

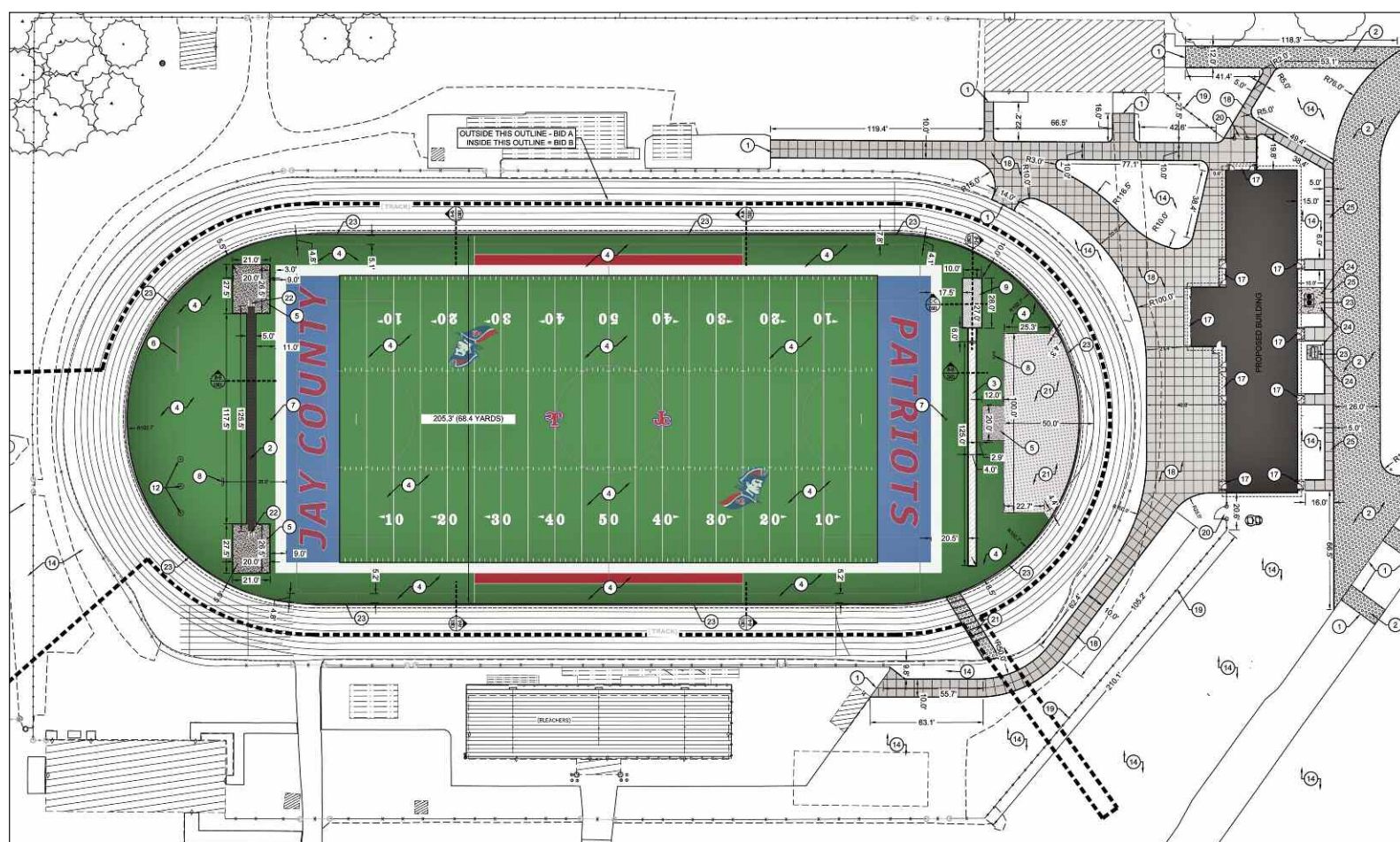
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Bids awarded



Jay School Board on Monday awarded bids to construct a locker room, concession and restroom facility at the northeast end of the football field at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. It also awarded bids for installing a new artificial turf field and for paint and electrical work related to a renovation project in the school's commons area. The above graphic from architecture and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa shows the new field, with the new building to the right.

Jay School Board selects firms for work to install artificial turf, construct 'cleat house'

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The "cleat house" and artificial turf project is moving forward.

Jay School Board on Monday awarded bids for projects to construct a "cleat house" at the northeast end of Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium and install artificial turf at the facility.

Jay County Junior-Senior High School athletics director Steve Boozier initially made a presentation to the school board in November laying out a series of immediate, intermediate and long-term goals for outdoor athletic facilities. Among those goals were determining whether to use turf or grass at

the football field and constructing a new locker room/concession/restroom building (currently being referred to as a "cleat house").

The board evaluated various options in January, ultimately choosing to move forward with a plan to install a turf football field — it will be available for use by the football and soccer teams, marching band, JROTC and others — and to construct a new building for locker rooms, concessions and restrooms to replace the currently nearly 50-year-old structure. (The board has discussed future plans of installing new home bleachers and flipping the field so that home fans are not facing the sun.)

Gulley presented his recommendations for those two portions of the project Monday, with Mid-States Construction of Redkey as the low bidder for the "cleat house" at \$4,226,207 and Sprinturf of Charleston, South Carolina, the low bidder for the artificial turf at \$885,300. He also asked Boozier to address the safety of artificial turf, which has been a topic of national discussion following New York Jets' quarterback Aaron Rogers' injury in the first week of the NFL season.

"The turf we're putting down is safe," said Boozier, noting that professional and college football are different from the high school game. "We're going to provide an opportunity for more

kids to benefit from this space on our campus. And it will also provide a safer playing condition than what we currently have."

Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Phil Ford, Jason Phillips, Vickie Reitz, Marcie Vormohr and Chip Phillips unanimously awarded both projects based on Gulley's recommendations. They also awarded painting and electrical work related to a commons renovation project at the junior-senior high school to Muhlenkamp Building Corporation of Coldwater, Ohio, at a cost of \$64,716.

The turf and "cleat house" are expected to be complete for the start of the 2024-25 school year. See **Awarded** page 2

Portland man died in crash Monday

Coroner says Thomas may have had a medical issue

A Portland man was found dead after his truck crashed Monday in rural Jay County.

Gerald E. Thomas Jr., 61, was declared dead at the scene of the accident near the intersection of county roads 400 East and 500 South.

Thomas was driving his 2001 Dodge Ram south on county road 400 East, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. His vehicle left the east side of the road and went 2,700 feet through a corn field before hitting a tree.

Jay County coroner Michael Brewster said Thomas may have been ill before the crash. See **Crash** page 2

Congress urged to halt cuts to funding

By ASHLEY MURRAY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

WASHINGTON — Health care representatives from across the United States are urging Congress to halt cuts to funding that helps hospitals care for uninsured or low-income patients who rely on Medicaid.

More than 250 hospitals and health systems appealed to House and Senate leadership in a letter Thursday asking the lawmakers to avert or delay a forthcoming \$8 billion cut to "America's health care safety net."

IU Health and Eskenazi Health signed onto the letter. See **Funding** page 2

Parent critical of how school handled incident involving son

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Some parents are questioning the treatment of a student.

Fort Recovery Local Schools board members said they are looking into the matter.

At least 15 local residents attended the Fort Recovery School Board meeting Monday in support of Chris Siefring, who came to air concerns about the treatment of his son at Fort Recovery Middle School after an alleged bomb threat and gun threat.

Siefring told the board his 12-year-old son, a seventh grader at Fort Recovery Middle School, was being held at West Central Juvenile Detention Center in Troy, Ohio, until noon Monday. He's now wearing an ankle monitor during the rest of his school suspension, which originally started Sept. 11.

Siefring explained his

son has disruptive mood dysregulation disorder.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, "Disruptive mood dysregulation disorder (DMDD) is a condition in which children or adolescents experience ongoing irritability, anger, and frequent, intense temper outbursts. The symptoms of DMDD go beyond a 'bad mood.'"

Siefring said his son had been complaining about chest pains and that he was outfitted with a heart monitor for a short time.

On Sept. 8, Siefring said, the school called his wife, Theresa Siefring, and said their son had been making inappropriate comments about his heart monitor to other students. Chris Siefring alleged a rumor started first period that his son's heart monitor was a bomb.

He said his son was taken to the school office around noon to speak with

principal Holly Gann and staff member Miranda Gerlach, with Theresa Siefring on the phone. After their conversation, the boy was left alone in a locked conference room. Siefring's son threw objects, knocked over chairs and phones and escaped through a window. He was found outside near the building.

The boy was placed on suspension at home for five days. During his second day of suspension on Sept. 12, his teacher, who was working with the boy remotely, informed Theresa Siefring it appeared her son may have had a gun. (Chris Siefring noted the family owns a gun cabinet but said it had not been touched.) Theresa Siefring later received a call from Darke County Sheriff's Office letting her know they were on the way to her home to do a welfare visit on her son.

See **Critical** page 5



FR court

Fort Recovery High School will crown its homecoming queen and king Friday prior to the Indiana football team's game against the New Bremen Cardinals. The ceremony is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Pictured, front row from left, are queen candidates Cali Wendel, Natalie Brunswick, Allison Knapke, Megan Evers and Teigan Fortkamp. Back row are king candidates Alex Dues, Matthew Romer, Reece Evers, Reece Guggenbiller and Troy Homan.

Deaths

Bonnie Abbott, 99, Portland
Diana Grile, 76, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 70 degrees Monday. The low was 50.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with the high climbing into the 80s. Highs will also be in the 80s Friday and Saturday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Town of Pennville will be flushing fire hydrants from today through Sept. 29. Residents may experience discolored water.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from Tuesday's FRHS volleyball match against Coldwater.

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



Obituaries

Bonnie Abbott

March 10, 1924-Sept. 16, 2023
Bonnie A. Abbott, age 99, of Portland passed away on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, in Rawlins House in Pendleton, Indiana. She was born in Jay County on March 10, 1924, the daughter of Russell and Hazel (Denniston) Lake. She was married on Nov. 20, 1941, to Charles Edward Abbott and he passed away on July 2, 1979. Bonnie was owner and opera-

tor of B&K Root beer in Portland and had also worked for Jay Garment, Modern Book Bindery and Jay County Welfare Department. She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Bryant Senior Citizens, Women of the Moose and American Legion Aux. She loved to crochet and dancing.



Abbott

Methodist Church, Bryant Senior Citizens, Women of the Moose and American Legion Aux. She loved to crochet and dancing.

Bonnie donated 16.75 gallons of blood to the Red Cross. Surviving are two sons, Jerry Abbott (wife: Deborah) of Portland and Tom Abbott (wife: Hollie) of Iowa City, Iowa; one daughter, Barbara Miller (husband: Pat) of Fishers; Indiana; one brother, Robert Lake of Boiling Springs, South Carolina; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be Fri-

day, Sept. 22, 2023, at noon in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Owen Lovejoy presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamonia Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Diana L. Grile, Fort Recovery, died Friday at St. Rita Medical Center in Lima, Ohio. Services will

be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 9/21	Friday 9/22	Saturday 9/23	Sunday 9/24	Monday 9/25
82/57	82/56	80/55	75/56	76/55
Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high of 82 degrees during the day.	Sunny skies are expected on Friday. At night, the low may hit the mid to upper 50s.	Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with a high of 80 degrees and a low of 55.	Sunday has a chance of showers throughout the day under mostly cloudy skies.	There's a chance of showers Monday. Otherwise, partly sunny.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 2-21-26-40-42 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$672 million	Daily Four: 0-1-1-6 Quick Draw: 6-9-10-14-16-17-23-27-30-35-41-46-52-54-55-66-70-72-73-79 Cash 5: 23-25-32-33-42 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$183 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 9-4-7 Pick 4: 2-5-2-5 Pick 5: 3-6-3-8-8 Evening Pick 3: 2-3-2 Pick 4: 3-4-9-3 Pick 5: 2-7-8-1-9 Rolling Cash: 1-17-21-26-39 Estimated jackpot: \$153,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-7 Daily Four: 0-0-0-5 Quick Draw: 12-13-14-15-21-22-24-25-32-41-43-46-49-53-58-62-63-66-67-69 Evening Daily Three: 8-9-1	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.35 Oct. corn4.60 Wheat4.86	Dec. beans13.06 Wheat 5.01
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.25 Oct. corn4.85 Oct./Nov. corn4.60	Central States Montpelier Corn.....4.74 Oct. corn4.44 Beans12.76 Oct. beans12.71 Wheat5.45
The Andersons Richland Township Corn5.15 Late Sept. corn4.50 Beans12.67	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.90 Oct./Nov. corn4.30 Beans12.60 Oct. beans12.60 Wheat5.01

Today in history

In 1519, a group led by Ferdinand Magellan of Portugal departed on a quest to circumnavigate the globe. Though he died during the voyage, the expedition accomplished its goal.
In 1850, Congress abolished the slave trade in Washington, D.C. It came as part of legislation referred to as the Compromise of 1850.
In 1870, Italian troops occupied Rome. The military move eventually led to Rome being incorporated into the Kingdom of Italy and limiting the Pope's governing authority.
In 1878, Upton Sinclair, "author of 'The Jungle,'" was born in Baltimore, Maryland.
In 1886, Johannesburg was founded in South Africa.
In 1917, basketball coach Red Auerbach was born Arnold Jacob Auerbach in Brooklyn, New York. He won nine NBA championships as coach of the Boston Celtics.
In 1997, the Jay County High School volleyball team won the Eastbrook Invitational. Kim Flowers racked up 15 aces and 27 digs in the tournament.
In 2021, Fort Recovery School Board approved the hiring of Kevin Eyink as baseball coach. Eyink had been an assistant under former coach Jerry Kaup. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.
Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council 2024 budget public hearing, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town	Friday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 8:30 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission executive session, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Awarded ...

Continued from page 1
The commons renovation project is scheduled for winter break.

Board members also approved the school corporation's 2024 budget at \$40.7 million along with its capital projects and bus replacement plans. It includes \$21.9 million in the education fund, \$11 million in the operations fund, \$5.85 million in the debt service fund, \$1 million in the rainy day fund and \$893,902 in the pension debt service fund.

The three-year capital projects plan includes nearly \$545,000 in roof projects for 2024, with \$325,000 in 2025 and \$285,000 in 2026. Other major projects in 2024 include lights for the baseball field at \$338,200, other lighting at \$155,000 and new vehicles at \$150,000. School security upgrades (\$190,000), softball lights (\$165,000) and parking lot work (\$150,000) is planned for 2025, and parking lot work, new vehicles and grounds equipment are all estimated at \$100,000 in 2026.

The bus replacement plan calls for replacing five buses each in 2024 and 2025 at a cost of \$150,000 each and four buses each in each of the next three years.

The board also approved a facility use agreement with Jay Community Center on a 4-2 vote, with Vormohr, Laux, Geesaman and Jason Phillips

in favor, Reitz and Chip Phillips against, and Ford abstaining.

Ford said he was in support of sharing facilities, but expressed concern that a coach of one of the community center teams has made unsubstantiated derogatory claims about school staff on social media and been thrown out of games for his behavior at various levels. He said he could not vote in favor of an agreement that allowed such an individual to coach in Jay Schools facilities, saying he would abstain.

Laux and Geesaman said they agreed with much of what Ford said, but that they ultimately felt the facility agreement was a good one.

In other business, the board: •Honored Early College students, with Ryne Goldsworthy as their representative, during the Patriot Pride moment. Later in the meeting, junior-senior high principal Chad Dodd and assistant principal James Myers shared data showing that 29 students are on track to meet Indiana College Core requirements this year. (The program equates to 30 credit hours of college coursework that must be accepted by all Indiana colleges and universities.)

•Reviewed the school corporation's IREAD 3 and ILEARN scores for 2023. Eighty-two percent of Jay Schools

third graders passed the IREAD. That number was down from 86.8% in 2022, but matched the state average. The corporation's passing percentage for ILEARN was above the state average for third, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and below the state average of fourth and fifth grades.

•Accepted the retirement of East Jay Elementary instructional assistant Lisa Hodson effective Oct. 31, and the resignations of West Jay sixth grade teacher Debra Losch and transportation director Melissa Stephen.

•Approved the following: Various hirings including Bruce Phillips as a school bus aide, Brooke Shoemaker as a sixth grade teacher at West Jay Elementary School and Abigale Clamme as a technology instructor at East Elementary School; Leaves of absence for Julie Kable, Christie Sommers and Sadie Schulze; adult meal prices of \$4.70 for lunch and \$2.75 for breakfast; granting permission to sell a car lift via an online auction through Bricker Auction Company; a change regarding administrator support staff to allow sick leave from a prior position to be credited; a service agreement to transport Jay County Christian Academy students;

•Accepted a Title I grant of \$1.05 million and a Title IV grant of \$84,217.32.

Funding ...

Continued from page 1
The reduction to the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital funding is scheduled for Oct. 1, as mandated under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The deadline comes as Congress faces partisan roadblocks to fund the government and renew a number of expiring federal programs by the end of the fiscal year, or Sept. 30. "Not only does Medicaid DSH ensure access to care for millions of people, it enables our hospitals to provide essential services to their communities, including top-level trauma, burn, and neonatal intensive care. The need for DSH funding is even greater now, as hospital expenses per patient have increased significantly since the pandemic," read the letter sent by the advocacy organization America's Essential Hospitals.

The fund compensates hospitals that treat a disproportionate number of uninsured patients or low-income patients whose Medicaid coverage pays a

lower rate than private insurance or Medicare.

The ACA provision, written under the premise that rates of uninsured people would continue to decrease, requires \$8 billion per year in cuts from 2024 to 2027.

Higher rates of insurance coverage "have not materialized," Dr. Bruce Siegel, president and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals, wrote in a statement accompanying the letter.

The offices of GOP House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Democratic House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries did not respond to a request for comment on the letter.

The impending cuts have also been a concern for senators on both sides of the aisle. Over the last decade, Congress has stopped reductions to the fund that were required under the ACA.

In a bipartisan letter from August to Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, 20 senators wrote that "(c)uts of this magnitude could undermine the financial viability

of hospitals, threatening access to care for the most vulnerable Americans."

"It is essential that we continue to protect those who have come to rely on the services provided by Medicaid DSH hospitals. We ask you to act as soon as possible to address the Medicaid DSH cuts to ensure our nation's hospitals can continue to care for every community," the senators wrote in the Aug. 3 letter co-led by Bob Casey, a Pennsylvania Democrat, and James Lankford, a Republican from Oklahoma.

Neither Schumer's nor McConnell's office responded to requests for comment on either letter.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

SERVICES

Wednesday

Daniels, Sarah: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Thursday

Rumpel, Hedwig: 11 a.m., St. Mary of the Presentation Church, 5790 E. 1100 South, Geneva.

Friday

Abbott, Bonnie: noon, Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

Grile, Diana: 10 a.m., Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Crash ...

Continued from page 1
An autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday to learn more about the cause of his death.

The corn field is owned

by Glenn Miller of rural Portland, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

The truck was towed from the scene.

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

Harvest

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 or (260) 726-8141

Winchester Foundation hosting lecture

The Winchester Foundation will host a special lecture to honor the anniversary of the death of its founder.

Leslie Lenkowsky, an Indiana University professor emeritus and former president of the Hudson Institute, will present "American Exceptionalism — The View from the Midwest" at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at First Presbyterian Church in Winchester.

Lenkowsky served as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, appointed by President George W.

Taking Note

Bush, from 2001 to 2004. He is a graduate of Franklin College and Harvard University.

The event is being held in honor of Pierre F. Goodrich, who died Oct. 25, 1973. Goodrich established The Winchester Foundation in 1945.

Lenkowsky's presentation at the church, 201 E. Franklin St., is free.

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 attending an Indiana college or university.

For more information, visit indianasenatepublicans.com/Intern.

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.

Planetarium shows

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. 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. 30.

"Magic Treehouse: Space Mission," follows characters from the best-selling children's book series as they travel to an observatory and beyond into space. Showings are at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 30.

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

Fiance's co-worker puts on a show at party

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I went to his co-worker "Tina's" house on a Friday night to socialize and play trivia games. We had been at her place before, for a Christmas party. Tina wore a short skirt, and when she sat down you could see all the way up to her black lace panties. During our "heads-up" game she sat right across from my fiance.

While people were laughing and having fun drinking and playing games, all I could notice were her panties and Tina's loud laughs. She was drinking, and my fiance asked her, "Baby, are you feeling OK?" He said it loudly. Everyone heard it, and I felt myself getting really angry and red in the face. Why was he calling her Baby? We call each other

Dear Abby



that! I don't want to return to Tina's house. My fiance says I overreacted. He doesn't tell me about his goings-on at work or about friend hangouts. We usually go out together alone.

When I think back on that night, I still feel upset about it. Are my feelings valid? Do you think we need couples therapy before we get married? — UNEASY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNEASY: Allow me to save you some money. Rather than tell your fiance

you think you need couples counseling because his co-worker drinks too much, say instead you were not impressed by the performance Tina put on that evening, and you prefer the two of you skip game nights at her place and socialize with people with whom you have more in common.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is still married to the man who molested my siblings and me. How do I forgive her and move past it?

We had a close mother-daughter relationship until two years ago, when I asked her why she was still married to the man her children told her repeatedly had molested them. She didn't answer. She

chose him, walked out and we haven't spoken since. It's hard for me to deal with. I don't understand, and I don't know how to get past it. Not having your mother because she passes away is hard, but the feeling of not having her while she's alive is a whole different kind of pain. — FULL OF PAIN IN TEXAS

DEAR FULL OF PAIN: In my opinion, not all sins are forgivable. Chief among them is turning a blind eye to children who are being sexually abused. Your mother made her choice years ago, and I can only imagine how hurtful it has been for you. An organization called R.A.I.N.N. (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network) may be helpful because it

can connect you with experienced therapists. (The website is rainn.org.)

The man to whom your mother has given her allegiance is a danger to the community. If he would abuse you and your siblings, he would have no compunction about doing it to other children given the opportunity. You (and your siblings) should notify the police about what happened to you because it could happen over and over again.

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-

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

Thursday

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

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

at (260) 251-8792.

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

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

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

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

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-

MOUS — 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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'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.

JAY COUNTY HOSPITAL RETIREES — Will meet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 25 in the community room at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. All retired or former Jay County Hospital employees are welcome. Please bring a dish to share, your table service, a drink of your choice and a \$2 bingo gift.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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



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Corvette just wasn't quite his style

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Sept. 22, 2004. Jack eventually got the Jaguar that was on the list of cars in which he had pictured himself behind the wheel. It was far more his style than the Corvette.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

The vanity plates caught my eye. "AWHSUM" said one, with dubious spelling. "QCKNFUN" said the plate on the car in front of "AWHSUM." Then I noticed they were both Corvettes. And only then did I notice that they were the last in a string of six 'Vettes ahead of us. It was Sunday at mid-day, and we were heading west out of Bloomington on Ind. 46 after

Back in the Saddle



a delightful freshmen parents' weekend visit with Sally at Indiana University. The sky was cloudless blue, and the day couldn't have been more perfect for a drive the long way home. We moved away from the bustle of Bloomington toward the winding roads and hillsides of Brown County. Leaf-peeping season is still on the horizon, but the Hoosier landscape was lovely just the same.

It was perfect roadster weather, and the six 'Vettes in front of us were tooling along the highway like a scene from a car commercial. "Those guys are having a ball," I said, moving through the curves in the family Dodge. "Did you ever want to own one of those?" asked my wife. It was an interesting question. She didn't mention anything about being able to afford a Corvette. There was no mention of practicality. Things like cargo space and gas mileage weren't brought up. Instead, it was all a matter of "want." I felt the steering wheel under my hands as we moved through another curve and thought about it. Like any red-blooded American guy, I've found myself lust-

ing after more than one automobile over the years. Usually more practical concerns and little things like price tags have scared me off. I'd had a little Avenger at one point, which was essentially a Mitsubishi Eclipse with a different label, but had traded it in about the time Sally was getting her driver's license. At one time or another, I've pictured myself behind the wheel of a dozen different cars, most of them impractical and exotic. Cobras, Jaguars, Porsches, vintage MGs and more mundane Detroit products have all had a place on my wish list at one time or another. There are times that I've even checked the prices on reproductions of the old Auburn boat-tail speedster.

But a Corvette was another story. There's something about a 'Vette that either fits with your personality or doesn't. It's not so much a car as it is a personal statement. It says who you are, what you're about and what you value. It speaks — simultaneously — of youth and the passage of youth into middle age. It's one of those cars where ownership isn't just ownership, it's membership in a fraternity of owners. "Well," said my wife. "Nope," I said. "It's so low to the ground I don't think my knees would be able to handle getting in and out of the thing." With thoughts that practical, I probably wouldn't have been admitted to the fraternity anyway.

New public health program is a win

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Here's a big round of applause to the 86 counties that have signed on for Indiana's enhanced public health funding — and an even bigger congratulations to the Hoosiers that it will help. When Gov. Eric Holcomb pushed a public health commission following the COVID-19 pandemic, some people — Republicans especially — thought he was crazy to want to double down on what turned into a controversial topic. But that commission — cochaired by former Sen. Luke Kenley and former State Health Commissioner Judith Monroe — worked methodically through the data and found that Indiana is tragically behind in almost every health metric. And that's because Indiana doesn't spend enough on public health.

Niki Kelly



19 vaccines were introduced. But public health is about so much more than that. Under the new program, at least 60% of the new funding has to be spent on preventative core services related to certain key performance indicators. Some examples include:

- Chronic disease prevention and reduction
- Tobacco prevention and cessation
- Maternal and child health
- Communicable disease prevention and control
- Referrals to clinical care
- Emergency preparedness
- Fatality review (child, suicide, overdose)

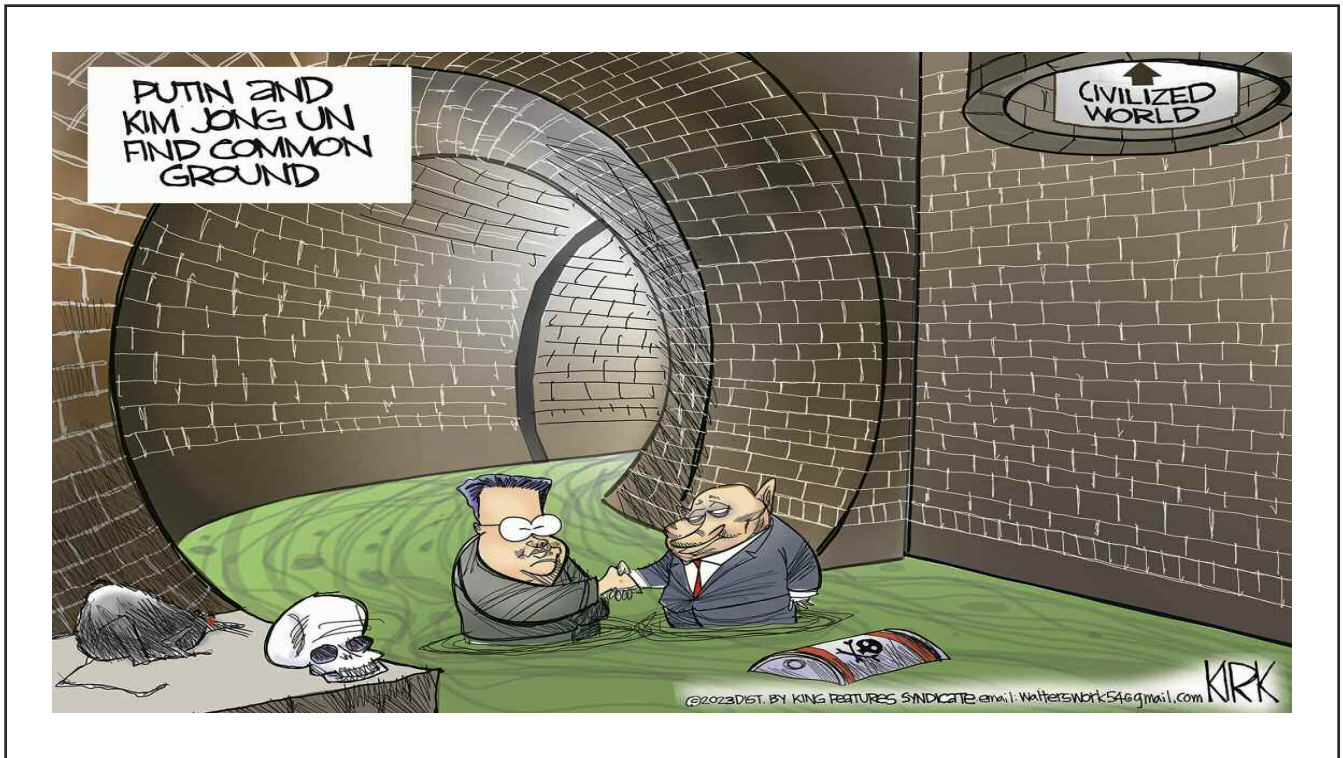
Health departments could offer screenings, lead testing, support groups, clinics, counseling, educational opportunities and more to try to mitigate disease and societal problems that are literally killing Hoosiers. Larger counties can do some of this on their own, while smaller counties might partner with existing entities. The remaining 40% of the new funds can go to other health-related issues, such as inspections of restaurants, buildings and tattoo parlors; and on-site sewage permitting. Those aren't the sexiest topics, but inappropriate food preparation and unsanitary conditions can make the public sick, and broken septic systems can contaminate water with other illness-causing microbes. All 92 counties were given the option to receive the new funding and only six turned it down. My guess is they will sign on soon enough, as their own citizens won't see the improvements that others will — which will put them at a competitive disadvantage.

.....
Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

While the rest of the nation averages about \$91 in public health funding per capita, Indiana is at \$55. And the range within that average is startling. Shelby County is at a low of \$1.25 and Marion County has a high of \$82.71. At least 37 counties have local public health per capita spending of less than \$10. And that lack of money has consequences. Did I mention that Indiana's life expectancy is actually going down? In fact, life expectancy in Indiana has been declining since 2010, when it peaked at 77.5 years. Indiana's life expectancy in 2019 was 77 years, almost two years below the U.S. average of 78.8, placing us 40th in the nation. Of even greater concern is the difference between the Indiana county with the highest life expectancy and the county with the lowest life expectancy is almost nine years. The commission recommended adding \$243 million annually in public health funding, and after negotiation, Holcomb received \$225 million over two years. While lower than necessary, it was a huge win for the term-limited governor at a time when faith in the public health system has dropped precipitously.

One of the key things to know about this program, called Health First Indiana, isn't about immunizations. That, of course, has become a flashpoint in the country since the COVID-



No one will miss lightning charger

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Few implements are so loathed as Apple's notorious Lightning connector; the tech giant's bespoke method of charging its devices. We've fiddled and messed with the finicky cords for years, turning them over as one side goes kaput, then throwing the cord away entirely and cursing at how few of them ever seem to last for more than a few weeks. For Apple devotees, just plugging in a Lightning cord can get the heart pounding, given the dire consequences these days of a dead phone.

So we were glad to see Tuesday that the cords, outrageous and dysfunctional Apple profit-padders, are headed for the recycling bin, replaced by the industry standard USB-C charging cable. Of course, that's assuming you upgrade your iPhone to the latest model, as announced at Apple's annual celebration of cool new upgrades.

Apple's hand was forced by European Union regulators, invested in the societal benefits of creating a single connective standard for all mobile devices, including phones, tablets and cameras. Acting in October of last year, the European Parliament required the common charging port for new phones from autumn 2024, with laptop compatibility required in 2026.

Apple fought back against the decision, claiming its proprietary rights, but Cupertino lost the battle with Brussels, although savvy observers subsequently have noted that Apple may well make lemonade out of a lemonlike decision for them, given that there will be people out there who upgrade their phones just to avoid the Lightning curse. On the other hand, as Lightning cords become hard to find and eventually obsolete, electronic waste could increase.

The American company has had a rough September so far, with the Wall Street Journal reporting that Chinese government officials were talking about directives not to bring Apple devices to the office. That caused Apple's highflying stock to fall because investors well know that the Chinese market, public and private,

Guest Editorial

so to speak, is crucial to a company that reported an astonishing \$394 billion in annual revenue in 2022.

All that said, we're still backing Apple to prevail against its Chinese aggressors.

Why does China fear a company whose phones are mostly manufactured within its borders?

There are two main reasons: One is national security, given how much data these devices are capable of collecting. The other is the rise of Chinese phone brands like Huawei, a name that is popular at home but have only marginal current visibility in Europe and the U.S., where Huawei phones are not sold. More specifically, China is no doubt protecting and promoting the new Huawei Mate 60 Pro series, which comes with high-end 5G-capabilities, a highly regarded camera and even some ability to make satellite-assisted calls. That product has been predicted by some analysts as likely to erode the iPhone's market share in China: After all, there are a whole lot of government-affiliated entities in China and even more entities that would think twice about upsetting Beijing.

Meanwhile, the high-end phone widely has been seen as an impressive breakthrough for Huawei, whose access to the requisite chipmaking tools for phones at this level has been restricted since 2019 by the U.S. Tech heads have been wondering how this was possible and whether the phone used stockpiled chips or new innovations. Either way, U.S. chip sanctions apparently were not as effective as they were cracked up to be. No surprise. Sanctions rarely work as intended.

In essence, then, smartphones are caught up in a government war. President Joe Biden even mentioned the Apple debacle in Vietnam. "China is

beginning to change some of the rules of the game in terms of trade and other issues." Biden said Sunday, presumably alluding to this very issue.

Of course, the U.S. plays much the same game when it comes to Chinese phones.

This all is a tricky situation, given the potential capacity of high-powered phones to suck up, and then leak, secrets. But there are safeguards that can be put in place and Apple has been famously responsive to the needs and dictates of the Chinese government in the past. And the Chinese manufacturing sector has benefited enormously from Apple's rise.

It's one thing to worry legitimately about privacy, and another to use the influence of a powerful central government to favor a homegrown manufacturer of choice. That's protectionism and history teaches us that it doesn't work in the long term, instead causing the kind of tit-for-tat restrictions that stifle innovation.

So we call on Beijing to ease up on the Apple badmouthing. And we see no theoretical reason why top-drawer Huawei cellphones should not be on sale in the U.S., as are some other Chinese phones, assuming enough transparency and sufficient safeguards to assuage any worries about spying, national security and personal privacy. Right now, that's a big assumption many would not be willing to make. That's an issue for the Chinese government to fix.

But the world benefits from free competition and Apple is a formidably innovative American company, one that has transformed technology — heck, life itself — across the globe and established itself as the best in its class. We would not bet against its long-term abilities to weather these latest headwinds from Huawei and the Chinese government.

We also don't think the average Chinese customer will find Apple products any less appealing just because the nervous government says it should.

Especially since they'll soon be able to charge up their new iPhones with ease.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Bunny love

Weston Eldridge, 7, and Braelyn Eldridge, 9, pet a rabbit at Hopefest's petting zoo Saturday outside Jay Community Center. Rabbits, chickens, horses and other animals were available for local residents to pet and feed during Hopefest activities. The rabbit pictured at left belongs to 4-H member Keisha Adair.

Critical ...

Continued from page 1
During police questioning, his son continued to deny he had accessed any guns, Chris Siefring said.

His son was placed for a week in the juvenile detention center. Chris Siefring said he isn't aware of any formal charges being filed in court.

His son's condition — he was diagnosed in October 2021 — had been filed with the school, said Chris Siefring. He also said the family had informed the school their son would be wearing a heart monitor.

In a statement Siefring shared, he said his son is bullied

almost daily at school, getting called nicknames now including 'Bomb Boy.'

"The administration let it get out of hand," said Siefring. "The administration knew about it early and chose not to act."

Siefring criticized the school for leaving his son in a room alone while having signs of anxiety. He also questioned the choice to send him to a juvenile detention center.

"I'll never have my son back the way he was," said Siefring. "He's been permanently altered."

During the school board meeting, school board president Don

Wendel stopped Siefring's speech and requested the group continue their discussion in executive session. Siefring said he would like to continue addressing the issue publicly. School board members pointed out student discipline isn't usually addressed in open meetings, and they agreed to move into executive session immediately.

After about 45 minutes, the school board returned to its open meeting.

Wendel said the board will look into Siefring's concerns. Fort Recovery superintendent Tony Stahl declined to speak on the matter.

"We certainly appreciate community feedback, but I'm not going to comment on student disciplinary matters," said Stahl.

In other business, school board:

- Hired Jeff Vaughn as the high school girls golf coach retroactive to Aug. 24. Vaughn took over the role from Joe Bruns, 53, who died from cancer.

- Approved hiring substitutes Beth Westgerdes and Rebecca Link and van drivers Ashley Eihenauer, Karli Jutte, Kathy Keller, Alyssa Lewis and Rose Moeder

- Approved contracts with

Lindsey Reinhard as the SADD Club adviser and Jamie Albers and Cathy Wendel as school district RTI Core Team members

- OK'd Fort Recovery FFA to take a field trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3 and Fort Recovery High School Marching Band to attend the Buckeye Invitational at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, from Oct. 13 to Oct. 14

- Accepted donations from various groups for student appreciation night, as well as donations to the choir and elementary/middle school library

Felony arrests

Drug possession

A Winchester man was arrested Thursday for drug possession.

Travis J. Guntle, 23, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for

possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

He was being held on a

\$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Burglary

A Redkey man was arrested Thursday for burglary.

William A. Lawhorn, 51, 253 E. Bell Ave., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with the following: a Level 4 felony for burglary, a Level 6 felony for residential entry or breaking and

entering a dwelling, a Level 6 felony for confinement, two Class A misdemeanors for resisting law enforcement and criminal mischief and three Class B misdemeanors for crim-

inal mischief. A habitual offender enhancement has also been added to his case.

Lawhorn is being held in Jay County Jail on a \$35,000 bond.

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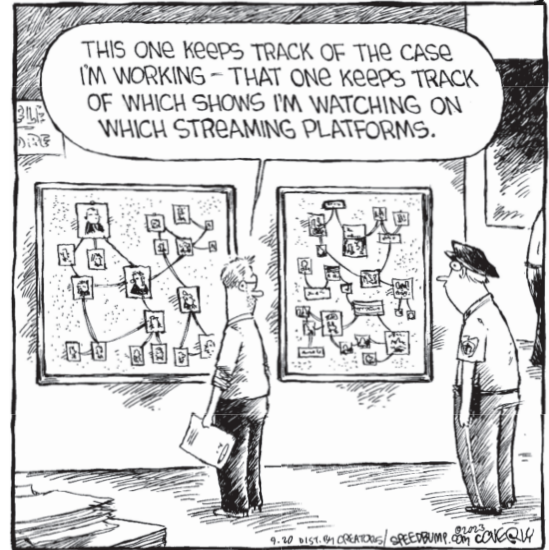
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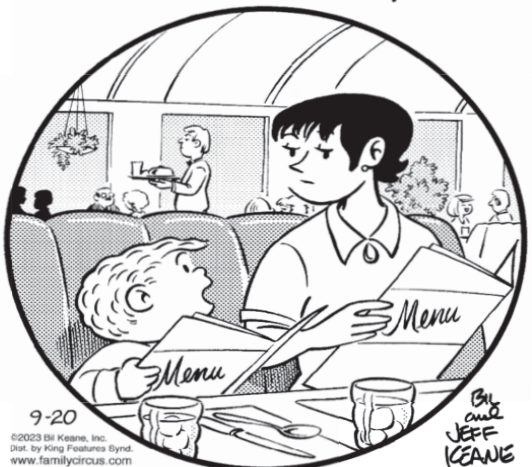
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The good old days

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♠ Q J 10 9 5 3 ... WEST ♠ K 6 ... EAST ♠ A 8 2 ... SOUTH ♠ 7 4 ...

in those days, but by modern standards four diamonds would surely be regarded as preferable for two reasons: First, hands with 6-4-2-1 distribution don't lend themselves well to notrump play.

Nevertheless, several rounds of bidding later the Culbertsons found themselves in six diamonds. It was an unsound contract, of course, but it had a good chance of succeeding—depending on the opening lead.

Jacoby had no clear-cut lead. The Culbertsons had bid all four suits, and where to attack was by no means obvious.

Jacoby's plan succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. Lenz won the trick with the ace and returned a spade, quickly nipping the slam in the bud.

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ 2 ♥ 3 ♠ Pass ... This deal occurred during the famous Culbertson-Lenz match in 1931.

Josephine Culbertson opened one diamond, and Oswald Jacoby made a weak jump-overcall of two hearts. Ely Culbertson bid three spades a jump-shift indicating a powerful hand—and Sidney Lenz passed.

This might have been the right bid

Tomorrow: Malfeasance in office. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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Crossword grid with letters and numbers.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

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Golfers shoot low

CELINA, Ohio — The Indians are peaking at the right time.

The Fort Recovery High School boys golf team shot its season low for a 166-208 victory over the Celina Bulldogs on Monday at Celina Lynx Golf Club.

Reece LeFevre had two strokes over par to lead the Indians (7-6, 5-4 Midwest Athletic Conference) with a 38. After six straight pars, LeFevre birdied the eighth hole to earn his score and match medalist honors.

Eli Lennartz and Matthew Romer shot 42s. Both put together strong performances on the greens, only needing 13 putts each.

Like LeFevre, Lennartz also started out with six-straight pars. Romer only shot for par twice, but made up for it with a birdie on the fifth.

Rounding out the Indians' score was Keegan Muhlenkamp with a 44.

Nate Jutte's 46 and Sage Wendel's 48 did not factor into the final score.

Fort Recovery roundup

Knights end run

CONVOY, Ohio — Just under a month into the season, the Division 3 No. 6 Fort Recovery volleyball team finally lost its first match of the year to the Division 4 No. 3 Crestview Knights 25-18, 25-18, 25-22 on Monday.

Teigan Fortkamp was the only player with double-digit kills for Fort Recovery (8-1, 3-0 MAC), tallying 13 in the match. She also had three blocks, which was only matched by Paige Guggenbiller.

Mara Pearson had nine kills, one block, one dig and one ace.

Kayla Heitkamp and Kennedy Muhlenkamp each had 11 assists and three digs. While Muhlenkamp was able to effectively set up her

teammates, the Knights (9-1) quieted her attack, only allowing two kills.

The Indians gave away eight points on service errors. The only players without an error were Cali Wendel and Kensey Gaerke.

Girls finish strong

MINSTER, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls golf team finished the regular season on a high note with a 205-215 win over Fort Loramie at Arrowhead Golf Club on Monday afternoon.

The score set a new season-low for Fort Recovery, beating the previous low set Thursday when it shot a 211 in a loss to New Bremen.

Olivia Knapke set a new career-best while earning match medalist honors with a 45.

The next score for Fort Recovery came from Eva Kahlig, who had 52 strokes.

Rounding out Fort Recovery's score were Brynn Stammen and Ella Schoen with 54s.

Patriots clinch share

A victory on Monday was bigger than just the fifth win in a row for the Patriots. It also clinched them at least a share of the Allen County Athletic Conference title.

The Jay County High School boys soccer team beat the Heritage Patriots in a back-and-forth game for a 4-2 victory Monday.

The teams traded goals in the first half. After an early Heritage goal, Dylan Marentes tied it 2:10 into the game.

Heritage (4-4-2, 2-1 ACAC) struck back to regain the lead before Levi Muhlenkamp scored on an assist from Marentes with 20:20 left in the half.

Ar Zit Cahn and Myo Min Tway scored the two goals for Heritage with Toby Henning assisting once.

Early in the second half, Hugo Gutierrez converted a header to put Jay County (6-2-2, 3-1 ACAC) ahead.

Muhlenkamp iced the game with a goal with seven minutes left.

Pats stay hot

The Jay County boys tennis team won its fifth match in a row with a 4-1 victory over Belmont on Monday.

Both No. 1 positions swept their opponents 6-0,

Jay County roundup

6-0. Abraham Dirksken took care of the singles against Hayden Huss while Sam Myers and Gage Sims took down James Miller and Kaden Ramsey in doubles action.

Eli Dirksken won No. 2 doubles match for a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Bryson Ball.

Isaac Miller and Luke Muhlenkamp took care of Larry Knous and Ben Mendoza for a 6-2, 6-0 win.

Liam Garringer suffered the only loss for the Patriots. Layne LeMaster beat him 6-1, 6-4.

For the junior varsity, Gabe Pinkerton won his singles against Raiden Knittle 8-2.

Blake Kahlig and Jacob Monroe beat Knittle and Braxton Jarvis 6-4 in the doubles match.

Mathias wins open

LEBANON — Jay County High School graduate Evan Mathias won the Indiana Adaptive Open over the weekend at Golf Club of

Indiana. Mathias, JCHS class of 2014, shot 5-under-par for the 36-hole tournament to win by one stroke over Lucas Jones of Louisville, Kentucky.

After taking a double bogey on the 10th hole Sunday, Mathias captured the tournament title with a strong finish. He trailed Jones by three strokes before recording consecutive birdies on No. 11 and No. 12. He stayed one stroke back until the final two holes, pulling even when Jones bogeyed the 17th hole and taking the win with a par on the 18th while Jones recorded a second consecutive bogey.

Young spikers fall

The Jay County Junior High School volleyball team fell to the Delta Eagles 25-21, 25-19 on Monday.

The Patriots served the ball well, totaling eight aces between Kenady Lyons, Brenna Ruble and Emalyn Homan. They just couldn't attack effectively as Amelia Heath led with two kills while Lyons had one.

Lyons had three digs while Gabi Petro contributed two and Ruble, Homan and Peyton Schoenlein each added one.

Spark ...

Continued from page 8
Blackford's Audrey Wilson had a match-high 20 assists, while Saxman led the Patriots with 16.

Defensively, Haines dug out more balls than anyone else, doing so 14 times. Jaelyn Mor-

ris had the most for Blackford with 12.

While Dillon was happy with the quick win, she would have liked to see more dominance and energy from her team.

"I think we can do better with our energy. I thought we

were kind of playing a step slow tonight," Dillon said. "I thought we had spurts that that kind of showed and we were having a little bit of fun and but I really just think we just kind of played a steady quiet game tonight."

Junior varsity

The Jay County junior varsity team took down Blackford 25-16, 25-14 on Monday.

Maria Hemmelgarn had a team-high three kills in the match.

Behind her, Hallie Schwi-

eterman, Elizabeth Barnett and Rowels all had two.

Ella Rigby and Paisley Fugiet combined for 12 assists. Kayla Jetmore led the defensive effort with five digs, and Rigby added four. Jetmore also had five aces en route to 11 service points.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Girls soccer vs. Yorktown — 5 p.m.; Boys tennis at South Adams — 5 p.m.; Volleyball vs. West 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
12:35 p.m. — MLB: 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. — MLB: New York Mets

at Miami Marlins (FS1)

Thursday

7 p.m. — High School Football: Miami Central at Chaminade-Madonna (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Georgia State at Coastal Carolina (ESPN)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: New York Giants at San Francisco 49ers (FOX)
10:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix (ESPN2)

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MARY HELEN RIGBY, DECEASED and CLARK FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p>	<p>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 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>PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 8256 W 550 N. Pennville, Indiana MOBILE HOME - UTILITY SHED 1983 Empire 14'x70' mobile home with ton axles and tires. To be moved. Home is in good condition. 10'x12' utility shed. To be moved. SUV - MOWER - HOUSEHOLD 2012 Chevrolet Captiva SUV with 46,200 miles. Chairs, 6 gun cabinet, 720 Grasshopper mower with 52" cut. Samsung refrigerator with bottom freezer, GE electric range, 2 l-heaters, lighted Curio cabinet, Hand painted globe lamp, 2 glider rockers, rocker recliner. OWNER: DELORIS J BROWN ESTATE/ LOWELL BROWN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. 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Sophomore spark

Kendel Rowles provides energy in third set

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

It was a quiet night in the Jay County Junior-Senior High School gymnasium.

A late-game, go-ahead block from a sophomore changed that.

Kendel Rowles breathed life into the Jay County High School volleyball team during the third set of a 25-14, 25-22, 25-23 sweep over the Blackford Bruins on Monday.

With the game tied at 22 apiece, Jay County (6-7, 1-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) only needed three points to put Blackford (8-16) away.

Rowles answered the call, leaping to block one of the Bruins' attacks to give the Patriots a momentary lead.

"(Coach) Amy (Dillon) said get a block, so I needed to get up and do it," Rowles said. "I was just very excited."

The set was Rowles' first varsity experience. Rowles was in the rotational all throughout the third set, recording an early kill and an error as well as two late digs.

After the block, her junior varsity teammates behind the bench filled the previously silent gym with cheering before the rest of the fans started to get involved.

"It was very nerve wracking, but it was fun once I started getting into it," said. "It was really hard (to catch up to varsity speed), but I had them all cheering

for me, so it was very easy to get pumped."

Following the block, Blackford's Sydnee Morris recorded a kill to tie things back up, but the momentum was already in Jay County's favor. A hitting error by Patience Campbell and a ball handling error ended the set 25-23.

The rest of the third set featured a three- and a four-point run for each team before the Patriots slowly pulled out the victory.

Dillon said played a big role in finishing off the match with the energy she brought the team and by allowing Bella Denton to become an outside hitter rather than a middle.

"I really liked her out there. I thought that Kendel brought a spark to our third set that we needed," Dillon said. "It's her first time she's been out there so it got everybody over here kind of riled up because she did really well. I was very proud of her."

The Patriots dominated the first set. They found a lot of success with a defense-orientated lineup that featured Brenna Haines, Brenna Bailey and Lani Muhlenkamp in the back row and Denton, Maggie Dillon and Sophie Saxman up front.

"I think that's our best lineup defensively, because obviously you have the three (defensive specialists)," Haines said. "I feel like we just mesh well, because we talk to each



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County's Mya Kunkler (right) reaches up to tap a soft kill while Blackford's Kalyssa Lennon attempts to block the hit on Monday night. The Patriots won the match 25-14, 25-22, 25-23 and Kunkler finished with three kills and a block.

other well."

That alignment went on a 12-point run to give the Patriots a 20-10 lead. During that run, Blackford committed six errors while Jay County tallied four kills, a block and Haines served up one ace.

The block and three of the four kills came from Denton. She finished with a team-high 11 kills and two blocks.

The Bruins were able to hang with the Patriots during the second and third sets thanks to strong per-

formance from Morris. She was responsible for 15 total points. She had one ace while leading Blackford with nine kills and five blocks.

The Bruins struggled to set themselves up for success, often being out of sys-

tem after serve receives.

"Just mentally, with our serve receive, they've got to be ready," Blackford coach Lyndsey Ahern said. "They've gotta lead and start with that first pass every time."

See **Spark** page 7

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