

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



Special to The Commercial Review/Sam Thomas

Fire assistance

Pennville firefighters spray water on a house while fighting a fire at 617 S. Main St., Dunkirk, on Tuesday afternoon. They joined firefighters from Redkey, Albany and Eaton in assisting Dunkirk Fire Department at the scene. The fire was under control by about 6 p.m., but the house was destroyed. For details, see Capsule Reports on page 2.

Hansel died in tractor accident

Vehicle flipped while attempting to pull truck

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A rural Portland man died Tuesday after his tractor flipped on top of him.

Roger V. Hansel, 68, was attempting to pull his Chevy pickup truck out of the mud with his Ford garden tractor in a pasture southeast of his property at 3413 W. 100 South, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office incident report. The tractor flipped over, trapping him underneath it.

Hansel's wife, Pamela, found him pinned under the tractor. He asked her to get help and to remain calm, the report says. She told police she couldn't get her phone to work and had to walk a quarter mile to get neighbor James Lugar and call emergency personnel. By the time Lugar and Pamela Hansel returned, Roger Hansel did not appear to be breathing, according to the report.

Jay Emergency Medical Service responded to the call about 4 p.m. Tuesday. (The report says a "significant amount of time" had passed since the accident.) Hansel was pronounced dead at the scene. Jay County coroner Michael Brewster confirmed it appeared he suffocated and likely also had injuries from being crushed.

"It truly is tragic that stuff like this does happen," Brewster said. "It's never easy when someone dies like that in an accident, and our hearts go out to the family."

Unemployment jumped to 3.7% in January

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Unemployment climbed by more than a full percentage point from the final month of 2023 to the first of '24.

According to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released this week, unem-

ployment in Jay County came in at 3.7% in January.

The local unemployment rate climbed by 1.1 percentage points from December to January. The rate was also up 0.6 percentage points from January 2023.

The county still remained tied for the 44th-

lowest unemployment rate in the state — it was tied with Huntington, Monroe, Putnam and Washington counties — the same as in December. (It had the 34th-highest rate in the state in November.)

Unemployment trended up statewide in January, with the state rate climb-

ing to 3.8% from 2.8% in December.

"Indiana has carried the momentum from a strong economy in 2023 into 2024," said department of workforce development commissioner Richard Paulk in a press release. "The unemployment rate of 3.5% remains near his-

toric lows and remains below the national average. Additionally, Indiana has again set a new peak for private sector employment."

Each of the counties adjacent to Jay County saw its rate increase by at least 0.8 percentage points, with Randolph County

showing the largest jump at an increase of 1.3 percentage points.

Daviess and Gibson counties tied for the lowest unemployment rates in the state at 2.8% in January. Hamilton, Clinton and Boone counties were next at 2.9%.

See **Unemployment** page 2

Ag breakfast returning

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Breakfast is back.

After a five-year hiatus, the Jay County Ag Week Committee is bringing back the traditional Ag Day Breakfast from 5 to 9 a.m. Tuesday in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds.

For years, the Ag Day Breakfast had been a March tradition. But, like so many things, the coronavirus pandemic disrupted it.

"When COVID hit, we were getting ready to do it," said Mark Tillman of the Jay County Ag Week Committee. "And COVID hit and we didn't do it in 2020."

The country was still in the throes of the pandemic in 2021 and the committee wasn't sure if the time was right yet in 2022. Coffee and donuts were served last year.

"We went with something

Event will be back in its full format for the first time since 2019

simple just to see if they were willing to still do this or not," said Tillman. "They said they were ..."

"It was very clear that the community wanted back to the normal ..."

Normal is a full breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage and toast. Beverage options will include milk, juice and coffee.

The cost — \$1.

In addition to Tillman, the committee currently includes

Larry Temple, Emily Kring, Angela Paxson, Greg Miller, Katie Loy, Jenny Wagner, Nancy Cline, Cody Linville, Matt Slavik, Cindy Murphy, Zach Chenoweth, Allison Keen and Connie Muhlenkamp.

They will be getting help from Jay County FFA members in the kitchen as well as Jay County High School exchange students, area extension homemakers and others.

See **Breakfast** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Attendees line up to get their eggs, sausage and toast with a full room behind them for the 2017 Ag Day Breakfast. The event will return in its full format this year after being dormant since the coronavirus pandemic forced cancellation in 2020. The breakfast was held last year, but it was limited to coffee and donuts. This year, a full breakfast of sausage, eggs, toast and beverages will be available for \$1.

Deaths

Janis Current, 96, Redkey
Allan Farlow, 87, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 66 degrees Tuesday. The low was 43.

The forecast calls for rain with possible thunderstorms tonight and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect cloudy skies with more rain and storms Friday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

A pair of Easter egg hunts are scheduled for Saturday. Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland, will host a hunt and various other activities from 2 to 4 p.m. Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center, 200 N. Park St., Portland, will hold an Easter egg hunt at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Update on progress of renovations at the JCHS football field.



Obituaries

Janis Current

July 8, 1927-March 11, 2024
Janis Current, age 96, a resident of Redkey, passed away on Monday, March 11, 2024, at her home in Redkey.
Janis was born July 8, 1927, in Redkey, Indiana, the daughter of David and Meredith (Armstrong) Cook. She graduated from Redkey High School in 1945. Janis married Jay Max Current on Sept. 20, 1947, and he passed away on Jan. 20, 1979.

Janis owned and operated a beauty shop in her home for many years and worked at Redkey Elementary as a teacher's aide.
Janis was a member of Redkey United Methodist Church and also a founding member of Redkey Faith Ministries; she attended Fairview United Methodist Church. Other memberships



Current

include Redkey Order of the Eastern Star and Redkey Delta Theta Tau Sorority.
Janis served as secretary/treasurer of Hillcrest Cemetery for many years. Survivors include:
Her children — John David Current (wife: Betsy), Crane Hill, Alabama, Randy Current (wife: Faye), Dunnellon, Florida, Doug Current (wife: Sarah), Redkey, Indiana, Rick Current (wife: Violet), Redkey, Indiana, Lisa Young (husband: Ben), Jackson Center, Ohio,

and Mark Current, Redkey, Indiana
Sixteen grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren
Graveside services will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery, south of Redkey.
Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Hospital.
Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
Allan Farlow, Geneva, Sept. 1,

1936-March 11, 2024. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Swiss Village Chapel, 1350 W. Main St., Berne.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 3/15	Saturday 3/16	Sunday 3/17	Monday 3/18	Tuesday 3/19
52/34	55/38	45/28	38/24	40/28
There's a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms on Friday under cloudy skies.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Saturday, when the high will be around 55 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies on Sunday, when the low will be around 28 degrees.	Monday has a slight chance of snow. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Tuesday looks to be mostly sunny, with the high around 40 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$559 million	Evening Daily Three: 2-7-4 Daily Four: 9-3-1-9 Quick Draw: 4-12-23-26-28-31-36-40-42-48-53-58-59-63-64-65-66-74-75-79
Mega Millions 2-16-31-57-64 Mega Ball: 24 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$792 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-1-3 Pick 4: 0-9-9-7 Pick 5: 3-7-2-9-5 Evening Pick 3: 0-8-9 Pick 4: 3-2-2-1 Pick 5: 4-3-6-6-7 Rolling Cash: 1-4-16-23-33 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 9-8-4 Daily Four: 5-1-2-7 Quick Draw: 8-10-14-28-29-33-44-45-47-49-51-52-54-61-67-68-70-75-77-78	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.34 April corn4.36 Wheat4.24	April beans11.77 Wheat 5.18
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.40 April corn4.43 May corn.....4.47	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.18 April corn4.22 Beans11.73 April beans11.78 Wheat5.04
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.29 April corn4.27 Beans11.74	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.32 April corn4.32 Beans11.55 April beans.....11.60 Wheat4.74

Today in history

In 1826, the first Pan-American Conference was held in Panama. The meetings between representatives from independent states of the Western Hemisphere were designed to discuss defense and legal matters.
In 1879, Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Württemberg, Germany. He developed the special and general theories of relativity and won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 for his explanation of the photoelectric effect.
In 1899, Graf von Zeppelin, a German military official, received a U.S. patent for a "navigable balloon." The first zeppelin made its flight the following year.
In 1933, Quincy

Jones was born in Chicago. Jones was a producer for Mercury Records whose credits include Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and the all-star charity recording "We Are the World."
In 2018, Jay County High School held a school safety forum in the wake of the school shooting a month earlier that left 17 dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.
In 2022, Jay County Humane Society reported to Jay County Commissioners that it had turned its focus to the former Fastenal building on the west side of Portland as the site for its planned new animal shelter. The facility is now open.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council	Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Playground pals

Seven-year-old Bonnie Wooton and 2-year-old Joey Chapman prepare to go down the slide Tuesday at Hudson Family Park. Temperatures in Jay County jumped to the 60s Tuesday afternoon, drawing several residents outside to enjoy the warmer weather.

Unemployment ...

Continued from page 1
Lake County posted the highest rate in Indiana at 5.7%, following by Howard County at 5.6%.
Area rates are as follows:
Adams County: 3.2%, up 0.8 percentage points, tied for 12th-lowest
Blackford County: 4.5%, up 1.2 percentage points, tied for 13th-highest
Delaware County: 4.4%, up 1.2 percentage points, tied for 19th-highest
Jay County: 3.7%, up 1.1 percentage points, tied for 44th-lowest
Randolph County: 4.1%, up 1.3 percentage points, tied for 29th-highest
Wells County: 3.5%, up 1.1 percentage points, tied for 29th-lowest

Breakfast ...

Continued from page 1
"It draws the community together, from in town, out of town, anywhere," said Temple, noting that the recently released 2022 Census of Agriculture shows Jay County ranked No. 1 for cash receipts among the state's 92 counties. "I just think it's something we need to celebrate and support."
"It illustrates what this county produces — eggs, pork, wheat for bread," added Tillman. "It's just an extension of what this county brings to the community and throughout the state."
Eggs for the breakfast will come from Jay County's Minnich Poultry and sausage from Fisher Packing in Portland. Red Gold (Geneva),

Wayne IGA (Fort Recovery) and Alpine Water (Berne) will also be sources of supplies for the event.
In addition to the breakfast, there will be booths set up for the event. Among those expected to attend are IU Health Jay — it will offer blood pressure checks and will also have fruit to supplement the breakfast offerings — Ivy Tech Community College, Jay County 4-H, Jay County Farm Bureau and the local U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency office.
Tillman noted that the ag dinner — he said it was down to about 50 attendees — won't be part of the schedule this year. The breakfast typically brings in 700 to 1,000 visi-

tors, he added, reminding residents that carry-out is available.
"That's the nice thing," he said, "people can stop in, pick up the carryouts, take them to work and spread them out amongst others."
Ultimately, the breakfast comes down to community. It's an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors.
"They'll go through the line, they'll see somebody they haven't seen for a while and they'll sit down with them and start a (conversation)," said Tillman. "Another thing I like to see is ... you'll see farm families come in and sit as a group. That's something they probably do every day, but they'll come in and sit down and eat their breakfast together."

Capsule Reports

Home destroyed

A Dunkirk couple's home was destroyed Tuesday in a fire.
Dunkirk Fire Department responded to a call to 617 S. Main St. about 4:20 p.m. Tuesday. The two-story house quickly became engulfed in flames, according to the fire department.
A neighbor told emergency personnel he heard a "big bang" and noticed the back of the house on fire. He ran inside to alert homeowner Keith Renner and his wife, who had been cooking supper on an electric range in the kitchen at the back of the house when she smelled smoke.
Firefighters from Albany, Redkey, Pen-ville and Eaton fire departments also responded to the scene, getting the flames under control by about 6 p.m. Tuesday. Dunkirk Fire Department stayed on scene for another two and a half hours.
The house was destroyed in the fire — what was left of the structure was

removed Wednesday for safety reasons — and a garage on the property was also destroyed. Some heat damage also spread to adjacent houses.
According to the fire department, the Renners did not have insurance on the structure or its contents.

BZA elects

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals met briefly Tuesday to elect officers.
Larry Petro was elected chair with Aaron Loy as vice chair and Kyle Cook as secretary. The board has two new members, with Ron Laux replacing the late Lee Newman and Virginia Burkey willing a seat following the resignation of Connie Roberts.
Pati McLaughlin was appointed as reporting secretary.
McLaughlin also provided the board members with reminders of the criteria they are required to utilize in order to make decisions on zoning variances.

Gun & Knife Show
All state and federal laws apply
Admission \$6
Delaware County Fairgrounds
1210 N. Wheeling Ave - Muncie, Indiana
Saturday, March 16
Sunday, March 17
Buy, Sell and Trade. For more info 765-993-8942



**Sunday
March 24
2-4pm**
**Retirement
Reception for
Dr. Mark A.
Haggengjos**

**At Arts Place in
Portland, Indiana**

SERVICES

Thursday Valentine , James: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Friday Neuenschwander , Peter: 9 a.m., Neuenschwander residence, 1190 E. 1000 South, Geneva.
Saturday Farlow , Allan: 10:30 a.m., Swiss Village Chapel, 1350 W. Main St., Berne. Current , Janis: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, rural Redkey. Simon , Joan: 2 p.m., West Missionary Church, 4295 W. Indiana 218, Berne.

Service listings provided by
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Asbury egg hunt set for Saturday

It's egg hunting time. Asbury United Methodist Church is hosting an Easter egg hunt from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday. The event will take place at the church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland, and include candy, games and prizes. Entry is free. To learn more, call (260) 726-8464.

Easter services

A few local churches have announced special services for the upcoming Christian holiday. Zion Lutheran Church in Portland will host a Good Friday service at 8 p.m. March 29. Its Easter Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m. March 31. Trinity Lutheran Church will host its Good Friday service at 7 p.m. March 29. A freewill offering basket will be placed in the entry for donations toward Fort Recovery Ministerial Association's high school scholarships and benevolence needs in the community.

Taking Note

Free breakfast

Grace Bible Church in Berne is hosting a free resurrection Sunday breakfast at 8:30 a.m. March 31. Folks from across Adams, Wells, Jay, Blackford, Huntington and Mercer counties will be joining to sing, celebrate and eat a free meal. All are welcome to join at the church, 6626 Village Way. Breakfast will be followed by a worship service at 10 a.m. March 31.

Leaders elected

Jay County 4-H Junior Leaders recently elected new officers. Eva Carter was elected as president. Also elected were vice president Erin Aker; secretary Ava May and treasurer Josh Starr.



Photo provided

New inductees

Portland Lions Area 25 District Governor Julia Kozicki (left) introduced Kristin Coleman and Brad Stultz last night. Coleman was sponsored by Dwane Ford (second from left) and Stultz was sponsored by Josh Gibson, not pictured. Also not pictured is Mike Biggs, who was inducted by club vote in February and is also sponsored by Gibson.

Ex fails to show up to mother's funeral

DEAR ABBY: My mom passed away recently, and the person I was in a relationship with from adolescence to my adulthood, "Charles," didn't attend her funeral. While I'm currently in a relationship with someone else I deeply love, I still feel my mother was fond of Charles despite our many hardships. Her affection for him showed without a doubt, many times without my involvement. Despite my resentment toward Charles, it never swayed her opinion of him. I no longer speak to Charles. This pattern was well set before Mom's death. Because she cared for him, I think it was wrong of him not to show up to pay his respects, regardless of what our situation

currently is. For the record, I didn't attend either of his parents' funerals because Charles liked to gaslight and cause drama.

Now that I'm no longer a teenager, I see him for who he really is. I thought I was in love at the time, but I realize now that I was still in the "age of innocence." While I no longer want him in my space or life, I still feel

his not attending was selfish and pathetic. Are my feelings valid? — MOURNING IN MISSOURI

DEAR MOURNING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your dear mother. That said, the time has come to let go of your relationship with Charles. You wrote that you no longer want him in your life, yet you cling to your resentment of him. Funerals are for the LIVING. The deceased are past the point of knowing if someone attends or not. Charles may have stayed away because he knows you dislike him and felt unwelcome. Scrub him out of your head and stop living in the past. As the late Elie Wiesel once point-

ed out, "The opposite of love isn't hate, it is indifference."

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend's 36-year-old son refuses to work. He has every excuse in the book. No job is just right for him. Without any education or training, he expects to make \$20 per hour. Even then, he either quits or gets fired. He has lived off family for all of the five years I have known him. He couldn't find a job even part time last year, and never paid rent. We were forced to move.

Now we are in a 55-plus community that does NOT allow "children," and her son is hiding in the living room and porch. He has created a cell for himself. If discovered, the community can

evict us. How do we get him out? — PRISON FOR ALL IN FLORIDA

DEAR PRISON FOR ALL: The son is 36 and "hiding" in a cell he has created for himself? Is he mentally disabled? Taking drugs? After five years, it's time you and your girlfriend formed a united front and gave her son a deadline by which to find a job and move. After that deadline, he can couch surf with friends if necessary. Then cross your fingers and pray the management of the community in which you live doesn't catch on to what's been going on, or you and your girlfriend may be looking for another home as well.

Dear Abby



Community Calendar

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

Today

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Pizza Hut in Portland. AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland. All auxiliary post members welcome.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet Friday, March 15, at the Harmony Café in Portland.

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

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.

GRAVEL HILL CEMETERY — Will host its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 18, at the cemetery memorial building, 650 N. 50 West, Bryant. Lot owners are urged to attend. 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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Working at home tests numbers

By MORTON J. MARCUS

A persistent complaint from many readers of this column is the “excessive, over-whelming, suffocating” use of data. Or, as one friend says, “I don’t do numbers.”

I understand, even if I don’t empathize. Numbers allow us to see beyond a picture or a recording. Let’s look at one example. What’s happened to commuting patterns between 2019 (before COVID) and 2022 (with lingering effects of COVID)?

In 2019, 5.7% of workers in the United States worked at home. In 2022, that figure was up to 15.2%. To grab that idea, 5.7% is roughly 1 in 18 workers while 15.2% is about 1 in 7 workers. Eighteen workers, that’s like

Eye on the Pie



the number of players in a baseball game (except we now have designated hitters, so the players actually number 20). And one in seven? That a dinner party for eight and one didn’t show up. Or maybe the gunslingers in “The Magnificent Seven” movie.

But then we go on to compare Indiana and the nation. In 2019, 4.3% of Hoosiers were working

at home compared to 5.7% for the nation. In 2022, our figure was 10.5% versus the nation’s 15.2%.

Do those numbers help us see that workers nationally were more able to shift to at-home employment than were Hoosier workers? That’s probably because we have a larger percentage than the nation of workers in manufacturing and trucking where you can’t call in the work.

Maybe a combo of numbers and percentages would help. By 2022, nationally, there were 24 million workers working from home. This was an increase of 15 million (173%) from three years earlier. For Indiana, 345,000 worked at home in 2022,

an increase of 206,000 (149%). In both instances, the number of people working at home doubled.

As Hoosiers, let’s put those added 206,000 Hoosiers working at home in a basketball context. New Castle’s high school basketball site holds 8,424, the largest of its genre in the state and the nation. You would have to attend 25 sold-out games to see the equivalent of those 206,000 workers.

Numerically, COVID had slightly more impact on women than on men. Nationally, the ratio of men working at home in 2022 compared to 2019 was 2.7; for women it was 2.78. For Indiana the figures were men 2.46 and women 2.49. What this

meant in the lives of men and women we’ll leave to social commentators.

For those who did not work at home, travel times nationally were reduced by about one minute on a mean of 28 minutes. But, in Indiana the mean travel time to work remained at 24 minutes.

Will working from home continue at these high levels? Workers learn from and like to be with others. Employers like to see their wages working. I doubt this will change, but then I’m not converting office space to residential uses.

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Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

We need to ask the right questions

By KEVIN FRAZIER

The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

“That’s the wrong question.”

In the most recent season of “True Detective,” Jodie Foster plays a detective in Alaska. Her character has a knack for pushing other officers to ask better questions about the complex case in their hands. Unsurprisingly, it annoys the heck out of her colleagues. Also unsurprisingly, it helps them get to the heart of the case a lot faster than if they had chased the wrong lead.

For a long time American voters have been asking the wrong questions. When candidates attend town halls or host “Ask Me Anything” sessions on social media, voters tend to ask questions like “What are you going to do about issue X?” and “What’s your stance on conflict Y?” In general we ask questions that place the burden, duties and power on candidates rather than on us, the people, the “sovereigns” of this entire system of governance.

The passive posture inherent to this sort of questioning has two negative outcomes. First, it diminishes our own sense of responsibility for the success of our democracy. When you think someone else holds the keys to your future, it’s easy to deflect blame for when things go wrong. A lot of folks these days seem to place blame for the current state of our democracy on a single party, a single branch or a single official. This mindset is in part because we’ve become so used to asking the wrong questions.

Second, our focus on other actors in our democracy decreases the odds of collectively demanding reform. It works like this: As long as we dominate to point fingers at others, we will be distracted from finding ways to collaborate.

To reclaim the people’s power over our democracy we need to start asking better questions. Here’s a short list that I’d recommend — I’m eager to hear from you all.

What’s stopping me from being more involved politically? What resources, opportunities and issues would propel me to be a more active participant?

Do I feel as though my local, state and federal leaders understand my concerns and lived reality?

Kevin Frazier



Do I feel as though my local, state and federal leaders understand my concerns and lived reality?

If not, what do I think is essential for them to understand?

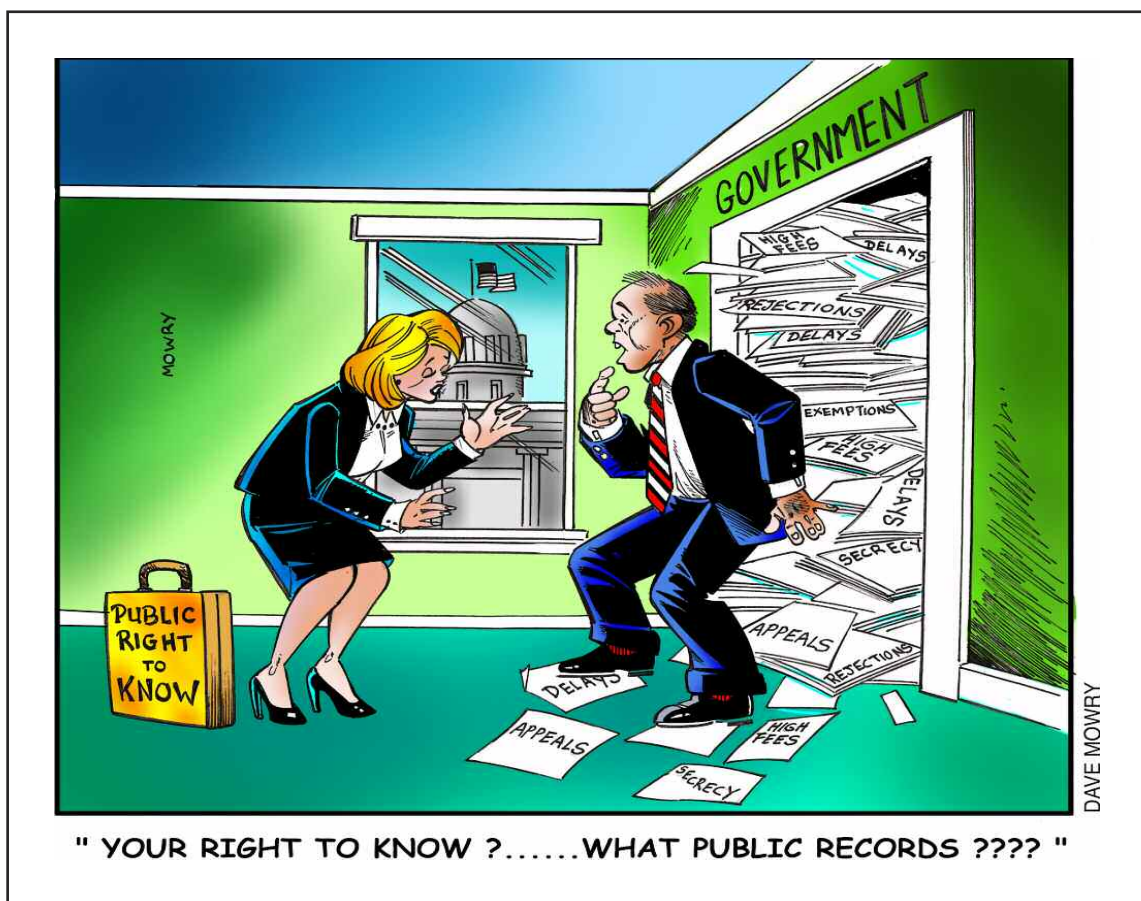
How do my friends impact my political views and level of engagement? Which pals could I talk more with about these issues? Who might have suggestions for good news outlets and engagement opportunities?

It’s no secret that a lot of action can simply come from recognizing that you’re in a position of influence. Don’t get me wrong — there are a heck of a lot of barriers to improving the state of our democratic discourse and the quality of our government. The people have less money and more problems than special interests. But we have something they never will — formal recognition as sovereigns over our system.

By asking questions about how we can more responsibly and effectively use that role to create lasting change, we can sow the seeds for a democracy that matches our expectations and allows us to reach our potential.

This isn’t to say that we shouldn’t ask plenty of questions of our elected officials — it’s just to emphasize that we’ve been neglecting some other important inquiries for far too long. So the next time a friend or family member questions why “they” or “that party” isn’t doing X or Y, perhaps remind them that they’re asking the wrong question.

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Frazier is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University.



"YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW?.....WHAT PUBLIC RECORDS???"

Implement a better plan

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

It’s not even springtime yet, and wildfire smoke from Texas already has seeped into the Midwest.

In Canada, glowing coals still smolder from last year’s wildfires, just waiting to come back to life.

Ergo, another smog-filled summer looms for Chicago, and now is the time to prepare for this dangerous health threat. With lives at stake, the city must do more than try to wing it again, as it did last year. Chicago needs an effective 2024 plan to confront a potential killer.

Last summer, Chicagoans choked on some of the worst air of any major city in the world. The skies were tinged with a yellowish haze that made the sun look like it was hiding behind a nicotine-stained fog bank.

Satellite images showed massive smoke plumes drifting into the area. Many people not only saw and smelled the smoke but felt it in their chests. The primary pollutant from wildfires, referred to as PM2.5, is made up of tiny soot particles that embed themselves in the respiratory system, leading to coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing. The health effect is akin to taking up cigarettes.

The main culprits were wildfires that burned for months in Canada. Its fire season started early and ended late, ultimately scorching an area the size of North Dakota. Now, north of the border, this year’s fire season is getting off to a similarly early start.

As the planet gets warmer, forests that were cool and moist for centuries have become hotter and dryer, creating a tinderbox across the upper reaches of North America. The Canadian government recently warned that smoke from its fires will likely be worse this year than in the record-breaking 2023, and Alberta declared that its 2024 fire season began in earnest last month, well ahead of what was planned in the past.

In the short term, prevention is difficult. Some of the biggest fires are ignited by lightning, and burn in

Guest Editorial

remote areas where large-scale fire-fighting efforts are difficult to carry out. Forests were charred across a vast area last year, from British Columbia in the west to Alberta in the center and east through Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

Today, the Canadian media is agog about “zombie fires” left over from last year’s conflagrations. These smoldering coals are expected to rekindle as warmer conditions return. Like last year, much of America’s Midwest and Northeast will be at the mercy of prevailing winds that could blow in Canadian smoke.

Canada is not the only threat: The western U.S. is acutely vulnerable to wildfires and those now burning in Texas already have sent plumes northward through the central Plains, into Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota.

The resulting pollution is especially hazardous to the young and the old, as well as others with heart conditions, diabetes or breathing problems such as asthma. Taken together, those risk factors encompass a large percentage of the Chicago area’s population.

The smoke may be practically impossible to stop, but the city is far from helpless. Among other actions, local government needs to boost its pollution monitoring, so it can sound the alarm promptly when air quality is about to deteriorate.

Officials also should step up outreach and education, reminding people to stay indoors with windows closed when necessary. It’s similarly important to change HVAC filters frequently and wear COVID-19-style N95 masks when outdoors on smoky days.

Just as it sets up cooling centers during hot spells, Chicago also

needs to make filtered rooms available for people to breathe clean air. Those steps can help mitigate the effects of pollution.

Long term, public officials could do more, by encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transit, for instance, or setting aside more green spaces. As it stands, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may require Chicago and other parts of the state to impose remedial actions. As the Tribune reported in November, new factories could experience permitting delays, and existing ones could be forced to install costly new pollution controls, among other measures that kick in when air quality is unusually bad for an extended period.

Many Chicagoans have come to expect little from Mayor Brandon Johnson, whose first year in office delivered one disappointment after another. Among his gaffes was the bungled firing of the city’s highly credible public health leader, Dr. Allison Arwady. She would have come in handy this summer if waves of smog blow in, as feared.

Johnson won the mayoral election partly by speaking from the heart about how isolating and devastating poverty can be, making much of having grown up in a low-income home and having taught, for a part of his career, in low-income schools.

Mayor, socioeconomic status is considered one of the major risk factors for health damage from wildfire smoke. Impoverished children and older adults suffer disproportionately from heart and lung diseases that make people especially vulnerable to air pollution. They may find it unaffordable to protect themselves with high-grade HVAC filters and air purifiers, and impractical to avoid opening windows and going outside during hot weather.

Those constituents may well need your help this summer. Get an effective initiative underway — before the smoke arrives.

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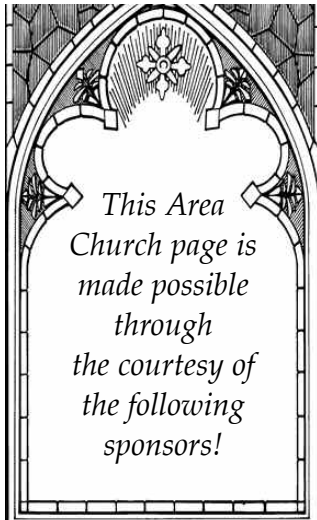
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“Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter.”
—Thomas Jefferson

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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefontain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org

Christ Chapel
105 S. Elm St., Fort Recovery
Quentin Elsea
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. David Yinger
(937) 337-5781
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Chuck Hollandbeck
(765) 369-2676
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
County roads 400 North and 550 West
Rev. Mike Heckman
(260) 731-4733
Services: 11 a.m.

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

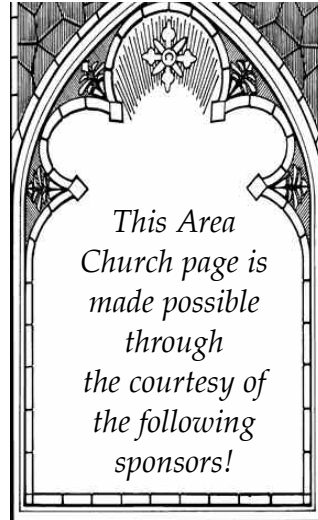
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



“Why do we hafta straighten up the house just because the cleaning lady is coming?”

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Step into my parlor ...

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K 9 3, ♥J 10, ♦10 6 3, ♣A K 10 8 5. WEST: ♠14, ♥Q 4 3 2, ♦K Q 8 7 2, ♣7 6. EAST: ♠Q 10 7 6 5, ♥6 5, ♦A 9 4, ♣J 4 2. SOUTH: ♠A 8 2, ♥A K 9 8 7, ♦J 5, ♣Q 9 3. The bidding: South 1♥, West Pass, North 2♣, East Pass, South 2♥, West Pass, North 3♥, East Pass. Opening lead - king of diamonds.

insidious play. Instead of taking his queen, he allowed the jack to win the trick! Declarer swallowed the bait - hook, line and sinker. Convinced that East had the queen, and certain he was about to make the contract with an overtrick, South led dummy's ten of hearts and repeated the finesse. West pounced on the ten with the queen and played a fourth round of diamonds. South ruffed with the king of trump and cashed the ace, hoping to find the two missing hearts evenly divided. But when East showed out, declarer, out of trumps, had to go down two, losing a trump and a diamond to West at the end. Note that if West takes the jack of hearts with the queen at trick five, declarer makes the contract easily, since a diamond continuation can be ruffed in dummy. Note also that if South does not take the second trump finesse but cashes his A-K instead, he retains control of the hand. West would then have the high trump, but declarer plays clubs until West ruffs, after which South scores the rest of the tricks. West's ingenuity notwithstanding, in the final analysis, it was South's greed for an overtrick that led to his downfall. He should have followed rule No. 1: Making the contract is always the first priority.

Here is a case where a shrewd defender laid a clever trap for declarer to turn what appeared to be a certain loss into a tidy gain. West, the hero of the tale, began by leading the king of diamonds against four hearts. Next came a low diamond to East's ace, followed by another diamond, ruffed by declarer. South now crossed to dummy with a club, led the heart jack and, after East played low, finessed. It was here that West made a most

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

3-14

CRYPTOQUIP

EXHU ZKJSQ PKJ ZHSS XHVQ WKUMKVR COKCSO WHBO EXMSO UXOP'IO TKBMVN

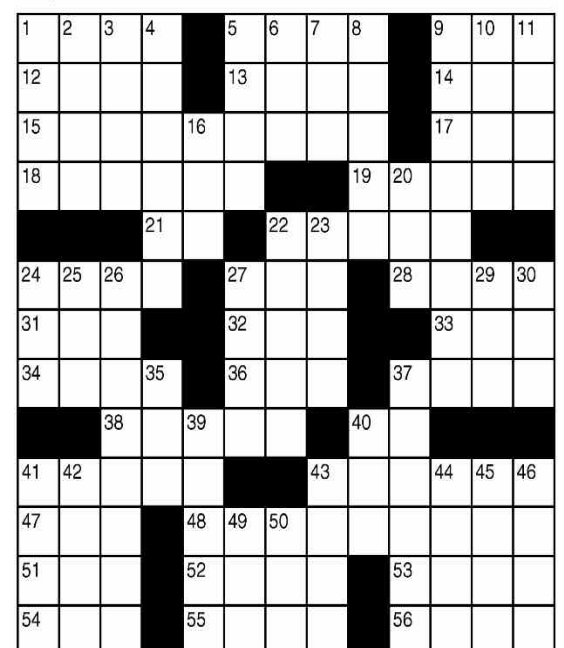
HIKJVQ? TORUOIR' NORUJIOR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEBODY IS AT THE GYM BUT IS ONLY STANDING THERE KILLING TIME, IT'S NOT WORKING OUT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Counterfeit, 5 Novelist Oz, 9 Deposit, 12 - contendere, 13 Naked, 14 Historic period, 15 Cloud, 17 Letters after Q, 18 Went yachting, 19 Cougars, 21 "That's a laugh!", 22 Social division, 24 Evergreens, 27 Third degree?, 28 Roof overhang, 31 College URL, 32 Help, 33 Sandy color, 34 Gestation location, 36 "Kid-napped" monogram. DOWN: 1 Elitist, 2 Vagabond, 3 - Romeo, 4 River parts, 5 Starting quartet, 6 Goat's plaint, 7 Leftover bit, 8 Leaks slowly, 9 Soak through, 10 - Minor, 11 Body pics, 16 Salty expanse, 20 Salt Lake athlete, 22 Peru neighbor, 23 Tosses in, 24 Hardly any, 25 Altar affirmative, 26 Ponder, 27 Fraction, 29 Preventive shot, in slang, 30 Tolkien creature, 35 Buddy, 37 Italian port city, 39 Houston player, 40 Singer Lana - Rey, 41 Tennyson poem, 42 In a lazy way, 43 Baby goats, 44 Perfume by Dana, 45 Fermi's bit, 46 Sawbucks, 49 Actor McShane, 50 Dead heat.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-14



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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Andrew Myers takes cuts in the Jay County Baseball Club's new indoor facility, The Clubhouse. JCBC has had a few athletes come in to make sure equipment is working properly before opening to the public within the next two months.

Bengals trade Joe Mixon to Houston

By PETER SBLENDORIO
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

After missing out on Saquon Barkley, the Houston Texans have their running back.

Houston is set to acquire Joe Mixon from the Cincinnati Bengals, who previously planned to release the high-priced veteran, according to NFL Media.

Mixon, 27, rushed for nine touchdowns and 1,034 yards in 2023, marking his fourth time eclipsing 1,000 yards in seven career seasons. Originally a second-round pick out of Oklahoma, the durable Mixon scored 62 total touchdowns in those seven seasons, all with Cincinnati.

He joins a Texans backfield that just lost leading rusher Devin Singletary, who agreed Monday to a three-year, \$16.5 million deal with the Giants. The Giants hope Singletary, who totaled 1,091 scrim-

After planning to cut Mixon, Cincinnati finds trade partner to save \$6.1 million

mage yards last year, can help replace the superstar Barkley, who spent his first six seasons with Big Blue.

Houston was in on Barkley before the two-time Pro Bowler reached a three-year, \$37.75 million deal with the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday. The Texans want to build on a 2023 season in which rookie quarterback CJ Stroud led them to a 10-7 record, an AFC South title and a playoff win.

Trading Mixon saves the Bengals \$6.1 million of

what would have been a \$8.85 million cap hit had they kept him. On Monday, the Bengals reached a two-year, \$8 million deal with Zack Moss, who rushed for a career-high 794 yards with Indianapolis last season.

Mixon joins a Texans running back room that also includes former fourth-round pick Dameon Pierce, who struggled to 2.9 yards per carry last season after rushing for 939 yards on 4.3 yards per carry as a rookie in 2022.

Corner ...

Continued from page 8
"It was actually kind of a blessing these things took as long as they did," Atkinson said. "We had time to get it painted before nets arrived. We got some code compliance stuff done before we got the nets and turf here. Now we have some time to troubleshoot until we become code compliant."

Some of the trouble shooting the club has had to do involve needing to add an extra door in the area with the cages, having a wire pop out of the netting system and finding a way to get the metal poles that hold up the net into the building as they

weren't a part of the initial plan.

Another advantage of needing to wait for code compliance is an advancement into phase two, particularly in the form of HitTrax, a feedback device that gives data about your swing and the result of a struck ball. The technology is both used for training purposes, while also having game modes to simulate games.

JCBC already has the technology set up, and the club made sure it was easy enough for kids to use without needing assistance from staff.

Other parts of phase two, such as a classroom

and golf simulator, will be implemented as funds are available while JCBC plays off its loan. The club recently received \$75,000 from the Portland Foundation and has applied for other grants as well.

While phase two won't be completed for a while, the club is excited for the progress that has been made and the prospect of opening up after nearly two years of brainstorming, planning and executing.

"We're getting there and it'll be here before you know it," Farr said. "Our goal is to get this thing functional so we can get people in here."

Colts ...

Continued from page 8

An ankle injury cost him the final five games of the season, and he failed to record an interception for the only time in his seven-year pro career.

Offseason conversations with Ballard, new head coach Shane Steichen, Bradley and defensive backs coach Ron Milus helped Moore again feel comfortable in the city he considers his second home. And the results were evident on the field.

Two of Moore's three interceptions in 2023 were returned for touchdowns, both against Carolina Panthers rookie quarterback Bryce Young.

Moore has 413 tackles, 17 interceptions, 55 pass breakups, four forced fumbles, one fumble recovery, 9.5 sacks and

32 tackles for loss while making 89 career starts in 103 appearances.

Sanchez missed all of 2022 with a torn Achilles' tendon but returned last season and set career highs with a 48.3-yard punting average and a 42.8-yard net average.

He dropped 30.9% of his attempts inside the opponent's 20-yard line and did not record a touchback on 68 attempts.

Sanchez also has been with the Colts since Ballard's first year in 2017, signing as an undrafted free agent out of Hawaii and winning a summer competition to replace fan-favorite Pat McAfee.

Over six seasons with Indianapolis, Sanchez has averaged 45.7 yards per punt and dropped 37.1% of his kicks inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Saturday
Jay County — Indoor track Blue and White Relays at Anderson — 1 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage at Indiana Lake — 11 a.m.

TV sports

Today
11:30 a.m. — Men's college basketball: A10 Conference tournament (USA)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota vs. Michigan State (BTN); ACC tournament (ESPN); Big East Conference tournament (FS1); Big 12 Conference tournament (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — MLB spring training: New York Mets at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN); A10 Conference tournament (USA)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: St. John's vs. Seton Hall (FS1); ACC tournament (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big 12

Conference tournament (ESPN2)
3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SEC Conference tournament (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: A10 Conference tournament (USA)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State vs. Iowa (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big East Conference tournament (FS1); ACC tournament (ESPN); Big 12 Conference tournament (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Boston Celtics (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: A10 Conference tournament (USA)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN); Big 12 Conference tournament (ESPN2); Big East Conference tournament (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)
11:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: PAC-12 Conference tournament (FS1)

Friday
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: AAC tournament (ESPN2); SEC tournament (ESPN)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SEC tournament (ESPN)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN)
11:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: WAC tournament (ESPN2)

Local notes

Tournament scheduled
The Fort Recovery High School volleyball program is holding its annual alumni volleyball tournament on Friday, March 22.
Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery and don't need to be from the same graduating class.
Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all pro-

ceeds going to the FRHS volleyball team.
For more information, contact Travis Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbiller@fortrecoveryschools.org.

Midwest Walleye Challenge

Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament.
The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring device.
Participants can enter for free for the chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25 fee to be eligible for biweekly cash prizes.

Those interested in participating can register by visiting AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on.IN.gov/walleye.

Registration open

Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed softball league is now open.

The league will start on April 7, and it will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a payout of \$400 and \$200, respectively.

To register, call Brock Farmer at (765) 209-4289.

Challenge set

The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County.

The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award.

Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well.

To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS
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SATURDAY, MARCH 16th 10 A.M.
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WAGONS, MANURE EQUIPMENT, AND HAY EQUIPMENT
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John Deere 997 zero turn diesel lawn mower with 72 inch deck, Hard-ee tree sprayer, Live-stock trailers, 375 board feet of cherry wood lumber, Anvils, mowers, Elevators, Gates, Duals, Tires.
This is only a partial listing of equipment that

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Any Questions or to consign items call Brad Rindler 419-584-6356
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PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY MARCH 23rd, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 7136 N 650 E. BRYANT, IN. OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, March 10TH from 1-3 pm, or for private showing phone auctioneers.
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80 Acres in Section 7, Wabash Township. To be offered in tracts and combinations.
Tract 1: 2.5 Acres with 3 bed, 2 bath brick ranch style home containing 1792 sq ft finished living area. Attached 2 car garage, central air, lofted barn, detached garage/grainery.
Tract 2: 66 Acres Practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E.
Tract 3: 2.4 Acres practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E.
Tract 4: 7 Acres Wooded with access on CR 650 E.
TRACTOR - ANTIQUES - MISC

90 SALE CALENDAR

Farmall A Tractor with cycle bar mower, belly mower and blade. 5 gallon milk can. CC saw. Chicken crate. Old gates. Walking plows. Old toys. Tinker toys and games. Hand painted lamp globe.
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Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
Check AuctionZip for more photos.
PUBLIC AUCTION
Auction to be held at 8341 N 400 E (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana Monday MARCH 25, 2024
AT 6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE - 1675 W ST. RT. 18 BRYANT, IN. PARCEL #1:
Approximately 4 acres of bare ground with frontage on State Road 18. Possession at time of closing.
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Farm is rented for 2024 crop year. Buyer to receive cash rent payment of \$200.00 per acre. Possession after harvest of 2024 crops.

90 SALE CALENDAR

Parcel #3: Combination of Parcel #1 and Parcel #2 containing 84,923 total acres.
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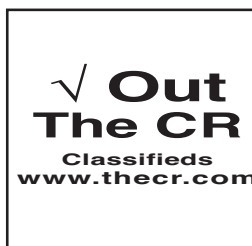
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PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for one full-time Police Officer now until March 22nd. Starting salary of \$52,387. Will also be accepting applications for reserve officers. Lateral transfer with sign on bonus of \$5,000 paid over a 3-year term for ILEA tier one graduates. Benefits: Paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days. Health and dental benefits offered, Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual clothing allotment, and 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Must be 21 years of age and no older than 40 years of age by date of appointment. Agility tests to be announced for non-members of 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department.
HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND will be accepting applications for the position of Water Department Distribution and Maintenance Per-

110 HELP WANTED

son. Minimum job requirements are high school diploma or its equivalent and a CDL B license or greater or able to obtain such license. General outline of duties: Repair water mains, services and hydrant leaks. Install and maintains all types and sizes of pipes, mains, services, fittings, hydrants, valves and meter pits, locate water lines, and thaw frozen pipes and meters. Applicant must be on call 24/7 one week out of the month. Heavy Equipment will be used. Employee is regularly exposed to outdoor weather conditions and is generally wet and dirty. A full job description can be seen in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at City Hall. The duties will vary as deemed necessary by the Water Superintendent and / or the mayor. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday until March 15. Application deadline is March 15, 2024. No applications will be accepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Right around the corner

The Clubhouse only needs to become compliant with fire code to open in six to eight weeks

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

It all started with an idea and a dream nearly two years ago. That dream is just over a month away from becoming a reality.

The Jay County Baseball Club's (JCBC) new facility, the Clubhouse, is nearly finished with phase one and is preparing to open between six to eight weeks from now.

"I think everybody's been really excited," said JCBC president Todd Farr. "We've done this right and we haven't held back. We made sure that we got good equipment and everything to make this place successful, especially baseball in Jay County at the end of the day."

The group started fundraising in August before taking out a \$420,000 loan and purchasing a building on county road 500 West to convert into its vision for The Clubhouse.

Then they received a one-time match of \$175,000 approved by Jay County Commissioners from wind farm economic development dollars in October.

The club got access to the building in January, the same month when members of the board attended the American Baseball Coaches Association Convention in Dallas, where they got in contact with vendors for turf and other equipment to get the renovation process underway.

Farr mentioned that not only were they able to find all of the

equipment they were looking for, such as turf, netting, balls, pitching machines, screens and more, but they also saved money purchasing the equipment at the convention.

Coming back from Dallas, the club just had to wait on the equipment's arrival and get to work.

"Things may have not have happened as fast originally, but they have just taken off," Farr said. "It's awesome and exciting, but it's also a bit nerve wracking because we are just around the corner from this thing opening."

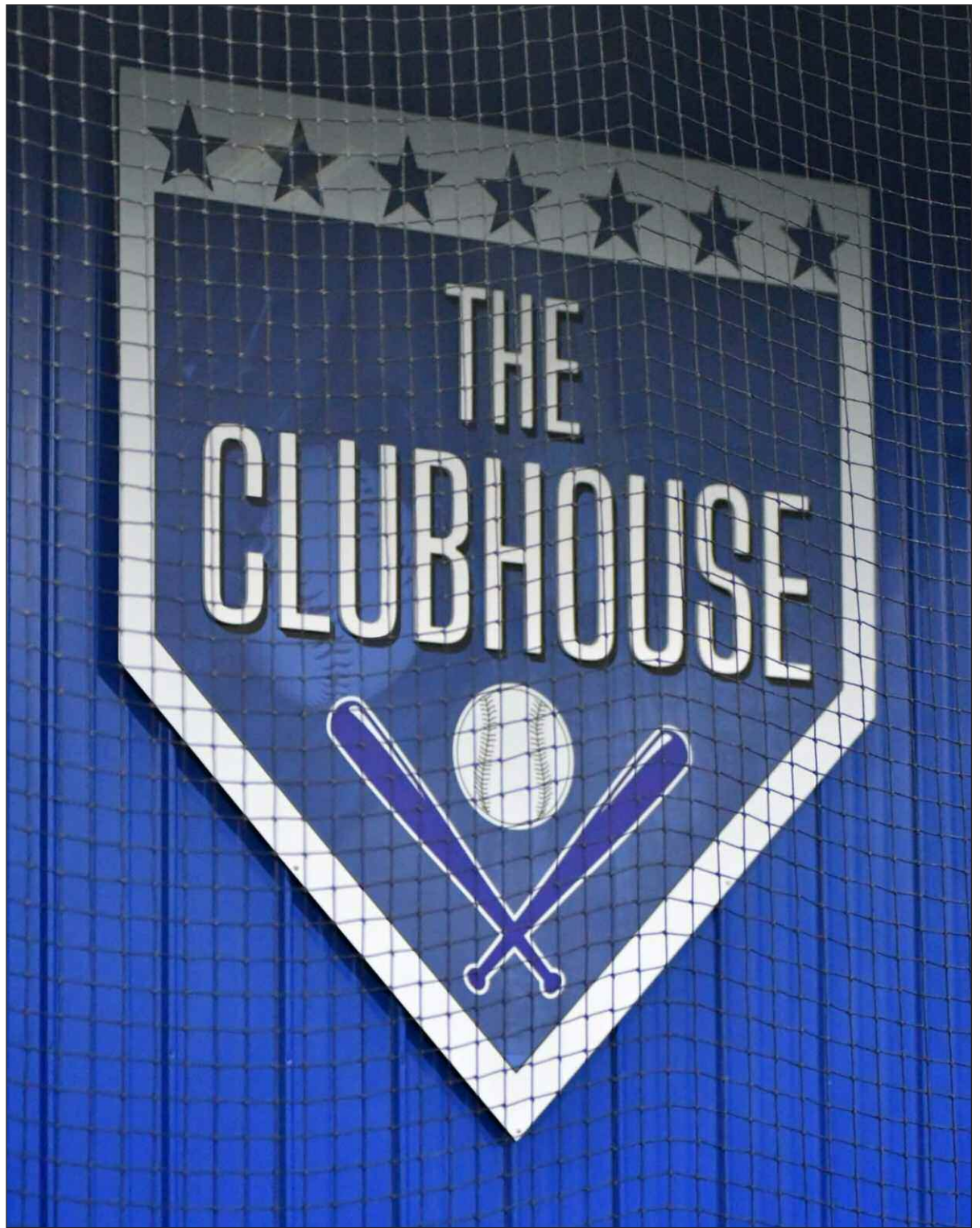
As of right now, phase one is nearly done, with the turf installed, nets set up and the front office area completed. The scheduling software is also being troubleshooted. The club is still waiting on a few systems to be put in place to be compliant with fire code.

"We have to have the pull alarms, the strobing alarms and those kinds of things to be fire code compliant," JCBC secretary Josh Atkinson said. "Right now, that's looking to be about six to eight weeks out."

Along with needing to meet fire code, JCBC is also vetting companies to put in an alarm system to The Clubhouse.

Needing to wait for the equipment to arrive in Jay County and for the fire and security systems has had its benefits for JCBC.

See **Corner** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured is the sign inside of the main room of Jay County Baseball Club's new indoor facility, The Clubhouse. The facility is nearly ready to officially open and just needs to get the building compliant with fire code.

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Colts resign two starters

Moore II and Sanchez will return to Indianapolis, Colts add former Miami DT Raekwon Davis

By **GEORGE BREMER**
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — On the eve of the NFL's new league year, the Indianapolis Colts re-signed a pair of starters and added their first outside free agent of the offseason.

According to multiple reports, the Colts reached an agreement Tuesday to bring back versatile cornerback Kenny Moore II on a three-year contract reportedly worth \$30 million.

Punter Rigoberto Sanchez also reportedly will return on a three-year, \$7.5 million deal. That brings the total to five in-house free agents re-signed this offseason and one extended.

The first newcomer of the bunch is former Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Raekwon Davis, who reportedly agreed to a two-year deal for \$14 million.

Davis' contract cannot be signed until the league year officially begins at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The 26-year-old started seven games last season for Miami and recorded 28 tackles, one-half sack, two tackles for loss and six quarterback hits.

A second-round draft pick out of Alabama in

2020, the 6-foot-7, 325-pounder has recorded 129 tackles, two sacks, five tackles for loss and 10 quarterback hits while making 48 starts in 63 total appearances.

In Indianapolis, Davis likely will serve as a rotational player and be the primary backup for nose tackle Grover Stewart — who agreed to a new three-year, \$39 million deal Monday.

Moore originally signed with the Colts off waivers from the New England Patriots prior to the 2017 season, which was general manager Chris Ballard's first year in charge.

A long-time Ballard favorite, Moore enjoyed a strong bounce-back season in 2023 with 93 tackles, three interceptions, six pass breakups, 1.5 sacks and eight tackles for loss.

His new deal makes him the highest-paid slot cornerback in NFL history, an unlikely outcome following his tumultuous 2022 campaign.

Moore staged a soft holdout during offseason workouts — appearing at practices and attending meetings but not participating in on-field drills — then struggled to adapt to new defensive coordinator Gus Bradley's scheme.

See **Colts** page 7