remaining 36 yards to the end zone in nine plays, converting two fourth downs in the process. The second of those was on the touchdown, as senior receiver Andrew Hunt leapt over JCHS defensive back Justin DeHoff to haul in a 15-yard scoring pass in the right corner of the end zone from his classmate Braxton Betancourt (7-of-15 passing for 55 yards).

Jay County came up short on a fourth-and-1 in Tiger territory on its next drive, and the visitors responded with an eight-play

scoring drive capped by a 5-yard Tucker Jenkins run. And following a Patriot three-and-out, Bluffton needed just five plays for Cooper Craig to score on a 2-yard run for a 19-0 lead at the 9:37 mark of the second quarter.

“It just happened so early,” said Zgunda. “We can’t do that. We can’t get in a hole like that.”

Jenkins totaled 84 yards on 15 carries while Craig finished with 83 yards on 16 carries.

The Patriots got on the board with 13.1 seconds left in the first half when Bailey rolled to his left, stopped and found Rhysin Blowers standing all alone in the end zone.

Jay County had a big opportunity in the third quarter when the Tigers tried a fake punt from near midfield. It looked as if Betancourt would easily pick up the

first down, but sophomore Garrett Bennett was not fooled and made an open-field tackle to give the Patriots the ball.

“It’s something I watched on film all week,” said Bennett. “I knew they were going to run it. I mean, that’s not even my job on that play. It was just a spur of the moment thing.”

Jay County moved the ball down to the 11-yard line, just 33 feet from a touchdown that would have pulled it within one score. But the home team did nothing but move backward from that point, with three consecutive rushes going for negative yards and a Bailey fade toward Ben Crouch on fourth down falling incomplete.

After another Patriot fourth-down try failed midway through the final period, Bluffton was

able to string together some runs to burn the clock and eventually went into victory formation from the 2-yard line in the final minute.

“This was a grind tonight,” said Kunkel. “We knew it was going to be a grind coming in.”

“We started the game great. But credit to Jay County ... They made a couple adjustments. One or two plays got us off rhythm and we had a hard time getting it back.”

The Patriots struggled to get much going offensively, with eight runs going for negative yardage and 11 of their 13 passing attempts falling incomplete.

“Defensive line wise, they were pretty stout,” said Zgunda. “When that is the case, it’s just difficult, whether it’s the passing game or running game.”

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

#### Today

Jay County — Girls golf Sectional at Crestview Golf Club — 9 a.m.; Cross country Yorktown Jim Leffler Invite — 10 a.m.; Boys soccer at Woodlan — 10 a.m.; Girls soccer at Woodlan — 12 p.m.; Junior High coed tennis at Hagerstown — 9 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys golf Nate Niekamp at Mercer County Elks — 9 a.m.; Football at Delphos St. John — 1:30 p.m.; Cross Country Troy Twilight at Troy — 9 a.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. Ansonia — 10 a.m.

#### Monday

Jay County — Boys tennis vs. Bellmont — 5 p.m.; Boys soccer vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.; JV football at Bluffton — 6 p.m.; JV volleyball vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.; JV boys soccer vs. Heritage — 7 p.m.; Junior High volleyball vs. Delta — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls golf at Fort Loramie at Arrowhead — 4 p.m.; Boys golf at Celina — 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball at Crestview — 5:30 p.m.; JV football vs. Delphos St. John’s — 5:30 p.m.; JV volleyball at Crestview — 5:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday

Jay County — Girls soccer at Delta — 5 p.m.; Volleyball at South Adams — 6 p.m.; JV boys soccer vs. Daleville — 5:30 p.m.; JV volleyball at South Adams — 6 p.m.; Junior High cross country vs. Muncie Southside — 5:30 p.m.; Junior High football at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior High volleyball at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys golf vs. Sidney Lehman — 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Coldwater — 5:30 p.m.; JV volleyball vs. Coldwater — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school volleyball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.

#### Thursday, September 21

Jay County — Girls soccer vs. Yorktown — 5 p.m.; Boys tennis at South Adams — 5 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Wes-Del — 6 p.m.; Junior High cross country at Monroe Central — 5 p.m.; Junior High volleyball vs. Union City — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls golf at MAC Championship at Mercer County Elks — 1 p.m.; Volleyball at Marion Local — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football at New Bremen — 5 p.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. Marion Local — 5:30 p.m.

### TV sports

#### Today

5:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Penn State at Illinois (FOX)

12 p.m. — NCAA Football: LSU at Mississippi State (ESPN)  
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Florida State at Boston College (ABC)  
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Louisville at Indiana (BTN)

12 p.m. — NCAA Football: Wake Forest at Old Dominion (ESPN2)  
12 p.m. — NCAA Football: North Dakota at Boise State (FS1)  
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: South Carolina at Georgia (CBS)

3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Western Michigan at Iowa (BTN)  
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Minnesota at North Carolina (ESPN)  
3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Alabama at South Florida (ABC)

3:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Oklahoma at Tulsa (ESPN2)  
4 p.m. — NCAA Football: Western Kentucky at Ohio State (FOX)  
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: Tennessee at Florida (ESPN)

7 p.m. — NCAA Football: Northern Illinois at Nebraska (FS1)  
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: BYU at Arkansas (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Bowling Green at Michigan (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Syracuse at Purdue (NBC)

7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Pitt at West Virginia (ABC)

8 p.m. — NCAA Football: TCU at Houston (FOX)

10 p.m. — NCAA Football: Colorado State at Colorado (ESPN)

10:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Fresno State at Arizona State (FS1)

#### Sunday

8 a.m. — Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix (ESPN)

9 a.m. — Premier League: Chelsea at AFC Bournemouth (USA)

11:30 a.m. — Premier League: Arsenal at Everton (USA)

1 p.m. — NFL: Indianapolis Colts at Houston Texans (FOX)

1 p.m. — NFL: Baltimore Ravens at Cincinnati Bengals (CBS)

1 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Battle on the Bricks (NBC)

1 p.m. — WNBA: Minnesota Lynx at Connecticut Sun (ESPN)

1:30 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at New York Mets (Bally Indiana)

2 p.m. — NCAA volleyball: Oregon at Marquette (FS1)

3 p.m. — NCAA volleyball: Wisconsin at Florida (ESPN)

3 p.m. — WNBA: Chicago Sky at Las Vegas Aces (ABC)

4:25 p.m. — NFL: New York Jets at Dallas Cowboys (CBS)

7 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Arizona Diamondbacks (ESPN)

8:20 p.m. — NFL: Miami Dolphins at New England Patriots (NBC)

#### Monday

6:30 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

7:15 p.m. — NFL: New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers (ESPN)

8:15 p.m. — NFL: Cleveland Browns at Pittsburgh Steelers (ABC)

#### Tuesday

6 p.m. — NCAA mens soccer: Maryland at Penn State (BTN)

6:30 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — WNBA: Washington Mystics at New York Liberty (ESPN)

9 p.m. — WNBA: Atlanta Dream at Dallas Wings (ESPN)

#### Wednesday

12:35 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Minnesota Twins at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

3 p.m. — Soccer: Leicester City at Norwich City (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — Women’s college volleyball: Rutgers at Penn State (BTN)

6:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball: New York Mets at Miami Marlins (FS1)

### Local notes

#### Turkey Trot sign-up pen

Cooper Farms will be hosting its 16th annual Turkey Trot Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant in St. Henry, Ohio. Participation costs \$15. All proceeds benefit EverHeart Hospice.

The Race will begin at 10 a.m. There will be splits at each mile of the 3.1-mile course. There will also be chip timing for participants operated by Speedy Feet.

Water will be provided throughout the race, as well as a to-go turkey meal at the end.

You can register by visiting <http://bit.ly/cooperfarmsturkeytrot>, or registration will open at 9 a.m. at Cooper Farms on the day of the race.

#### Hunt applications available

Hunters can apply for a variety of reserved hunts by visiting [on.IN.gov/reservedhunt](http://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.

.....  
To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to [sports@thecr.com](mailto:sports@thecr.com).

# I’M BACK to being me.

At Indiana Spine Group, we take a patient-centered care approach, providing individualized treatment and attention to your specific needs. Our providers have received extensive training in the latest and most effective techniques to diagnose and deliver the best possible outcome for our patients. We are with you every step of the way to ensure that you receive the highest level of care throughout your journey.

**We are determined to get you back to being you.**

- Treatment of acute and chronic back and neck pain
- Management of simple and complex spine problems
- Minimally invasive to complex spine surgery
- Non-operative therapeutic and diagnostic techniques
- Experienced, Board-certified, and Fellowship-trained physicians

Find out more at [IndianaSpineGroup.com](http://IndianaSpineGroup.com) or call:  
Non-Operative Spine Care: (765) 283-0150  
Spine Surgery: (317) 428-5027

# Sports

## Fight falls short

### JCHS unable to rally against No. 4 Tigers

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Playing against an undefeated, state-ranked conference rival for the second week in a row, the Patriots fought.

Even down 19 points less than three minutes into the second quarter, they fought.

They fought to within 11 yards of a one-score game in the second half.

But they simply made too many mistakes to overcome a team having its best season in more than four decades.

The Jay County High School football team fell behind big early, scored in the final 15 seconds of the opening half and then stalemated with the Class 2A No. 5 Bluffton Tigers in a 19-7 homecoming loss Friday.

"They're good," said JCHS coach Grant Zgunda. The Tigers are 5-0 for the first time since 1982. "And we made, me included, a lot of mental mistakes offensively in the first half. ...

"If we can just correct some of those breakdowns ... I think our physicality is there. Our fight's there."

After a strong start against Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central last week before fading to a 42-7 loss, the Patriots (3-2, 1-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) had a rough start to their homecoming game. They tried to go deep down the left side on the opening play of the game, only to have Bluffton's Ben Ramseyer snag JCHS quarterback Sean Bailey's pass for interception that he returned 14 yards.

"When they get the ball to start, you're just hoping to get a stop so you can get the offense on the field quick," said Bluffton coach Brent Kunkel.

See **Fight** page 11



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Lucas Strait (13) and Justin DeHoff (3) defend against Hunter Wenger of Bluffton on a second-half pass Friday night. The Patriots were able to limit the Class 2A No. 4 Tigers in the passing game, but couldn't overcome a rough start on the way to a 19-7 homecoming defeat.

## You Want The Best For Your Pet So Do We.

We are committed to providing your pet with the highest level of quality care. Have your pet checked regularly!



## Quality Veterinary Care

- Internal Medicine
- Preventive Care
- Vaccines | Surgery
- Spay & Neuter
- Dermatology
- Microchipping
- Flea Control | Dentistry
- Laser Therapy
- Geriatric Care
- Behavior Consulting
- Boarding & Grooming



Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate your business!

### Call for Appointment

Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8-6 p.m. Friday 8-5 p.m.

Call for Saturday Hours

## Portland Veterinary Clinic

1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370

Christian Bader DVM

## MusicWorks

at Jay County Campus and Blackford County Arts Center

**GIFTED**

ARTS PLACE

Take lessons from our many talented instructors:

Join the Eastern Breeze Flute Ensemble!

- Mondays, 6-7
- At Jay County Campus

Register by September 29th, 2023

Joey Bailey sax, flute, piano, organ	Beginner	Margaret Hammond Piano	Ann Clamme-Monroe Piano
David Blakely String Instruments		Andy Kern Guitar	Amy Day Clarinet, Sax, Trombone, Baritone, Mallet Percussion, Basic Snare
Kathryn Fenstermacher Harp		Jan Rittenhouse Piano	
Amelia Freeman Voice		Pete Vogler Woodwinds, Percussion	

Join the Guitar or Piano lab at either location!

Blackford County Arts Center:

765-348-4154, [bcac@myartsplace.org](mailto:bcac@myartsplace.org)

Jay County Campus of Arts Place:

260-726-4809, [jcc@myartsplace.org](mailto:jcc@myartsplace.org)

**\*\*Piano lab:** Students in 2nd-4th grade, beginner group lessons once a week

**\*\*Guitar lab:** Students in 4th-6th grade, beginner group lessons once a week

\*To view all classes and events: Please visit [myartsplace.org](http://myartsplace.org)

## ArtWorks

### Jay County Campus:

- \*Oil Painting
- \*Surface Decoration
- \*After School Painting
- \*Hand Building Basics
- \*Beginners Wheel Throwing
- \*Home School Art
- \*Halloween Cookies & Canvas
- \*Yarn Snowflake
- \*Intermediate Wheel Throwing
- \*Basic Hand Building
- \*Toddler Art
- \*Stamped Metal Keychains
- \*Macrame Bracelets
- \*Crochet Dishcloth
- \*Thanksgiving Adult Craft Night
- \*Christmas Cookies & Canvas

### Blackford County Arts Center:

- \*Joyful Discoveries Workshop
- \*Creative Writing Workshop
- \*Watercolor Class
- \*Alcohol Inks for Beginners
- \*Dry Acrylic Transfer
- \*Landscape Painting
- \*Make a Suncatcher
- \*Phone-Friendly Photography
- \*Homeschool Art Club

Register with this QRC code:



These programs are sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Indiana Arts Commission, The Randolph County Community Foundation, The Portland Foundation, the Blackford County Community Foundation, Dennis & Marianne Horn, the Shoemaker Charitable Gift Fund, and WPGW Radio.