

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Espresso pours into two cups at Fort Recovery's Grounded Cafe, which serves seasonal specialty beverages. This month, its Valentine's Day themed drinks are the Cupid's Mocha, Lavender Love and Honey Bee Latte.

Staying Grounded

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

It's all about staying grounded in your community.

That's what inspired the name of Fort Recovery's new drive-thru coffee shop.

Becca Wood, 23, opened Grounded Cafe at 118 N. Wayne St. in December. Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce celebrated with a ribbon cutting last month.

"I named it 'Grounded' because I just want to reflect that we're grounded in our faith, in our family, and our community," said Wood, noting the name is also a play on words with coffee grounds.

About two and a half years back, the 2019 Fort Recovery High School graduate decided she wanted to open a coffee shop. Her family helped get her dreams off the ground.

"We just decided that every town needs their own coffee shop and place of gathering," she said.

Grounded Cafe offers a variety of coffee prod-

ucts, such as cold brew and seasonal specialty lattes. This month's specials include Cupid's Mocha, a vanilla, cherry and chocolate espresso with milk and a cherry cold foam, Lavender Love, a vanilla, white chocolate and lavender espresso with milk, and Honey Bee Latte, a honey and cinnamon espresso with milk.

The cafe serves tea options too. They include english breakfast, earl grey, peppermint or lemon ginger, as well as chai and matcha. They've also got "bubble drinks," as Becca Wood calls them, which are similar to boba beverages with tapioca or jelly pearls.

Pastries are available daily. Judy Wood, Becca's mother, bakes the scones,

offering different flavors, such as maple pecan, apple cinnamon, blueberry lemon or banana walnut, depending on the day. The shop also started offering breakfast sandwiches on english muffins and plans are in the works to serve 'grab and go' lunch options — wraps, salads or soups — in the near future.

Grounded Cafe started as a pop-up shop, serving beverages out of a trailer for a little more than a year. Wood purchased the building along the brick section of Wayne Street in June. Beginning during the Fort Recovery Jubilee last year, she and her family removed and painted walls, added kitchen equipment and re-decorated.

See **Grounded** page 2

New drive-thru coffee shop is open in Fort Recovery



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Grounded Cafe recently opened in Fort Recovery. The drive-thru coffee shop owned by Becca Wood, pictured above pouring steamed milk into a latte, offers different beverages and pastries each morning.

Bills seek to set limits

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Among the bills awaiting additional action from Indiana lawmakers in the back half of the legislative session are two measures that seek to further limit inspection mandates for residential septic systems.

Republicans said the bills are meant to "clean up" and "clarify" existing state policy. But critics worry that fewer inspections could increase the number of failing septic systems in Indiana, threatening local communities and their water sources.

House Bill 1352, authored by Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne, follows up legislation passed during the 2023 session. The new bill ensures that inspections of septic systems are only allowed after installation if required by the manufacturer, requested by the owner, required by federal or another state law, or if there is a complaint filed with the health department.

A separate proposal, House Bill 1329, would prevent a local health department or other government entity from requiring inspections of a property's septic system when there is a sale or transfer of the property.

Bill author Rep. Jim Pressel, R-Rolling Prairie, said it "does not change" current policy but "makes it very clear that it doesn't matter what local ordinance it's in — they just cannot mandate any inspection as a condition of the sale."

"We're talking about government saying, as a condition to sell your property, we're going to require that you inspect your septic system," Pressel said. "Why don't we require a home inspection? I think that's also good — should government get in the business of that? Should government also inspect our cars before we trade those? I don't think that's government's role."

"That's the premise of what we did last year. This is not government's role, and it's totally up to you, the consumer, to do your due diligence," he continued. "If a bank wants to put this in place, the consumer has an option."

See **Limits** page 2

Commander killed in strike

By COURTNEY MCBRIDE
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. conducted an airstrike Wednesday evening that killed the commander of an Iran-backed militia in Iraq, as the Biden administration pressed ahead with its campaign to target those responsible for the killing of three U.S. soldiers last month.

The Kata'ib Hezbollah commander, whose name wasn't provided, was "responsible for directly planning and participating in attacks on U.S. forces in the region," U.S. Central Command said in a statement. It said there appeared to be no collateral damage and no civilian casualties as a result of the strike.

Asked whether the strike had

killed more than the commander cited by Central Command, a U.S. official, who asked not to be identified discussing sensitive information, said there may have been other people in the car that was hit, but he was the sole target.

Wednesday's killing followed large-scale airstrikes last week against Iranian and Iran-backed forces in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for a drone attack days before that killed three U.S. soldiers and wounded dozens more at Tower 22 in Jordan. U.S. officials had described those strikes as only the start of a campaign to degrade capabilities of the group responsible for the deaths of the U.S. service members.

The exchanges show the continuing risk of a widening Mid-

dle East conflict, even as the U.S. says it's trying to prevent that outcome. The U.S. has also targeted Iran-backed Houthi militants in a bid to make them stop attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea and has boosted its military presence in the region in the weeks since Hamas militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7.

So far, the Biden administration has declined to conduct attacks inside Iran, though its earlier airstrikes in Syria and Iraq targeted elements of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force. In 2020, the Trump administration ordered a drone strike that killed Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani while he was in Baghdad.



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Murtaja Lateef

People, rescuers and security forces gather around a vehicle hit by a drone strike, reportedly killing three people, including two leaders of a pro-Iran group, Wednesday in Baghdad. One of those killed was a commander of the Kata'ib Hezbollah militant group in charge of military affairs in Syria, a member of the pro-Iran Iraqi group told AFP.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Wednesday. The low was 25.

The forecast calls for lows in the upper 40s tonight with windy conditions and a 50% chance of rain. There is a slight chance of rain Saturday with a high in the low 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Newly filing to run for office in Jay County recently were Jennifer Langenkamp (Madison), Marla Lutes (Penn), Matt Goldsworth (Wayne 1), Chuck Huffman (Dunkirk 1), Harold Towell (Jackson) and Amy Schlichter (Penn), all for Republican precinct committeeman. Jared Blasdel, Amy Schlichter,

Chad Schlichter, Brian Hurt and Goldsworthy also filed to run for Republican convention delegate.

The deadline to file to run in the primary election was noon today.

For a final update on election filing, see Saturday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

Tuesday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team against Yorktown.



Grounded ...

Continued from page 1
While in the midst of outfitting the cafe in July, Wood's father, Jim, died.
"We worked and cried and worked and cried," recalled her mom.
Wood's uncle, Tom Wood, and her siblings helped her finish work at the cafe, which she remodeled to feel as if visitors were taking a trip outside of Mercer County all while in her

Fort Recovery shop. The theme draws from feminine speakeasy and victorian aspects, sticking mainly to pink, brown and white colors, also present in the checkered flooring.
The northern wall is decorated with floral wallpaper and soft pink paint with mirrors complemented by spherical lamps hanging from the brown ceiling. On the south wall,

there's a collection of paintings and ornate candelabras.
Prior to opening the cafe, Wood briefly attended Ball State University. She also spent time living in Columbus, Ohio.
"I always thought that I wanted to leave Fort Recovery and go to the city because they always have the cool restaurants, cool things," she said. "(When) I actually got there, I'm like, 'Oh, this isn't what I thought it

would be. I want to go back home.' So I'm like, 'I'll just bring that with me.'"
So far, Wood and her mom have enjoyed serving coffee. They've got five other employees helping out at the drive-thru cafe — pull up to the window in the alley along the south side of the building — which is open from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

"It's nice to see the people walk by," said Judy Wood. "In the early hours, when it's dark, and they just — they're first getting up, there's still kind of sand in their eyes, and they walk in, and they smell that coffee ..."
"We're the first people that they see, like they have to have an actual interaction with (of a morning)," added Becca Wood. "So we always try to make it a positive one."

CR almanac				
Saturday 2/10	Sunday 2/11	Monday 2/12	Tuesday 2/13	Wednesday 2/14
53/28	43/31	38/25	36/25	39/31
Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be in the low 50s. Rain is possible late.	Sunday should be mostly sunny with a 40% chance of rain and snow late.	There's a 50% chance of snow on Monday when the high will be in the upper 30s.	Mostly cloudy on Tuesday. The low may dip into the mid to upper 20s.	Mostly cloudy on Wednesday, when temperatures will be in the 30s all day and night.

Lotteries	
Powerball 12-21-62-67-69 Power Ball: 17 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$248 million	Daily Four: 6-4-6-6 Quick Draw: 2-4-20-21-22-26-28-31-32-44-45-51-53-59-65-67-69-70-73-75 Cash 5: 26-36-38-40-41 Estimated jackpot: \$393,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$394 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 7-5-5 Pick 4: 6-2-6-8 Pick 5: 7-0-5-6-9 Evening Pick 3: 6-0-8 Pick 4: 5-8-9-0 Pick 5: 4-1-5-1-2 Rolling Cash: 2-13-19-25-27 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 3-2-3 Daily Four: 9-6-3-2 Quick Draw: 1-9-10-12-21-27-33-35-37-39-40-42-50-51-52-54-62-67-73-80 Evening Daily Three: 5-2-7	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.38 March corn4.35 Wheat4.61	March beans11.78 Wheat 5.51
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.38 March corn4.40 April corn4.41	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.21 March corn4.23 Beans11.78 March beans11.81 Wheat5.51
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.27 March corn4.27 Beans11.78	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.35 March corn4.55 Beans11.59 March beans11.14 Wheat5.21

Today in history

In 1763, France and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, effectively ending conflict between the two countries in the Seven Years' War.
In 1888, Walt Whitman wrote a note to The Riverside Literature Series No. 32 publishers, explaining they published mistakes in his poem, "O Captain! My Captain!" The editors had published an earlier version of the poem, which was revised both in 1866 and 1871. Whitman wrote the piece in response to Abraham Lincoln's assassination.
In 1943, the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II ended, marking a win for the Allied powers against Japan.
In 1944, Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia. She was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her novel, "The Color Purple."
In 1950, United States senator Joseph McCarthy accused members of the state department of being communists, effectively launching the Red Scare.
In 2018, Alex Bader broke the Jay County High School breaststroke record with a time of 1 minute, 2.8 seconds, during the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals at Indiana University Natatorium. She also secured fifth place in the preliminaries of the 100-yard breaststroke, guaranteeing her a second state medal.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk City Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Tuesday Noon — Jay County Jail Building Corporation, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Limits ...

Continued from page 1
"They can go to a different bank. They could go to a different lender — that's totally on them. But when government steps in and says to sell your property, we want this inspection and there's no criteria for the inspections — no."
Pressel's bill follows up policies adopted last year that "overhauled" Indiana's septic system laws. That included a prohibition on local health departments from passing residential onsite sewage systems ordinances that are stricter than the state's.
A carveout was also made for Hoosier property owners to override local health department decisions about new septic system installations and existing systems that have failed — as long as they have a paid consultant who agrees with them.
Septic systems are designed to collect household wastewater from toilets, sinks, showers, and other drain flows into an underground tank. Solid waste settles on the bottom of the tank, while the remaining liquid flows into an absorption field before seeping into the surrounding soil.
There are more than 800,000 such systems in Indiana, according to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).
Many are found in rural areas of the state, but some also exist in urban areas, per a report by the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Indianapolis, for example, recorded 17,000 systems as of 2019.
But Megan Freveletti, an attorney with the Conservation Law Clinic at Indiana University's Mauer School of Law, emphasized that failing septic systems "have plagued Indiana for decades."
The state health department estimates that approximately 200,000 of those disposal systems are inadequate, have failed or are in the process of failing — putting environmental and public health at risk.
Health officials warn that every

failing septic system can discharge more than 76,000 gallons of untreated wastewater annually into the state's groundwaters and surface waters. Contaminated water can breed E. Coli and harmful bacteria.
"We do not believe that prohibiting a local government from having the type of septic inspection ordinance mentioned in this bill is the proper way to address this issue," Freveletti said. "Local government should have the ability to set the standards they see fit to address problems in their communities, especially those with extremely detrimental effects to the environment and human health."
David Bottorff, executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties, additionally maintained "there's a value in the public knowing that septic systems are functioning properly."
He said that as an alternative — if not at the point of sale — "it could be useful" for counties to have a program "where they do systemic inspections to make sure that they're functioning appropriately."
Pressel maintained, though, that "the policy of inspections" is not up for debate because "that's already been done" in previous legislation. Rather, he's trying to make the current law "more clear."
"I don't disagree that (not) having an inspection is a bad idea. I think it's a great idea," Pressel said. "What I don't like is government saying that as a condition of the sale of your property, this must take place, and there are no guidelines to that inspection. So that's really what we're talking about."
Pressel's bill advanced from the House in an 82-14 vote and would immediately take effect if approved by the General Assembly and signed by the governor.
Morris said his House Bill 1352 is "kind of a cleanup bill from last year."
During committee discussion, Morris acknowledged that manufac-

turer inspections — like those for some wetland systems — could still be required, but said the measure would allow Hoosiers more flexibility when building "leisure bathrooms," for example.
"Let's say you want to put a garage up. And if you live in a rural county ... where you have a septic system, you go to pull a permit ... and as you're working through the process with your engineer and builder, you decide to put a bathroom into that garage. That's where some concerns open up," Morris said, noting that under current state law, "you need to basically show proof that your septic system is functioning and operating."
"So, you go through that process and show proof .. and then it's discovered that you now have opened yourself up to an inspection on your septic system every three years, and that the government's actually going to charge you \$150 in some counties to have this inspection done," he continued. "Many Hoosiers decide not to put that bathroom into their pole barn or their garage ... and why did they decide not to put that bathroom in? Because they don't want to have the government coming in, inspecting their septic system."
The bill also allows for a commercial, nonresidential onsite sewage system to be installed on a lot if there is at least one site suitable for the installation.
Kyle Nix, president of the Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association, said the group supports the bill.
The House proposal was amended on the floor to clarify who can carry out the required inspections. The latest draft also sets a limit on how much a health department can charge for the inspections.
Pressel, who offered the amendment, said the change brought "all" stakeholders "to either aggressively neutral, neutral or supportive" on the bill.

Health officials warn that every

Health officials warn that every

Health officials warn that every

SERVICES

Friday
Siefring, Eugene: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.

Saturday
Hidy, Danny: 1 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

March 2
Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn's Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by
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Capsule Reports

Presenting plans

Ball State University will hold a public presentation about its plans to revitalize The Village.
The representation that is open to the public is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday at Cornerstone Center for the Arts, 520 E. Main St., Muncie.
Ball State is in the beginning stages of a project that will include a new performing arts center for theatre and dance students that is expected to host more than 160 performances per year. Plans also include Ball State's Center for Innovation, a hotel, restaurant and retail space, and housing.

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Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary recently recognized students for showing fairness. Pictured above, front row, are first graders Victoria Glentzer and Kambree Wood, and in the back row are first graders Seth Scott, Kane Noggler and Jack Huelskamp. Not pictured are first graders Jetzabeth Interiano and Jayden Herriford.

Jay County bands perform Sunday

Jay County High School Band Department is presenting its winter pops concert starting at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Admission to the show at Jay County Junior-Senior High School auditorium is free, and patrons may enter through door 8. The high school Patriot Band, junior high bands and Solo and Ensemble participants will perform at the show. Band members will also collect donations for Asbury Critical Needs Fund.

Vietnam veterans

Mississinewa Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and Museum of the Soldier will honor Indiana Vietnam-era veterans — any duty station between 1955 and 1975 — from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at Jay County

Taking Note

Public Library. Those attending will receive a gift of gratitude.

Winter reading

Fort Recovery Education Association is sponsoring a winter reading program this year. Fort Recovery Local Schools students are encouraged to check out books at the Fort Recovery Public Library this month. For every 100 books checked out, the education association will donate one book to the school library and one to the public library.

Demanding mother puts a strain on relationship

DEAR ABBY: I love my fiance, but his mother says, "Over my dead body will he move away from me." She has cancer and we have both been praying that she goes peacefully, but it seems all she wants to do is create as much strife as possible between my fiance and me. I am now ignoring calls and texts from her. Any advice as to how to deal with my fiance? He gets mean after three days at her house, fetching water, coffee and food (she IS capable). Please help me reframe this so I can be nicer to a hateful woman. — TRYING HARD IN THE SOUTH

Dear Abby



DEAR TRYING HARD: What is your fiance's mother's prognosis? Not everyone being treated for cancer dies of the disease. Does SHE think she's terminal? If that's the case, she may have said what she did because she's frightened

and in pain. You state that she is "capable" of taking care of herself, but some of the treatments she may be receiving have been known to leave patients feeling tired and weak. Because helping his mother leaves your fiance on edge ("mean"), have you considered sharing the responsibility and giving him a break? And one final thought: If he's mean now, what does that bode for your own future with him?

.....

DEAR ABBY: A dear friend of many years has developed a cell-

phone addiction that's driving me crazy — insisting on showing me funny videos, memes or camera filters when we visit. I respond either with disinterest or a polite "I'm here to visit with you, not look at your phone." Some of her other behaviors are downright rude. She often shows up late, and I can clearly see she's been making frivolous social media posts while I'm waiting. On a group road trip, she will silently play a phone game, excluding herself from the fun. I know this affects her job, too, and I have tried advising her, but nothing changes. Is this a sign of a friend-

ship growing apart or moving toward different interests? Or am I just a cranky Luddite who needs to accept the new reality? — LOW-PRIORITY FRIEND

DEAR FRIEND: The person you are describing isn't so much hooked on her phone as she appears to be hooked on herself. Keeping people waiting while posting to social media is rude, and recognizing it as such isn't being "cranky." I agree with you that the behaviors she's exhibiting are symptoms of diverging interests. You may be less offended if you see less of her.

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

more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.

Tuesday

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.

Wednesday

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

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

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

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

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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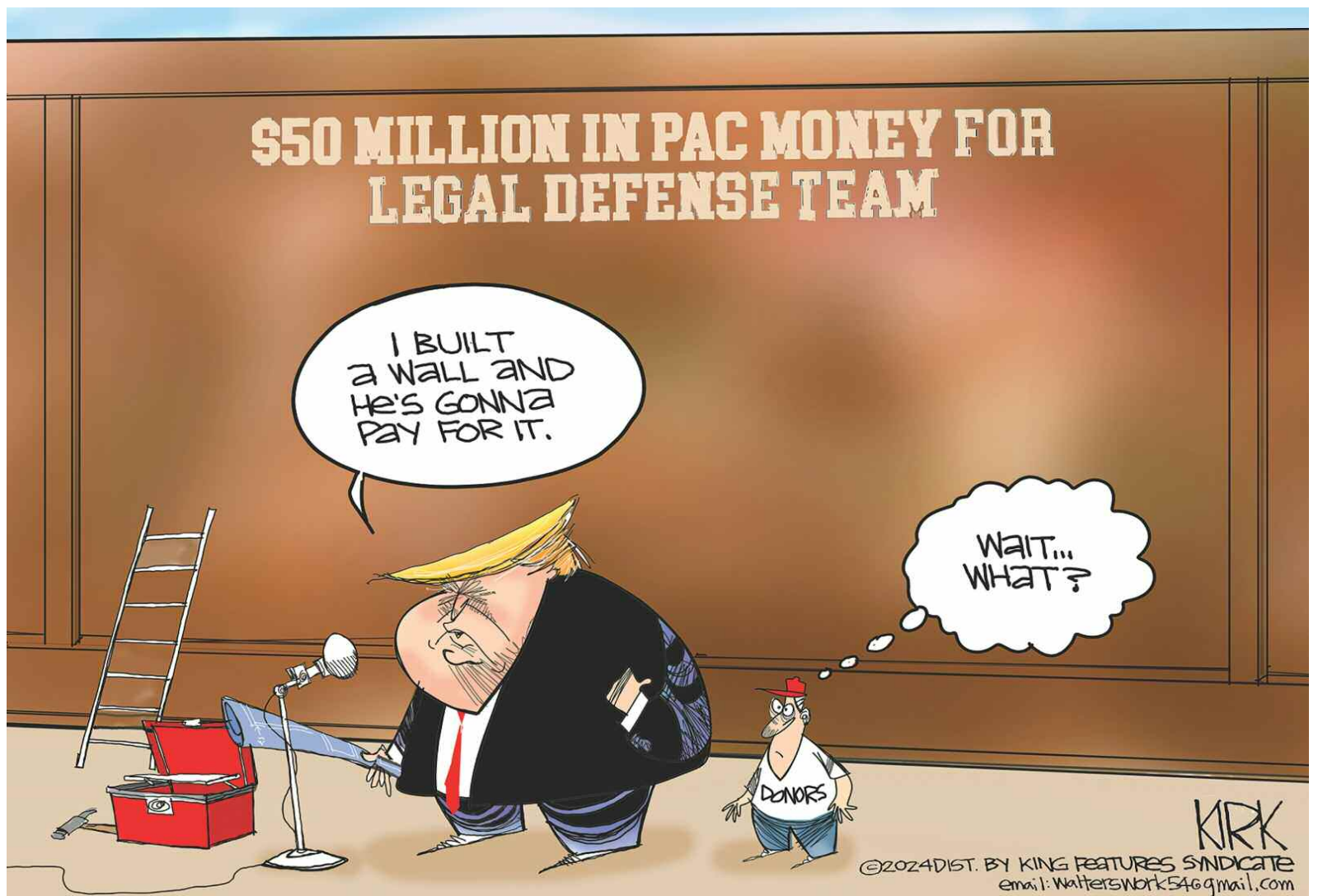
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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Attend event in honor of Mandy

To the editor:
A fundraising event in Memory of Mandy Theurer will be held Friday, Feb. 16, at Jay Community Center.
The delicious meal for dine-in or carry-out of shredded beef, cheesy potatoes, green beans and dessert will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. All this for a donation.
Money raised will be used for those in our community by way of hygiene bags, scholarships, blessing bags for cancer patients and others who may need a helping hand.
Please plan to join us as we remember one gone too soon.
Respectfully,
Roger and Charlene Theurer
Rural Jay County

Letters to the Editor



Party has gone off the rails

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Faithful readers of this column will surely know that I possess some deep libertarian tendencies. I concur with Ronald Reagan's opinion that "... the very heart and soul of [American] conservatism is libertarianism ...". As he went on to explain, this meant embracing a view that less government interference in the general and particular affairs of life was helpful. He said this 40 years ago, when taxes were higher and government regulation more restrictive.

I interpret him today as suggesting that government has no role in deciding how I should organize or define my family. Government should not recognize any particular religion, nor decide for me with whom I can associate. Government shouldn't suggest, much less decide for me, what occupation I should choose or where I should practice it.

Libertarian viewpoints, then, offer us a useful reminder of what restraints we must put upon those who govern us. In practice, libertarians would say that government has little role in telling a lawyer in which state she might or might not practice the law. Nor should government tell adults whom they may love, how they love or what type of plant they may smoke.

Conservatism and libertarianism are not the same thing. Indeed, in European Parliaments, Libertarians generally form governments with progressive parties. American Libertarians are different, because our form of government is a radical experiment in freedom. Here, Libertarians tend to argue for less government, even if they wish for more conservative personal practices. For example, it is a perfectly acceptable libertarian position to oppose any government restrictions on abortion, while still abhorring abortion.

Perhaps the most personal example I can offer is sim-

Michael Hicks



ple. I'm a conservative in that I feel it inadvisable for a couple to live together without benefit of marriage. I also think that it is a mistake for government to define or recognize marriage, of any kind. Covenants of this magnitude are outside the scope of government, which has not the competence for these matters. Marriage should be made in churches, synagogues, mosques and through civil contracts. The local courthouse should have nothing to do with it.

None of this suggests no role for government. There's no serious political philosophy that suggests children should be permitted the same decision-making authority as adults. There's no serious political philosophy that suggests government of any type should be unable to act with special powers in an emergency or crisis.

There is disagreement about what the right amount of government might be or what powers government might prudentially exercise. But there is no serious political argument that would deny government a role in national emergencies. Unfortunately, we've just been through a global healthcare crisis, where government undertook a number of protective measures. Some were wholly appropriate, low-cost, high-reward actions. Others were mistakes that we understand now in hindsight. Others we will not be fully certain about for many years.

Sadly, the COVID pandemic crushed the sensibilities and reason of the American Libertarian movement. A philosophy that once animated a popular movement of American conservatism is now as relevant as last

April's snow. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Indiana's Libertarian party. I'll just note their tax plan as example of deeply unserious ideas.

The Indiana Libertarian party wishes to eliminate income taxes. The specifics of this plan are weak, so I'll just assume they also mean local income taxes. Unlike other proposals, they make no pretense of considering replacement revenue. They just don't want earnings taxed. So, let us see what that would mean.

The elimination of the personal income tax (assuming no revenue replacement) would mean a roughly 40 percent cut in state revenues. For local governments, it'd mean cuts from about 20 percent to almost 70 percent. They also wish to eliminate taxes on single-family residences, though to be honest in the four-sentence plan, they weren't clear exactly what that meant. I will try to be clearer. The loss of residential property taxes would cut a further 40 to 70 percent of revenue from county and city government.

The tax proposal from the Indiana Libertarian party would reduce state government by 40 percent and every local government by more than half. That's before we consider any of the other taxes they propose to cut. This is so silly, so childish, so ridiculous, that it is difficult to fully explain the magnitude of the impact. Let me try.

Indiana has had the lowest wage increase for teachers nationwide over the last decade. Accounting for inflation, wages for the average public employee are now below where they were 10 years ago. So, what do tax cuts the Libertarians propose do to Indiana?

If we hold cuts to state school funding by 20 percent, we'd only have to cut the rest of government by about two-thirds. That would surely mean closing all state parks, halving the state police, eliminating all agriculture, tourism, rural,

arts, economic development, higher education and workforce development programs. We'd lose more than half our Medicaid funding, so we'd have another million uninsured Hoosiers. The state's paving cycle would go from 7-to-10 years to about 30. There would be no more road or bridge improvements, ever.

Statewide, about a third of schools would have to close. With 20 percent state cuts and 50 percent local cuts, most school corporations would be unable to transport kids or heat buildings. There would be no more school athletics. Townships could keep fire departments open for another 3 or 4 years given their reserves, then they too would close. Police departments would be cut in half; there would be no more parks or snow removal.

That is what the Indiana Libertarian Party proposes.

Hoosiers would be well served by a discussion about the optimal level of taxes and public services. We would benefit from elected leaders explaining how being ranked 6th in low taxes but 42nd in educational attainment, 41st in productivity, or 43rd in per capita income makes us better off. We should all welcome that debate.

However, the Libertarian party no longer deserves a seat at this discussion. Their proposal is so bad that they would be laughed out of a high school debate class. I'm not trying to be unfair to Libertarians. They do propose legalizing and taxing marijuana; which would raise about \$200 million per year, replacing about 2 percent of their proposed tax cuts. The rest of their tax proposal — the heart of their legislative identity — is bat guano crazy. There's just not enough available weed, legal or otherwise, to make it make sense.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

Action is hopeful on taxes, border

The Free Press
(Mankato, Minnesota)

Tribune News Service

These pages have long supported the idea of bipartisanship and compromise in Congress, and we have reason to be hopeful that Congress will succeed in passing two big proposals as a result of working across the aisle.

Compromise packages are coming together on a plan for tax credits and immigration reform and funding for Ukraine and Israel.

On Wednesday the House passed a compromise \$79 billion plan to provide families and businesses with a tax credit in an overwhelming 357-70 vote.

Guest Editorial

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, showed his support of the bill Wednesday morning, and it gave both sides a chance to claim important victories.

The bill gives business tax breaks for investing in new equipment and to write off some interest on loans in a more favorable way, measures Johnson said supports conservative pro-growth agenda. Democrats favored increasing the child tax credit from \$1,800 to \$2,000 a year in 2025. It would also include that amount for a refundable credit to families who don't have enough income to pay taxes.

In another hopeful move, Senate negotiators came to a compromise plan Friday to make changes to border policies that Republicans favor. The package couples that with aid to Ukraine, which has stalled at a critical time in the course of the war, as Russia has begun another strong offensive. The compromise would also include support of Israel.

Importantly, the Senate Republican leaders do not appear to be listening to former President Donald Trump as he has advised against the border compromise.

We agree with Johnson that the business and child tax credits were passed in a way Congress is supposed to work with vetting by the Ways and Means Committee.

The deal on border policy would put important limits on an asylum system that would slow border crossing attempts and fund the system to provide decisions in six months versus the system that now takes years.

These kind of processes and compromises give the American people more confidence that their government can work together openly and by the rules and without backroom dealing. But it also shows Congress can work to solve problems for the American people.

We should support and encourage these compromises and give credit to members of Congress on both sides who are making this happen.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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Farmer sentiment takes a downturn

By ERIN ROBINSON
Purdue Ag News

The most recent findings from the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer reveal a downturn in farmer sentiment at the start of 2024.

The January barometer fell to a reading of 106, 8 points lower than in December. Producers expressed a more pessimistic perspective about their farms' current situation and future prospects. The Current Conditions Index fell 9 points, and the Future Expectations Index dropped by 7, both compared to December. The anticipation of weaker farm income in 2024 contributed to the overall decline, reflected in the Farm Financial

Performance Index at 85, a 12-point decrease from the previous month. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from Jan. 15-19.

"The number of producers pointing to lower commodity prices and lower farm income in 2024 significantly influenced the decline across all indices," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

There was an increase in the proportion of producers anticipating a decline in financial performance for the upcoming year, with the figure rising from 20% in December to 31% in January. Concurrently, the percentage of

those expecting income levels to remain stable decreased from 63% to 53%.

"For the first time, the percentage of producers choosing lower commodity prices as a top concern matched the percentage of producers who chose higher input costs. This alignment indicates that U.S. farmers are worried about a possible cost/price squeeze leading to lower farm incomes," Mintert said.

The Farm Capital Investment Index fell to 35, 8 points lower than in December. This month, a shift occurred as fewer producers attributed their hesitation to make large investments to rising interest rates, which reversed a trend observed through much of 2023. Instead, more farmers cited

high machinery and construction prices as reasons to defer investments. Meanwhile, among those deeming it a favorable time for large investments, an increased number pointed to expansion opportunities, while fewer referenced the rise in dealers' farm machinery inventories as a motivating factor for investment.

This year, a greater number of producers expect their operating loan size to remain steady compared to last year, with fewer anticipating a larger loan. Of those expecting an increase, 61% cite rising input costs, down from 80% last year, while 23% attribute it to farm expansion, up from 15% in 2023.

While the Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index

declined to 115, indicating reduced optimism on the part of producers, the long-term index held steady at 150, suggesting enduring optimism. Notably, the proportion of producers anticipating a decline in farmland values for the upcoming year rose to 16%, up from 10% just three months ago, with a simultaneous drop in those expecting higher values from 35% to 31%.

Additionally, the January survey reveals a consistent interest in carbon capture, as 8% of respondents reported engaging in discussions about carbon contracts. Among those, 61% were offered payment rates below \$10 per metric ton, and 12% were offered a rate of \$30 or more per ton.



Iowa State University/Jianming Yu

Sorghum plants growing in August 2020 in a field at the Agricultural Engineering and Agronomy Research Farms between Boone and Ames. A study shows breeding more adaptable crops can benefit from testing locations with wide ranges of weather.

Variety matters

Process of breeding more adaptable crops benefits from testing in locations with wide ranges of weather

By DAVE ROEPKE
Iowa State University

AMES, Iowa — Efforts to breed more adaptable crops benefit from testing locations with wide ranges of weather, according to a research team led by an Iowa State University professor.

The recent study published in the Journal of Experimental Botany is the latest work by agronomy professor Jianming Yu exploring phenotypic plasticity, the disparate ways plants respond in different environments. Better understanding the genetic and environmental underpinnings of plasticity can help scientists and breeders create hybrids tailored for their location and able to adapt to challenging conditions.

"Our research really has broad implications for climate change, sustainability and precision agriculture," said Yu, the Pioneer Distinguished Chair in Maize Breeding and director of the Raymond F. Baker Center for Plant Breeding.

To a certain degree, the study

confirmed the Midwest is an ideal region for experimenting on new cultivars, thanks in part to its erratic weather, Yu said.

"Seed companies have breeding locations across the Corn Belt, and historically, we know some testing sites seem to be more successful and did not end up on the chopping block as companies have merged. There hasn't been much actual research into that. It's just been the assumption," he said. "But if you want the most variability you can get, that's a good place to be pulling data. Location matters."

The study examined data from 174 rice plants grown in nine different combinations of sites and growing seasons across Asia from 2007 to 2009 and 237 sorghum plants in nine different site-and-season environments in Iowa, Kansas and Puerto Rico from 2011 to 2016. In prior analysis of the same data, including studies in 2018, 2020 and 2022, Yu and his colleagues looked for the

environmental signals connected to plant traits. For example, the researchers established for both crops an environmental index that predicts flowering time, an analysis the new paper builds upon.

"This time we changed the focus to whether what you observe could depend on the specific examples you encounter in terms of environment," Yu said.

By comparing small subsets of data to the overall sample, an analysis that incorporated many simulations, researchers found they could accurately extrapolate with four or more environments. But the environmental mean range, a gauge of the variability of the conditions, served as an even better indicator.

"While both factors are critical, our results indicated that considerations leading to an increase of environmental mean range should be given priority in study design," said Tingting Guo, professor at Huazhong Agricul-

tural University, a co-lead of the study.

Even two testing sites could offer accurate predictions, if their environmental conditions are diverse and extreme, the researchers found. Additional simulations based on historical weather records and varying planting dates were used to show the distributions of potential environmental variability for each site.

"This offers breeders some practical guidance for resource allocation and testing site optimization," Yu said.

Yu said his research group will continue to study phenotypic plasticity, mostly by further scrutinizing existing field test results. He sees harnessing plasticity as essential to making agriculture more resilient in the face of climate change.

"We're analyzing data in different ways and from different perspectives to generate knowledge that applies to real-world decision-making," he said.

In review

Meeting Monday

An Ag Outlook Meeting is scheduled for noon Monday at in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibit Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a presentation at noon by Michael Langemeier, associate director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture at Purdue University. Additional sessions will feature Fayette County ANR educator Heather Caldwell on farm succession planning at 1:15 p.m. and Halderman Companies president Howard Halderman on land values and outlook at 2:15 p.m.

For more information, visit bit.ly/Jay-CoAgOutlook2024.

Schedule set

Jay County FFA has announced its schedule for celebrating National FFA Week, which is set for Feb. 17 through 24.

The Jay County chapter will have themed days throughout the week — 'Merica Monday, Country vs. Country Club on Tuesday, Farmer's Day Off (pajamas) on Wednesday, Glowing for Ag (neon) on Thursday and Blue and Gold on Friday.

Activities through the week include:

Monday, Feb. 19 — Greeting Bloomfield and Redkey elementary school students as they arrive at school

Tuesday, Feb. 20 — Horse races and ag trivia at the boys basketball game vs. Winchester

Wednesday, Feb. 21 — FFA members meet with East Jay sixth graders to encourage participation in FFA

Thursday, Feb. 22 — Staff brownie breakfast at 7:15 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 23 — Truck drive-in with awards for cleanest, dirtiest, rustiest, most miles and best of show.

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Between Friends



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Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the four of spades, and you win South's ten with the king. How would you play the hand? WEST EAST ...

1. The immediate question is whether to tackle clubs or diamonds, but it shouldn't take long to recognize the futility of trying to establish clubs. If, say, you led club at trick two, a spade would come back, and when you led another club, the defenders would cash enough spades to set you.

Tomorrow: An unusual discard. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

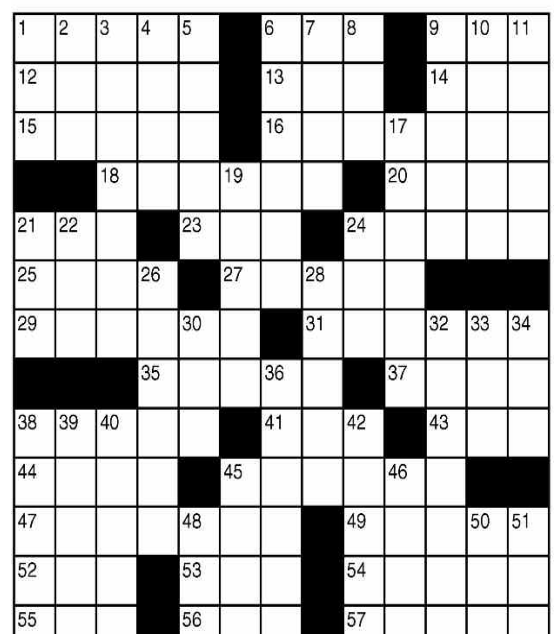
CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING A PIG IN A KARATE CLASS DEALT A SHARP DOWNWARD BLOW, WOULD THAT BE A PORK CHOP? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 In check 6 Pitch 9 Talk on and on 12 Tickle 13 Census stat 14 Mauna — 15 Prepares flour 16 Cushions 18 Closing number 20 Overdue 21 Conk out 23 Mined-over matter 24 Moon-related 25 Literary reps 27 Bygone anesthetic 29 Musical mixture 31 Inflatable sleeper 35 Ritzy violin 37 Arizona city 38 Seize by force 41 Online address 43 Little lie 44 Gershwin's "The Love" 45 Use a towel 47 Clown 49 Dumpster filler 52 Yalie 53 Dad on "Black-ish" 54 "I cannot — lie" 55 Trio after Q 56 Listening device 57 Aromas 3 Self-service meals 4 Italian wine region 5 Kind of question 6 iPad, for one 7 Flu symptom 8 Game official 9 Collect slowly 10 Heart line 11 Less noble 17 Light snowfall 19 Venezuelan corn patty 21 River blocker 22 Polish tennis star 24 Island garland 26 Zhivago por-trayer 28 Hirsute 30 Strike caller 32 City on Lake Erie 33 Brit. record label 34 Apply cream 36 Actress Kathleen 38 Brown shade 39 Author Bellow, et al. 40 Ill-suited game 42 Gambling game 45 Nickelodeon's "Explorer" 46 Dancer Astaire 48 Verse by Neruda 50 Camera type 51 Possesses



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Colts ...

Continued from page 8
“Look, he’s got work to do, and there will be some moments next year where he’ll still look like a rookie. It’s going to happen. I think his ability to push the ball down the field and create allows for those explosive plays to happen.”

Ballard has the luxury of entering the offseason without the need to search for a starting quarterback for the first time since 2019. But the posi-

tion won’t be completely off the radar.

Gardner Minshew II was an essential insurance policy as the backup in 2023. He went 7-6 as a starter to keep the Colts in the playoff race all season long and completed 62.2% of his throws for 3,305 yards with 15 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Minshew’s efforts earned him a spot in last weekend’s Pro Bowl games as a replacement for Kansas City Chiefs

quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who will start in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

The veteran passer also turned heads around the NFL, which could lead to a more lucrative offer and a better shot at being the full-time starter somewhere else in 2024.

As much as Indianapolis would like to bring Minshew back into the fold, the market could force the team in a different direction.

Sam Ehlinger remains under

contract for one more season and could compete for the backup role with either a new veteran free agent addition or late-round draft pick if Minshew does not return.

“The backup quarterback is going to be very important,” Ballard said. “I think we saw that. I can’t underestimate the value of what Gardner brought to this team. He gave us a chance to win each and every game, gave us hope, a chance to win, fun guy to be around. I’m

sure (he was) a fun guy for you all to get a unique perspective on life, and guys believe in him.

“... Likeability and belief are two things that are — when they believe and think that (with) the quarterback you have a chance to win, that’s important. (I’m) grateful for Gardner and what he was able to do. I don’t want to underestimate the value of the (No.) 2 (quarterback), either.”

One ...

Continued from page 8
Rowles and Byrum will open the semi-state against brothers.

The 18th-ranked Rowles (28-9), who upset No. 5 Neal Mosier (34-1) of Delta in the regional semifinal and went on to avenge his sectional championship loss to Union City’s Bradin Daniels (34-2) in the championship, will start his 126-pound bracket against Prairie Heights junior Boston Baas (21-15). Byrum (32-5), who is ranked 20th, gets the younger brother, freshman Brayden Bass (32-5), to open the 106 bracket.

A win for Rowles would send him to meet Tripp Haisley (23-4) of Madison-Grant or Kaeden Benedict (23-11) of Homestead with a trip to state on the line. No. 16 Drew Waldon (28-4) of DeKalb is a possible semifinal opponent, with regional rivals Mosier and Daniels potentially looming in the finals.

Byrum’s ticket-round match would likely be against New Haven’s seventh-ranked Julianna O’Campo (33-1), who was a state qualifier as a freshman in 2022.

As he did after winning the sectional championship

two weeks ago, the junior expressed confidence.

“I expected going to semi-state,” Byrum said. “I saw myself as a semi-state guy last year. ...

“I just put so much work in on the offseason that I expect this is where I should be.”

Wenk (36-3) will start his day in the 190-pound bracket against NorthWood’s Keith Miller (23-7). His likely ticket-round opponent is No. 19 Mickey Daring (32-3) of Bishop Luers.

The senior is hoping to turn his semi-state luck. He was up 8-3 on NorthWood’s Trey Tobias in the ticket round two years ago, only to have Tobias rally and get a takedown and three-point near fall in the final 10 seconds to steal the win. Wenk lost 8-6 in overtime to Laish Detwiler of Goshen in the opening round last season.

“I’ve been really wanting to do this my entire life, really,” said Wenk. “So, this time if I’m up in the ticket round I’m going to sell out and hopefully make it to state ...

“It would feel amazing. I’d probably be content right there, but I would have to keep going and try to get first or second there

so I would get a good (state) draw.”

Ortiz will face a familiar opponent in Homestead’s Caleb Evans (37-5), having lost to him 3-2 in a dual match last season. (They did not meet this year as Ortiz bumped up to heavy-weight with Jay County’s Bryce Cox losing to Evans by a third-period pin.) A win over Evans would send Ortiz to the ticket round for a likely match-up with 18th-ranked Travis Henke (36-1) of Northridge.

Robinson and Flores will each start the day against opponents who have lost just one match this year. For the former in the 150-pound bracket, it’s Huntington North’s Luke Teusch (35-1), who Jay County’s Cameron Clark beat in the semi-state semifinal last season. For the latter at 175, it’s Ethan Farnell (36-1) of Maconaquah.

Both would face less daunting opponents in the ticket round if they are able to pull a first-round upset.

“I’m excited,” said Flores. “I don’t watch too much about other people. I just try to wrestle my match — hand-fighting pretty good, getting to my shot, finishing.”



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jacob Robinson (29-10) of Jay County holds Adams Central’s Max Beyerly in a precarious position while trying to get a leg sweep during their third-place match at 150 pounds in the regional tournament Saturday at JCHS. Robinson’s first match in the semi-state will be against Luke Teusch (35-1) of Huntington North.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshman) at Heritage — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling MAC tournament at Fort Recovery — 4:30 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Minster — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling semi-state at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball (including freshman) at Yorktown — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming sectional at Ayersville — 11 a.m.; Girls bowling MAC tournament at Fort Recovery — 9:15 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. Newton — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Dayton at VCU (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Men’s college hockey: Penn state at Minnesota (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: San Jose State at Colorado State (FS1)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Everton at Manchester City (USA)

10 a.m. — Premier League: Burnley at Liverpool (USA)

12 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: UConn at Georgetown (FS1); Wisconsin at Rutgers (BTN); Clemson at Syracuse (ESPN2)

12:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Creighton at Xavier (FOX); Saint Louis at Saint Joseph’s (USA)

12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at Nottingham Forest (NBC)

1 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Buffalo Sabres (ACB)

1 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Alcorn State at Arkansas-Pine Bluff (CBS)

2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Illinois at Michigan State (CBS); Indiana State at Missouri

State (Bally Indiana); Providence at Butler (FS1)

2 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Rutgers at Michigan (BTN)

2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: George Mason at Davidson (USA)

3 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Villanova at Marquette (FOX)

3:30 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Boston Bruins (ACB)

3:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Phoenix Open (NBC)

4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Gonzaga at Kentucky (CBS); Maryland at Ohio State (FS1)

4 p.m. — Men’s college hockey: Penn State at Minnesota (BTN)

5:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: UCLA at Cal (FOX)

6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Baylor at Kansas (ESPN); St. John’s at Marquette (FS1); Akron at James Madison (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Michigan at Nebraska (BTN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at New York Knicks (Bally Indiana)

8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Indiana at Purdue (FOX); Tennessee at Texas A&M (ESPN); Arizona State at Utah (ESPN2)

8:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Golden State Warriors (ABC)

8:30 p.m. — Men’s college hockey: Michigan at Michigan State (BTN)

10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Boise State at Utah State (FS1)

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
FRIDAY February 16TH, 2024

TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W, Redkey IN
296 ACRES - 10,000 HEAD HOG CONFINEMENT

296 Acres offered in tracts and combinations. 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.

Tract 2: 120 Acres in section 7 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 90 acres tillable balance being wooded and road frontage.

Tract 3: 31 Acres in section 8 Jefferson Township, Jay County with 30.4 acres tillable balance being road frontage.

Tract 4: 27.5 Acres in section 11 Richland Township, Jay County all tillable.

Note: For private showing phone auctioneers. COURT ORDERED AUCTION

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
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN
Saturday Morning February 10th, 2024
9:30 A.M.

ANTIQUES – OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
National Mazda lamp display; Tiffin Glass “Parrot” lamp; blue copper lustre Ironstone coffee pot; Maytag engine; Replicate German Nazi dagger with sheath; Replicate German Nazi long dagger/sword;

CROCKS & STONWARE; Weeden Vertical steam engine; 4 pc. Howdy Doody plastic figurines; DB Wann toy plastic fire truck with ladder; 1929 Geneva Convention Red Cross arm band; PLANES: Sandusky #145 plow, Stanley #80 scraper, Stanley #5 corrugated bottom, Lakeside #4 and Derickson-Fuller #55 molding; cast iron bronze pig bank; Grant nail puller; tobacco tins; and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This auction offers a nice selection of quality antiques and collectors items. Doors will open at 7:45 day of auction for preview.

RICHARD STACHLER Loy Auction

AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

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THE TOWN OF PENNVILLE IS looking for a Water and Wastewater Operator. The Water and Wastewater Operator is responsible for operating the Town’s Water and Wastewater divisions, in accordance with all federal, state, and local regulation and requirements. The operator is responsible for supervising contract labor. Please contact Josh Miller at 260-729-1354.

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PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT/SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF JAY
CAUSE NO. 38CO1-2402-MF-000001
FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
FREDDIE MAC SEASONED LOANS
STRUCTURED TRANSACTION TRUST, SERIES 2019-2,
Plaintiff,
vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF
LOYD E. ADCOCK, DECEASED
and THE UNKNOWN TENANT,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT

The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against you is:
Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate
Against the property commonly known as: 5640 E 900 S, Portland, IN 47371-8164 and described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN MADISON TOWNSHIP, IN THE COUNTY OF JAY AND STATE OF INDIANA, BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEING PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 15 EAST BOUNDED AND MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN A TWO (2) DEEDS DATED AUGUST 5, 1985, AND AUGUST 5, 1985, AND RECORDED AUGUST 6, 1985 AND AUGUST 6, 1985, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY AND THE STATE SET FORTH ABOVE, IN BOOK 150, PAGE 106 AND BOOK 150, PAGE 105.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): The Unknown Tenant

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Lloyd E. Adcock, Deceased
If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.
By BRYAN K. REDMOND
BRYAN K. REDMOND
Attorney for Plaintiff
BRYAN K. REDMOND
FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.
8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46250
NOTICE

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.
CR 2.9.16.23-2024-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Pike Township, Jay County, Indiana Annual Financial Report - 2023 Cash & Investments Combined Statement						
Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan. 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec. 31, 2023	
Governmental Activities						
1	Fire Fighting	\$33,936.06	\$18,203.15	\$13,338.50	\$38,800.71	
2	Township	\$104,258.13	\$31,668.93	\$12,554.77	\$123,372.29	
3	Township Assistance	\$8,944.46	\$0.00	\$750.25	\$8,194.21	
GRAND TOTAL		\$147,138.65	\$49,872.08	\$26,643.52	\$170,367.21	

CERTIFICATION
State of Indiana
SS:

Jay County
I, Melissa A Elliott, Trustee of PIKE TOWNSHIP, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by the law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Melissa A Elliott
Pike Township Trustee
Telephone: 260-729-2433

Date this report was to be published: 02-19-2024
Date this report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board of PIKE TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 18th, day of January, 2024.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of PIKE TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 18th, day of January, 2024.

OPTION 1
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 18th day of January, 2024.

Tammy Horn
Scott Coy
Jeff Albersson

CR 2.9-2024-HSPAXLP

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One at a time

Patriots won't overlook opponents to secure trips to the ticket round and state

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Tony Wood is seeking his second semi-state championship and fourth state finals berth.

Cody Rowles is trying for a third state berth.

Bryce Wenk is hoping to break through after coming agonizingly close in 2022.

The trio of Patriots with semi-state experience lead a group of seven Jay County High School wrestlers who will compete in the tournament at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

Semi-state newcomers for the team will be Griffin Byrum, Jacob Robinson, Juaquin Flores and Alan Ortiz.

For all of them, it will take two victories — the second round is referred to as the “ticket round,” as wrestlers have the opportunity to punch their ticket to the state finals — in order to extend their season for one more week.

“We’re pretty excited,” said JCHS coach Eric Myers. “I think one of the biggest things that we tell wrestlers going into the semi-state is that everybody wants to look at that ticket round because that’s the round that you punch your ticket to state. We want to make sure that we don’t overlook that first-round match. We’ve got several tough first-round matches. Some of our first-round matches are tougher than would-be ticket-round matches. Just like we started the state tournament series off with, we want to take it one match at a time.”

Wood, who is 40-0 and ranked fourth in the state, is the heavy favorite at 138 pounds. All four of the other state-ranked wrestlers in the bracket are on the opposite side. Yorktown’s



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Alan Ortiz, a 215-pounder, controls Ethan Michael of Norwell during their third-place match Saturday in the regional tournament. Ortiz is one of seven Patriots who will compete in the semi-state tournament beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

No. 9 Justin Boone (33-3), who Wood pinned in the first period of the regional championship match, is the highest among them.

In order to get to the finals for the fourth consecutive year, Wood will first half to go

through Angola’s Dallas Davidson (37-6). A win would send him to meet either Kendi Quoi (25-10) of Snider or Grant Howard (26-10) of Madison-Grant in the ticket round. Elkhart’s Cameron Dews (35-4) looks like Wood’s most likely semifinal opponent.

“He’s just got to go and stay focused all the way through and set himself up as well as he can for next week,” said Myers of the senior who is the program’s first four-time regional champion and can become a two-time semi-state champion Saturday.

“He’s got the right attitude. He just likes to wrestle and he likes to score points. ... I feel like as long as I’ve been coaching I don’t know if I’ve known anybody that loves wrestling as much as Tony loves it.”

See **One** page 7

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Bader scores twice for BSU

The Cardinals dropped their first Mid-American Conference meet of the season Jan 27.

They bounced back with a dominant performance over Bellarmine.

Eliza Bader scored in both of her events Saturday as the Ball State women’s swim team crushed the Bellarmine Knights 145.5-58.5.

The 2021 Jay County graduate’s best performance came in the 100-yard butterfly. She swam four seconds off of her best time to finish second in 1 minute, 1.06 seconds. First place went to her teammate, Alexa Von Holtz, with a 57.84 second time.

In Bader’s other individual event, she captured fifth place for the Cardinals, as it took her 2:18.88 to finish the 200 individual medley.

Bader also swam the third leg of the 400 freestyle relay B team that finished second to Ball State’s A team by six seconds.

Local roundup

Alli Vaughn Fort Recovery — 2021

Returned to the floor for the first time in over two months.

Vaughn started the first six games for the IU-East women’s basketball team, before missing the previous 16 games.

The Fort Recovery High School grad played three minutes in the Red Wolves’ 73-71 loss at IU Kokomo on Tuesday.

Despite such a short stint on the floor, Vaughn made an immediate impact with two defensive rebounds and an assist.

Colts offseason preview

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The next few months — and, for that matter, the next few years — will revolve around Anthony Richardson for the Indianapolis Colts.

As general manager Chris Ballard pieces together the 2024 roster, he’ll need to keep building around the rookie quarterback who showed so much promise in what turned out to be a cameo appearance in his NFL debut.

Despite making just four starts, Richardson won over the front office and the coaching staff with his work ethic and intelligence off the field and his explosive potential between the lines.

“He’s a good young man who has a lot to learn,” Ballard said. “But here’s what’s good about him — (he’s) very humble, and he has empathy for other people. He cares deeply. He cares deeply about being the best player he can be and cares deeply about his teammates, and he will work.

He’s very gifted. ... Now he just needs to play.”

The 21-year-old completed 59.5% of his passes for 577 yards with three touchdowns and one interception and rushed 25 times for 136 yards and four additional scores while playing just 173 snaps in 2023.

He left a Week 1 loss against the Jacksonville Jaguars late in the fourth quarter with a bruised knee and was knocked out of a Week 2 win at the Houston Texans with a concussion early in the second quarter.

After missing a Week 3 win at the Baltimore Ravens, Richardson returned to lead a comeback from a 23-0 deficit and force overtime in a home loss against the Los Angeles Rams, and his

season ended Oct. 8 when he suffered a separated AC joint in his shoulder during the second quarter of a win against the Tennessee Titans.

The injuries will remain a major concern until Richardson proves he can stay on the field consistently. But, even in his brief time on the field, there was ample evidence of the ways in which his dual-threat ability can impact the game.

“I just think, when he plays, people defend you a little differently,” Ballard said. “I think we saw it already. It kind of naturally happens when he’s in there. (He can change a game) either with his feet or with his arm because of what he’s able to do.”

See **Colts** page 7