

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Program targeted to start next month

*Initiative will provide funding for home projects*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Jay County's owner-occupied rehabilitation program is still in the works.

Nate Kimball, Jay County community coordinator, shared an update with Jay County Council about the program during its meeting Wednesday.

Jay County is receiving \$1 million from Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs from its Community Development Block Grant program. Offered as an incentive for communities allocating their American Rescue Plan Act dollars through OCRA's Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP), the funding will be available for low to moderate income Jay County residents to make home improvements.

Jay County's application is back in OCRA's hands for a second time, explained Kimball, and the county is waiting for approval or further feedback. Consultant Mike Kleinpeter told Kimball the county should have its application back within two weeks.

So far, Kimball said, 52 residents have expressed interest in the program, which will allot up to \$25,000 for each household. Available projects under the program include replacing a roof, water heater or heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit, doing electrical work or making a home more accessible.

To be qualified, applicants must make at or below a salary threshold. See **Program** page 2

# Inducting Davis



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Randy Davis, pictured here at Freedom Park in Portland, is being inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame today. He is one of 15 members of this year's class being honored for their military service achievements and contributions to their community. A retired pastor, Davis is also the founder of A Better Life – Brianna's Hope.

## Jay County man will be one of 15 to join the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame today

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Some know him as a pastor.

Others know him as the founder of A Better Life – Brianna's Hope.

He's also a veteran who is being recognized for his patriotic duty.

Randy Davis will be inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame today in Lawrence. He's one of 15 Hoosiers joining the hall of fame, which honors veterans for their military service achievements and community contributions.

As a young adult in the late 1960s, Davis attended Ball State University to study broadcasting. He soon pivoted paths.

"I had gone to Ball State in part to avoid the draft, (but) I

dropped out of Ball State and joined the army so I'd have some choice," said Davis.

Davis enlisted in the army on Sept. 10, 1970, serving about 18 months. (He opted for an automatic early out when the military was reducing its soldiers in Europe.) He did basic training, advanced individual training and clerk's school at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and attended finance school at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence. Davis was assigned as a military occupational specialty (MOS) 73C20, otherwise known as a finance specialist.

He served in Frankfurt, Germany, for 14 months as a payroll clerk, handling pay for soldiers stationed in Europe. At that time, all branches of the military were transitioning into the

joint uniform military pay system (JUMPS).

"As you can tell by the dating, this is pre-computer usage, OK," said Davis. "I was responsible for over 35,000 (soldiers)."

Davis worked as an assistant to the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), meaning he oversaw other payroll clerks in his division.

"If they had issues, I'd step in and help, and always at the end of the month, when it was time to send the checks out, there was a pile of issues you dealt with and changes you had to make," he recalled. "And that's where I first started getting my leadership skills."

After leaving the service, Davis shifted into ministry. He served as a pastor for 35 years before "retiring," although even

in his retirement he has continued to fill in as needed at various churches in the community.

"I still fill in a lot of Sundays, I call myself a rent-a-preacher," he said. "If (I'm) not booked, you can have me."

He launched A Better Life – Brianna's Hope, a local nonprofit organization for those seeking recovery — in 2014. Its reach has spread to 25 counties in Indiana and four counties in Ohio. In October 2021, Davis also started "Faith In Your Recovery," a podcast focusing on "all things recovery." Listeners from across the world have tuned in to hear addiction and recovery stories.

Being in the service, Davis said, is "one of the best things that's ever happened" to him.

See **Davis** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Joe Raedle

Candidates arrive for the third Republican presidential primary debate at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County on Wednesday in downtown Miami, Fla. Left to right are, former Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy and Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina.

## Focus on foreign policy

By JUSTIN SINK and NANCY COOK  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

The third Republican presidential debate focused on questions over foreign policy crises and the party's latest election losses, an embarrassment the candidates blamed on former President Donald Trump.

Questions on foreign policy largely dominated the first hour, with the candidates backing aggressive military action by Israel against Hamas — designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union — saying Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should consider the complete eradication of the militant group.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said he would advise Netanyahu to "fin-

*Five GOP candidates discuss approaches to Israel, other areas*

ish the job once and for all with these butchers."

The candidates assailed President Joe Biden's policies, saying they had emboldened Iran and its proxies in the region.

"There would be no Hamas without Iran. There would be no Hezbollah without Iran," former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley said.

The five contenders on stage also clashed over continued support for Ukraine, underscoring one of the starkest divides within the party.

DeSantis said the Biden administration's emergency request for Ukraine aid was excessive and he didn't support money that would go to members of that country's government.

"We need to bring this war to an end," DeSantis said. "We need the Europeans to step up and do their fair share, and we need to get serious about the top threat that this country faces, which is the Chinese Communist Party."

See **Policy** page 2

### Deaths

Irene Weaver, 96, Geneva  
Virginia Wendel, 92, Berne  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature in Jay County climbed to 77 degrees Wednesday. The low was 43.

Tonight's low is expected to drop into the 20s. The forecast calls for mostly sunny skies for Veterans Day on Saturday with a high in the lower 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

The Town of Bryant is hosting an event Saturday to celebrate completion of its park project, which includes a new walking trail. A chili lunch will be held at Bryant Community Center beginning at noon, with a dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. Chili will be provided. Attendees can bring side dishes, desserts and drinks to share.

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Coverage of today's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.

**Tuesday** — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game against Hamilton Heights.



# Davis ...

Continued from page 1  
“It gave me a chance to mature, to be out somewhat on my own, though they provided housing and food, I’d never been on my own before,” he said. “I had the opportunity to start building leadership skills that certainly helped me through life.”

Initially Davis had mixed feelings about joining the army. He noted his brother, Mike, was stationed in Vietnam and suffers today from exposure to Agent Orange. Davis’ father also served as a forward observer (FO) in World War II, returning home a prisoner of war. Davis said he “had it good,” not experiencing any sort of trauma while on active duty.

Davis was selected from a pool of 33 other veteran nominations for 2023, according to a press release from the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame. He highlighted other veterans being honored Nov. 10, including folks representing former astronaut Virgil Ivan “Gus” Grissom and former politician Richard Green Lugar.

“That blows me away to think we’ll be on the same stage,” said Davis.

There are three categories veterans can be nominated to in the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame: valor during active military, veteran advocacy

and service to community, state and beyond.

Davis was nominated for the service category. However, he also orchestrated a veteran advocacy project in the past. For about five years in the 2010s, Davis raised around \$250,000 to give \$5 McDonald’s gift cards to veterans across the state.

“(We) had cards coming in from every state in the United States, cards and funding, in eight different nations,” recalled Davis. “We just tried to celebrate veterans wherever we (could).”

Davis expressed his gratitude for the award, which will be given to him at the site of his old stomping grounds.

“I think too many times, too many people are overlooked,” said Davis. “I believe in the words of Christ that said, ‘I came to serve, not to be served,’ and that’s how I see myself. You know, I would rather serve you — I am much more comfortable serving you than you serving me.”

“But I have had so much support over the years from our county and individuals, the school system, people in political positions and everything, we’ve just, that’s helped all of this happen,” continued Davis. “You can’t serve someone if they won’t allow themselves to be served. The community’s been very receptive.”

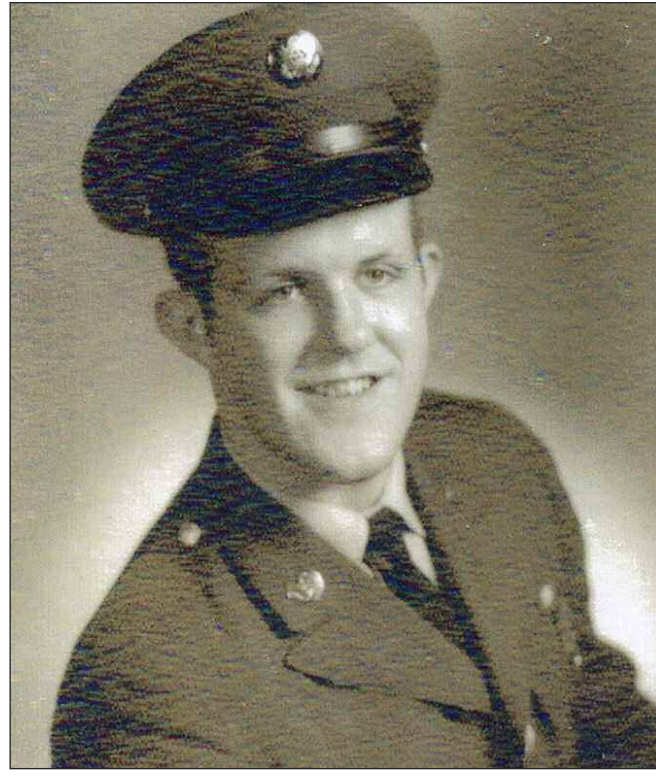


Photo provided

Randy Davis served about 18 months in the U.S. Army, having enlisted Sept. 10, 1970. Since leaving military service, Davis has raised about \$250,000 to provide \$5 McDonald’s gift cards to veterans across Indiana.

# Obituaries

**Virginia Lee “Virgie” (Leininger) Wendel**, Berne, a relative of area residents, Feb. 2, 1931-Nov. 7, 2023. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

**Irene Lucille (Macklin) Weaver**, Geneva, Feb. 20, 1927-Nov. 8, 2023. Interment at Riverside Cemetery, Geneva, will follow visitation, which concludes at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

*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

Saturday 11/11	Sunday 11/12	Monday 11/13	Tuesday 11/14	Wednesday 11/15
<b>48/29</b>	<b>51/33</b>	<b>57/32</b>	<b>55/34</b>	<b>58/44</b>
Mostly sunny skies on Saturday, when the low at night will hit the upper 20s.	Sunday’s forecast shows sunny skies with temperatures again dipping to the 30s late.	Sunny, with a high of 57 during the day. At night, the low will be around the freezing point.	Another day of sun is expected Tuesday. The high will be 55 degrees.	More sun is on the horizon for Wednesday, with temperatures jumping to the upper 50s.

# Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 14-21-33-39-62 Power Ball: 20 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$220 million	Daily Four: 0-0-5-7 Quick Draw: 4-12-15-16-21-22-27-31-32-36-40-46-51-61-73-74-77-78-79-80 Cash 5: 10-19-25-37-39 Estimated jackpot: \$75,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$223 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 4-2-7 Pick 4: 0-1-4-1 Pick 5: 7-5-8-1-7 Evening Pick 3: 3-1-3 Pick 4: 9-9-7-5 Pick 5: 2-0-8-8-9 Rolling Cash: 4-20-26-36-38 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 8-0-6 Daily Four: 4-8-7-4 Quick Draw: 3-7-8-10-14-17-21-28-29-34-38-52-54-55-58-67-70-74-77-79 Evening Daily Three: 8-2-6	

# Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.38 Dec. corn.....4.68 Wheat.....4.84	Dec. beans.....13.22 Wheat.....5.38
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.33 Dec. corn.....4.63 Jan. corn.....4.73	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.43 Late Nov. corn.....4.43 Beans.....13.00 Dec. beans.....13.20 Wheat.....5.37
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.42 Dec. corn.....4.53 Beans.....12.97	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.29 Dec. corn.....4.39 Beans.....12.88 Dec. beans.....12.98 Wheat.....4.94

# Today in history

In 1775, the U.S. Marine Corps was founded as the Continental Congress ordered two battalions to be raised for serves in the Revolutionary War.

In 1972, 136 pints were collected from 143 donors during a Fort Wayne Red Cross Bloodmobile visit to Portland.

In 2021, Jay County Council approved economic development agreements and tax abatements with Leeward Renewable Energy and Scout Clean Energy for their planned solar farms.

—The CR

# Citizen’s calendar

**Monday**  
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.  
3 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.

4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.  
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.  
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.

# Program ...

Continued from page 1  
Those amounts are as follows: one-person household, \$44,200; two-person household, \$55,500; three-person household, \$56,800; four-person household, \$63,100; five-person household, \$68,150; six-person household, \$73,200.

The program will help a minimum of 40 households.

Kimball has been gathering a list of potential contractors for the work. He pointed out he’s also planning to establish his office hours at Community Resource Center — Portland Board of Works approved a rental agreement with Jay County Commissioners for the Portland office space Nov. 3 — to allow the public to speak with him in person.

Applications should be available before December.

Council members heard from Ashley Drees, the health and human sciences educator with Jay County Purdue Extension Office. Drees shared news about a program Jan. 9 teaching community members how to run for elected office.

“So we’re trying to reduce a bar-

rier to the people who may not understand the process,” she explained.

The program will be held in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse. For more information, reach out to the extension office at (260) 726-4707.

Drees also noted Purdue University is surveying the state’s broadband access. She asked community members to visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov and confirm or deny which broadband is available at their home. To learn more about the process, visit the Purdue Extension Jay County Facebook page.

Council also made a \$220,000 additional appropriation in wind farm economic development funds for Jay County Baseball Club. (Although council decided in October to give the group \$220,000, it will receive \$175,000 as approved by Jay County Commissioners.)

In other business, council members Harold Towell, Matt Minnich, Faron Parr, Jeanne Houchins, Randy May, Dave Haines and Cindy Bracy:

•Agreed to keep Virginia Burke

on Jay County Health Board next year.

•Made the following additional appropriations: \$66,500.26 from an Indiana Department Environmental Management grant for Jay County Solid Waste District, \$50,000 for a new excavator for Jay County Surveyor’s Office, \$42,562.50 from a Community Crossings grant for paving roads through Milestone Contractors, \$8,900 for other equipment at Jay County Solid Waste District, \$7,500 for section cornerstones in Jefferson Township through Jay County Surveyor’s Office, \$2,832.39 for firearms using donations to Jay County Sheriff’s Office, \$2,000 for backhoe parts and service at Jay County Surveyor’s Office, \$1,580 for pauper counsel and \$1,452 for postage from Jay Circuit Court.

•Made several transfers, including: \$20,000 from the employer health insurance fund to the juvenile secure detention fund in Jay County Community Corrections’ budget; \$15,583.55 from the full-time maintenance wages fund to the utilities fund and \$15,253.85 from the cooks wages fund to the utilities fund in Jay County Jail’s budget.

# Felony courts

## Failed to appear

A Fort Wayne man was arrested Tuesday for failing to appear in court.

Gabriel Sanchez-Hernandez, 30, 3718 Smith St., is charged in Jay Superior

Court with a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine and a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine.

He’s being held without bond at Jay County Jail.

# Policy ...

Continued from page 1  
Haley argued for the U.S. to keep supporting Kyiv in its fight to repel Russia’s invasion — but said the focus should be on providing weaponry.

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina said he endorsed continuing aid to Kyiv, but only after a system of greater “accountability” and a review of “the overall Russian military.”

But entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, espousing the GOP’s populist bent, said he was “absolutely unpersuaded” about the need to provide more assistance, calling Ukraine “not democratic” and saying efforts to assist the country from Russia’s invasion had been “a disaster.”

# SERVICES

**Today**  
**Whitesell**, Chris: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

**Saturday**  
**Wendel**, Virginia: 10:30 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

**Osborne**, William: 11 a.m., Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.

Service listings provided by  
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Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR  
Swiss Village, Inc.  
1350 W. Main St.  
Berne, IN 46711  
[careers@swissvillage.org](mailto:careers@swissvillage.org)



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Photo provided

## New members

Portland Evening Optimists welcomed two new members to their club recently. Pictured, from left, are club president Linda Aker, new member sponsor Mike Aker and new members Don McDaniel and Krystal Bell.

## Legion hosting program

It's time to honor those who have served our country.

The American Legion is hosting its Veterans Day program at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Jay Community Center. Rob Weaver, owner and operator for WPGW radio, will be the guest speaker.

For more information, call (260) 726-0831.

### Auction upcoming

Arts Place will host its annual holiday benefit auction Nov. 17.

This year's event is themed after "A Christmas Story." (Jay County Civic Theatre will present its production of the musical Dec. 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 17 at Arts Place.)

The auction will feature refreshments, a silent auction and a live auction.

### Taking Note

For more information, email [jcc@myartsplace.org](mailto:jcc@myartsplace.org) or call (260) 726-4809.

### Grants available

Indiana Destination Development Corporation has announced the availability of two grants — the Indiana Destination Development Grant and IN Indiana Placemaking Activation Grant.

The placemaking activation grant offers communities the opportunity to create IN Indiana artwork and signage in highly visible locations throughout the

state. (The City of Portland, Arts Place and Portland Main Street Connect partnered to receive a grant this year that funded the new mural on the north side of Community Resource Center.) The development grant offers funding for "high-impact projects that raise Indiana's capacity for attracting visitors, providing tourism experiences and enhance residential quality of life."

"Indiana is a diverse state that's full of character, and we plan to continue showcasing that through these placemaking and development projects," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch.

The deadline to apply for the grants is set for Feb. 2. For more information about the programs, go to [visitindiana.com](http://visitindiana.com).

# War letters project marks its 25th year

**DEAR READERS:** Twenty-five years ago tomorrow, I told you about a new, nationwide effort to honor and remember our nation's troops, veterans and families by seeking out and preserving their war correspondence from every conflict in U.S. history.

The response was overwhelming. The founder of this initiative, Andy Carroll, just told me that, as of this week, and on this special 25th anniversary, the archive has collected more than 200,000 war-related letters and emails. The nonprofit organization Andy created, the Center for American War Letters (CAWL), based at Chapman University in California, is still seeking correspon-

## Dear Abby



dence. I would like to thank those of you who have already donated letters to CAWL for sharing them, and encourage those of you who are not aware of CAWL but might have letters to contribute, to visit its website ([WarLetters.us](http://WarLetters.us)) to learn more. CAWL is especially interested in any correspondence, including emails, from younger veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. — LOVE, ABBY

.....  
**DEAR ABBY:** Over the past few months, due to extenuating circumstances, I have been spending a couple of days a month at my sister's. While there, I sometimes had the feeling that something was crawling on me, but thought it was just the idea of being somewhere other than my home.

Last time, however, I woke up during the night not only with the crawling feeling, but also the sound of buzzing in my ear.

I also noticed that when I sat in the spot where I usually do, bugs were getting in my hair. Now my sister is asking me when I want to come and stay for a couple of days again. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't want to deal with bugs again. What should

I do? — WARY IN WEST VIRGINIA

**DEAR WARY:** What you should do is level with your sister. Explain that during the last few visits, you have felt something crawling or buzzing while you were in bed, and that you also noticed some insects getting into your hair. Your sister's home may have an infestation of some kind, which won't get any better until she calls a pest-control company.

.....  
**DEAR ABBY:** My husband is deceased. I have two grandsons (42 and 39) and a great-grandson (24) living with me. None are married. I do not allow overnight guests. This morning at 3, I heard a girl come upstairs from the downstairs bedroom to get another girl. I

was livid. Am I wrong to give them walking papers? I've told them before this was a NO-NO. They thought I was asleep. (I was reading.) — CAUGHT 'EM IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR CAUGHT 'EM:** If you prefer not to have men mating like rabbits under your roof while all you have is a book, your wishes should prevail. It's your house, your rules. It's time these "naughty boys" found a place of their own, and you are within your rights to insist upon it.

.....  
*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 [DearAbby.com](http://DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

**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.

### Sunday

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-

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

### Monday

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

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

**EUCHRE** — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP** — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS)** — Will

meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTER** — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

**REDISCOVERING JOY** — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For

more information, email [rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com).

### Tuesday

**JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS** — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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

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

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

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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**Our Christmas Greetings issue will appear in The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette, The News Times and The News and Sun the week of Dec. 18.**

Ads 15 inches or larger may include a photo of your staff. For those who provide their own photo, the fee will be \$20. (The fee will be waived if you get your photo to us by Nov. 30.) If you'd like us to come take your picture, the fee will be \$50.

**Deadline for all ads & photos is December 8th!**

**We try hard not to miss anyone who wants to be in this issue.**

If you do not get contacted and would like to be in our Christmas Greetings special section, please email [ads@thecr.com](mailto:ads@thecr.com) or call (260) 726-8141.

**GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS**

# Treatment key to abuse recovery

The News Courier  
(Athens, Alabama)  
Tribune News Service

It's encouraging to see the groundswell in support of bolstering the treatment available to people with substance abuse disorder in our effort to work our way out of our national addiction crisis.

Current research indicates that as many as four in 10 of us know someone who has died from an overdose.

Across the political spectrum, 83 percent of us are in favor of increasing federal spending on substance abuse disorder treatment by \$10 billion. That number is important because it's what it

## Guest Editorial

would take, according to experts, to get everyone who needs help adequate treatment.

Improved funding for treatment in prison is approved by 71 percent of Republicans and 86 percent of Democrats, onepoll found. And giving law enforcement the training they have been asking for on diverting non-violent offenders with substance

abuse disorders to treatment rather than the penal system is pretty popular, too.

It's undeniably a good thing that we've gotten to this point. It's simultaneously heart-wrenching that it has taken so many people suffering so much to reach this point.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 106,699 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2021 (32.4 deaths per 100,000 standard population), a 16 percent increase from 2020.

Approximately 75 percent of drug overdose deaths in 2021 involved at least one opioid; 66 percent of deaths involved syn-

thetic opioids (for example, illicitly manufactured fentanyl). Drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids increased 25 percent, deaths involving psychostimulants (such as methamphetamine) increased 37 percent and deaths involving cocaine increased 26 percent from 2020 to 2021. Although deaths increased overall and in all drug categories except heroin, the increases from 2020 to 2021 were generally lower than those from 2019 to 2020, suggesting a slowing of the increase in overdose deaths.

In Alabama, there were 1,408 overdose deaths, or about 30.1 such deaths per 100,000 people (age adjusted), in 2021.

Our state is working to lower those numbers, and in 2022 the state was awarded \$3.8 million in total overdose prevention funding, resulting in initiatives such as "real time response" for the Jefferson County Department of Health that notes real-time overdose data in Alabama's most populous county, and a "peer recovery app" that connects substance abuse patients with mental health or peer recovery support services within 10 minutes of referral.

As law enforcement, both local and national, have been saying, you can't arrest your way out of a substance abuse problem. Treatment is key.

## Can we afford a nuclear buildup?

By WILLIAM D. HARTUNG  
Tribune News Service

Even as the Pentagon budget soars toward \$1 trillion per year and President Joe Biden is seeking a \$100 billion-plus emergency spending package to, among other things, provide military aid to Ukraine and Israel, a new congressional commission report has suggested spending even more. This time the money would go toward a dangerous and unnecessary nuclear weapons buildup that could devour huge quantities of tax dollars for years to come.

The panel, which officially goes by the rather intimidating name of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, wants to pave the way for a future president to increase or replace virtually every element of America's nuclear arsenal, from nuclear-armed missiles and submarines to new nuclear warheads. Given our current stockpile of over 5,000 nuclear weapons — enough to end life as we know it several times over — the commission's proposals would represent a textbook case of nuclear overkill.

At a recent Senate hearing on the commission's report, only a handful of members raised questions about what its recommendations would cost, including Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). Amazingly, the commission co-chairs not only couldn't say, but acknowledged that they hadn't even tried to make an estimate. At a time when the national debt is over \$33 trillion, this is an inexcusable case of fiscal irresponsibility.

The Pentagon is already in the midst of a three-decades-long effort to build a new generation of nuclear weapons that could cost up to \$2 trillion. Spending even more would undermine both our military and economic security. The most likely outcome of such an initiative would be an accelerated arms race with Russia and China that would increase, not decrease, the risk of a devastating nuclear conflict.

Why would the commission make such a misguided set of recommendations at a time when America can ill afford to carry them out? The answer seems to be a mix of outmoded thinking and conflicts of interest. To cite just one example, commission co-chair Jon Kyl, a former senator from Arizona, has

William D. Hartung



been a lifelong opponent of nuclear arms control dating back to his successful effort to block United States ratification of a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing that would have slowed the spread of these deadly weapons. After leaving the Senate, Kyl served a stint as a lobbyist for Northrop Grumman, the company that benefits most from our current buildup as prime contractor for a new nuclear-armed bomber and a new land-based, long range nuclear-armed missile.

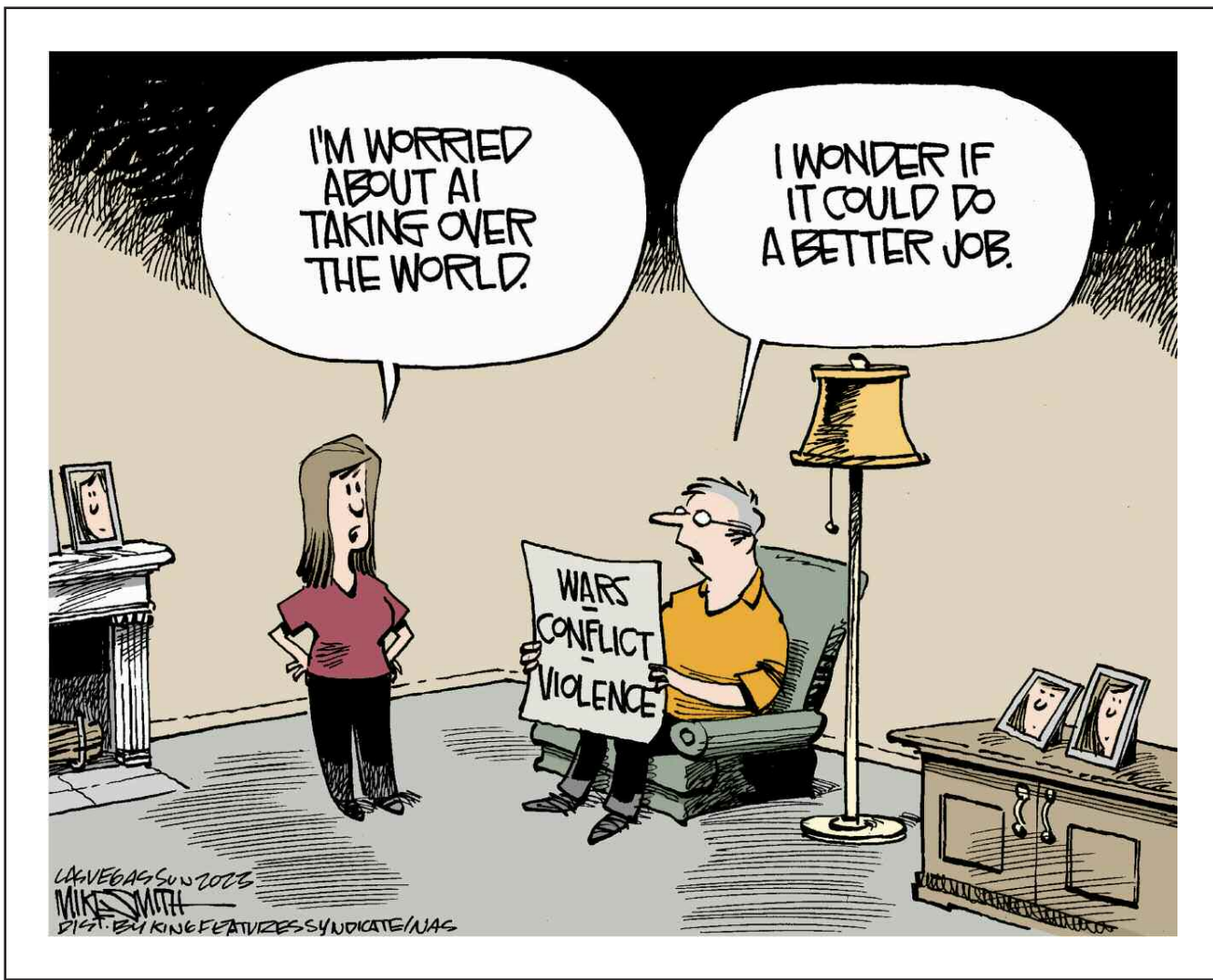
To the extent that the commission's recommendations have a real-world rationale, it is the prospect that China will build up its nuclear arsenal to 1,000 weapons or more over the next decade, a figure close to but lower than the current level of deployed U.S. nuclear weapons, and far below the overall U.S. stockpile of over 5,000. In any case, preventing nuclear conflict is not a numbers game, as Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has aptly noted: "Nuclear deterrence isn't just a numbers game. In fact, that sort of thinking can spur a dangerous arms race."

Furthermore, as the Arms Control Association has pointed out, "a large-scale nuclear exchange between the United States and Russia would kill and injure more than 90 million people in the first few hours, and many more in the days and weeks afterward. This is no time for a new nuclear arms race."

To add insult to injury, the congressional commission recommends seeking to limit or reduce global nuclear arsenals only after its proposed buildup is well along, an approach that would effectively kill efforts at nuclear arms control for decades to come.

There has to be a better way. The Biden administration and Congress should take the new report with more than a few grains of salt, and devise an alternative plan that can save both money and lives in a world already racked by dangerous conflicts.

Hartung is a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.



## Balance reforms, investment

By DAVID OBER  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

It's something of a paradox that over the summer, while debating the need for increased public investment in child care access, transportation infrastructure, public employee retirement benefits, and Medicaid reimbursement, legislators also considered proposals that could dramatically reduce the revenues needed to finance those priorities.

Appointees to the State and Local Tax Review Task Force have been exploring the potential elimination of the state's individual income tax (income tax), a goal that is central to the campaign of at least one candidate for governor.

The fiscal impact of such a policy change is far from trivial. In FY23, the income tax generated approximately \$7.6 billion, constituting roughly 36% of state revenues. In just the first three months of the current fiscal year, income tax collections exceeded estimates by nearly \$150 million. The proposal to eliminate the income tax echoes former Gov. Mike Pence's promise to reduce the income tax rate by 10%, from 3.4% to 3.06%. At the time, Pence's tax cut was estimated to reduce state revenues by \$500 million, a nominal figure compared to what is now under consideration.

Next year, Hoosiers will finally realize the 10% income tax cut Pence proposed in 2012. Granting that a modest rate cut took more than a decade to achieve, the prospects of eliminating the income tax appear dubious. The means of achieving the tax cut are more significant than the motivations behind the policy, and the cadence of rate cuts might reasonably measure in decades.

To achieve such an aspiration, let's first consider the income tax

David Ober



base along with the deductions, exemptions, and credits which narrow the base and reduce state revenue. Broadening the tax base could enable policymakers to further decrease the tax rate. Just repealing a handful of deductions, exemptions, and credits with the largest base-narrowing impacts would enable the state to capture more than \$2 billion over the biennium. However, these reforms include eliminating the personal and dependent child exemption, the renter's and homeowner's deduction, as well as the earned income tax credit and 529 contribution credit. Eliminating these tax benefits, some of the most popular among Hoosiers, represents significant political risk and would make the tax code more regressive.

Another proposal could be expanding the sales tax base to include more goods as well as services. Though considered by legislators in the past decade, this idea has never advanced to a vote by a House or Senate committee. Taxing these transactions would generate greater sales tax revenue to offset revenue losses resulting from a lower income tax rate.

However, imagine receiving a little more in your paycheck but paying 7% more on various goods or services, effectively reducing your buying power. Also consider what proportion of an average salary earned by a Hoosier, just over \$58,000 per year, would be dedicated to state taxes. Without new or

expanded exemptions this base-broadening would, by definition, exacerbate the regressivity of the state tax code.

A third option could include dramatic reductions in state spending. Given the high proportion of the state budget dedicated to K-12 education and health services, it's hard to envision the scope and quality of these services remaining intact with reduced funding. Perhaps reducing the state workforce of roughly 32,000 employees could reduce costs. The reality is that for nearly two decades the seeming *raison d'être* of state leaders has been responsible budgets, prudent reserves, and a competitive tax environment for individuals and business. As of 2021, Indiana ranked 37th (well below the national average) in total state expenditures per capita. Can more spending be cut? Certainly. Can legislators cut enough to meaningfully reduce the income tax rate while maintaining the services Hoosiers have come to expect? Decidedly not.

Returning to our paradox, the legislature is considering the need for increased public spending in critical areas to boost our quality of life, improve our health and access to care, increase workforce participation, and provide greater connectivity between our communities. A focus on tax policies that are understandable, equitable, and just, with a bias toward competitiveness is important. However, growing our citizenry and enhancing their well-being will require similar focus and dedication.

Ober is vice president of taxation and public finance at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# The Commercial Review



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*It is our pleasure and our privilege to serve and salute our local veterans. To the men and women in our community and around the country who have sacrificed to protect our freedom, we thank you greatly for your service.*

**Happy Veterans Day!**

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On November 11 each year, we honor the generations of men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. As we celebrate this Veterans Day, we salute these dedicated Americans for their service, their sacrifices and their contributions to our country.

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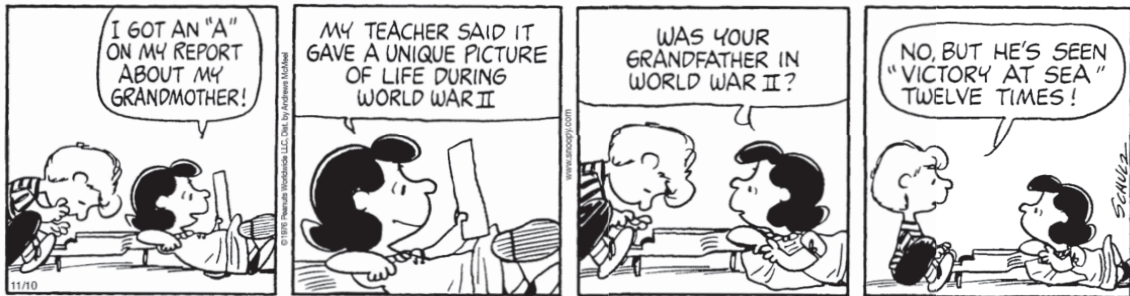
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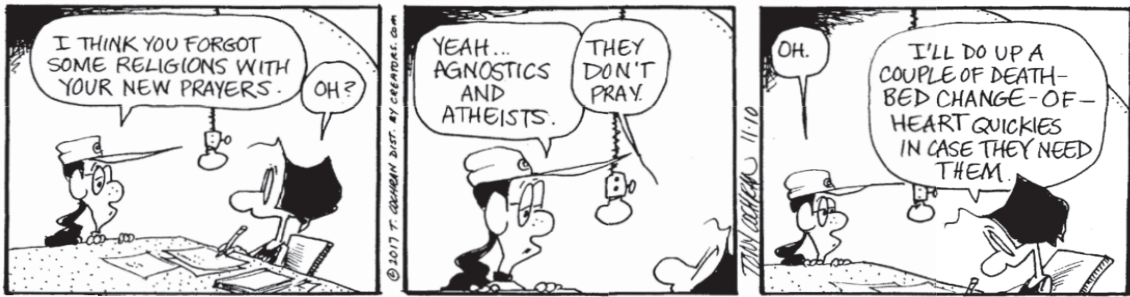
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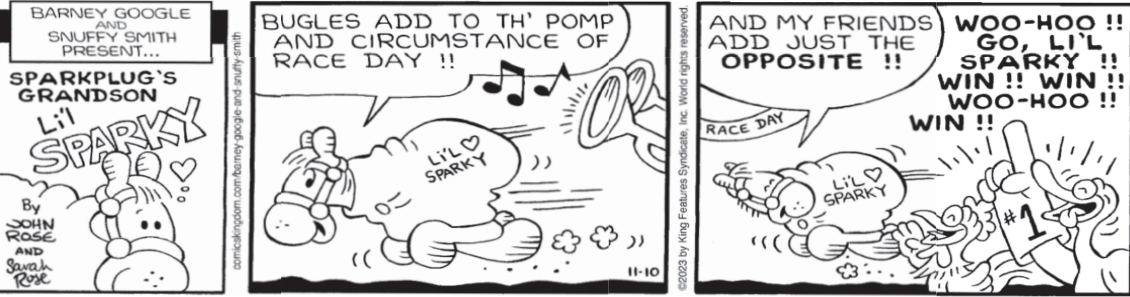
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are the dealer. What would you bid with each of the following four hands? 1. ♠KJ7♥AKQ10♦AQ3♣AQ9...

the singleton in hands with 4-4-4-1 distribution. Here, however, the clubs should be ignored because they are too weak...

Tomorrow: On the horns of a dilemma. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

XOKCHV JAVBHM BA BFH XDBHYDHB AQ BFH JKYBI IAT FAVBHM XD IATY DHG FAOH: FATVHGKYOXDC CXQV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE HEADSCARF-MANUFACTURING COMPANY, EVERYBODY CALLS THEIR VICE PRESIDENT "SECOND BANDANA."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals I

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Asian holiday 4 Music booster 7 Gold-loving 12 - Baba 13 Stephen of "Still Crazy" 14 Keen 15 "Top Gun" target 16 Domino product 18 Summer in Arles 19 Furtive type 20 Belgrade resident 22 Golf's Ernie 23 "Hulk" actor Eric 27 Not 'neath 29 Swapped 31 Cameo shapes 34 Sulk 35 Luggage carrier 37 Tom Collins liquor

Crossword grid with letters and numbers.

Yesterday's answer 11-10

Large crossword grid with numbers.

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CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141 ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge... \$12.40

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center.

40 NOTICES

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Plan now to attend November 23, 2023, 1:00 pm.

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# Response ...

Continued from page 8  
The response also says the university is unaware of any instance when the Sportsmanship Policy "has ever been deployed as a backdoor way of holding an institution responsible for a rule violation that has not been established."  
Petitti and the Big Ten also received a letter Wednesday from 11 Michigan lawmakers who urged him not to make a decision regarding Michigan until an investigation is completed. The bipartisan statement was released by Rep. Phil Skaggs, Rep.

Graham Filler, and nine other members of the Michigan House and Senate.  
"It's absolutely vital that members of the Big Ten Conference receive due process in any investigation, especially those that may have been initiated by allegations from parties with clear conflicts of interest," Skaggs said in a release. "We must not punish the dedicated players, coaches, and staff of the University of Michigan football program based on incomplete evidence."  
"We know that college

football is a topic charged with emotions on all sides," Filler said. "What's important here is to let the facts determine the outcome of this investigation."  
"The commissioner has the "exclusive authority" according to the Big Ten Sportsmanship Policy to determine, using any evidence deemed relevant, if an "offensive action" has been committed. What is considered "standard" disciplinary action could yield no more than a two-game suspension and/or a fine up to \$10,000. There also is a category for

"major disciplinary action" that exceeds the two-game suspension and must be approved by the Joint Group Executive Committee (JGEC). The JGEC is to act "as expeditiously" as possible. There is no appeal.  
According to Yahoo, the university response included a warning to the Big Ten.  
"The conference should act cautiously when setting precedent given the reality that in-person scouting, collusion among opponents, and other questionable practices may well be far more

prevalent than believed," the response reads.  
Should Petitti choose to suspend Harbaugh, a source indicated to The Detroit News the university and Harbaugh's lawyers will take legal steps to block that decision by seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO) as a potential remedy. The temporary restraining order would prevent the Big Ten from imposing a suspension on Harbaugh. That would leave several weeks, more than likely, to build more evidence. A preliminary injunction likely would be the next legal step.

According to Michigan Court Rules 3.310 under B: Temporary restraining orders, a TRO can be granted without written or verbal notice to the "adverse party".  
"If it clearly appears from specific facts shown by affidavit or by a verified complaint that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result to the applicant from the delay required to effect notice or from the risk that notice will itself precipitate adverse action before an order can be issued," according to the Michigan Court rules.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Saturday**  
Jay County — Girls wrestling at East Noble — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball scrimmage vs. Russia — 12 p.m.

## TV sports

**Tuesday**  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: LeMoyn at

Villanova (FS1); Youngstown State at Michigan (BTN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Duke (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Brooklyn Nets at Boston Celtics (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Rider at Marquette (FS1); Dayton at Northwestern (BTN)  
9 p.m. — College football: North Texas at SMU (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

10:45 p.m. — College football: Wyoming at UNLV (FS1)  
**Saturday**  
7 a.m. — U17 World Cup: Senegal vs. Argentina (FS1)  
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur at Wolverhampton (USA)  
10 a.m. — Premier League: Luton Town at Manchester United (USA)  
12 p.m. — College football: Michigan at Penn State (FOX); Tulsa at Tulane (ESPN2);

Georgia Tech at Clemson (ABC); Texas Tech at Kansas (FS1); Indiana at Illinois (BTN)  
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at AFC Bournemouth (NBC)  
3:30 p.m. — College football: Miami at Florida State (ABC); Utah at Washington (FOX); Tennessee at Missouri (CBS); Rutgers at Iowa (BTN); Minnesota at Purdue (NBC); Northwestern at Wisconsin (FS1)  
4 p.m. — College football: Washington State at Cal (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — College football: Ole Miss at Geor-

gia (ESPN); West Virginia at Oklahoma (FOX); Cincinnati at Houston (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — College football: Michigan State at Ohio State (NBC); Texas at TCU (ABC)  
8 p.m. — NWSL: Gotham FC at OL Reign (CBS)  
10 p.m. — College football: New Mexico at Boise State (FS1)  
10:15 p.m. — College football: Iowa State at BYU (ESPN)  
10:30 p.m. — College football: USC at Oregon (FOX)

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located : 822 S 500 W, Portland, IN.  
Friday Morning, NOVEMBER 17, 2023 10:00 A. M.  
EQUIPMENT—DUMP TRUCK—CLUB CAR  
Bobcat T870 2 Speed Track Loader, 2021 Kubota KX080-4S2R3A Excavator, Include Angle Blade, Power Factory Thumb and 24" GP Bicket; 2023 Bobcat Toolcat UW56 — 4X4 Diesel, 2018 Enduraplas Field Boss XTREAM UTV  
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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: EQUIPMENT, TRUCK AND CLUB CAR WILL BE SOLD VIA LIVE AND ONLINE BIDDING THRU EQUIPMENTFACTS. 3% CONVENIENCE FEE FOR ONLINE BIDDING. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GARY LOY, AUCTIONEER AT (260) 726-5160.  
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Loy Auction  
AC#31600027 Auctioneers  
Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

many other items not listed.  
VAN—MOWER—GOLF CART —EQUIPMENT—TOOLS  
2004 Chevrolet Venture van; Easy Go Club Car electric golf cart; Grasshopper 618 zero turn mower with 1099 hours; Hover Round mobility cart; pony saddles; work horse harnesses; scrap metal; and many other items not listed.  
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Aaron Loy AU11200112

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

approximately 13 acres tillable, balance being road frontage on County Road 200 N and wooded. Tract 2: 63 acres practically all tillable with road frontage on County Road 150 N. Tract 3: Combination of tract 1 and 2. For more information phone auctioneers.  
OWNERS: Carl and Betty Stultz Estate  
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE  
AC31800004  
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168  
260-729-2229  
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040  
260-726-5587  
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023 9:00 A.M.**  
LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 1/2 miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South.  
FARM TRACTORS—FARM EQUIP.—CONSTRUCTION EQUIP. —TRUCKS—TRAILER—VEHICLES—RIDING MOWERS—ATVS—ATTACHMENTS—MISC. NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL 5p.m. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023.  
Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad.  
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## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 TH, 2023 TIME 6:00 P.M.**  
LOCATED: 4579 W 200 N, Portland IN  
64 ACRES OFFERED IN TRACTS  
Tract 1: 3 Bedroom two story home containing 2376 square foot of living area. Home has central air and is in move-in condition. 55' x 44' Barn with lean-to and porch. Nicely situated on 5 acres. Tract 2: 59 acres practically all tillable in section 10 Greene Township, Jay County Indiana. Tract 3: Combination of tracts 1 and 2.  
OWNER: Chris Schwartz  
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE  
AC31800004  
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

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# PUBLIC AUCTION

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10:00 A.M.

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CR 11-10-2022

## Vaughn records a double-double

Alli Vaughn started the first two games at her new school. In the third, she started to find her rhythm.

The 2021 Fort Recovery grad contributed a double-double for the IU-East women's basketball team's 76-70 win at Northwestern Ohio.

Vaughn shot 6-10 from the floor and 0-1 from three to tally 14 points. She also knocked down two out of four shots at the stripe. She was the third leading scorer on her team following freshman Taylor Farris (27) and senior Kennedy Griffith (19).

Eight of Vaughn's points came in the third quarter to help the Red Wolves (2-1) secure the lead. She fouled out with 27 seconds left with a seven-point lead, but they held on to win.

The junior also had 11 rebounds, seven defensive and four offensive, three assists, three steals and one block to stuff the stat sheet.

### Lindy Wood Jay County — 2022

Finished 89th at the Crossroads League Championship Nov. 3 at Taylor University.

It took Wood 26 minutes, 14.4 seconds to run the course, beating 42 athletes.

She was the sixth runner from St. Francis University to cross the finish line, helping the Cougars to 170 points and a sixth place finish out of 10 teams.

Huntington's Anna Martin won the championship with a time of 21:52.3.

### Whitley Rammel FRHS — 2022

Played in a pair of losses for the East Tennessee State volleyball team

against Samford and Mercer late last week.

The sophomore had four kills and two blocks in a 25-21, 24-26, 25-23, 27-25 loss to Mercer. She didn't have any hitting errors on 10 attacks for a team-high .400 hitting percentage.

Rammel had three kills and three blocks for the Buccaneers (5-20, 5-9 Southern Conference) in the 25-18, 21-25, 25-27, 25-23, 19-17 loss to Samford.

### Eliza Bader Jay County — 2021

Swam the breaststroke as part of the 200-yard medley relay team that placed first for the Ball State women's swimming and diving team in a 171-119 win over IUPUI on Nov. 3.

Bader was the third-fastest leg of the relay, clocking in at 25.54 seconds as the team scored 11 points with a one minute, 45.1 second finish.

She also swam as a non-competitor in the 100 backstroke, 100 butterfly and 400 freestyle relay.

Bader swam four events in a 160-140 win over Eastern Michigan Nov. 4. She placed sixth in the 100 butterfly (1:00.51) and was the second leg of the fourth-place 200 freestyle relay (1:38.43). She also swam in the 400 medley relay and the 50 freestyle.

### Renna Schwieterman Jay County — 2023

Got on the floor for seven minutes of the Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team's 80-61 loss at Michigan on Monday.

Schwieterman had one attempt from the field, a three pointer that missed with 5:08 left. She also had two turnovers.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Double down

Fort Recovery High School junior Karlie Niekamp posts up two feet outside of the lane as a pair of freshmen, Sophia Guggenbiller (left) and Madie Schoenlein (right), double team her during practice on Wednesday. The Indians will host Russia for a scrimmage on Saturday before their season kicks off on Nov. 24.

## The Commercial Review

# Thanksgiving

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## Michigan's attorneys file response to Big Ten

By ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS

The Detroit News Tribune News Service

University of Michigan lawyers and lawyers representing Michigan football coach Jim Harbaugh filed separate responses to the Big Ten on Wednesday afternoon after receiving a notice of potential disciplinary action under the league's Sportsmanship Policy last Saturday, two sources confirmed to The Detroit News.

The sources requested anonymity because they could not speak publicly about the process.

Now, the next move belongs to Big Ten commissioner Tony Petitti.

Petitti is expected to respond Thursday, but it is unknown what penalties, if any, he might choose to levy against Michigan and Harbaugh in response to an ongoing NCAA investigation into an alleged illegal sign-stealing scheme

within the Michigan football program. Connor Stallions, a former analyst on the football staff, is at the center of the investigation and last Friday resigned. He had been placed on paid suspension on Oct. 20, a day after Yahoo Sports broke the story of the allegations.

The commissioner faced increased pressure from separate video calls last week with Big Ten coaches and athletic directors who reportedly demanded action against Harbaugh in light of the sign-stealing allegations. In-game sign stealing is legal, but Stallions allegedly purchased tickets to multiple games and had various individuals record future Michigan opponents, which is illegal. Petitti met last Friday with University of Michigan president Santa Ono, who in a letter sent to Petitti before the meeting made clear

there should be due process.

In the university's response to the Big Ten obtained by Yahoo Sports, it argues there is no threat to sportsmanship or competitive balance that would require suspending Harbaugh. Michigan, No. 3 in the College Football Playoff rankings, has three remaining regular-season games and is preparing this week to play at No. 10 Penn State on Saturday.

"We are not aware of any evidence or allegation suggestion that violations are ongoing now that Stallions is no longer part of the football program," the university response said, according to a Yahoo Sports report. "Absent such evidence, there is no discernible reason for cutting short an investigation or refusing to provide due process."

See Response page 7

## Former Colt dies at 41

By JOSEPH WILKINSON

New York Daily News Tribune News Service

Matt Ulrich, a former NFL player who was on the Indianapolis Colts' Super Bowl XLI winning team, has died at age 41.

"I am heartbroken to hear of the passing of Matt Ulrich," Colts owner Jim Irsay wrote Wednesday on Twitter. "Matt was with us only two seasons, but left his mark on many. Great guy, I hear he was a great dad — and he was a Super Bowl champ. My prayers to his family."

Ulrich's cause of death was not immediately revealed. An online fundraiser was created for his family.

"My heart is broken," wrote Trai Essex, Ulrich's college teammate at Northwestern. "My lineman brother. My NU brother. One of the best hearts you could ever hope to be around. Helped me to become the player I became."

Ulrich was a high school standout at Streamwood High in Illinois and attended Northwestern, becoming a team captain during his 2004 senior season. Ulrich went undrafted in 2005 but signed with

the Colts and made the team out of training camp.

Across two seasons with the team, including the Super Bowl run after the 2006 season, Ulrich appeared in 10 games for the Colts as an offensive guard. His last game on an NFL roster was Super Bowl XLI, when the Colts beat the Chicago Bears, 29-17.

"I had to remind myself to take one moment for myself — it was good advice I got from someone that if you do win it, take that last moment to look back at the tunnel and just look at the scoreboard, look at the field, and just know you're at the pinnacle of sports," Ulrich told Montana Sports in 2019.

After his NFL career ended, Ulrich moved to Bozeman, Mont., with his wife, Alison. They had four kids together. Ulrich worked for Profitable Ideas Exchange, a professional development company in Bozeman. He was also a player advisor on the Harvard Football Players Health study, an ongoing medical examination of former NFL players after they leave the league.