

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

County ruled at no fault

Heart disease contributed to death of inmate

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A Jay County Jail inmate's death has been ruled as no fault of the county.

Results from several toxicology tests following the November death of Kevin T. Whitted, then an occupant at the jail, indicated his death resulted from hypertensive cardiovascular disease and chronic substance use.

Jay County coroner Michael Brewster confirmed the test results arrived Wednesday, just over two months after Whitted's death.

According to a press release from Indiana State Police, he was being held alone in a padded cell at Jay County Jail and monitored via surveillance video. Jail staff noticed him fall forward about 7:22 a.m. Nov. 20 and they called Jay Emergency Medical Service and performed CPR on him.

Whitted was transported to IU Health Jay, where he was later pronounced dead. At the time, Indiana State Police said in the press release that Whitted's death had been suspected to be the result of a medical condition related to drug addiction withdrawal symptoms. According to Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton, Whitted had been getting treatment for his symptoms. Newton called Indiana State Police to investigate the case.

An autopsy was conducted Nov. 21. Several tests were conducted in the last few months and shipped to National Medical Services (NMS) Labs. (On average, results are typically received between four and six weeks.)

Whitted's criminal history includes several charges related to drug possession, specifically narcotic drugs, and driving offenses. Last year, he pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court, and was sentenced to 16 months in Indiana Department of Correction. He was being held at the jail until he could be transported to prison to serve his sentence.

Continuing the conversation



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition led a community forum about recovery housing Wednesday. Pictured above, a large crowd gathered in the room at IU Health Jay. Several local residents wore t-shirts bearing the words "no more stigma, no more shame." Other folks from other counties also attended, including representatives from Hope House in Marion.

Forum offers info on recovery housing

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Ask questions, and keep having conversations.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition led a community forum Wednesday about plans for recovery housing.

Jay County Opioid Settlement Taskforce has been looking into potential locations for a sober living facility for months. In December, the group preliminarily selected a house in Redkey, and Jay County Commissioners approved a \$35,000 request from National Opioid Settlement dollars to conduct a feasibility study on the home and put down earnest money. After backlash from Redkey residents, who noted a lack of amenities and resources as well as safety concerns in their town, commissioners rescinded the funding. In response, the task force pulled its offer on the house and is now looking elsewhere.

Local residents and task force members met



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jake Martz, a prevention leader at Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition pictured above, has been sober for 13 years from methamphetamine. Martz talked about the recovery process for residents in Jay County, saying it isn't ideal currently. "We've got to do something," he said.

Wednesday to continue dialogue about the project.

Plans

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition would

operate the facility for males, serving between 15 and 18 residents in a roughly 5,000-square-foot building. (The task force initially chose the Redkey home because of its price

and square footage, although it visited six other locations throughout the county.) There would also be one employee working at the facility at all times.

New residents would have their rent supplemented by Recovery Works dollars through Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. Once employed, residents would begin paying rent.

Residents would be vetted before being accepted. Rules for the sober living facility are still in the works, although plans are for residents to follow a structured schedule. They'd also have links to services, such as health treatment, life skill training or spiritual guidance, as well as employers.

Answering a question from Redkey resident

Mark Leavell about how the facility will handle relapses or residents causing issues, Reynolds noted some places will evict residents immediately, some vote on the matter and others work with the individual to get them treatment.

After a new potential location has been selected, the task force will need to conduct a feasibility study on the property to find out if it is viable. There are currently no offers on the table or a projected completion date.

Presentations

A few representatives gave informational presentations Wednesday.

Several of Jay County's statistics are significantly above the state average for drug use, noted Reynolds, such as for opioid-involved opioid deaths, non-fatal emergency department visits related to opioids and heroin and methamphetamine treatment rates.

See **Conversation** page 2

Jay unemployment rate dropped to 2.6%

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The unemployment rate dropped significantly last month. The state ranking improved a bit as well.

According to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released Wednesday, Jay County was tied for the 44th-lowest unemployment rate in the state in December at 2.6%.

The local rate dropped by 0.7 percentage points from November. It was up 0.2 percentage points from December 2022.

Jay County had been in among the counties with lower unemployment rates in Indiana, com-

County was tied for the 44th-lowest mark in state

ing in at 30th-lowest in August and 27th-lowest in October. It had climbed to 34th-highest in the state in November before dropping back again last month. It was tied with Allen, Clark, Marshall, Parke, Vanderburgh and Washington counties.

Unemployment trended down last month, with every county

adjacent to Jay seeing a decline of at least 0.4 percentage points. The state rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 2.8%.

"As core inflation abates and the economy normalizes, Indiana remains in a strong economic position," said department of workforce development commissioner Richard Paulk in a press

release Tuesday. "Private employment grew throughout the year and the Department of Workforce Development continues to partner with employers and our regional offices in connecting talent to jobs and providing necessary training to meet the state's employment needs."

Daviess County continued its strong run as its unemployment rate dropped to 1.9%. Clinton and Dubois counties were next at 2%.

Howard County had by far the highest unemployment rate in Indiana at 6.4%. Lake County was next at 4.7%, and every other county in the state came in at lower than 4%.

Area rates are as follows:

Adams County: 2.4%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for 14th-lowest

Blackford County: 3.3%, down 0.7 percentage points, tied for ninth-highest

Delaware County: 3.2%, down 0.8 percentage points, tied for 14th-highest

Jay County: 2.6%, down 0.7 percentage points, tied for 44th-lowest

Randolph County: 2.8%, down 0.5 percentage points, tied for 32nd-highest

Wells County: 2.4%, down 0.4 percentage points, tied for 24th-lowest

Deaths

Barbara Elzey, 63, Eaton
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 50 degrees Wednesday. The low was 41.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 30s. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the mid 40s and a chance of rain in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Pennville Town Council has scheduled a special meeting for 6 p.m. tonight at town hall, 105 N. Washington St. The meeting is being held to discuss the replacement of the water and sewage superintendent.

Coming up

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

Tuesday — Results from the boys wrestling sectional tournament at Jay County.



Conversation ...

Continued from page 1
In 2023, seven individuals — they had been recently released from Jay County Jail — died from overdoses. (One overdose death happened within 12 hours, and another occurred within two days.)

Currently there are 22 Jay County Jail inmates charged with drug-related crimes, continued Reynolds. Fourteen of those charged are men. A majority of them have multiple charges, scaling to as many as nine separate drug charges for a total of 50 charges among the men.

Individuals who have been through a recovery residence program have a 20% better chance of sobriety, she later noted.

“Recovery homes are safe places for individuals to come who want recovery,” said Reynolds.

Cassie Alexander, a licensed clinical social worker and addictions counselor with IU Health Jay, talked about the impact trauma can have on a child and how it can affect their adulthood.

“When trauma occurs earlier

in life, the risk for substance use increases,” she explained. “The more trauma a person has, the more likely they’re to develop a substance use disorder or to struggle with substances.”

Approximately 63% of substance use cases can be attributed to adverse childhood experience, such as verbal, physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence, parental mental health or substance use issues, neglect of basic needs, parental incarceration or divorce. Trauma leaves individuals 40% more likely to struggle with anger and 80% more likely to engage in inter-partner violence, she added.

“Sometimes, when we think about growing up in that kind of situation, we’re not really learning healthy coping skills,” said Alexander. “A lot of the individuals that I work with really struggle with just learning how to deal with life, right? It’s not even just the bad emotions, but it’s also the good ones.”

Jake Martz, a youth life coach and drug prevention leader with Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, is a Marion resident in long-term recovery. Now 13

years sober from using methamphetamine, he likened addiction recovery in the Jay community to frogs in a dirty pond.

“You take the frog out, you clean him off, and then where do you put him?” asked Martz. “What happens when he gets back in the pond? He gets dirty again. Why would we expect that frog to be clean? It was our choice to put the frog back into a dirty pond. So a recovery home is just another way that we can work on making the pond clean.”

He noted concerns from Redkey residents, specifically those shared in a letter to the editor published in The Commercial Review on Jan. 16 about a lack of amenities in Redkey.

“We’ve all been touched, in one way or another, in this community by the effects of substance use,” continued Martz. “Because it exists here. But the solution doesn’t.”

Living in a community with less than ideal conditions for substance use is the reality many deal with, added Martz.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition meets monthly to dis-

cuss barriers for recovery, he explained. The main concern voiced at those meetings is a “lack of sober living environments” in Jay County.

Martz pointed to an example of a solution for a portion of the population that has existed in a residential area of Portland since 1978. The organization, he said, offers a safe place for at-risk individuals to practice coping strategies, detox from active substance use, learn social skills, discover how to make better choices and integrate back into society.

“For 26 years, the Youth Service Bureau has been in operation right in our backyard, and it’s successful,” he revealed, drawing a few exclamations from the crowd. “The model works, and it’s proven to be effective.”

That same model is used for adult sober living facilities, he added. The difference — the youth don’t have a choice in whether they live there.

But without a current place in Jay County for adults, Alexander noted later, once individuals turn 18, they no longer have that safe space.

That’s why a recovery residence has been proposed.

Reynolds pointed out residents are welcome to join the task force or attend monthly Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition meetings. (Currently, the task force meets at 4:30 p.m. Mondays at the coalition’s office in Portland as needed, and the coalition meets at noon the second Monday of the month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place.)

Rob Weaver of WPGW Radio said it’s likely wherever the recovery residence is placed, folks will be “all in an uproar,” and he asked how Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition plans to handle backlash.






Martz sympathized with those concerned about a new facility coming to the neighborhood, noting potential changes with property values and other aspects.

“I think the response is valid, I think we’re going to get it wherever we go,” he said.

He added conversation about the matter will be crucial moving forward.

“That’s really what needs to happen,” he said.

CR almanac

Saturday 1/27	Sunday 1/28	Monday 1/29	Tuesday 1/30	Wednesday 1/31
				
44/34	38/30	36/29	40/31	44/32
Saturday's forecast shows a 30% chance of rain Saturday, when the low will be around 34 degrees.	There's a 40% chance of snow and rain on Sunday, when the high will be 38 degrees.	Mostly cloudy skies on Monday. The low will be around 29 degrees at night.	Tuesday's forecast will also be mostly cloudy with a high of 40 degrees.	Mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday with a high of 44 degrees. The low at night will be 32.

Lotteries

Powerball 1-5-32-50-64 Power Ball: 8 Power Play: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$164 million	Daily Four: 5-3-6-7 Quick Draw: 9-10-11-15-16-17-19-21-23-33-38-39-43-48-51-57-61-62-74-80 Cash 5: 21-22-34-40-41 Estimated jackpot: \$173,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$285 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 2-1-1 Pick 4: 4-8-4-1 Pick 5: 8-3-4-0-2 Evening Pick 3: 6-1-9 Pick 4: 6-4-6-4 Pick 5: 9-5-6-4-8 Rolling Cash: 3-5-11-24-37 Estimated jackpot: \$167,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 7-9-0 Daily Four: 2-6-8-0 Quick Draw: 11-16-18-23-26-30-31-37-38-39-46-47-51-53-58-59-61-62-76-77 Evening Daily Three: 3-8-1	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.57 Feb. corn.....4.57 Wheat5.32	Feb. beans12.07 Wheat5.72
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.55 Feb. corn4.50 March corn4.50	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.30 Feb. corn4.32 Beans12.05 Feb. beans12.05 Wheat5.67
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.40 Feb. corn4.40 Beans11.97	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 March corn4.42 Beans11.84 Feb. beans11.84 Wheat5.32

Today in history

In 1654, Portugal issued a decree that Dutch and Jewish settlers had three months to leave Brazil. About 150 Jewish families fled, with 23 refugees eventually establishing the first Jewish community in New Amsterdam.

In 2005, Jay County Hospital Board approved a one-year contract with Cardinal Health System for pharmacy management services after it was determined that the service being provided by Pharmacy Systems Inc. was unsatisfactory.

In 1654, Portugal issued a decree that Dutch and Jewish settlers had three months to leave Brazil. About 150 Jewish families fled, with 23 refugees eventually establishing the first Jewish community in New Amsterdam.

In 2020, former Los Angeles Lakers player Kobe Bryant, along with his daughter and others, died in a helicopter crash. He was 41. Bryant won five NBA championships with the Lakers.

In 2022, Jay County remained rated “red” (extreme risk for the spread of coronavirus) in Indiana State Department of Health’s update after setting consecutive single-day records for new cases with 49 on Jan. 19, 53 on Jan. 20 and 70 on Jan. 21.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Friday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, city mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.
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Obituaries

Barbara Elzey

Jan. 3, 1961-Jan. 23, 2024

Barbara Ann Elzey, age 63, of Eaton, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at her residence.

She was born in Portland on Jan. 3, 1961, the daughter of Veryl and Claribel (Stanton) Elzey. Barbara had worked for Meridian Foods in Eaton and Peyton’s in Bluffton. She enjoyed doing crafts.

Surviving are one son, Robert Bunch (wife: April) of Pennville; and one daughter, Leigh Cooley (Danny

Stocker) of Portland; two brothers, Carl Elzey of Hartford City and Kevin Elzey Sr. of Andrews; and four grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Judith Fausett.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 26, from 11 to 11:45 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with graveside services in the Gravel Hill Cemetery west of Bryant to follow.



Elzey

Memorials can be made to Baird-Freeman Funeral Home to help with the services.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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.

Capsule Reports

Bridge awarded

The bridge that was removed on the east side of Portland in 2023 received a recent award.

The “Big Blue Bridge” on Water Street (Indiana 26) over the Salamonie River on the east side of Portland won the 2023 Bridgehunter Award for Bridge of the Year. It also finished third in the Endangered T.R.U.S.S. Efforts category

The Bridgehunter Awards are part of the online column The Bridgehunter Chronicles, which focuses on “historic bridges in the USA, Europe and elsewhere that tourists should visit before they are replaced or removed.” It is written predominantly by Jason D. Smith at bridgehunter-chronicles.wordpress.com.

Portland’s bridge received 119 votes in the Bridge of the Year category,

with Oneida and Western Rail-to-Trail Bridge in Huntsville, Tennessee, second with 25.

Recycling available

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Health bills move forward

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Lawmakers moved several meaty health care bills forward Wednesday, though many have a fiscal component that will trigger additional scrutiny.

Many supporters and advocates saw two bills heard before the Senate health committee as companion bills, with one funding seed money for communities to start programs and another aimed at sustaining those services.

Under Senate Bill 10, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, housed under the Family and Social Services Administration, would oversee the Community Cares Initiative Grant Pilot Program and its accompanying fund. But Senate Bill 142 would provide a mechanism for ongoing funding by requiring reimbursement for medical services for mobile integrated health.

Author Sen. Scott Baldin, R-Noblesville, said he saw Senate Bill 10 as a way to reduce public safety expenses by creating programs for non-emergency calls often routed to first responders. Communities could cater such offerings to address mental health, addiction, homelessness, elder care or maternity care deserts.

“Imagine a team of people — or one person in a very small community — whose sole job it is to be proactive instead of reactive. Whose sole job is to understand every single resource in your community, be it food insecurity, places to find food or housing, mental health,” Baldin said. “(This is) encouraging local communities to adopt this type of response by providing seed money and encouraging them to put their own money in

and sustain it for more than three years.”

Sens. Ed Charbonneau and Mike Crider, both members of the committee, said they saw this bill as a continuation of their 2023 legislative efforts to reform public health funding and 988 crisis line funding, respectively.

Several mayors testified in support of the bill, pointing to how their community could use the funding to redirect 911 calls to other services or connect with residents before a mental health crisis.

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, who approached Baldwin with the idea for the legislation, said his community’s program launched just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic surged in early 2020.

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This story has been edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

SERVICES

Today

Elzey, Barbara: noon, Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

McBeth, Judy: 5 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Sunday

Liechty, Tab: 2:30 p.m. Bridge Community Church South Campus, 406 E. Parr Road.

Christian, Lois: 4 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Service listings provided by

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Students named to honor roll

Fort Recovery High School recently released its second quarter honor roll.

Making the list with all A's were seniors Myah Breen, Natalie Brunswick, Chloe Bubb, Alex Dues, Megan Evers, Gavin Faller, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube, Paige Guggenbiller, Trevor Heitkamp, Troy Homan, Addy Jenkins, Autumn Jutte, Abby Keller, Saige Leuthold, Rex Leverette, Mara Pearson, Matthew Romer, Riggs Tobe and Ellie Will.

On the list with all A's and B's were seniors Wes Bechtol, Clayton Bertke, Drew Bihn, Katie Bruns, Kenadie Ervin, Alex Evers, Reece Evers, Holli Fortman, Kensey Gaerke, Jenna Hart, Liz Hartings, Lydia Kahlig, Ella Kremer, Drew Langenkamp, Brett Lauber, Jose Martinez, Olivia Smith, Brynn Stammen, Britney Tebbe and Ella Westgerdes.

Named to the list for having all A's were juniors Samantha Brackman, Mason Diller, Evan

Evers, Marlee Fiely, Ava Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Kyle Huntsman, Joelle Kaup, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen and Emma Will.

Juniors on the list with all A's and B's were Drew Backs, Alivia Bergman, Layla Bihn, Madison Bihn, Nicole Braun, Tucker Brockman, Calleigh Crabtree, Brennan Dues, Cassidy Dues, Ava Englehardt, Gavin Evers, Sarah Fritz, Riley

Grieshop, Caden Grisez, Brooke Hart, Ethan Hartnagel, Eva Kahlig, Cody Klenke, Gabe Knapke, Lindsey Knapke, Emily Lauber, Nevaeh Lennartz, Norah Meyer, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Briggs Overman, Kylie Post, Olivia Rammel, Bella Taft, Victoria Tchelidze, Reid Timmerman, Eowyn Vela and Mara Wenning.

Sophomores and freshmen making the honor roll will be published at a later date.

Indiana sheriffs award students

Indiana Sheriffs' Association is awarding college scholarships to qualified high school seniors or college students pursuing a degree in criminal justice studies.

Jay County sheriff Ray Newton announced the group is accepting applications for the \$750 scholarships, which will be given to 40 students.

To qualify, applicants must live in Indiana, be a current member of the association or a dependent or grandchild of a member; attend an Indiana college or university, major in a law enforcement field and enroll as a full-time (12 credit hours) student.

Applications are available from Jay County High School or Jay County Sheriff's Office, or online at indianasheriffs.org. The deadline to apply is April 1.

Births

Frazee

Emerson Blair, a son, was born Jan. 5 at St. Vincent Randolph to Erika and Kyle Frazee of Portland.

He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

Grandparents are Darold and Mindy Eason of Portland and Rob and Bonita Frazee of Portland. Great-grandparents are Marvin Baldwin of Portland, Wanda Hall of Portland, Sue Frazee of Portland and Reverend Wallace and Mae Eason of Muncie.

Stepson's past crimes are too much

DEAR ABBY: My 30-year-old stepson, "David," is a convicted sex offender; currently serving a 15-year sentence for possession of child pornography and having inappropriate conversations with a preteen that almost went further. This was his third arrest for the same thing. David is also mildly autistic.

I am beside myself. Because of David's autism, his family looks the other way about his crimes. They all send him money, call him, buy him things, etc. I have kids of my own, and, frankly, the whole situation makes me want to vomit. I hide how I feel and try to be there for my husband because he loves his son, and it pains him to see David in prison. He also has been wonderful to my kids and raised them like his own.

I'm dreading what is going to happen when David is out of prison. He has nowhere to go, and I know he's going to want to live with us. I am 1,000% against this, and I truly believe it could happen again.

My kids will be adults soon and away at college when he's released, so I can't use that as an excuse for him not to live with us. I also don't want my home address on the sex offender registry. The street where

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are part of a three-couple group who enjoy dining out as well as entertaining in our homes. However, while my wife and I and one other couple serve as hosts, the third never invites us into their home. They often suggest a menu or an occasion for us or the other couple to serve when we host.

This has gone on for at least five years. Both wives (who do most of the work for whatever in-home event there is) don't seem bothered by it, but it irks me. Is there a way to kindly suggest the third couple host without causing a problem? — FAIR IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR FAIR: There can be several reasons why people behave as this couple does. They may not be confident in their cooking skills or the appearance of their home. However, they SHOULD attempt to make up for it in other ways such as offering to bring food or beverages, or by doing the cleanup after the dinners. I see nothing wrong with asking the couple the reason for their reluctance, as long as it is done privately.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for three years.

In that time, he has refused to step up. He shows up late for work 90% of the time, and sometimes doesn't show up at all. He has been fired because of his behavior. He does what he wants with no regard for others, although he says he feels bad about hurting people when he does.

I do a lot for him, and I feel like he doesn't appreciate anything or even acknowledge it. He recognizes that he needs to step up, but refuses to put in the effort. For Christmas, he bought me earrings. The earrings were cute, but I don't have pierced ears, and I feel it's a detail he should have known after three years. Am I wrong for feeling like I should return the favor and stop putting in effort? — FATIGUED IN UTAH

DEAR FATIGUED: Let me put it this way: You are wrong for not telling your husband of three years that you are tired of him not pulling his weight and of his self-centeredness and lack of appreciation for you. Express those feelings. Be glad you haven't had a child with him. If he doesn't start turning over a new leaf, start "reconsidering" your marriage, unless you want this to be your future.

I live is full of children. What can I do?

I don't want to lose my husband over this. I love him with all my heart, which is why I can't tell him how I feel. Every time David speaks with his dad, he tells him he wishes he were home with him. Please help! — STEPMOM WHO'S DREADING IT

DEAR STEPMOM: It is time to have an honest talk with your husband about this. When a sex offender is released from prison, there are stipulations in place. One of them is being forbidden to live close to young, vulnerable children. Because your street is populated with them, David may not be ABLE to live with you. This is something you and your husband need to be communicating about as David's release draws nearer, because it will have an impact on your lives.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email 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 - BRI-

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

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United

Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

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

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

Tuesday

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER

SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

A BETTER LIFE - BIANNA'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.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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IT'S ALL UP TO YOU ...

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

The Graphic Printing Company is bringing back its People's Choice special section after its debut in The Commercial Review last year and now expanding it to include our publications in Randolph and Blackford counties. This special section gives you, our readers, the opportunity to recognize your favorites.

Here's the concept:
For the next few weeks you vote for your favorites in a variety of categories. We tally the votes.

The winners in each category will be listed in a special section to run next month, along with other top vote-getters. The winners of the "Best Overall" category will be featured in the special section. Eligibility is limited to those in The Graphic Printing Company's coverage area, which includes all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, as well as portions of the adjacent counties including Fort Recovery and Geneva.

The Categories

Best Overall

- Antique shop
- Appliance sales
- Auto parts store
- Auto service and repair
- Bank/credit union
- Boutique/clothing
- Car dealership
- Chiropractor
- Coffee spot
- Community Event
- Construction
- Convenience store
- Daycare facilities
- Doctor
- Dentists
- Entertainment option
- Farm implement sales
- Financial advisor
- Florist
- Funeral home
- Furniture
- Gas station
- Greenhouse
- Gym
- Hair salon/barber
- Hardware store
- Home Improvement
- Industry
- Insurance
- Landscaping
- Law office
- Nail salon
- New business
- Non-profit organization
- Park
- Photographer
- Pizza
- Real estate and auction
- Restaurant (non-pizza)
- Veterinarian and pet services
- Other (is there something that doesn't quite fit the above?)

To vote, visit thecr.com, winchesternews gazette.com or hartfordcitynewstimes.com and click on the "People's choice" link. (Rather than making this multiple choice, we are leaving each category open-ended. That leaves the voting up to you, the readers, and avoids the possibility that we might leave off an option that would be worthy of the winning vote.)

Deadline to vote is Jan. 31.
Winners will be acknowledged in a special section to run in late February.
Did we miss a category?
Let us know and we'll consider adding it to the list next year.

To advertise in People's Choice ...

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

Advertising options:
Six columns by 10.5 inches full color (limited availability): \$500
Six columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$300
Three columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$200
Three columns by 5 inches black and white: \$125
Three columns by 3 inches black and white: \$75

The game of chicken is ridiculous

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

With two funding bills passed just under the wire, the House under Speaker Mike Johnson has ensured that the federal government won't run out of operating funds until... March 1 and March 8, depending on the agency. His wacko right flank, predictably, was not happy.

We suppose it's better than the alternative of shutting the government down, in the same way that having a stale old bagel is technically better than having

Guest Editorial

nothing to eat. It's not going to really fix the underlying issue here and it's certainly not something to take a victory round over.

While some observers might be confused as to why Congress

is struggling mightily to do something relatively routine which is necessary for the government to continue operating, this befuddlement stems from a misunderstanding of the role of House Republicans as it exists now.

Despite their title, many of these legislators are not in that body to legislate, i.e. to engage in discussions and write legislation that will, in principle, improve their constituents' lives. They are there to wage culture war, burnish their personal image,

clash with ideological opponents and fundraise for both reelection and personal projects.

We don't mean to say that anybody in the House is apolitical, but there certainly are members who are, at the end of the day, committed to finding paths to passable bills and keeping the body as a functional organ of government. Their numbers are probably dwindling, and who can blame them?

The others have made it so that this goal is all but unreachable, a self-reinforcing cycle as

the body gets more and more dysfunctional. At this stage, it probably seems like an attractive prospect mainly if you don't intend to legislate.

So we'll carry on for another couple months with funded federal agencies, and then we'll have to play chicken once again with the lives of millions of federal workers, their families, and the innumerable people who rely on a multitude of government services seeming a distant concern to the people playing this game.

Lear's America is still out there

By SVANTE MYRICK
OtherWords

Today I'm grieving the loss of my friend Norman Lear.

Like millions of other TV viewers, I watched the Emmy Awards on January 15.

The show honored Norman, who died late last year, as the Hollywood legend that he was. He was also the most deeply principled and decent human I ever met.

Ours was an "odd couple" friendship: a Jewish man in his 102nd year and a Black millennial. We came together through the organization Norman founded 40 years ago, People For the American Way, which I now lead.

Putting his career on hold to start a social justice nonprofit was as unconventional for a major Hollywood player then as it would be now. But Norman did it because his vision of America was under assault by a surging far-right wing.

Norman's America is a place where a child of the Depression — whose father went to prison and who saw the worst of humanity while fighting Nazis in World War II — can hang onto a boundless optimism.

Norman always had faith in people to grow and change.

Norman's America is a place where our differences are interesting, but not as important as our common humanity. I remember how he believed that differences are fair game for debate — and definitely for humor. But they're less important than what we share.

Norman's America is about forward motion — he was known for saying of a project or a phase of life, "this is over, what's next?"

His America is a place where the promise of the next generation is nurtured by the ones before it — where the experience of elders isn't jealously guarded but generously shared.

Norman's America is a place where patriotism isn't a word we shy away from because it's been hijacked by authoritarians.

"I am a patriot," he wrote on his 99th birthday, "and I will not surrender that word to those who play to our worst impulses rather than our highest ideals."

He unabashedly named our organization after the "American Way," because it drove home

Svante Myrick



his belief that our multiracial, multigenerational, multifaith progressive values are the product of American history and the hope for its future.

To those who know of Norman only through his TV shows, his vision of America as a place where people ultimately will band together to do the right thing still comes through. Even in the 1970s, the most cynical of decades, Norman's ethos was anti-cynicism.

If his most famous curmudgeon, Archie Bunker, began an episode with an especially wrongheaded conviction, its grip was usually loosened by show's end.

The shows are good-hearted, not mean-spirited, even when tackling serious social problems.

This was the man himself. Before Norman passed, we worked together on an op-ed that started with the question: "What do a Jewish centenarian and Black millennial have in common?"

We knew that one of those things was the fact that some people in our country didn't see us as "true" Americans.

Norman reinforced my faith in what was more important: love of country and gratitude for opportunities to make a difference.

Many feelings are familiar in grief: sorrow, and sympathy for family. I also feel something a little more unusual. When a young person passes, we feel outrage at the loss of their potential. It's less common to say that about a centenarian, but with Norman it's true.

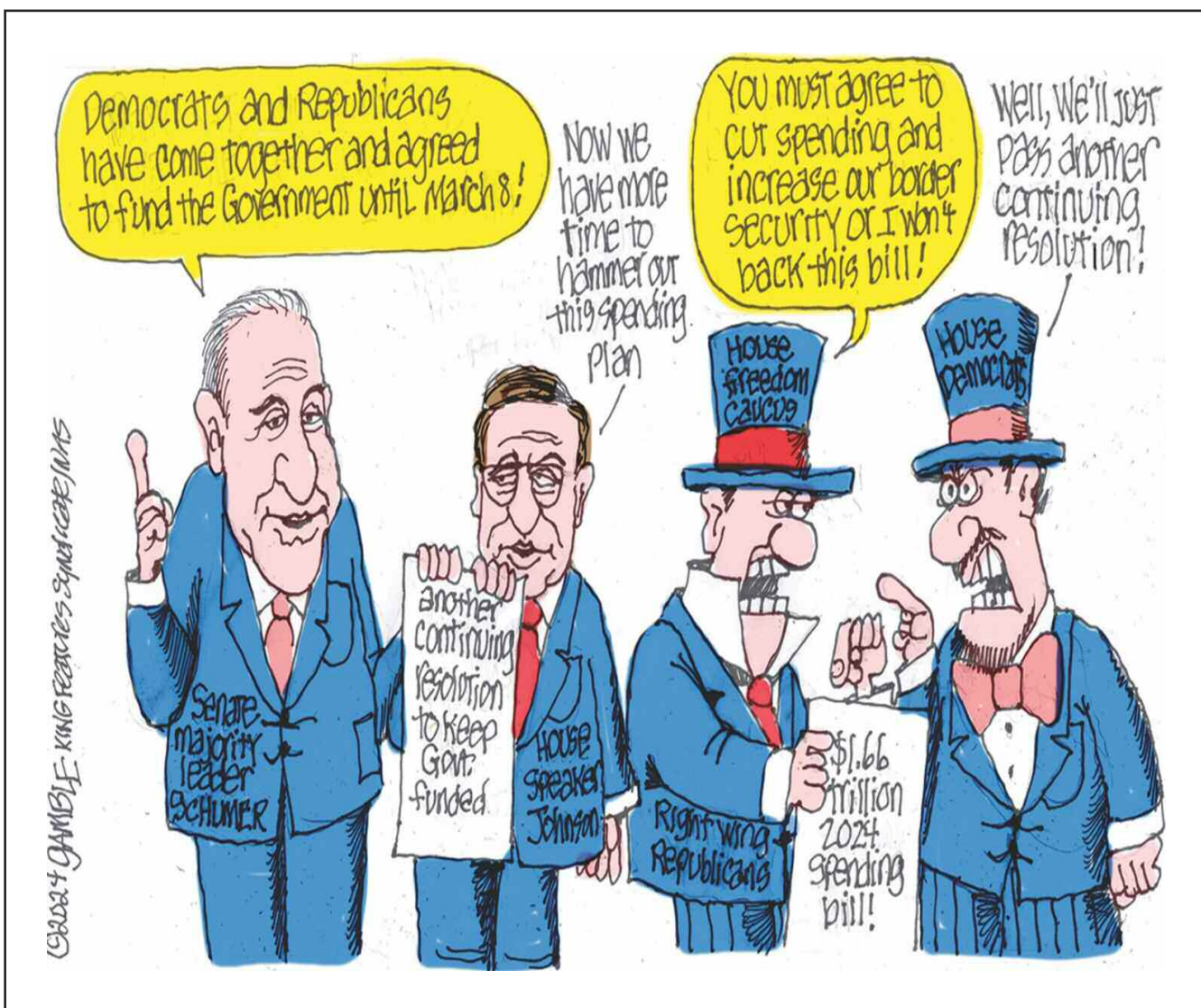
He still had so many irons in the fire, so much potential.

It would have been put to good use against challenges we have today: increasing political division, rising authoritarianism, religious bigotry. It's on all of us who loved this man and his vision of America to take up the mantle now.

Yes, I still believe in Norman Lear's America.

Myrick serves as President and CEO of People For the American Way.

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



Bill is critically important

By JAMIE RATNER RICH and JACOB MARKEY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

For the second legislative session in a row, the Indiana Jewish Community is asking the Indiana General Assembly to adopt, through legislation, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.

We believe passage of this bill, House Bill 1002, is a critically important step by the state to support Jewish Hoosiers and help identify and confront antisemitism that is resurgent across the country, particularly after the October 7, 2023 surprise attack by Hamas terrorists against Israel.

To date, 34 states, the U.S. Department of State, dozens of countries, over 1000 institutions around the world, and nearly 50 Jewish organizations and institutions in Indiana have endorsed this definition. Last year, a bill adopting the definition passed the Indiana House unanimously but stalled in the Senate.

As much as we believe this is a simple and reasonable action for the General Assembly to take, we understand that the bill has generated some misunderstandings that we would like to correct.

First and foremost, HB 1002 is not discriminatory in any way. It simply acknowledges a widely



Jamie Ratner Rich and Jacob Markey



recognized definition of antisemitism, which can often be hard to define based on certain circumstances. The bill places the definition into the education section of the Indiana code so that K-12 and university administrators can best respond to antisemitism when they see it. The bill also adds "religion" to the state's education anti-discrimination code in addition to the word creed — something that should be welcomed by everyone.

The Jewish community is not opposed to the state debating and adopting other definitions of discrimination that target other religious, cultural, or diverse communities — in fact, we would probably be the first in line to testify in support as we have always worked to support other communities — but we do not believe that every "phobia" or "ism" must always be lumped together.

There are times when the legislature should focus on and tackle a singular issue, giving it the full weight of its attention. With Hillel International showing that acts of anti-Jewish discrimi-

nation increased by 700% on college campuses in the month following the October 7 attacks compared to the previous year, we ask that this be one of those times.

Second, HB 1002 does not stifle free speech or prevent valid criticism of the State of Israel. Concerns of this nature are misplaced. The bill specifically states that the IHRA definition "does not include criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country." The confusion around this issue likely emanates from a list of examples of actions and statements that could, depending on the context, constitute antisemitism as provided by the IHRA on its website about the application of the definition.

These are just examples and are qualified by context. They are not included in the statutory language and are only meant to guide users of the working definition on application. Some of these examples should be obvious (e.g., calling for the harming of Jews), while others serve as guideposts for circumstances in which reason-

able criticisms of the state of Israel could stray into antisemitism (e.g. comparing Israeli policy to that of the Nazis or claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor). Discussions or criticism of Israeli foreign policy, policies vis-à-vis the Palestinians, or the Two-State Solution are completely valid, should be welcomed, and often happen within the Jewish community as much as they do any other religious, cultural, or academic community.

We are not indifferent to the concerns over this bill and will work with legislators and friends, to address them. But we also want Hoosiers to understand that while there is a level of nervousness about increasing antisemitism within the Jewish community, we are resolute in confronting it. We are standing together, and believe this is the time for the General Assembly to stand with us by passing HB 1002.

Ratner Rich is the President of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council.

Markey is the Executive Director of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council.

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

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—Thomas Jefferson

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From snack to science

Grant is bringing popcorn into the classroom

By LAUREN QUINN
University of Illinois

In a few years, popcorn could become a standard element in science classrooms across Illinois and the nation.

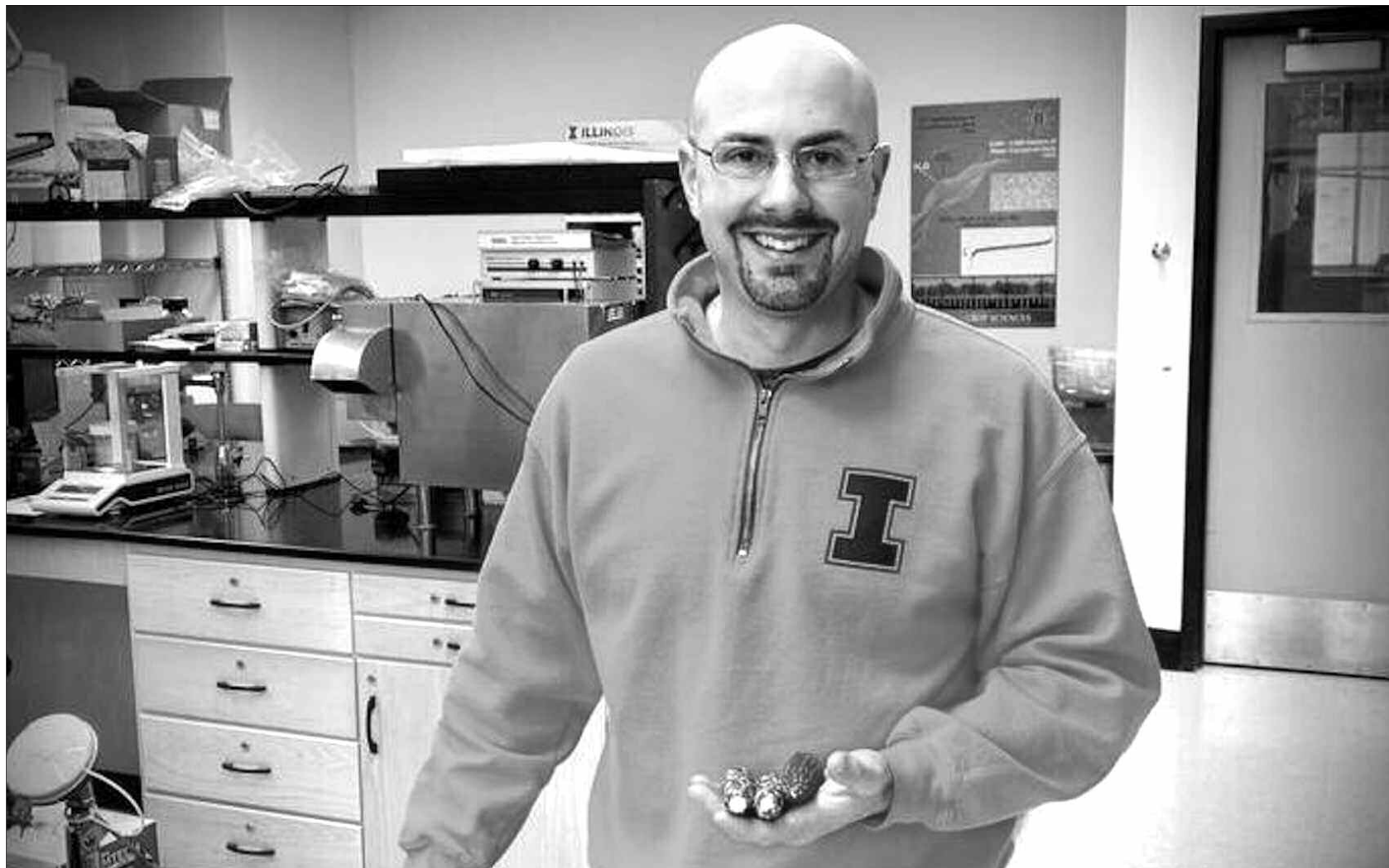
With funding from a new USDA grant, a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign crop scientist and collaborating educators are developing a popcorn-based curriculum to reinforce concepts around agricultural science, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, computer science, genomics, research methods, and more for 4-H and high school students.

The funding may be new, but Tony Studer has proselytized the power of popcorn to engage the younger generation for nearly a decade.

“Everybody knows popcorn, but students don’t typically think about where it comes from or how science is used to improve the food we eat,” said Studer, associate professor in the Department of Crop Sciences, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at U. of I. “Using popcorn to scaffold more complex science concepts keeps students more engaged because it’s already something they’re familiar with.”

Early versions of his “pop-omics” curriculum had students popping kernels from Studer’s popcorn breeding program, taking data and notes to link the appearance of unpopped and popped kernels. By tracking popping quality in the context of the popcorn’s genetic makeup, the students learned about genes, inheritance, and agronomic properties. And Studer obtained valuable data, which he used to inform his breeding program and develop even better popcorn.

The grant will expand the curriculum to include hands-on lessons on machine learning and artificial intelligence



University of Illinois/Lauren D. Quinn

Associate professor in the Department of Crop Sciences, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois, Tony Studer is among those using a new a new USDA grant to develop a popcorn-based curriculum to reinforce concepts around agricultural science, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, computer science, genomics, research methods for 4-H and high school students.

designed to meet Next-Generation Science Standards. Studer has partnered with faculty at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at U. of I. to develop an AI algorithm predicting popped characteristics from images of unpopped kernels.

“AI is the big thing. This would be a way for students to interact with an AI model in a very tangible way. And it will also change our internal breeding program. If I can throw down 10,000 kernels and have it pick the top 10% before I even grow them, that’d be amazing. It would change the way we do things,” Studer said. “But we don’t

know yet if the AI can beat students in the more labor-intensive process of evaluating kernels by hand. We’re excited to find out.”

Studer has already worked with teachers to implement programs in three Illinois high schools, and he intends to expand to ten or more by the end of the three-year grant period. But he sees the program taking off statewide and nationally in due time, as the project aims to develop a standardized Next Generation Science Storyline that can be delivered in any high school classroom without direct interaction with Studer’s lab.

“The curriculum we’re

writing will be open source, and we expect it to go national. I can only be in so many high schools, so we’re building in scalability,” he said. “We’re asking ourselves what experiences we can include so that more kids can be involved.”

Pop-omics got its start as an outreach activity for Illinois 4-H students, and that will continue under the new grant structure. Studer and collaborating teachers will test new curricular ideas with 4-H’ers, who tend to be more interested in agricultural programming.

“4-H students are super committed, and they’re a sharp group,” Studer said.

“If they’re not into something we come up with, it’s not going to float in a public high school general biology class.”

Studer will deploy 4-H special interest (SPIN) clubs and a summer academy at the U. of I. campus, adapting successful lessons for older, less agriculturally minded students.

The grant is also partnering with the Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program to create learning materials for elementary and middle school classrooms, with the hope of connecting with the national AITC program one day.

The overall goal of the grant is to increase science literacy, critical thinking, and acceptance of technology in today’s youth. But it’s also about protecting food security in an uncertain future.

“Future challenges to agriculture and food security can only be overcome if we educate young people. Few of today’s youth have a direct connection to agricultural production or agricultural education,” Studer said. “Without positive experiences in agricultural topics, students may be reluctant to explore educational opportunities or embrace science and technology vital to sustainably feeding a global population.”



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Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠4♥K53♦AKJ52♣QJ43
- ♠—♥Q964♦AKJ97♣AKJ2
- ♠5♥KJ♦AKJ85♣KQJ96
- ♠9♥K876♦AQJ742♣AQ

1. **Two hearts.** There is no perfect bid here; the best you can do is to raise partner and hope he has five hearts and the values to bid again. You are a trump short for the heart raise, but you have 14 high-card points and a singleton to compensate for the heart deficiency. You should therefore prefer the bid that is most apt to encourage partner to continue bidding.

Alternative bids are two clubs and two diamonds, but neither would reveal the heart support.

2. **Two spades.** You should welcome the opposing spade overall and take advantage of it by cuebidding the suit. This tells partner that game is certain and that slam is a strong possibility.

For practical purposes, all you need for a slam are five hearts to the K-J and a minor-suit queen. For a grand slam, you need little more than five hearts headed by the A-K. Even if partner attempts to sign off after your cuebid, you should consider going as high as five hearts in an effort to reach slam.

3. **Three clubs.** It would be risky to bid only two clubs, which is not forcing, so you must jump-shift to make sure partner bids again. Game in hearts, diamonds or clubs is highly likely, and you should let partner know, or you might find yourself left at the post.

True, partner might have a proper heart response and yet lack the values necessary for a game. However, it would be poor policy to allow such a pessimistic view to color your judgment. The odds greatly favor a game or slam, and it would be unwise to conceal this from partner.

4. **Four hearts.** Before you act, you should ask yourself how you would feel if you bid three hearts — which is not forcing — and partner passed. You would surely expect to make four and should therefore bid it to make certain of getting to game. An alternative to bidding four hearts, if you play "splitter bids," would be to jump to three spades, indicating heart support, enough points for game and a singleton or void in spades.

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

CRYPTOQUIP

PDKN PZAIJ TG NDG TGEN
EGKEZH VZQ VZIFE NZ AEG
NQKSOZIXHGE KHJ OZRZ

ENXWFE? EOQXHR NXSG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TOMORROW YOU MAY TAKE ME TO ANY RESTAURANT THAT YOU'D LIKE. WHERE YOU LEAD, I WILL SWALLOW.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals S

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Clear the tables
- 4 C&W artist
- 8 BTS genre
- 12 Little rascal
- 13 Algerian port
- 14 Prefix with dynamic
- 15 Traffic jam
- 17 Oboe brand
- 18 Pet food
- 19 British nobles
- 20 Wee
- 22 Seditment
- 24 Leak slowly
- 25 San Francisco
- 29 Fr. holy woman
- 30 Rock legend
- 31 Flamenco cheer

DOWN

- 1 Pen name
- 2 Actress
- 3 Wine-and-soda drink
- 4 Spacious
- 5 Blunders
- 6 Prohibit
- 7 Reply (Abbr.)
- 8 Dojo activity
- 9 Equal
- 10 Baseball's
- 11 Seed holders
- 16 Abhor
- 19 Right angles
- 20 Pear variety
- 21 Tiny bit
- 22 Blitzen's boss
- 23 Nile bird
- 25 "Misery" star
- 26 Cooks up
- 27 Landed
- 28 Some wines
- 30 Fast fliers
- 33 Madrid matron
- 34 Deserve
- 36 Not as many
- 37 Flair
- 38 Lyra's brightest star
- 39 Novelist
- 40 Circle dance
- 42 "East of Eden" brother
- 43 Chou En-
- 44 Sushi fish
- 45 Actor

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	O	R	A	R	C	P	S	A	S
R	A	R	E	N	T	H	E	U	R	O
A	N	A	G	N	E	E	T	R	I	P
B	Y	L	I	N	E	E	A	R	P	
M	A	M	E	T	B	E	A	I	O	U
T	R	A	N	H	I	S	I	S	L	E
S	I	R	B	O	Z	O	N	E	L	S
T	A	X	I	S	T	A	N	D	S	
T	R	A	S	I	D	I	O	M	S	
M	I	S	O	E	E	K	S	V	E	N
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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Max Klopfenstein swims the first leg of the 200-yard medley relay in the Patriots' double-dual Tuesday.

Harbaugh ...

Continued from page 8 Harbaugh's record at Michigan was 86-25, including 15-0 this season, when he led the Wolverines to their first national title since 1997. Michigan defeated Alabama in the Rose Bowl, the national semifinal game, and then rolled past Washington in the national championship game.

Michigan attempted to retain Harbaugh's services, offering him a new contract reportedly worth \$11.5 million per season over six seasons. The Wolverines had watched Harbaugh flirt with a return to the NFL over the past few seasons only for him to return to his alma mater each time.

This time, the Chargers got their man, the first coach the Spanos family has hired with previous head coaching experience in the NFL since Norv Turner replaced another veteran coach, Marty Shottenheimer, for the 2017 season. Staley, Anthony Lynn and Mike McCoy were each first-time head coaches.

Staley was the Rams' defensive coordinator when the Chargers hired him in 2021. The Chargers were 9-8 in Staley's first season, but they missed the playoffs when they lost to the Raiders in overtime in the regular-season finale. They were 10-7 in 2022, but blew a 27-0 lead in a wild-card loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars.

There was rampant speculation that Staley would be fired after the debacle in Jacksonville, but he returned for his third season amid hopes

that the Chargers' first playoff appearance since 2018 would be a springboard to a challenge to the Kansas City Chiefs' AFC West supremacy. It didn't happen.

The Chargers never clicked, especially defensively, which was supposed to be Staley's forte despite a college career as a quarterback. Staley and Telesco were fired after the Chargers gave a franchise-record 63 points to the Raiders and assistant Giff Smith served as interim coach for the final three games.

Staley was 24-24 during his Chargers tenure.

Telesco was hired by the Raiders on Tuesday to be their new GM.

At the end of the season, pundits and Las Vegas oddsmakers alike made Harbaugh the favorite to replace Staley, citing his past association with the Spanos family and the prospect of working with standout quarterback Justin Herbert — who will be playing for his fourth head coach and possibly his fourth offensive coordinator in five seasons. The Chargers' job was thought to be the most attractive of all the NFL openings, even though they have not won a division title since 2009.

Harbaugh also interviewed with the Atlanta Falcons last week and had booked a second interview with them.

But, ultimately, it was the Chargers who landed Harbaugh with a five-year deal, according to ESPN, giving him a chance to chase the Super Bowl championship that eluded

him when he and the 49ers lost to his brother John and the Baltimore Ravens in the Super Bowl following the 2012 season.

The brothers are scheduled to meet again next season at SoFi Stadium.

Harbaugh left Michigan after a season in which he was investigated by the NCAA for recruiting violations during the COVID-19 dead period and was suspended for the season's first three games by the university. The Big Ten then suspended him for the final three games because of a sign-stealing scheme.

Michigan athletic director Ward Manuel issued a statement after the Chargers made their announcement on Wednesday.

"Jim did exactly what he sought to do at Michigan, build our program to consistently win Big Ten championships and compete for national championships, culminating with a record three straight outright conference titles and the national championship this year. ...

"We appreciated Jim's dedication and passion for Michigan, the university and Ann Arbor, and I wish Jim and the entire Harbaugh family much success with the Los Angeles Chargers."

Years earlier, Harbaugh departed San Francisco for Michigan after a feud with then-GM Trent Baalke and team owner Jed York after word leaked that the 49ers had tried to trade Harbaugh to the Cleveland Browns. Harbaugh would later say "I didn't leave the 49ers. I

felt like the 49er hierarchy left me."

The Spanos family was not troubled by Harbaugh's recent and not-so-recent issues, however.

"Jim Harbaugh is football personified, and I can think of no one better to lead the Chargers forward," Dean Spanos, the team's owner, said in a statement.

Harbaugh will inherit a team in need of a culture change. The Chargers were 0-7 in games decided by three points or fewer this past season, tying the 1984 Houston Oilers for the worst mark since the merger. The Chargers finished the season with a 5-12 overall mark and were last in the AFC West.

The offense this past season regressed because of injuries at wide receiver and on the offensive line. Herbert broke the index finger on his right hand and missed the last four games, but even when he was at the helm, they were ranked 18th in total offense after six straight years of being in the top 11.

The defense was ranked 28th in the 32-team NFL, marking the first time since 1986 it has been ranked 20th or worse for three straight years.

Harbaugh and the new GM will have the fifth overall pick in April's draft, the fourth time since 2016 the Chargers have had a pick in the top seven. Only the New York Giants (six), New York Jets (five) and Jacksonville Jaguars (five) have had more. Nine GM candidates have interviewed so far.

Checkup ...

Continued from page 8 The JCHS graduate only scored 14 points in the five prior games. Despite her offensive struggles, she continued to contribute in other ways with nine rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Schwieterman now averages 6.9 points per game off the bench for her freshman campaign.

Olivia Patch FRHS — 2020

Scored two points in a 71-49 loss to Trevecca Nazarene on Jan. 11.

Patch also had seven

rebounds — six of which came on the offensive glass — and a block for the Hillsdale College women's basketball team in the loss.

The Fort Recovery graduate had four more rebounds and one block over three more games since Jan. 6. Patch didn't score in any of the games, all of which were wins — 71-62 over Tiffin, 69-60 over Thomas More and 71-61 over Malone.

She did not play in the Chargers' most recent game against Kentucky Wesleyan on Jan. 20.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) at Bluffton — 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball at Marion Local — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling sectional at Jay County — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshmen) vs. Blackford — 6:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming Mini Meet at Celina YMCA — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Franklin Monroe — 10 a.m.; Boys basketball at Mississinawa Valley — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today

5 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)
7 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at New York Rangers (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan State at Wisconsin (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Saint Joseph's at St. Bonaventure (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Stanford at Cal (ESPN2)
Saturday
3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas State at Houston (ESPN); Nebraska at Maryland (BTN); Georgia at Florida (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at Providence (FOX); Fordham at

Duquesne (USA)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Seton Hall at Marquette (FS1)
1:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas at Iowa State (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at Florida State (ESPN); Texas at BYU (ESPN2); Southern Illinois at Murray State (Bally Indiana)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Nebraska at Iowa (BTN)
3 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at New York Knicks (ABC)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Indiana at Illinois (FOX); Villanova at Butler (FS1)
4 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (CBS)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Clemson at Duke (ESPN); TCU at Baylor (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa at

Michigan (FS1)
5:30 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Denver Nuggets (ABC)
5:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona at Oregon (FOX)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kentucky at Arkansas (ESPN)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Creighton (FS1)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UMass Amherst at Saint Louis (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre Dame at UConn (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Northwestern (BTN)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Utah at

Washington (ESPN2); UNLV at San Jose State (FS1)

Local notes

Tryouts scheduled
Tryouts for A League of Our Own Independent Baseball League is hosting a tryout at the Mojo-Up Sports indoor Complex in Noblesville on Jan. 30. Anyone 19-years-old or older that is looking for the opportunity to continue playing baseball can try out.

The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days. To sign up or for more information on the league, visit www.aloo0247.com, call (205) 264-1468 or email 411@aloo0247.com.

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

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90 SALE CALENDAR	130 MISC. FOR SALE	190 FARMERS COLUMN	200 FOR RENT	250 PUBLIC NOTICE
<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC AUCTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY February 16TH, 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TIME 4:30 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W, Redkey IN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">296 ACRES - 10,000 HEAD HOG CONFINEMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">296 Acres offered in tracts and combinations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tract 1: 116 Acres in section 7 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 74.83 acres tillable balance being confinement buildings, shop buildings, house, and wooded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tract 2: 120 Acres in section 7 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 90 acres tillable balance being wooded and road frontage.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tract 3: 31 Acres in section 8 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 30.4 acres tillable balance being road frontage.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland Township, Jay County all tillable.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: For private showing phone auctioneers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COURT ORDERED AUCTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC31800004</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zane Shawver</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lic. #AU10500168</p> <p style="text-align: center;">260-729-2229</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pete D. Shawver</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lic. #AU19700040</p> <p style="text-align: center;">260-726-5587</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALUMINUM SHEETS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23"x30", .007 thick.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WANTED FARMLAND TO RENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4th Generation Geneva farmers looking for farmland to cash rent near Geneva/Bryant/Berne. You decide payment dates. Don't wait, last year we filled up. Call Steve at (419) 376-4456</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AG RENTAL Spreaders:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LEASE SPACE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Notice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY SUPERIOR COURT 2023 TERM Cause No. 38D01-2310-MF-000024 Jay County Christian Home Builders, Inc. Plaintiff vs. Eric R. Marshall, Sidney Marshall Eric R. Marshall as natural guardian of Breanna Marshall Mariner Finance, LLC, Heights Finance Corporation Defendants SHERIFF'S SALE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By virtue of a copy a default judgment directed to me from the Judge of the Jay Superior Court in this cause wherein Jay County Christian Home Builders, Inc. is Plaintiff and Eric R. Marshall, Sidney Marshall, Eric R. Marshall as natural guardian of Breanna Marshall, Mariner Finance, LLC and Heights Finance Corporation are the Defendants requiring me to make the total sum of \$49,766.64 with interest thereon from the date of the judgment at the legal rate and any costs of this sale, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on the 14th day of March, 2024 at 10:00 am on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse in Portland, Indiana the following described real estate: Lot numbered Twenty-three (23) in Block Numbered Thirty-four (34) in William G. Sutton's Addition to the Town, now City of Dunkirk For informational purposes only the above-described real estate is located at 243 E. Commerce St. in Dunkirk, Indiana 47336. This sale shall be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws and subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record. Immediately after the sale I will execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for the real estate and the Purchaser shall be placed in absolute possession of the real estate. Dated this 16th day of January, 2024 Larry R. Newton, Jr., Jay County Sheriff HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR Attorneys for Plaintiff 121 W. High Street Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8104 CR 1-19,26,2-2-2024 - HSPAXLP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">90 SALE CALENDAR</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">130 MISC. FOR SALE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">190 FARMERS COLUMN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">200 FOR RENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">250 PUBLIC NOTICE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Notice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: AMANDA BARGER vs. HAROLD PAYNE IN THE JAY SUPERIOR COURT CAUSE NO. 38D01-2303-CT-000005 SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF SUIT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be concerned: You are hereby notified that Harold Payne is being sued by Amanda Barger, in Jay Superior Court, State of Indiana. The title of the case as shown by the complaint is Amanda Barger vs. Harold Payne, Cause No. 38D01-2303-CT-000005.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The nature of the suit is a civil action wherein Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Damages demanding judgment for personal injuries and damages as a result of an incident which occurred on September 29, 2021. This summons by publication and notice is specifically directed to the defendant, Harold Payne, whose whereabouts are unknown. You must answer or otherwise respond to the complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 8th day of February, 2024 (the same being within thirty (30) days after the publication of the third Notice of Suit, the last such notice of this action), and in case you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiffs in the complaint. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising out of this occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiff's claims, you must assert it in your written answer. The name and address of the attorneys representing Plaintiff: Ken Nunn Law Office, 104 Franklin Road, Bloomington, Indiana 47404. Ryan D. Etter, #27832-49 KEN NUNN LAW OFFICE 104 South Franklin Road Bloomington, IN 47404 Phone: (812) 332-9451 Fax: (812) 331-6321 E-mail: ryane@kennunn.com ATTEST: Jon Eads Clerk of the Jay Superior Court CR 1-19,26,2-2-2024 - HSPAXLP</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Notice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2024 TERM Joan R. Bowen, Deceased No. 38C01-2401-EU-000003 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Fred Mann and Shirley Mann were, on the 12th day of January, 2024, appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Joan R. Bowen, deceased, who died on December 22, 2023. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 15th day of January, 2024. HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR 121 W. High Street Portland, IN 47371 Attorney Jon Eads Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana CR 1-19,26,2-2-2024 - HSPAXLP</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">250 PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Notice</p>		

READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

Sports

Chargers hire former Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh

By ELLIOTT TEAFORD
San Gabriel Valley Tribune
(California)
Tribune News Service

The Chargers finally lured Jim Harbaugh away from the University of Michigan to become their next coach, the team announced Wednesday. Harbaugh was one of 15 candidates the Chargers interviewed, but the only one they met with twice during a process that began Jan. 9.

News of the hiring came via several outlets citing unnamed sources earlier in the day, with the Chargers only posting on X (formerly Twitter) an image of white smoke coming from a stove pipe to indicate a hire had been made. They also posted, "WHO'S GOT IT BETTER THAN US?"

Later in the evening, the Chargers made a more formal announcement. "You don't build a resume like Jim's by accident, and you don't do it by yourself," John Spanos, the Chargers' president of football operations, said in a statement. "You need a team. And nobody has built a team more successfully, and repeatedly, in recent history than Jim Harbaugh. His former players swear by him, and his opponents swear at him. Jim is one of one, and we couldn't be more excited to have him back in the Chargers organization as our head coach."

Harbaugh was the most high-profile candidate to replace Brandon Staley, who was fired along with General Manager Tom Telesco on Dec. 15, one day after a humiliating 63-21 loss to the AFC West-rival Las Vegas Raiders. Harbaugh led Michigan to the national championship earlier this month.

In many ways, Harbaugh's return to the Chargers seemed like a natural fit and led to much speculation that he was their top candidate even as they cast a wide net in their coaching search. Harbaugh ended his 14-year NFL career with the Chargers during the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

"When I played for the Chargers, the Spanos family could not have been more gracious or more welcoming," Harbaugh said in a statement. "Being back here feels like home, and it's great to see that those things haven't changed. ... My priorities are faith, family and football, and we are going to attack each with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind. This organization is putting in the work — investing capital, building infrastructure and doing everything within its power to win."

"Great effort equals great results, and we're just getting started."

Harbaugh, 60, began his coaching career at the University of San Diego and then moved to Stanford before he was hired to coach the San Francisco 49ers in 2011. He coached the 49ers for four seasons and led them to the Super Bowl following the 2012 season.

But a rift with management paved the way for his departure to Michigan following an 8-8 record in the 2014 season. He departed the 49ers with a 44-19-1 record and then set about turning the Wolverines into national champions. It was a bumpy ride at times, including this season.

See Harbaugh page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Brasen's breaststroke

Jay County High School's Brasen Glassford swims the breaststroke in Tuesday's meet against Blackford and Muncie Burris. While the sophomore finished fifth in the breaststroke, he won the 1-meter diving competition by 11 points after setting a career best for the second meet in a row, scoring 167 total points.

FRHS gets start in recent game

Cale Rammel had a great season for the Indians as a senior at Fort Recovery High School last year.

As a college freshman, he has gotten off to another nice season.

The 2023 FRHS grad has put together a strong first half of his freshman campaign, highlighted by a career game on Jan. 9 against Indiana Southeast.

Rammel led the Ohio Christian men's basketball team to a 99-57 win over the Grenadiers with a team-high in rebounds and career-high in points while posting a double-double. He finished with 25 points and 10 rebounds while shooting 7-for-13

Collegiate checkup

(53.8%) from 3-point range.

Rammel scored in double digits three more times this season — including in the Trailblazers' most recent win, when he started against IU-East — to average 6.6 points on the year. He scored 12 points all three times.

The FRHS current career highs in other stats are 11 rebounds (Nov. 14), three steals

(Nov. 10), two assists (Jan. 18) and two blocks (Jan. 6).

Eliza Bader Jay County — 2021

Scored in all three of her events as the Ball State swim team picked up a win in the first match of the second semester.

The Cardinals took out Toledo 182-117 on Jan. 20, the first meet in over a month and a half.

Bader's top performance came in the 100-yard breaststroke. A time of 1 minute, 9.53 seconds earned the Jay County graduate third place and three points for Ball State.

In her other individual event, Bader swam a 2:36.79 to place

fifth for one point in the 200 breaststroke.

She also swam the second leg of the 400 freestyle relay team that captured third place (3:39.4).

Renna Schwieterman Jay County — 2023

Had a bounce-back game in a 26-point win at Chicago State on Tuesday.

Schwieterman scored 12 points, grabbed five rebounds, dished four assists and recorded one steal off the bench for the Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team in the 102-76 victory.

See Checkup page 7

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