

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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## Blue ribbon

### FRMS selected for national honor

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Fort Recovery Middle School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2023, an honor given to only 353 schools nationally and 19 schools in Ohio.

The U.S. Department of Education announced the award recipients Tuesday, recognizing schools based on their overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups.

"It's quite the honor," said Fort Recovery Local Schools superintendent Tony Stahl. "It does not come along very often and it is definitely something that is mostly a credit to our hardworking students and dedicated staff and hardworking community members ... it's a culmination of that effort."

In the last four decades, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has given approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,700 schools.

"The honorees for our 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for what it means to Raise the Bar in education," said United States Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in a press release. "The leaders, educators, and staff at our National Blue Ribbon Schools continually inspire me with their dedication to fostering academic excellence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally."

According to the Ohio Department of Education's website, Fort Recovery Middle School scored 5 stars on its overall rating for the 2023 Ohio School Report Cards. The measurement considered achievement, progress and gap closing components for middle schools.

Stahl pointed out Fort Recovery Local Schools has been focused on helping its students grow based on where they are academically.

"It's good to see some of the fruits of that labor come to fruition," he said.

Forty of those honored Tuesday were private schools, while 313 were public. The majority (about 74% of public schools and 75% of private schools) of recipients were elementary schools. (No private middle schools were selected this year.)

Fort Recovery Middle School



U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education announced this week that Fort Recovery Middle School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2023. It was one of 19 to earn the honor in Ohio.

was one of 29 middle schools in the country to be recognized. It was nominated in the spring for the award as an Exemplary High Performing School.

Ryan Steinbrunner, who transitioned his role as principal from Fort Recovery Middle School to Fort Recovery High School in August, noted the application process took about two months to complete, culminating in a 14-page summary of the school's achievements and programs.

He highlighted those involved with the school system through the years.

"It's awesome living in this community," said Steinbrunner.

"To have the staff and the students and the community receive this award is just a testament to the years of work for everyone involved."

Other Ohio public schools honored included East Elementary School in Mount Vernon, Granville Middle School in Granville, Kensington Intermediate School in Rocky River, Lake Middle/High School in Uniontown, Northwest Middle School in Canal Fulton, Orchard Middle School in Solon, Ragersville Elementary School in Sugarcreek, Robert C Lindsey Elementary School in Chesterland, Robinwood Lane Elementary School in Youngstown, Walnut Element-

ary School in Ashville, Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati and Western Reserve Elementary School in Berlin Center.

"Think of all the lives touched and transformed by these schools," said Deputy United States Secretary of Education Cindy Marten in an announcement video posted online for award recipients. "From the program's earliest days, National Blue Ribbon Schools have paved the way to academic excellence. As educators, you've proven time and again your ability to reach, teach, motivate and empower students to overcome hurdles and share their unique gifts with the world."

## Airport plan won't see big changes

Apron, runway and fence are top projects

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Portland Board of Aviation isn't looking at any major changes to its plans for capital improvements at Portland Municipal Airport.

The board reviewed its current five-year capital improvement plan, which now includes goals for use of traditional Federal Aviation Administration funding as well as money made available via the 2021 federal infrastructure bill.

Via traditional funding, the plan approved last year calls for terminal apron expansion design this year — that work is currently underway — with construction scheduled for 2024. (The board plans to bid the project in the spring.) Other projects include assessment and design for runway pavement rehabilitation in 2025, with construction to follow in 2026. Design and construction for the reconstruction of the existing terminal apron and a wildlife control and security fence would follow in 2027 and 2028, respectively.

Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman and Seufert noted that though the board has discussed using its infrastructure bill funds for other projects, Indiana Department of Transportation factored the first three years of those dollars — about \$336,000 — in for the 2024 apron expansion. He noted that INDOT in its current plan has allotted \$400,000 in funds for the project.

See Plan page 2

## Jay improves to 30th-lowest rate

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The local unemployment rate dropped by more than half a percentage point last month.

The county's ranking in relation to the rest of the state also saw a big improvement.

Jay County had an unemployment rate of 3.2% last month according to estimates released this week by Indiana Department of Workforce Development, tying it for the 30th-lowest rate in Indiana.

The local rate was down 0.6 percentage points from July, when it had tied for the 37th-highest unemployment rate among Indiana's 92 counties. The county also tied for 37th-highest in June.

Jay County's rate was 2.6% in August 2022.

Most counties in the region saw their unemployment rates drop in August, with Adams, Randolph and Delaware counties also falling by at least 0.4 percentage

**Unemployment was 3.2% in August**

points. (Wells County was tied for the third-lowest rate in the state for the second month in a row.) Meanwhile, Blackford County's rate went up by 0.1 percentage points.

The state's rate for August came in at 3.7%.

Daviess County overtook Gibson County for the lowest rate in the state as they finished at 2.6% and 2.7%, respectively. Wells, Dubois and Clinton counties were tied for third at 2.8%.

See Rate page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Honor ceremony

The Mercer County Fireman's Honor Guard marches into place Sunday during closing ceremonies for the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit at Jay County Fairgrounds. The exhibit was on display Friday through Sunday.

### Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 82 degrees Wednesday. The low was 54.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 50s. Expect sunny skies on Saturday with a

high in the upper 70s. High temperatures are expected to stay in the 70s through at least Wednesday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from tonight's JCHS football game at Woodlan.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



# Plan ...

Continued from page 1  
He said the board could still decide to use its infrastructure bill funds for other purposes, but cautioned that it could put those state funds in jeopardy.  
Clearwaters also suggested keeping additional portions of the plan regarding the construction of a new 10-unit hangar and a snow removal equipment building in place. He said some state funding is likely to become available for such projects.  
Board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, John Ferguson and Caleb Lutes made no changes to the plan. Clearwaters will work on an updated version to present next month. The board will need to vote on approval no later than its November meeting in order to have the plan turned in to the FAA by the Dec. 1 deadline.  
The board also approved increasing individual hangar rent for 2024 by \$10 to \$95 per

month (or \$90 per month for those who pay for a full year up front). It also approved a \$50 increase per month for corporate hangars.  
The increases will go into effect Jan. 1.  
"And we're still extremely low," said Parr, referencing rental rates at other airports in the area.  
"I think bringing them up another \$10 is fair and sufficient," agreed Lutes.  
Board members said their target was to raise rates incrementally until they reach \$100 per month and then reevaluate.  
The increase comes after a 2023 rate hike — it was the first for the airport since 2014 — came with some controversy. The board approved an increase in late 2022 before pulling it back after former aviation board president John Lyons argued that proper procedure had not been followed.

After a few months of further discussion that sometimes turned heated, the board ultimately approved a \$10 increase that went into effect March 1.  
Clearwaters also told the board the lights required to complete phase II of the runway extension project are expected to arrive next month. The final payments have been made and the grant for that work is closed.  
He added that there has been no change with HIS Constructors, which handled the first phase of the project. The company was told the remaining nearly \$100,000 in retainage would be held back until property releases from the borrow pits used for dirt for the project are received. (Greg and Cindy Whitenack, whose property was used for one of the borrow pits, have filed a lawsuit against HIS, as well as the city and the airport, alleging that the company did not meet the speci-

fications of its agreement. A trial is set for Nov. 11.)  
In other business, the board:  
• Heard from airport employee Matt Simmons, who was filling in for airport manager Hal Tavzel, that the airport sold 15,805.42 gallons of fuel in August for what is believed to be a record \$67,807.48. The total is up from the 10,295 gallons sold in August 2022 and 6,434 in August 2021.  
• Was reminded that the airport will host a Young Eagles event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, during which those 8 to 17 years old will be able to take free plane rides. Those who would like to participate can register in advance at yeday.org.  
• Briefly discussed concerns regarding Lutheran Air employees' courtesy toward others at the airport. Parr said Tavzel sent a letter to Lutheran Air in hopes that it would lead to improvements.

• Was updated that construction on Sonrise Aviation's new hangar is underway. The board also tabled a request from Tavzel, relayed by Simmons, to make insulation and lighting upgrades in a hangar. Board members said they are open to an agreement but wanted to discuss it with Tavzel before giving approval.  
• Approved an FAA grant reimbursement request of \$3,912.66 for the airport's wildlife hazard assessment and apron expansion design.  
• Discussed the possibility of renting a building or part of a building for the winter from adjacent landowner Richard Schafer for storage of equipment.  
• Was reminded the Aviation Indiana annual conference is scheduled for Oct. 12 through 12 in Fort Wayne.  
• Tabled a vote on purchasing a new mower for the airport.  
• Paid claims totaling \$16,100.18.

## CR almanac

Saturday 9/23	Sunday 9/24	Monday 9/25	Tuesday 9/26	Wednesday 9/27
<b>79/51</b>	<b>79/53</b>	<b>75/53</b>	<b>72/52</b>	<b>71/48</b>
Saturday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high of 79 degrees. Low of 51 at night.	Mostly sunny on Sunday, with highs in the upper 70s. Chance of rain late.	There's a 30% chance of showers on Monday under mostly cloudy skies.	Another chance of showers Tuesday, when the high will be 72.	Wednesday has a chance of showers under partly sunny skies.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 16-27-59-62-63 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$725 million	Daily Four: 2-5-6-9 Quick Draw: 10-11-22-23-24-25-30-32-46-49-55-57-60-61-66-68-71-74-79-80 Cash 5: 1-20-29-33-45 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$205 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 7-6-5 Pick 4: 6-1-9-8 Pick 5: 2-1-2-1-8 Evening Pick 3: 7-9-8 Pick 4: 3-3-4-3 Pick 5: 6-1-4-2-6 Rolling Cash: 4-15-19-24-26 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 0-0-2 Daily Four: 8-5-3-0 Quick Draw: 12-13-16-20-21-26-31-32-42-50-51-53-56-59-68-71-72-75-77-79 Evening Daily Three: 4-8-3	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....5.30 Oct. corn .....4.85 Wheat .....4.78	Dec. beans .....12.48 Wheat ..... 4.93
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.24 Oct. corn .....4.84 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.59	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.74 Oct. corn .....4.44 Beans .....12.57 Oct. beans .....12.52 Wheat .....5.38
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....5.15 Oct. corn .....4.85 Beans .....12.56	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.90 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.30 Beans .....12.41 Oct. beans .....12.41 Wheat .....4.93

## Today in history

In 1776, British troops hanged Nathan Hale, who was a spy for Gen. George Washington. Hale's last words were reportedly, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."  
In 1972, two area residents died as the result of separate traffic accidents. Ethel Christian, 43, Fort Recovery, died following a two-car crash in Muncie and Tony M. Bailey, 17, Ridgeville, died after a single-vehicle accident in Jay County.  
In 2017, Will Homan followed a TD pass from Clay Schmitz to Cade Wendel with a 2-point conversion run to lift the Fort Recovery High School football team to a 28-27 overtime victory over Division VII No. 4 Minster.  
In 1994, the first episode of the sitcom "Friends" aired on NBC. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Friday</b> 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.	rium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council special meeting, village hall, 201 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building 131 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditor-	

# McCarthy seeks to avert shutdown

By ERIK WASSON, BILLY HOUSE and LAURA LITVAN  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy won the support of a few hardliners Wednesday night in his effort to quell his restive right flank and pass a short-term spending bill, but the risk of a U.S. government shutdown remains high just 10 days before a funding lapse.

After a closed-door meeting that lasted more than two hours, the besieged speaker was still short of the votes he needs to pass a Republican-only spending measure that has no chance of winning support in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Should McCarthy ultimately succeed, the House-passed bill would at least set the terms for a possible negotiation with the Senate on federal spending.

A government shutdown would unfold at a vulnerable moment for the U.S. economy. The peak impact of the Federal Reserve's interest rate increases is about to hit, oil prices are rising and consumer spending is expected to weaken as student loan payments resume in October.

A lapse in federal funding would cut 0.2 percentage points from GDP for the quarter each week it lasts, estimates Bloomberg chief U.S. economist Anna Wong. With forecasters already anticipating slower growth, an extended shutdown risks tipping the U.S. into a recession.

McCarthy's latest offer would impose a temporary 8% domestic

## Speaker of the House makes changes to appease right-leaning members

spending cut and toughen immigration laws. It also would create a fiscal commission to review changes to entitlement spending.

To sweeten the deal, McCarthy proposed that the GOP agree to a top-line spending level for all fiscal 2024 bills that totals \$1.526 trillion, a \$64 billion cut from the cap in this year's debt ceiling agreement negotiated with the White House. In another concession to his rebellious members, McCarthy called on Republicans to reject so-called budget gimmicks, which would make the effects of those cuts even deeper.

The House now plans to bring a stalled defense spending bill blocked earlier this week by five conservatives and unified Democrats to the floor again Thursday. That could clear the way for a vote on the short-term spending measure Saturday, lawmakers said.

Conservatives Ralph Norman of South Carolina and Bob Good of

Virginia said McCarthy's deal had won them over.

"We're very close there. I feel like it's just got a little more movement to go," McCarthy told reporters after the meeting.

He can only afford to lose four GOP votes on any party-line bill if all members are present.

Other conservatives including stalwart McCarthy critic Matt Gaetz and Cory Mills, both of Florida, said they would never vote for a short-term spending bill. Instead they want to force a prolonged shutdown while Congress takes weeks to pass 12 individual spending bills.

Meanwhile, McCarthy came under pressure from GOP moderates late Wednesday when 32 of them endorsed a plan to keep the government open through Jan 11. Members of the group have threatened to use a lengthy petition process to bring the bill to a vote if a shutdown begins.

# Capsule Reports

### Turning accident

A Portland woman turned her vehicle into another Portland woman's vehicle at the intersection of Meridian and High streets, causing an accident about 3:15 p.m. Wednesday.

Ginger M. Black, 87, was driving her 2009 Chevrolet Malibu south on Meridian Street when she began to turn east onto High Street. At the same time, Jackie D. Alig, 59, was driving her 2019 Ford Fusion east on Meridian Street and passing through the intersection. Alig told police Black ignored the red light, causing her to crash into Black's car. A witness also told police Black disregarded the stop light.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Black's vehicle was towed.

# Rate ...

Continued from page 1  
Lake County posted the highest unemployment rate in the state at 5.9%. Fayette County and Howard County were next at 5%.

Area rates are as follows:  
Adams County: 3.1%, down 0.4 percentage points, tied for 19th-lowest  
Blackford County: 4.6%, up 0.1 percentage points, tied for fourth-highest  
Delaware County: 4.4%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for seventh-highest  
Jay County: 3.2%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for 30th-lowest  
Randolph County: 3.4%, down 0.4 percentage points, tied for 41st-highest  
Wells County: 2.8%, down 0.2 percentage points, tied for third-lowest

## SERVICES

**Today**  
**Thomas, Gerald:** 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.  
**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.

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- Performs department bookkeeping duties to include preparing and recording claims/payroll, maintaining an up-to-date budget, and filing/recordkeeping.
- Answers telephones, greets visitors, responds to inquiries, provides information/assistance to the public, and takes messages for department personnel.
- Assists with damage assessments, data recording, EOC operations, and other tasks required during emergency situations.
- Assists department personnel in maintaining/updating plans, policies, and procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Must possess or be able to obtain the necessary National Incident Management (NIMS) and FEMA Professional Development Series certifications.
- Working knowledge of basic accounting, standard office procedures, and Microsoft software.
- Ability to effectively communicate both orally and in writing.
- Ability to work on several tasks at the same time, and work rapidly for long periods, often under time restrictions.
- Must have a valid Indiana driver's license and be able to travel off-site as necessary.

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Emergency Management Agency, 224 West Water Street, Portland, IN 47371 or to the Director via email srhodehamel@co.jay.in.us.

Applications will be accepted until September 27, 2023.

# Exhibit focused on suicide awareness

By ILANA AROUGHETI

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — Beside the long blue hearse on the corner of East Grand and North Wabash avenues, the little yellow signs read “No Parking — Funeral.”

Dozens of funerals were underway at the offices of Havas Chicago — one every 11 minutes. The River North ad agency transformed its lobby into a funeral space last Thursday, the pop-up installation dubbed the “11 Minutes Funeral Home.”

It held symbolic services in honor of everyone who has died by suicide in America this year.

According to Centers for Disease Control, about 132 people die by suicide in the United States every day, or one every 11 minutes.

Havas hopes to catch the attention of everyday people whose loved ones could be at risk. Discussions about mental health can be difficult, exhibit signage says, but they're easier than grieving and simpler than planning a funeral.

“We're trying to destigmatize it, very overtly,” said Myra Nussbaum, chief creative officer and president. “Suicide shouldn't be a dirty little secret or a word that people are afraid to say.”

Will Russell, a senior strategist at Havas, was the creative force behind the project. The 10-hour run of the “11 Minutes Funeral Home” marks one year since Russell's best friend died by suicide, he said.

“The most challenging part of this is that it's deeply personal to me,” Russell said. “Addressing this head-on has been really important to me.”

The project was staffed on a volunteer basis for about a month. The group also consulted with suicide prevention organizations around Chicago, Nussbaum said.

Many Havas employees who joined the project — which took shape on weekends and nights — slowly shared their own stories of grief, she said. The experience was liberating for some and educational for others, Russell said.

Nussbaum, too, continues to mourn a close friend who died by suicide in his 40s.

“We wish he would have felt comfortable talking to us about it. But we also never asked,” Nussbaum said. “We never asked, and the person that's suffering feels so much guilt and shame.”

Recent studies suggest that 135 people are affected by every suicide, with 15 to 30 deeply bereaved, according to the Centre for Suicide Prevention.

“Sometimes in the workplace, talking about this can make you feel like your job is in jeopardy and people are judging you,” Russell said. “But it was a relief to be able to be this candid.”

Russell said he was inspired by suicide awareness campaigns in the United Kingdom, and by gun violence awareness campaigns Havas had produced for the city.



Chicago Tribune/Tribune News Service/Terrence Antonio James

Ellen Kuratnik looks at a casket in an exhibit in the lobby of the Havas advertising agency building in Chicago, on Sept. 14, 2023. The casket is filled with memory cards encouraging people to be mindful of suicide. The exhibit is in conjunction with National Suicide Prevention Week.

With trigger warnings at the front door, the exhibit centered around a gleaming casket filled with symbolic “In Memoriam” notes — one for every suicide since the beginning of this year. Dressed casually in funeral black, staff added a new sheet to the coffin every 11 minutes.

Across the lobby, 16 gray plastic chairs faced the coffin in empty rows, as a wall-size timer counted down over and over from 11 minutes.

Each element of the exhibit

included a note reminding viewers how much planning can be associated with grief, from selecting flowers to notifying other loved ones. The exhibit also directs viewers repeatedly to 988, the suicide and crisis phone hotline.

As of 2021, suicide is the second leading cause of death among those 10-14 and 20-34 years old, the CDC found.

Young LGBTQ+ people and veterans are also at particular risk, as well as Indigenous and Native

Alaskan men and those who have previously attempted suicide.

“Deciding who to invite to a funeral service can be more overwhelming than you think,” the notes taped to the chairs read. “Decide to talk about suicide with your loved ones instead.”

The one-two punch of casket and hearse was meant to draw the attention of River North commuters and downtown tourists alike, Chief Strategy Officer Lance Koenig said. Both were lent to the installation by McInerney Central Chapel on the South Side, one of Chicago's oldest funeral homes.

“It was a way to make it personal,” Koenig said. “It becomes a really powerful opportunity for us to make a statement with thousands of people walking by us every day.”

Elena Escobar, 23, stopped in at the “11 Minutes Funeral Home” after glimpsing the casket on her morning commute.

“The choice of words was very direct,” Escobar said. “I wasn't expecting to see something about suicide right out on a public post.”

The South Side resident said the serious atmosphere made her think about the role of death and funeral rites in her own life.

“They did a great job by stating explicitly that talking about funeral arrangements is just a difficult thing,” Escobar said. “I'm a young person. I don't know how to do that yet. It's just a huge mystery.”

# Expectant mother feels no support

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are expecting our first child this year. I moved to the United States a few years ago to be with him. His family is mostly absent from our lives. I have tried to make an effort with my in-laws, but it's always met with failure. They make excuses, so we have come to accept that we see them only during holidays. It has put a strain on our marriage.

Now that I'm pregnant, and this is her first grandchild, I thought my MIL might like to spend more time together. Unfortunately, the joke is on me because she's now criticizing me for taking time off work because morning sickness was tough on me. She has made hurtful comments to my husband that have now caused him to treat me with little respect or compassion. I am depressed and wonder if I made a mistake by marrying him and getting pregnant. It

Dear Abby



takes a village to raise children, and we do not have a village behind us. It sometimes feels like my husband isn't behind me, either. What do I do? — EXPECTING IN INDIANA

DEAR EXPECTING: Sit your husband down and tell him you need him to stand beside you — and stand up for you — in the months ahead. When you do, you will see exactly the kind of person you married. You can't control your in-laws, so accept that they will likely not be a large part of

your lives. (If they are as you have portrayed them, that could be a blessing.) Make friends with other new and expectant mothers who may be a source of emotional and practical support in the adventure upon which you are embarking. Remind yourself that you are capable and you will get through this, as you will with other challenges life presents to you. You may think right now that you won't be able to handle a new baby without the help of your family or your in-laws, but you may find out you are a lot stronger than you think.

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

# Community Calendar

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

**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 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.

**Sunday**  
A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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

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

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. For more information, call Sharon Taylor at (765) 578-0357.

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 Fri-

day. 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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

**Tuesday**  
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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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# Indiana's untold story needs telling

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Ashley, Indiana, is astride the border separating DeKalb and Steuben counties, north of Fort Wayne. In 2022, Ashley had 1,032 residents, just eight persons short of its 1900 peak.

Today, Ashley has joined so many other Indiana places where a major employer is closing down. Just before Labor Day, Tram Inc. announced 155 will be affected as the automotive electric-switch making facility will see production move closer to corporate headquarters in Plymouth, Michigan.

This is not a favorable move for workers who might hope for a transfer to the relocated factory, two hours and 140 miles away. Plant closings are not big

## Eye on the Pie



news outside the affected community. Openings, however, are triumphs of Indiana tax policies, the diligent work of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), and the agile strategic mastery of the Governor's office.

What efforts are made by IEDC to retain smaller manufacturing plants in small towns? Where do we find a record of those efforts

in the glossy annual report? Is a note of condolence sent to local government and Chamber of Commerce officials?

Let's be clear. Indiana, over the past quarter century (1997 to 2022) has out-performed the nation in manufacturing output. As measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the private sector, our share of manufacturing has risen from 3.7% to 4.2%.

Yet that increase is not impressive when you realize manufacturing fell from 18.6% of the nation's private economy to 12.4%, a 6.2% drop. In that time frame, when a high school graduate moves from youth to mid-40s and a retiring worker looks back to those years, manufacturing in Indiana went from

33% of the private sector to 28%, a 5% decline.

Where did Indiana show its best gains? Chemical production, which includes pharmaceuticals, increased its share of manufacturing by 5% nationally and 6.4% in Indiana.

However, what is America's current economic deficiency? Where are we putting vast sums to expand output? It is in the areas of electrical equipment and components as well as computer and electronic product manufacturing.

Maybe I'm off base, but didn't we identify the Ashley plant as making electrical switches?

In the past 25 years, electrical equipment and components lost 0.7% share of the nation's manu-

facturing output, but dropped 2.6% in the Hoosier state. No other Indiana industry had a greater relative decline during that period of time.

Similarly, computer and electronic manufacturing lost more ground in Indiana than in the nation. What's been going on?

What efforts were made to retain the factories that left Indiana for other states and other nations? We always accept the costs of sending emissaries abroad to prospect for new investments. Isn't it time to open up the IEDC files and let us know about our losses as well as our gains?

Marcus is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).

## Vaccines, treatments end restriction need

The Virginian-Pilot  
Tribune News Service

More than three years since COVID-19 reached these shores, widespread misinformation continues to inhibit reasonable measures intended to keep the vulnerable safe and to protect public health.

The latest fiction riling folks up is the falsehood that a new COVID wave will usher in the return of statewide mask mandates, school closures or business restrictions. But this isn't 2020 and it's important those myths be dispelled.

It's true that there are new variants of the virus widely circulating across the United States, including here in Virginia. This was expected and public health officials have been closely monitoring the spread of these mutations and their danger to the general population.

The country is better equipped than ever to fight these or subsequent COVID variants. Vaccines continue to be the most effective weapon to combat the virus, but medical professionals are also better informed and better equipped to treat those who are infected.

The number of COVID deaths has also increased slightly in recent weeks, though that's cause for caution, not alarm. Those figures pale in comparison to the darkest days of the pandemic, though seniors, the immunocompromised and those with chronic health conditions continue to be at greatest risk.

The expiration of emergency and public health orders related to the pandemic means there is less data about the disease, since fewer people are testing for the virus or reporting the results. There is no longer a trustworthy repository for up-to-date information about infections or community spread.

The absence of that data makes it difficult for members of the public to know whether their communities are seeing a spike in cases or when waves subside. Especially for those at-risk groups, making informed decisions about masking, for instance, can be challenging.

What won't happen, though, is a return to public mask orders, virtual schooling or restrictions on businesses. Not only are they politically untenable, the development of vaccines effectively makes them moot. Absent a particularly lethal variant, we're not returning to 2020-era lockdowns, nor should we.

Yes, some individual schools recommended

## Guest Editorial

masking in recent weeks, but these represent a limited, local solution to outbreaks. The notion that entire states — or the nation — will return to the pre-vaccine measures of 2020 is farcical. Not that it's stopped the scaremongers from trying to stir up a panic.

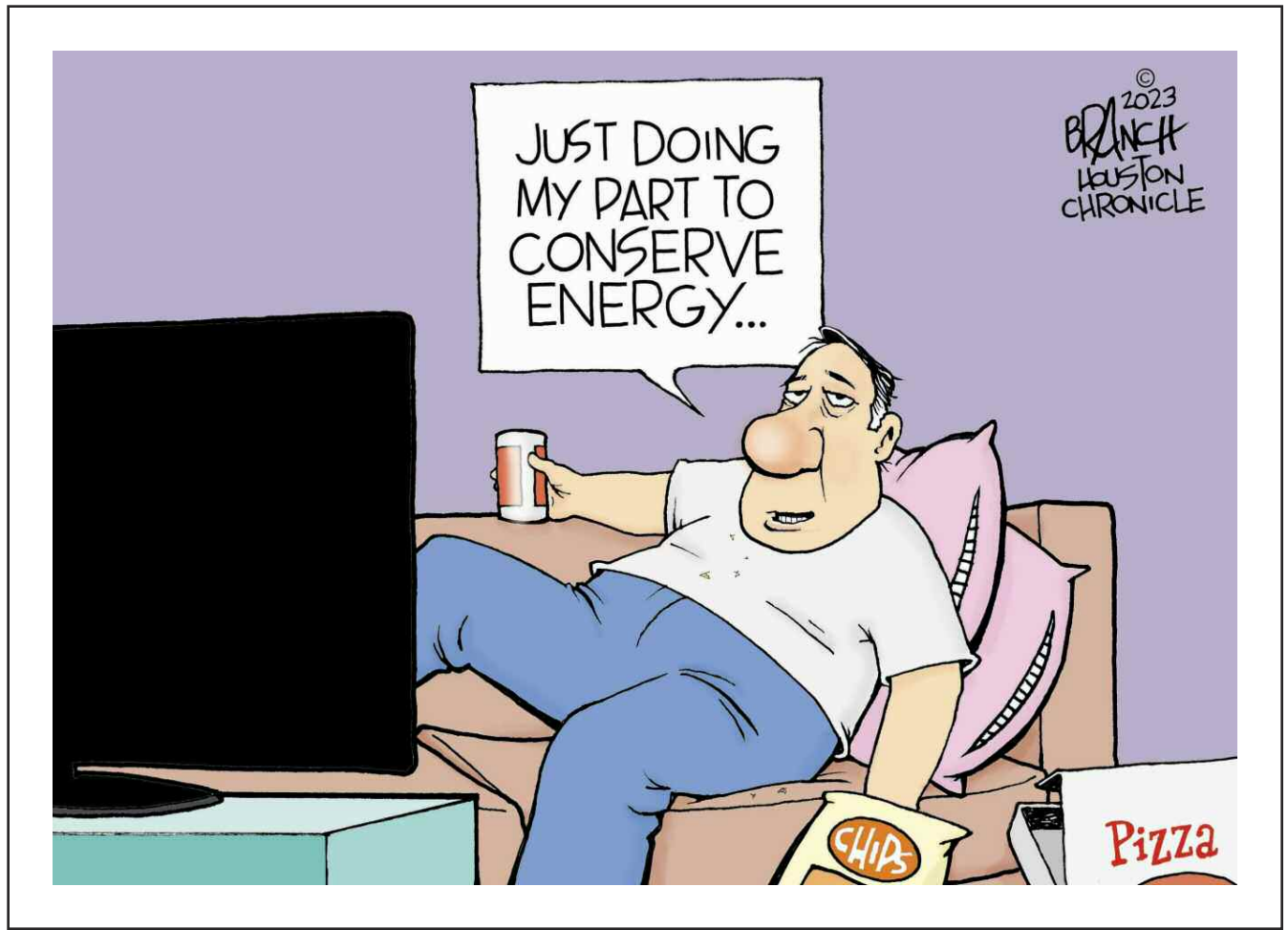
Last week, a Maryland elementary school — one single school — that imposed a 10-day requirement had to beef up security after a critical social media post by U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, resulted in threats. Semafor reported this week that a recent focus group of New Hampshire Republicans found participants believed "there was some connection between the recent rise of COVID cases and associated restrictions and the upcoming election being 'rigged' for Democrats."

Thankfully, most people are smart enough to see through that nonsense. They recognize they must take responsibility for their own well-being, for better or worse. The federal government won't even pay for at-home tests, much less do what's needed to compile comprehensive, updated data about outbreaks. And in Virginia, don't expect Gov. Glenn Youngkin to do much of anything in regard to the virus.

Save this: The governor has used his office to promote vaccination, which is to his credit. He should continue that messaging as the new boosters become available, to better protect Virginians and to guard against new variants.

The infuriating aspect of this bogus controversy is that public officials had an opportunity to reduce the need for masks by using COVID relief funds to improve HVAC systems in schools, government buildings and other indoor public spaces. Researchers knew early in the pandemic that good airflow mitigates the spread of infection, but did precious little to adapt to this new reality.

So don't listen to the alarmists. Get the vaccine and get boosted. When case numbers rise, wear a mask if you prefer. Be smart and be cautious, but understand this isn't 2020. The worst is behind us.



## We're headed for a shutdown

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Get ready. We're headed for a government shutdown, quite possibly a long one, probably beginning on Oct. 1.

Nothing is ever certain, and it takes very little for Congress to avoid a shutdown — just a short bill extending funding after the annual spending bills expire at the end of September. But House Republicans are far too dysfunctional to produce anything like that. Right now they can't even manage to pass their own version of spending bills, let alone something that the Democratic majority in the Senate would pass and President Joe Biden would sign.

Extended government shutdowns — longer than a long weekend — don't happen by accident or because good-faith negotiations don't get done by the deadline. Extended government shutdowns only happen when the group with the votes or the leverage to make it happen want a shutdown.

Right now, the more extreme conservatives among House Republicans are threatening a shutdown if they don't get their way. It's true that a "clean" spending extension bill that would keep the government running while negotiations continue would almost certainly pass the House and easily pass the Senate. For that matter, the bipartisan annual spending bills that the Senate is passing would also almost certainly pass in the House. But while the extremists — members of the House Freedom Caucus and others — don't have the votes, they do have the leverage. They're threatening to oust Kevin McCarthy from his position as speaker if he brings those bills to the House floor. McCarthy believes they're serious and is willing to go to great lengths to appease them, whatever the costs to his party and the nation.

That's where McCarthy's announcement of the impeachment

## Jonathan Bernstein



inquiry into President Joe Biden comes in. It's going nowhere but could easily rally Democrats around Biden while making things tough for House Republicans in competitive districts. Appeasing the hard-liners means championing deep spending cuts for popular government programs even though the final spending bills will almost certainly be the bipartisan Senate versions.

And it means a shutdown.

How long? That's difficult to predict. There have only been three extended government shutdowns in U.S. history. The first, in 1995, was 21 days. A 2013 shutdown lasted 16 days, and a third started in December 2018 and dragged into January 2019, for an epic 35 days. Unlike the threat of a government default brought on by debt limit crises, the damage from shutdowns, both in terms of economic harm and personal inconvenience, starts small and builds slowly over time. It's one thing for tourists to lose out on trips to national parks or federally-run museums. It's another when backlogs start piling up for the many things that need government action to proceed, from environmental impact statements to patents to non-essential — but still important — court cases. Over time, constituents put pressure on their representatives to get something done — and over time, polling usually makes it clear which party is suffering more, which is usually the party that started the shutdown in the first place.

McCarthy is trying to come up with a temporary extension that's loaded with enough goodies that the Freedom Caucus and its allies will support, while also trying to cajole mod-

erate Republicans into voting for it. Given the thin GOP margin in the House, he'll need almost unanimous support from Republicans for a bill that no Democrats will vote for. But even if he manages to get that done in the two-plus weeks remaining it will be dead on arrival in the Senate. That means that to keep the government running McCarthy would have to accept the Senate's terms, cross his far-right flank, and risk his job.

The problem is that the extremist faction of House Republicans isn't looking for a better deal. They're going to oppose any deal that Biden agrees to (and perhaps even any deal that Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell supports). Meanwhile, if the first rule of shutdowns is that they only happen when one side wants it, the second rule is that shutdown showdowns always end with something supported by the speaker of the House, the Senate majority leader, and the president. When that happens — when McCarthy supports a bill that passes the Democratic-majority Senate and is signed by Biden — McCarthy (or his successor, for that matter) will be attacked as a sell-out who surrendered while on the brink of victory.

The good news is the basic outlines of a deal are easy to see. Biden and both parties in both chambers already agreed to the basic spending levels back in June when they passed the debt limit increase. The Senate is therefore moving ahead with bipartisan bills enacting that deal and should easily exceed the 60 votes needed to defeat filibusters and pass their legislation. But no one can force the House to go along, and they don't seem anywhere close to it right now, or have any obvious way of getting from here to there without first inflicting a lot of pain.

Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He is a former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University.

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# Low water levels ominous for farmers

By **CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK**  
Star Tribune  
Tribune News Service

ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER — Jim Kennedy watches the river like a hawk.

From his view 33 feet up in the pilot house, Kennedy stares out wide windows at blackened driftwood, eddies, even sometimes rambunctious yachters steaming up the wide, blue waters of the Mississippi River near St. Paul, Minnesota.

“They’re about the worst kind,” Kennedy said, on the Tuesday after Labor Day. “Drunk yachters. But they can’t be helped.”

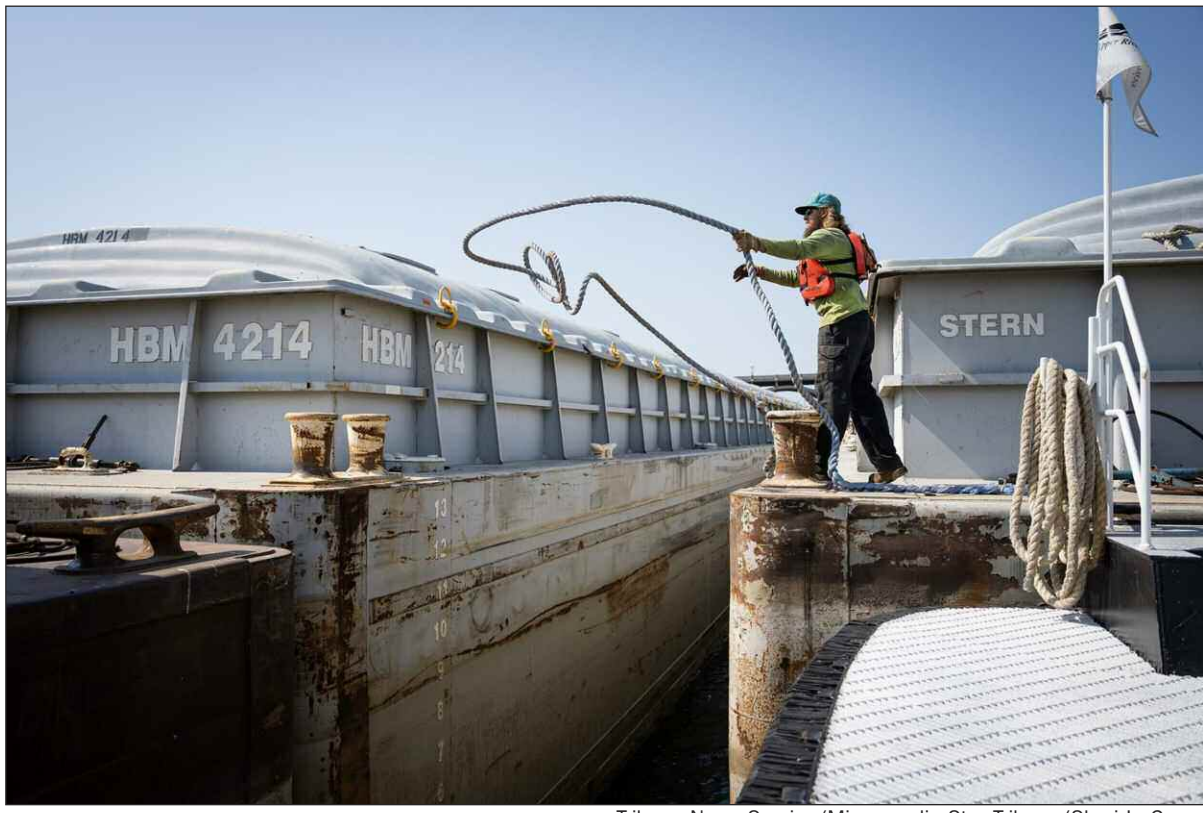
Another problem that can’t be helped? Mother Nature’s curveballs, like this year’s devastating drought in America’s heartland. And another trying year for U.S. agricultural exports, due to the high cost of diesel and lower commodity prices.

In a typical year, 60% of the nation’s grain flows downstream to the Gulf of Mexico, loaded onto barges parked at terminals along the Mississippi River. The barges are often tucked below interstate overpasses or along remote stretches of inland waterways, noticed only by boater or beaver.

But, lately, the working river has garnered more attention as concern grows over the aging locks-and-dams system built in the Roosevelt administration. The industry has been further strained by scarce labor and whiplashing weather that at times makes navigability uncertain.

Farmers and grain buyers, including agribusiness titans in the Twin Cities, are increasingly watchful.

“On this part of the river, we’re here because of ag,” said Lee Nelson, president of Upper River Services. He noted an outstate farmer — say in southern Minnesota — may not want to drive



Tribune News Service/Minneapolis Star Tribune/Shari L. Gross

Lead deck hand Ben Brooks tosses a rope toward a barge from another barge moved by the Mendota, a harbor boat in the Upper River Services fleet, on Sept. 5 on the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minnesota.

all the way to downtown St. Paul to the Mississippi terminal.

“But he can get to the water [in Savage, Minnesota],” Nelson said, referring to the grain terminals in the outer Twin Cities suburb sitting on the Minnesota River.

Kevin Hall, a supply chain vice president at Inver Grove Heights-based CHS, Inc., stared last week at a bank of video screens on the wall of the trading floor of the nation’s largest farmer-owned cooperative at the Inver Grove Heights headquarters.

On screen were live-feeds of terminals from Savage on the Minnesota River all the way down to Myrtle Grove,

Louisiana. The last major floods hit in the 1920s, prompting the U.S. government to begin damming up the Mississippi during the Depression, Hall said.

“It was catastrophic to the communities down the river,” he said. “But it was to create this navigable waterway.”

The river north of St. Louis — with two dozen locks and dams — is not the problem. The infrastructure there works, keeping a consistent flow for barges moving past Winona, Dubuque, Iowa, and Quincy, Illinois, industry sources say.

But lack of water in the whole system could mean a repeat of last year’s near-

catastrophe when water levels dropped too low for steel-bottomed barges to traverse.

“When the Mississippi River had disruption last year, it was a major disruption to the country,” Hall said.

Last fall, barge traffic on the southern portion of the Mississippi River — part of an intermodal system of riverways, highways and railways once the envy of the world — ground to a halt.

Television news carried images of more than 2,000 barges stuck in a queue. The U.S. Coast Guard briefly halted traffic in Memphis and Vicksburg, Mississippi, after boats ran aground on sandbars. An AccuWeather

report estimated river snags cost the country \$20 billion.

As this year’s harvest begins, water levels on the storied Mississippi are once again dropping. The river is below 5-feet deep in the Quad Cities on the Iowa-Illinois border. More than 50% of Minnesota is currently in at least “severe” drought, according to a national monitor. In St. Louis, barge rates — the per-ton cost to ship on the river — are spiking.

And the row-croppers of the Upper Midwest, who need the floating vessels to carry their corn or soybeans to the world, are watching with trepidation.

“As harvest approaches, really all we can do is wait to see what happens with the river,” Brad Hovel, a Cannon Falls farmer and secretary of Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, said. “We might be eating our basis.”

A farmer’s basis — that is, the profit farmers can make at the elevator over futures contracts posted in Chicago — could weaken if the U.S. Coast Guard imposes greater draft restrictions (how deep a boat can dip below the water’s surface) to protect boats from running aground.

Hovel said farmers in his neighborhood of southeastern Minnesota can put grain on rail, often traveling up to the Twin Ports in Duluth or out to the Pacific Northwest. They might also truck grain to two crush facilities in Mankato. But the terminals along the Mississippi are vital.

“We’ve only got a little bit of wiggle room,” Hovel said.

The challenges couldn’t hit at worse time, as U.S. farmers fight to reclaim past supremacy in exports. This year, Brazilian farmers are on path to surpass U.S. corn-growers as the world’s top exporter. Brazil is tops in soybean, too, overcoming supply challenges that long bedeviled the South American ag giant.

## Purdue partners on legume research

By **NANCY ALEXANDER**  
Purdue Ag News

A program led by Michigan State University’s (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in collaboration with the Purdue University College of Agriculture has received a five-year funding extension of up to \$35 million.

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research focuses on cowpea and the common bean. The lab, which currently works in West and Southern Africa, will expand into the African Great Lakes region, East Africa, Central America and the Caribbean.

“Collaboration between land grant institutions to aid developing countries in their growth is always a win-win,” says Doug Buhler, associate vice president for research and innovation at MSU. “Our collective experiences enhance our international development efforts. We are pleased to have Purdue as a part of the Legume Systems Innovation Lab team.”

Barry Pittendrigh, an adjunct professor at MSU and the John V. Osmun Endowed Chair in Urban Entomology at Purdue, leads the lab as its director. “This is a natural fit,” Pittendrigh says. “Purdue and MSU are both leaders in global agricultural research and development.” His Purdue colleague John Medendorp is assistant director.

“This support from USAID underscores Purdue’s ongoing commitment to conducting impactful agricultural research,” says Gerald Shively, associate dean and director of International Programs in Agriculture at Purdue. “Dr. Pittendrigh and his team have established a strong working relationship with colleagues at Michigan State University, and this project brings together the best that agricultural science has to offer to improve food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers worldwide.”

Legumes are a nutrient-dense staple crop that have multifunctional roles

in smallholder farm systems in developing countries. These include food and nutrition security, generating income, providing livestock feed and fodder, contributing to the sustainability of soil systems through their nitrogen-fixing capabilities, and helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change as low greenhouse gas-emitting crops.

“During this new phase, we will be looking toward improving the legume system efficiencies, which will have a profound impact on the availability of nutritious foods for malnourished populations,” Medendorp says.

Over the next five years, the Legume Systems Innovation Lab will pursue four key focus crop objectives: best agronomic practices and services, inclusive inputs and market systems, targeted varietal scaling and development, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Anticipated key results of the extended work include inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth; strengthened resilience among people and systems; and a well-nourished population, especially among women and children.

Cross-cutting intermediate result goals and objectives for the Legume Systems Innovation Lab also include improved climate risk and other natural resource management; gender equality and female empowerment; increased youth empowerment and livelihoods; more effective governance, policy and institutions; and improved human, organizational and system performance.

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research is funded through Feed the Future, the U.S. government’s global hunger and food security initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Legume Systems Innovation Lab was awarded to Michigan State University in 2018. This extension will continue its work through August 2028.

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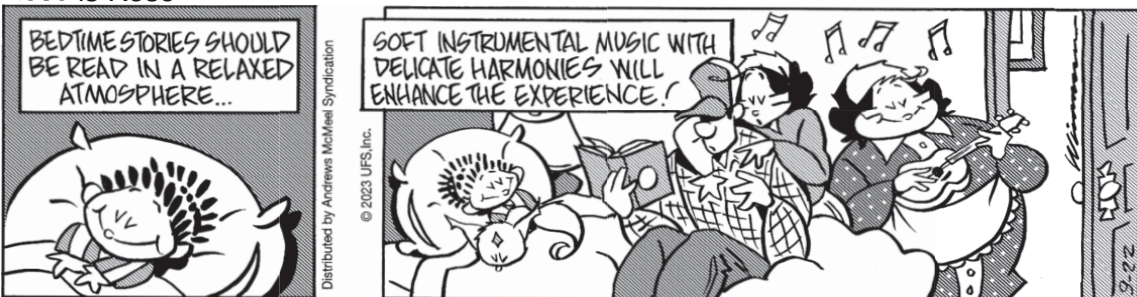
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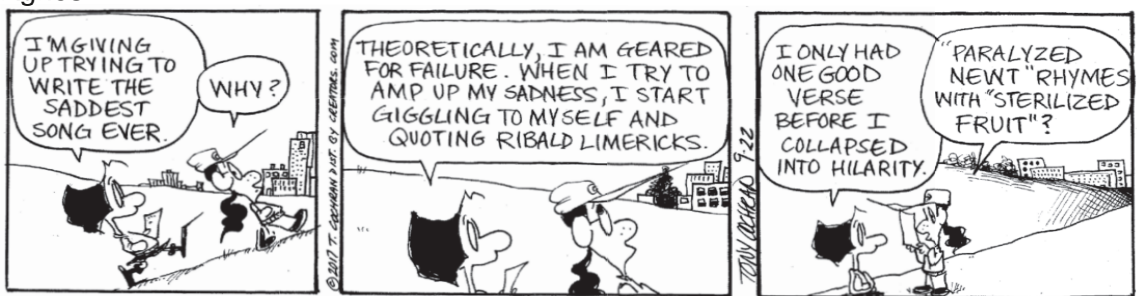
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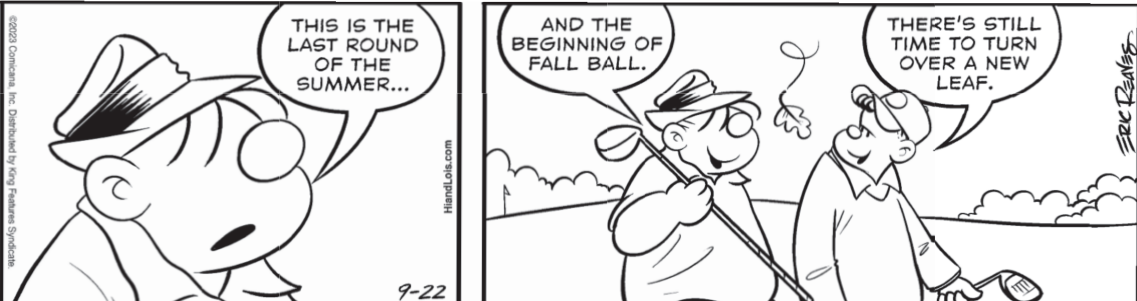
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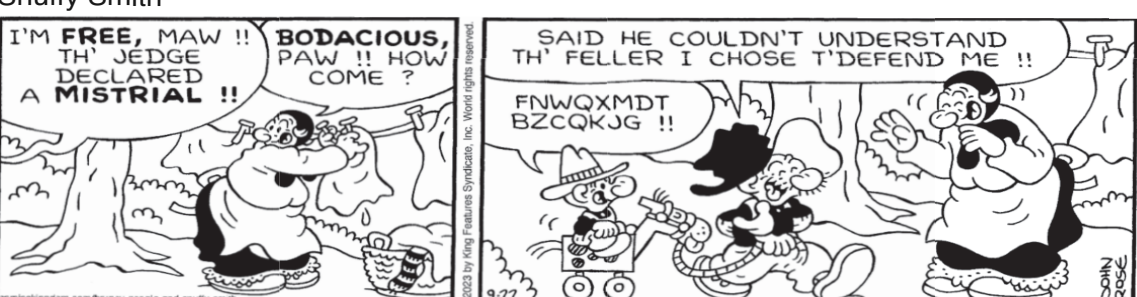
**Between Friends**



**Blondie**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Bidding quiz**

1. The bidding has gone:  
You 1♣ Partner 1♥  
? What would you bid now with:  
♠ 7♥ AJ♦ AQ92♣ AQJ1094

2. In the following sequence:  
You 1♣ Partner 1♥  
2♣ 2♦  
2NT  
What is partner's most likely distribution?

3. The bidding has gone:  
You 1♣ Partner 2♣  
? What would you bid now with:  
♠ AK9652♥ J84♦ AK98♣ —

1. Two diamonds. It is not necessary or desirable to jump to three clubs to indicate long clubs and a better-than-minimum opening bid. The fact that you bid clubs followed by diamonds identifies two features of your hand. One is that your club length is greater than your diamond length, since with equal length in both suits you would bid diamonds first. The other is that you have better than a minimum opening bid (usually 16 points or more in high cards). This is in accordance with the general rule that bidding a new suit on the two-level that ranks higher than the suit you opened with (commonly called a reverse) shows extra strength.

2. Partner has at least 13 points in high cards and distribution, and his shape is almost surely either 1-5-4-3 or 0-5-5-3. He has a game or slam in mind you can't tell which but all you're expected to do at this stage is to state a preference as to where you'd like to play the contract. Presumably, partner will know what to do after he hears your response to three clubs.

3. Two diamonds. While it is true that you strongly prefer spades to diamonds, the fact remains that the better trump suit might prove to be diamonds. Thus, if partner held: ♠ 7♥ AK5♦ QJ106♣ K9874, you'd have an excellent chance to make six diamonds but would probably make only four or five spades.

The goal in bidding is to try to reach the best contract for the combined hands. While attempting to reach it, you should try to describe your hand as accurately as possible. Here you clearly prefer spades to diamonds, but even so you should allow for the possibility that partner might have much better support for diamonds than for spades. Of course, you plan to rebid spades at your next turn if partner gives you the opportunity.

Tomorrow: Now you see it, now you don't.  
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**CRYPTOQUIP**

YLRK TIRT EDLCCX EWQHRKWE  
ZIR QKHRI UQZIHBJZKE' DZIR,  
YLZW JBULW OCQ DZXX WLRJ?  
ZDZHRJO YZIH E.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL ONIONS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY PALE IN COLOR, NOT RED OR GREEN? LIGHT BULBS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals C

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

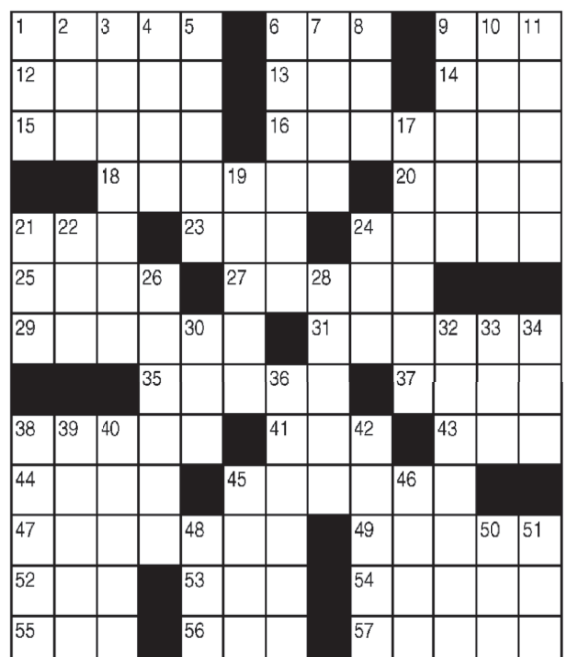
**ACROSS**  
1 Dad's brother  
6 Scale notes  
9 Many coll. applicants  
12 Respectful denial  
13 Likely  
14 — Beta Kappa  
15 Rude observer  
16 "The Waste Land" poet  
18 Change gradually  
20 Sicilian spouter  
21 Part of DJIA  
23 Outdoor gear brand  
24 Surgical beam  
25 Yale students  
27 Vice President Burr  
29 Italian scooters  
31 Meaning  
35 Locales  
37 Theater award

**DOWN**  
1 Dos shed  
2 Yule quaff  
3 "The Chron-icles of Narnia" author  
4 Actor Schreiber  
5 Goof  
6 Riga's land  
7 Church section  
8 Fr. holy woman  
9 Barbecue rods  
10 Avignon's river  
11 "Norwegian Wood" instrument  
17 Crude contract  
19 Rental  
21 "Lion" actor Patel  
22 Flamenco cheer  
24 Chaney of horror films  
26 Rival of Athens  
28 Stair part  
30 Gallery display  
32 "Charlotte's Web" author  
33 Actress Vardalos  
34 Slugger Williams  
36 Nome's state  
38 Sufficient  
39 Hair stylist Sassoon  
40 "Have fun!"  
42 Brandish  
45 Equal  
46 — gin fizz  
48 Bumped into  
50 \$ dispenser  
51 "Mayday!"

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

WORD FOB AFAR  
OPER ARI SAGE  
LALO NOB SNUB  
FLYOFF RAARAA  
PEA LIE  
DEFY REFILLED  
ORA ENA TSA  
TENNISON TSPS  
DUE GAR  
HEADER TICICLE  
MUNI ELF BIOS  
ORGS IOU ETAT  
SOOT DOL SYNE

Yesterday's answer 9-22



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## Defense ...

Continued from page 8  
“They’ve got some good tight ends, they block well, so you’ve got to be physical for four quarters, be consistent,” safety Sonny Styles said. “They’re probably going to go (for deep) shots, so eye discipline. They’re going to run the ball, so you can’t get caught up in the run and they got a shot downfield.”  
Of the touchdown passes Hartman has thrown this season,

those plays have gone for: 35, 14, 20, 25, 24, 4, 13, 40, 10, 35, 75, 76 and 4 yards. That’s an average of 28.84 yards on touchdown passes by Hartman.  
With a stout running game — starting running back Audric Estime averages 8.27 yards-per-carry and his two backups, Jeremiyah Love and Jadarian Price, average 6.61 and 4.75 yards, respectively — defenses haven’t been able to come into the box

and almost disregard the passing game like in previous years. Hartman adds a different dynamic in that regard.  
“I think they’re going to pound the ball — that’s what they do,” Styles said. “They run the ball well. And Hartman, he’s going to take some shots here and there.”  
So while a lot of talk this week has been based around Hartman, and what he can do for Notre Dame against a team like Ohio

State, the worry isn’t solely about what the Wake Forest transfer can do. It’s what he can do in an offense that, so far, has married the run game and play-action pass perfectly together.  
What else was said on Wednesday:  
•Running back TreVeyon Henderson said that a quick start on Saturday will be important against a team like Notre Dame. “I know the game is going to be

won in the fourth quarter.”  
•On the intensity of the practices and mindset from the coaching staff headed into a top 10 matchup, Henderson said: “Each and every week we try to be consistent. The intensity of practice this week definitely turned up a notch. We’re playing Notre Dame, I think they’re a top 10 team, so it’s definitely going to be a battle, the intensity’s definitely gotta turn up.”

## Resigns ...

Continued from page 8  
“You know, could be coaching I think,” he said. “They are doing their job when they are giving me what to look at, but at the end of the day, I can’t be thinking about that when the game comes. I prepare myself throughout the week and then when the game comes, it’s time to play free at that point. Thinking less and playing more.”  
The implication was the coaches and system aren’t allowing him to play in a style and manner in which he’s comfortable.  
— Eberflus dropped the nugget that left tackle Braxton Jones will spend at least four games on injured reserve with a neck injury. Jones hasn’t missed a snap this season, but his neck has been nag-

ging him for several weeks. The Bears hope he will miss only the minimum time with Larry Borom his likely replacement.  
— Finally, the Bears announced they terminated the contract of Nathan Peterman, who served as the No. 2 quarterback for the first two games. It doesn’t necessarily mean undrafted rookie Tyson Bagent is now the backup. The Bears could play the elevator game with Peterman after re-signing him to the practice squad.  
That’s an awful lot for an 0-2 team doing everything it can to become more competitive. And it’s why former Bears players and coaches and executives across the league were reaching out with similar versions of the same question:

What the hell is going on there?  
Football coaches loathe the idea of a distraction pulling players and staff away from preparation, and the Bears got one giant one in Williams’ exit and another smoldering one in Fields’ remarks.  
“You focus on here and now,” Eberflus said. “That’s all you can do — be where your feet are, focusing right now.”  
The Williams situation has appeared odd since Sunday, when Eberflus was asked if the coordinator would resume calling the defense when he returned.  
“We’ll cross that bridge when we get there,” Eberflus said.  
People in Halas Hall have been incredibly tight-lipped about the situation,

and players have been in the dark the entire time.  
Andrew Stroth, a sports and entertainment attorney who represents Williams, said he was taken aback by some of the rumors and innuendo circulating through social media about Williams’ situation. Stroth, who declined to say how long he has known Williams, said Williams is dealing with a health challenge and personal family matters that prompted him to step away.  
“He will coach in the future,” Stroth said. “He’s just taking a step back.”  
Now Eberflus needs to oversee a defense that has some familiar struggles: The pass rush is nonexistent, the Bears aren’t getting any takeaways and third down has been a

mess. One would imagine that might cut into time Eberflus needs to devote to the languishing offense, which needs all the help it can get.  
“I spend time with the offense on the game-plan days,” Eberflus said. “I spend breakfast club with the quarterbacks. I meet with the coaches in the evening on the offensive side.  
“And then I’m in the interim game plan also on Monday, Tuesday with the defense. I’m meeting with those guys. I’m in the unit meetings with the defense. Like I said, it’s 50/50. You’re splitting it 50/50 there, that’s what you do.”  
Eberflus said the defensive position coaches’ and assistant position coaches’ experience in the scheme is strong, dismiss-

ing the idea that he might need to be with the defense more than 50% of the time.  
“All those guys are working diligently, so we’re prepared and ready to go,” he said.  
If there’s a bright side to any of this, perhaps Fields and the coaches will reach a moment of understanding and find a way to harness his many talents and unlock the offense’s potential. Imagine if this peculiar Wednesday turns out to be a galvanizing moment for Fields.  
“I want him to speak free to us,” Eberflus said. “I want him to be honest. I want him to be forthright with what he’s saying.”  
“And then, can we work through this together and get him to play free and have that flow?”

## Checkup ...

Continued from page 8  
She only had one extra stroke in Sunday’s round to finish with the 173 and in eighth place individually. She was second among all of IU-East’s golfers as Brooklynn Cromwell from the A team shot a 171.  
Tying for first place were Alyssa Haverstraw of Mount St. Joseph and

Alexis Seay of Spalding University.  
**Allysen Fullenkamp FRHS — 2023**  
Saw her first action of the season for the undefeated Indiana Wesleyan University Wildcats in a 25-19, 25-14, 25-22 victory over Bethel University on Saturday.

The freshman out of Fort Recovery High School hadn’t seen the floor up to that point in the season.  
Fullenkamp played on set where she recorded one dig for the Wildcats (13-0).  
Indiana Wesleyan and Fullenkamp will face off with the University of

Saint Francis and Fort Recovery graduate Paige Fortkamp tonight.  
**Paige Fortkamp FRHS — 2021**  
Totaled 28 kills for the University of Saint Francis women’s volleyball team as it was swept in three straight matches by Bethel University, Grace

College and Taylor University.  
Fortkamp’s best performance came in the 25-22, 25-15, 25-18 loss to Taylor. She tallied 12 kills and only three errors on 25 attacks for a 36% kill percentage, the best on her team. She also had two assisted blocks to bring her up to 14 points earned

for the Cougars (5-10).  
She posted the best kill percentage for the Cougars in the 25-10, 25-11, 25-18 loss to 15th-ranked Bethel. She had eight kills and only one error on 20 attempts for 35%.  
Fortkamp had eight kills and six errors in the 27-25, 25-20, 25-17 loss to Grace.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Football at Woodlan – 7 p.m.; JV boys soccer vs. Eastern – 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Football vs. New Bremen – 7 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Jay County — Boys tennis at Eastern Hancock – 9 a.m.; Volleyball ACAC tournament at Southern Wells – 9 a.m.; Cross country at Versailles’ Tour De Sewer at Water Treatment Plant – 9 a.m.; Boys soccer at Delta – 10 a.m.; JV volleyball ACAC tournament at Southern Wells – 9 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys golf MAC Match at Mercer County Elks – 8:30 a.m.; Cross country at Ver-

sailles’ Tour De Sewer at Water Treatment Plant – 9 a.m.; JV football at New Bremen – 10 a.m.; Middle school cross country Tour De Sewer at Water Treatment Plant – 9 a.m.  
**TV sports**  
**Today**  
2 a.m. — Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — NCAA Football: Wisconsin at Purdue (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: NC State at Virginia (ESPN)  
10:30 p.m. — NCAA Football: Air Force at San Jose State (FS1)

**Saturday**  
12 p.m. — College football: Rutgers at Michigan (BTN); Florida State at Clemson (ABC); Auburn at Texas A&M (ESPN); Virginia Tech at Marshall (ESPN2); SMU at TCU (FS1); Oklahoma at Cincinnati (FOX)  
3:30 p.m. — College football: Maryland at Michigan State (NBC); Ole Miss at Alabama (CBS); Colorado at Oregon (ABC); Miami at Temple (ESPN2); BYU at Kansas (ESPN); UCLA at Utah (FOX); Florida Atlantic at Illinois (BTN); Oklahoma State at Iowa State (FS1)  
7 p.m. — College football: Oregon State at Washington State (FOX)  
7:30 p.m. — College football: Iowa at Penn State (CBS); Ohio State at Notre Dame (NBC); Texas at Baylor (ABC); Akron at Indiana (BTN)  
8 p.m. — College football: UCF at Kansas State

(FS1)  
10:30 p.m. — College football: Cal at Washington (ESPN); USC at Arizona State (FOX)  
10:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
**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 [in.gov/reservedhunt](http://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.

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
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Saturday Morning September 23rd, 2023 9:30 A.M.  
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### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 8256 W 550 N. Pennville, Indiana  
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### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Bid Specifications for Demolition Project  
Location: 208/210 N Meridian Street  
Parcel Identification No: 38-07-20-104-063.000-034  
Legal Description: That part of Lots numbered Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Nine (9) in the original Plat of the town, now city of Portland, bounded and described as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of said Lot Five (5) and running thence West on the north line of said Lots numbered Five (5) and Six (6) to the northwest corner of said Lot numbered Six (6); thence South on the west line of said Lot numbered Six (6), Twenty-one (21) feet; thence East on a line parallel with said north line of said Lots Five (5) and Six (6), One hundred thirty-two (132) feet to the east line of said Lot numbered Five (5); thence North on the east line of said Lot Five to the place of beginning. Also, that part of Lots Numbered Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Numbered Nine (9) in the Original Plat of the town, now city of Portland, Indiana described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of said Lot Five (5) Twenty-one (21) feet south of the northeast corner thereof; thence running South Twenty-one (21) feet; thence West One hundred thirty-two (132) feet to the west line of said Lot Six (6); thence North on the said west line of said Lot Six (6) Twenty-one (21) feet; thence East One hundred thirty-two (132) feet to the place of beginning, together with all the appurtenances thereto belonging and together with One-half (1/2) of the party wall on the south line of said parcel of ground.  
Demolition: Demolish the building in a manner to preserve the integrity of the remaining buildings on the block. All materials are to be disposed of in a manner and at a disposal site as required by State and Federal Laws and Regulations. Asbestos shall be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor in accordance with OSHA Asbestos Construction Standard prior to demolition of the building.  
Time Frame for Demolition: Work is to begin within 30 days of acceptance of bid and to be completed within 10 days of beginning demolition.  
Bids will be accepted in the office of the Mayor of the City of Portland, 321 N Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 until 3:30 p.m. on October 5, 2023. Bids will be opened on October 5, 2023 at 4 o’clock p.m. in the Mayor’s Office.  
Lori Phillips, City of Portland  
CR 9-8-2023-HSPAXLP

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
The Town of Pennville will hold a public hearing Oct. 3, 2023 on a Park Board Ordinance. 7 pm Pennville Town Hall  
CR 9-16-2023 -HSPAXLP  
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## OSU defense preps for Notre Dame

By **ANDREW GILLIS**  
cleveland.com  
Tribune News Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio — For as much talk as there's been about Ohio State's front four against Notre Dame's offensive line, one of the more under-discussed storylines headed into Saturday's showdown is on the Buckeyes' back-end.

Notre Dame quarterback Sam Hartman has thrown for 13 touchdowns and zero interceptions through four games.

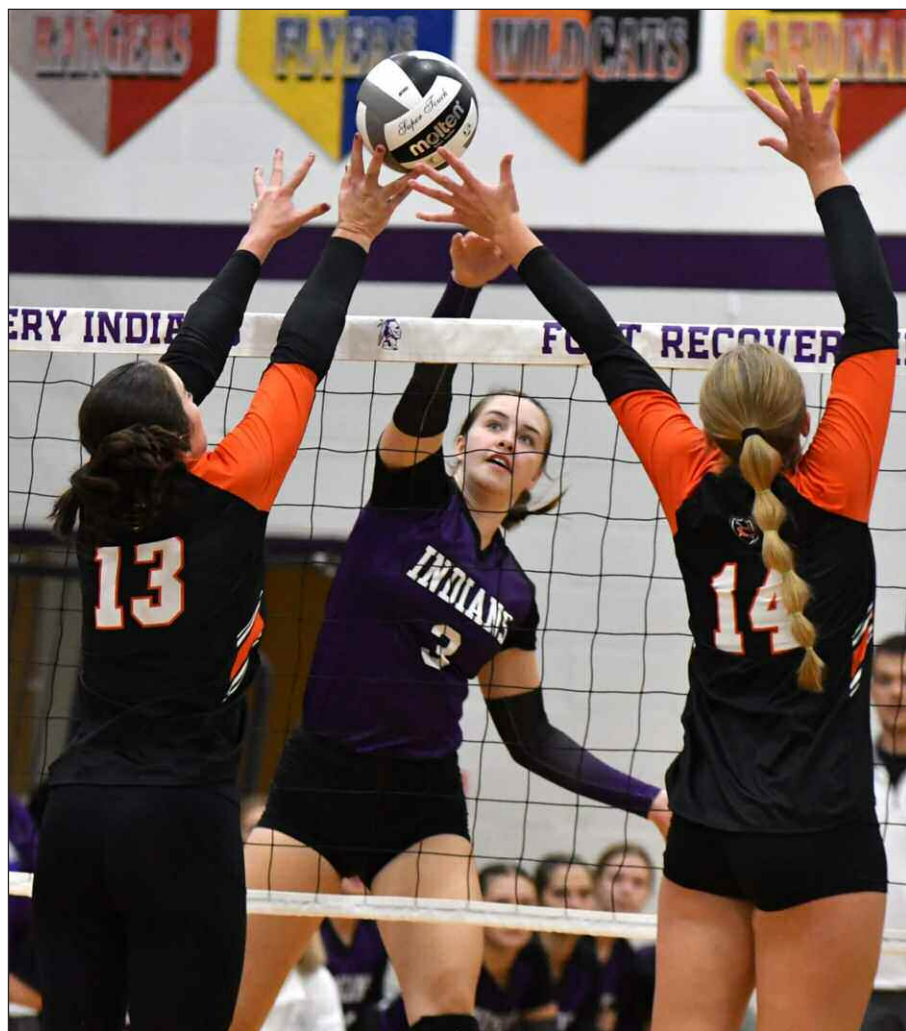
At 11.8 yards-per-attempt, he's not a quarterback that is content to dump-off passes and take shorter gains.

Hartman likes to air it out.

While the Irish are a run-first team, their success on deep shots this season has made their offense look completely different from last year.

That's a job to handle for the last line of defense for Ohio State.

See **Defense** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Spiking Saige

FRHS senior Saige Leuthold (3) follows through on a hit that brushes off the finders of Coldwater's Spencer Etzler (13) during the Indians' 25-17, 25-18, 25-20 loss on Tuesday. The attack resulted in Leuthold's only kill. She also had a block and a dig.

## Alan Williams abruptly resigns

By **BRAD BIGGS**  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — At the end of a truly bizarre day, even by Chicago Bears standards, defensive coordinator Alan Williams submitted his resignation Wednesday, a week after he went on a personal absence.

Coach Matt Eberflus repeatedly declined to offer any updates on Williams during a morning news conference, and a couple of hours later it became apparent Eberflus will be orchestrating the defense for the remainder of the season with the Bears visiting the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium.

In a seven-sentence statement, Williams said he's "taking a step back to take care of my health and my family."

Players had received no indication of what was going on dating to last week, when Williams was at Halas Hall the morning of Sept. 13 and was gone before practice. Players called the matter "unsettling" and "beyond weird" before the team's impromptu announcement shortly after 3 p.m.

There were plenty more twists during the day.

— Offensive coordinator Luke Getsy will have to dust himself off after quarterback Justin Fields suggested coaching was behind his "robotic" play and rough start to the season. Fields' nearly 12-minute news conference provided the kind of material that, in retrospect, makes Jay Cutler and Mike Martz appear like good buddies.

Fields' pointed commentary was revealing of his mindset as he attempts to jump-start his career. There was another turn after practice when, in an extremely unusual move, Fields gathered reporters at his locker and said his words should not be taken out of context and he wasn't being critical of coaching.

"I need to play better, point blank," Fields said. "That's what I should have said in the first place."

You can be the judge of that.

Earlier, Fields talked about "thinking" too much on the field and said he needs to get back to "playing free and being myself." So naturally he was asked what was causing him to overthink.

See **Resigns** page 7

## JCHS graduate powers 2-1 win

Anhely Montes scored one goal through all 16 games last season. Through her first three season, she only scored three goals total.

She's gotten off to a much quicker start in 2023.

The Jay County High School graduate scored both of Anderson University's goals in a 2-1 victory over Asbury University on Saturday.

The Eagles struck first with a goal from Hannah Muncie after 7:26.

The Jay County graduate tied the game up just under 20 minutes later with a goal assisted by Hannah Thomas.

She also scored the winning goal for Anderson (3-2-1) with only four minutes remaining in the game. Lillie Casey assisted her on the goal.

She only took the two shots on the goal in 60 minutes played.

Montes now has three goals through six games, matching her career total before this season.

Montes also played 52 minutes without taking a shot in a 4-0 loss to Trine University on Wednesday.

### Whitley Rammel FRHS — 2022

Found herself back in the starting lineup in a trio of losses to Western Michigan, Western Kentucky and Ball State at the Western Kentucky University Volleyball Invitational.

### Collegiate Check-up

Rammel's best performance came in the 25-17, 26-24, 25-13 loss to Ball State. She recorded 10 kills on 17 attempts and only committed two errors in the match. She also had a solo block and an assisted block for 11.5 points. She struggled with errors in the other two matches, hitting for -11.1% against Western Michigan and -12.5% against Western Kentucky. She had three kills, three assisted blocks and five errors in the two games.

### Jayln Bruns FRHS — 2022

Shot a 173 for the Indiana University-East women's golf B team in the Earlham Tournament at Forest Hills Country Club over the weekend.

Brunns posted the best score for the Red Wolves B team (755), to help them to a fourth-place finish out of five teams. Mount St. Joseph College finished in first with 686 strokes.

Competing in the No. 2 position, Bruns had 86 strokes through the first round on Saturday to sit in sixth place among all golfers.

See **Checkup** page 7

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