

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Board finds no harassment

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

An investigation has found no wrongdoing following a complaint of harassment by Portland's police chief and other officers against the city's clerk-treasurer.

Jerry Leonhard addressed the complaint and findings in a brief statement at the conclusion of Wednesday's Portland Board of Works meeting.

"We the members of the Portland Board of Works find no violation of harassment or violations of city codes by (clerk-treasurer) Lori Phillips in the complaint by Chief Mock," said Leonhard, who serves on the board of works along with Steve McIntosh and Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake.

Police chief, investigator had made complaints against clerk-treasurer

No further details regarding the complaint were provided during the meeting and there were no additional comments following Leonhard's statement.

On Wednesday evening, The Commercial Review was provided with documentation about the incident. It includes a report from city attorney Wes Schemenaur, complaint emails from Police Chief Dustin Mock, assistant chief Donnie Miller and investigator Jeff Hopkins, the email

from Phillips that led to the complaints and various other documents.

In a nine-page report dated April 11, Schemenaur provided the following conclusion: "I do not find that the March 19 email from clerk-treasurer Phillips to the city council constituted a violation of the city's personnel policies."

The document subsequently says that the board of works met in executive session April 11 to

discuss the allegations. It adds that board of works adjourned the meeting to review the materials they were provided and that Leonhard and McIntosh later separately contacted Schemenaur to inform him that they did not find a violation of city code and would take no further action on the complaint. (The document indicates that Westlake recused himself because he was a witness to some of the allegations in the complaint.)

The Commercial Review reached out to Westlake, Schemenaur, Phillips and Mock on Thursday morning seeking comment.

"I think the decision was the right decision," said Westlake. "We just need to move forward from here on out."

"I just want everybody to work together the best that they can," he added.

"I just want it known that all claims that were made were false and unfounded," said Phillips. "I just want to move forward for the betterment of the City of Portland. I think as city employees we need to work together and all have a same common goal, which is to make the City of Portland thrive."

See **Harassment** page 2

New leases are approved

Agreements updated for resource center tenants

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Updated lease agreements have been approved for the organizations that rent space from the city at Community Resource Center.

Portland Board of Works approved the agreements during its meeting Wednesday.

The lease agreements had been the subject of a dispute since the fall because the updated terms were not the same for all tenants. Tenants met with the board of works last month to discuss the issue, coming to an agreement in principle on new terms.

The updated agreements are one-year contracts at a rate of no less than \$350 per month. (The leases will be reviewed annually.) The city will cover maintenance for permanent structures such as heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical, the parking lot, etc., while tenants are responsible for utilities and the cost of other shared items such as bathroom and cleaning supplies.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur said he sent the updated contracts to each of the building's tenants — Jay County Commissioners for community coordinator Nate Kimball, Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Jay County Development Corporation, Jay/Portland Building and Planning and Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau — and has not received any feedback or concerns.

Jay County Commissioners approved the contract at their meeting Monday.

Mary Adair of the visitors and tourism bureau said the organization's commission president Matt Simmons has signed the contract but her board of directors has not yet addressed it.

Pati McLaughlin of the building and planning department said its inter-

local board will meet Tuesday.

Jay County Development Corporation and Jay County Chamber of Commerce did not have representatives at the meeting. (JCDC discussed the update agreement briefly at its meeting June 4, but did not take any action on it.)

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake asked whether the board should approve all of the contracts Wednesday or wait for feedback/approval from each of the entities in order to avoid the need to revisit the topic in the future. Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips expressed her feeling that the entities have been given ample time to respond.

Board members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Westlake voted unanimously to approve the contracts.

The board also gave Jay/Portland Building and Planning permission to utilize a small meeting room adjacent to its office for storage and granted director John Hemmelgarn permission to change a doorway. He will handle that work.

The board also approved the purchase of a dump truck for the city's wastewater department from Moser Motors of Berne at a cost of \$75,990.37.

Wastewater superintendent Brad Dues had two quotes, with the offer from Fuller Ford of Cincinnati coming in about \$1,700 lower than the Moser quote. However, the board decided to go with the Moser quote because of proximity and a difference in expected time of delivery. (The Moser vehicle is expected to be ready in 10 days, compared to a six-month lead time for Fuller.)

The new vehicle will replace a Ford F250 that is about 20 years old.

In other business, the board:

- OK'd the installation of a new pump panel at the city's lift station at the east end of Walnut Street near Jay County Historical Museum. 4TC of rural Portland will handle the project at a cost of \$19,070.

- Approved a CDL training reimbursement agreement for wastewater department employee Tom Leonhard. If he leaves city employment in less than three years, he will need to pay back a portion of the cost of the training.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Zombie effects

Ten-year-old Kinley Tarter uses her finger to add some detail to her arm during the Zombie FX Makeup Arts in the Park class Thursday morning at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland. Participants worked with Arts in the Parks instructor Kat Luong to learn how to create zombie-like skin and about special effects makeup.

Pitch made for new software

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

County officials are looking into software changes for a few county offices.

Jay County Council heard Wednesday from Jay County auditor Emily Franks and Jay County Treasurer's Office first deputy Jonelle Foreman about a need to update financial and property tax software.

Franks explained that their offices utilize outdated software. She cited a lack of customer support availability — during busy times of the year, it can take more than 24 hours for general support or almost a week for programming issues — software updates and flexibility in report generating, as well as a limited number of licenses to view information. (New systems allow unlimited rights to view records by elected officials and department heads.) She also noted the systems are not cloud-based and

County auditor, deputy treasurer say current program is outdated

instead based on-site, saying employees had to continue working on-site throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Troubles would arise, she added, in the case of a natural disaster.

Currently, both offices utilize Open Windows Financial's Harris for financial needs and Aumentum Technologies' MVP Tax for property taxes. The former, converted in March 2011, cost \$10,226.70 in support last year. The latter, converted in February 2006, cost \$57,142 in support last year.

Franks listed the duties fulfilled by the treasurer and auditor and noted they intertwine with one another. She explained the financial software covers the county's 10 bank accounts and 195 funds. Utilizing financial software, the county pays an average of 225 employees bi-weekly and accounts for the county's now \$22 million budget.

The county's property tax software handles an average of 1,425 property transfers annually. It accounts for billing property taxes — more than \$31 million in 2024 — tracks nearly 18,000 parcels and 80 county ditches, accounts for property tax, liens and stormwater dollars to all cities, towns, townships, libraries and schools in the county, and tracks personal property judgements, properties eligible for tax sale and properties under escrow.

See **Software** page 2

Deaths

- Johnny Bates**, 74, Winchester
- Gerald Rinard**, 82, Heartland, Texas
- Janet Gaerke**, 81, Fort Recovery

Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature in Jay County was 86 degrees Wednesday. The low was 59.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 50s. Mostly sunny skies are expected Saturday with highs in the mid 80s. Temperatures will climb into the 90s Sunday and Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Plan Commission meeting.

Tuesday — Photos from the Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Jay School Board meeting.



Obituaries

Johnny Bates

Nov. 9, 1949-June 7, 2024
Johnny Morgan Bates, 74, departed this life, Friday, June 7, 2024, after a long illness.

He was born on Nov. 9, 1949, to Greeley and Verna (Wright) Bates in Letcher County, Kentucky.



Bates

Johnny worked at Anchor Hocking Glass in Winchester for 43½ years in shipping. He married his wife, Mary LaVern Harrison Bates on Jan. 19, 1974. They were married for a little over 50 years. They had three beautiful children together.

Johnny leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife, Mary; his children, Johnnie Marie (Rob) Bates and Richard Bates;

mother-in-law Opal Williamson; grandchildren Kay-Tea (Aaron) Bryant, Jeremiah Loper, Alexis (Devon) Wirt, Courtlen (Melray) Holloway and Morgan Bates; great-grandchildren Raylen and Kyrie Tilson and Damion Bryant; brothers Paul, Danny (Anna), Greeley Jr. and Charlie; sisters Geneva (Steve) Walker, Delana (Bob) Etnyre, Dewana (Brian) Feltis and June (Luke) Hall; special niece Jennifer Kyla (Randy) Acker; and an abundance of cherished uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Johnny was preceded in death by his son, Wyatt Bates; two brothers, Jimmy and Tommy Bates; and his parents, Greeley and Verna (Wright) Bates.

A service to celebrate Johnny's life will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024, at the Walker Funeral Home in Winchester, with the Old Regular Baptist

Ministers officiating. Burial will follow at Fountain Park Cemetery in Winchester.

Friends and family may call from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials in Johnny's name may be made to Autism Speaks, P.O. Box 37148, Boone, IA 50037-0148.

Walker Funeral Home in Winchester is entrusted with the arrangements.

Condolences may be shared with the family at walkerswinchester.com.

Gerald Rinard

May 24, 1942-June 6, 2024
Gerald L. Rinard, 82, passed away on June 6, 2024, at his home in Heartland, Texas, surrounded by his family.

Gerald was born May 24, 1942, in Muncie, Indiana, to Gerald and Olive Rinard. Gerald served

in the National Guard from 1964 to 1970 and was a member of the Pennville American Legion Post 482. He attended the First Methodist Church of Forney and Pennville Cornerstone Church. He retired from Norfolk and Southern Railroad in 2004.

Gerald is survived by his wife of 58 years Anita Kay (Dickson) of Texas; son Phil (wife: Peggy) of Rogers, Minnesota; daughter Shawna Jandrew of Dallas, Texas; sister Dee Linn Schumacher (partner: Gary Springer) of Pennville; three grandchildren, Avrey, Rachel and Tony (wife: Karly); and five great-grandchildren Jazmyn, Cohen, Ava, Jaxon and Jonah. He was preceded in death by a



Rinard

sister, Iona Ford; and a great-grandchild, Annabell.

"Grief is the last act of love we have to give to those we loved. Where there is deep grief, there was Great Love."

Services will be held at a later date.

Janet F. Gaerke, Fort Recovery, Oct. 12, 1942-June 7, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Peter Catholic Church.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 6/15	Sunday 6/16	Monday 6/17	Tuesday 6/18	Wednesday 6/19
84/61	92/72	96/75	94/74	95/73
Sunny skies are expected Saturday with the high in the mid to low 80s.	More hot temperatures are on the horizon for Sunday, when the high may reach 92.	Sweltering heat is in the forecast Monday. The high may hit 96 degrees.	There's a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms Tuesday.	Mostly sunny and hot on Wednesday, when the high will be about 95.

Lotteries

Powerball 19-30-31-61-62 Power Ball: 21 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$34 million	Daily Four: 1-8-1-4 Quick Draw: 4-6-10-11-14-17-23-27-28-34-35-43-44-46-50-52-55-56-67-78 Cash 5: 2-7-24-32-33 Estimated jackpot: \$115,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$47 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-7-2 Pick 4: 8-9-9-1 Pick 5: 2-6-6-1-6 Evening Pick 3: 1-7-6 Pick 4: 5-6-6-5 Pick 5: 9-5-2-5-0 Rolling Cash: 8-25-28-32-36 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 2-5-2 Daily Four: 7-4-7-3 Quick Draw: 6-9-11-14-15-18-22-26-27-32-33-36-39-56-58-65-67-70-75-78 Evening Daily Three: 2-5-6	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.51 July corn.....4.49 Wheat5.31	July beans11.73 Wheat 5.81
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.53 July corn.....4.38 Aug. corn4.52	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.40 July corn4.35 Beans11.80 July beans11.75 Wheat5.81
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.38 July corn4.38 Beans11.78	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.48 July corn4.48 Beans11.55 July beans11.55 Wheat5.61

Today in history

In 1777, the design of a national flag was approved by the Continental Congress. The day officially became Flag Day by way of a presidential proclamation from Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

In 1972, a federal court jury in Fort Wayne found Norman R. Grass of Montpelier guilty of threatening the life of President Richard Nixon.

In 2021, Jay County High School held its annual honors night about six weeks later than usual because the start of the school year was delayed during the coronavirus pandemic. Griffin Mann received the Randy O. Poole Mental Attitude Award and was among 66 students to earn an academic honors diploma.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:15 p.m. — Fort Recovery Records Commission, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Tuesday 9 a.m. — Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building and Planning Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	

Harassment ...

Continued from page 1
Mock said he has no further comment on the issue.

Schemenaur did not return a phone call before press time.

The complaints made against Phillips made by Mock, Miller and Hopkins stem from an email the clerk-treasurer sent March 18 to Portland City Council members.

In the email, Phillips details what she refers to as "disconnect and blatant disrespect within the City of Portland leadership." Her list includes utilizing Hopkins Repair for work on city vehicles and a question about whether the decision was motivated by personal gain, the police chief and investigator seeking access to the Indiana Public Retirement System, someone (unidentified) impersonating the mayor on phone calls with other municipalities, Mock researching ways to get overtime pay for himself (his position is overtime exempt), an issue

regarding worker's compensation, the police department fundraising letter that was distributed earlier this year and the take-home vehicle policy for officers.

In the weeks following that letter, Mock, Miller and Hopkins sent letters addressing the mayor and/or "to whom it may concern" regarding the email from Phillips. A March 28 letter from Mock cites several sections of city ordinances regarding verbal harassment, use of computers, internet and email, behavior, and respect and civility, and requests that the mayor investigate accusations that Phillips "has contravened several Portland City policies." Mock says in his letter that Phillips "has made false and damaging statements about me and other members of the police department in her official capacity, which may constitute libel" and that those statements "have caused harm to my reputation and well-being."

Schemenaur's report indicates

that he was notified in person April 1 of the complaint by Mock and Hopkins and was provided with a formal written complaint as well as statements from witnesses.

As part of his investigation, Schemenaur received a written statement from Phillips, conducted an interview with Westlake in addition to getting a written statement from the mayor and conducted interviews with Mock, Hopkins and Miller, as well as officer Patrick Long, who was involved in the question regarding worker's compensation.

Schemenaur's report analyzes each of the allegations made by Mock against Phillips. In it, he says, "I do not find that the email meets the definition of Verbal Harassment as the ordinance requires repeated attacks." The report analyzes each paragraph of Phillips' email to council, in each case finding that the email is not in violation of city code.

Software ...

Continued from page 1
"Between our two systems, the benefits or negative impacts can be felt by every taxpayer, every government entity ... every department, every employee, every elected official," said Franks. "Our biggest concern is the software seems to be nearing end-of-life, and there are less than 20 counties now on either system with more slated to leave this year. We will not be able to work with and meet deadlines on a non-supported system."

She added both departments would like to switch before their current systems are no longer viable.

"I know for me that the last 18 months, I've worried that phone call's coming, or that email's coming in, saying we are no longer supporting you," she said.

Franks noted their options for new software are limited because they are government programs and are required to be continually tested and certified by the state. She asked council to consider incorporating additional funding into the 2025 budget for purchasing the software to be used next year.

Council president Matt Minnich asked for names and costs of potential programs. Franks mentioned two companies that combine property tax and financial work into one software: Low Associates Payroll Financial Suite, which would cost around half a million to set up and \$100,000 annually for sup-

port, or XSoft Financials, which would cost \$357,000 for setup and \$69,000 annually. (She noted her office prefers XSoft.)

In order to set up the software for next year, the county must decide if it is switching to a new program by October.

Council member Jeanne Houchins spoke in support of moving quickly on the issue in the event the software stops working before next year. Minnich asked Franks and Foreman to gather information from prospective companies to share with council at its July meeting.

Also Monday, council amended its economic development agreement with Invenergy for its proposed Skycrest Solar farm.

Planned on about 2,500 acres in northwest Jay County, Skycrest Solar would result in an estimated additional \$55 million in assessed value. Invenergy would pay about \$1.75 million in economic development payments to the county over the course of four years.

Per the updated agreement Wednesday, construction must start no later than Dec. 31, 2026, and be completed by Dec. 31, 2028. (Previously those dates were 2024 and 2026, respectively.)

Along with the timeline adjustment, explained Ethan Sternburg of Invenergy, the company agreed to make its first economic development payment to the county no later than six months after construction begins.

See Software page 5

SERVICES

Saturday

Weaver, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.
Romer, Pauline: 11 a.m., St. Mary's Cemetery, Fort Recovery.

Monday

Bates, Johnny: 1 p.m., Walker Funeral Home, 248 E. South St., Winchester.

Tuesday

Gaerke, Janet: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by

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Strohe

APPLIANCE & ELECTRONICS

1513 N Meridian Street, Portland, IN 260-726-7136
Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm Saturday 9 am-Noon

60th anniversary



Richard and Kathy Price - 2024

Kathy and Richard Price

The Prices are celebrating 60 years of marriage today.

Kathy and Richard Price wed June 14, 1964, at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Portland.

The rural Jay County residents have been devoted to their community through business ownerships and continued work within the community after retirement.

They have two children, Elizabeth Price Pieterse (Gert) and J. Chris Price (Donna), two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Arts in the Parks adds to class list

There are a few pop up Arts in the Parks classes coming up.

Additional sessions for the summer art program schedule this month include:

- Flag flipping with Ralyn Chaffins from 10 a.m. to noon Monday in Dunkirk, 1 to 2 p.m. Monday in Portland and 10 a.m. to noon June 21 in Pennville

- Special effects makeup with McKenna Vore from 9 a.m. to noon Monday in Pennville and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday in Redkey
- Arts in the Parks ringers — participants will be exploring unique tones of handbells — with Linda Braun from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 24 through June 28 in Portland.

Classes cost \$5 and are intended for children ages 6 through 12. To learn more, visit myartsplace.org, call (260) 726-4809 or go to Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. Pre-registration is required.

Taking Note

dents within their divisions at the university in Oxford, Ohio.

Dean's list

A Pennville local made the dean's list at University of Maryland Global Campus for the spring semester.

Terri Thompson earned the honor, which recognizes students who have completed at least six credits, earned at least a 3.5 GPA for the term and maintained a cumulative 3.5 GPA at the university in Adelphi, Maryland.

Flat 50

Adams County Bicycle Club hosts its Flat 50 Plus bicycle tour at 7 a.m. June 22.

Routes start and end at Riverside Center in Decatur, passing through Willshire, Ohio, Monroe, Berne and Geneva. Early tickets are \$32 until Wednesday and then bump to \$40. Register at runsignup.com by searching Flat 50.

President's list

Two local residents recently made the president's list at Miami University for the spring semester.

Megan Knapke and Morgan Litmer, both of Fort Recovery, ranked in the top 3% of undergraduate stu-

Aging couple consider move

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are contemplating moving across the country to be near our daughters. We have lived in our home for 45 years. We are both active and in very good health, but unlike many of our friends, we have no relatives anywhere near us.

We have friends and neighbors who are like family. We are also active in our church and community. Basically, our whole life is here. But we are very close to both of our daughters. We visit two to three times a year and Facetime often. They would be delighted to have us closer.

While we want to be more involved in their lives (we have four grandchildren), we always said the one of us left would be the one to move. However, as we age, we are thinking we might need to be near them. It has been hard watching all our friends be involved with their families, and we know we have missed a lot of seeing our grandkids growing up. We would welcome any wisdom from you as we try to make this difficult decision. — UNDECIDED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNDECIDED: Not every move of the kind you describe is successful. I have heard from many readers expressing that when they arrived in the new community, they discovered that the grandchildren were living full lives with their contemporaries, and the adult children were busy managing their own lives and couldn't give them the attention they had envisioned.

You have lived happily as part of your community for nearly half a century. Because you feel you are missing out on your grandchildren's lives, visit them a

Dear Abby



little more often. But do not expect to suddenly become the center of their and their parents' lives or you risk sacrificing the happy life you currently enjoy and becoming isolated and disappointed. A final thought: Before making a hard-and-fast decision about this life-changing scenario, consider RENTING an apartment in the new community for a year so you can see how well you would integrate into it before selling your home. It could save you a world of regret.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a divorced man, "Mitch," for nine years. We've been living together for the last two. He has a daughter and a grandson. Recently, while I was out of town for a week, he participated in the annual "family photo shoot" with his arm around his ex-wife as if they were one big happy family.

I feel betrayed by Mitch and his daughter. His excuse is that the photographer was unaware of the family history. The ex recently dumped the man she cheated on Mitch with, so her intentions might be questionable. Should I ask him to move out? — IN OR OUT OF THE PICTURE

DEAR IN OR OUT: Do NOT ask your boyfriend of nine years to move out based on a photo that

was taken one weekend while you were out of town! However, DO examine why, after nine years, the two of you haven't tied the knot, and how one photoshoot has made you feel so threatened. Then talk to him about it.

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister passed away in her 40s two years ago. She was my only sibling, and even though we had grown apart as we grew older, I was devastated. We'd had our quarrels in the past. She often put me down, but I took it hard when she passed. My niece took it upon herself to let me know that my sister never liked me. Now I'm not allowed to see my niece's children. My mother babysits them, and I'm not allowed to see my mother if they are around. With my schedule and her babysitting, I get to see Mom only once every couple of months.

I feel so alone, like I have no family left other than my children and husband. I am also mourning the loss of my mother because I am not allowed to see her. I cannot even talk to her on the phone when my niece and her kids are around. Help, please. — BREAKING HEART IN OHIO

DEAR BREAKING HEART: The only person who can help with this situation is your mother, who is allowing herself to be controlled by your niece. If you haven't already, tell your mother how hurtful this situation is and ask if she wants her only LIVING daughter to be estranged from her because your sister disliked you, and her daughter is carrying the torch. It's a sad and sorry situation, but nothing will change until she puts her foot down.

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.

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 - BRANNA'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 RETIRED TEACHERS — Will meet at noon Monday, June 17, at Richards Restaurant, 1615 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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Police, citizen thanked for help

To the editor:
I am thankful for a Portland police officer and a concerned citizen who did the right thing.

On Saturday, I was working in my yard when an officer pulled up and asked if I had seen a group of people walking past.
“No,” I replied. “I was busy trimming a bush.”
The police officer said a citizen saw the group depositing trash on my steps. He asked me if the trash on the steps was mine. When I said no, he affirmed that the group that had left it would be returning to remove it. I thanked him for correcting such a minor thing, but he thought it was more than just a small matter.

The officer said he knows this group of people. They are not bad, but they need to learn to make wise decisions.

The people who littered, plus some other officers, soon joined him. The officers talked to the group

Letters to the Editor

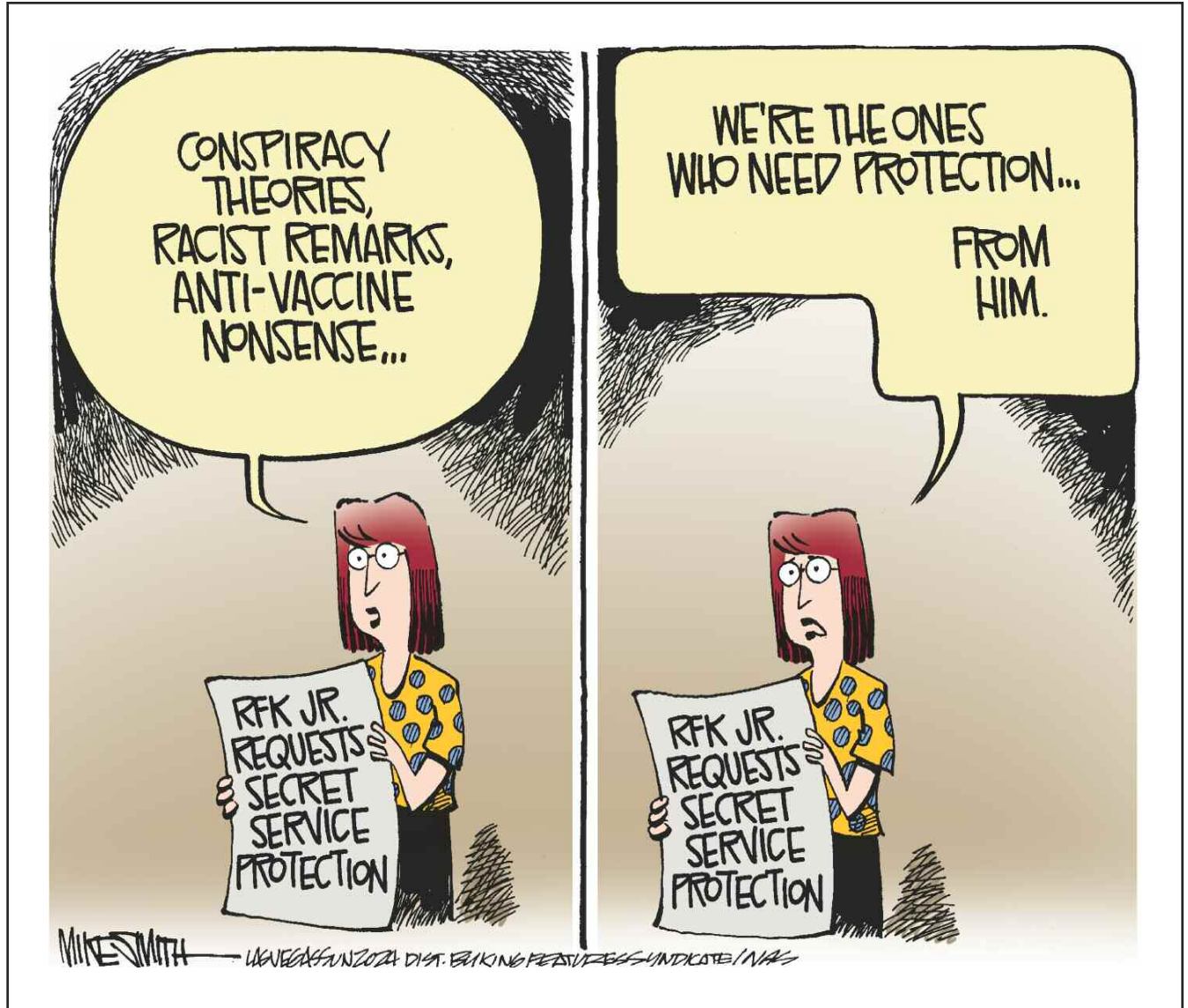
and they cleaned off the steps.

I appreciated the officers and the concerned citizen for taking the time to educate the group.

Upon reflection, I realized this incident was not insignificant.

Many years ago, our small church in West Virginia was honored by a visit from Sen. Jay Rockefeller. I spent the entire day before his visit cleaning the church and grounds. The day of the visit, another church member discovered trash left on the immaculately clean grounds. If she hadn't found the discarded wrapper, the church would have been embarrassed.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Landfair
Portland



Each job is an opportunity

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Many of my columns have focused on labor market advice to young people heading to college. Still, here in Indiana, a bit more than half of kids who turn 18 this year will choose not to attend college. As someone who studies labor markets, and who has led, commanded or hired thousands of folks in the 18-to-21-year-old crowd over the past 40 years, I have some advice.

I understand the choice to avoid college. I graduated high school in June 1980, sick of school. I was looking forward to a summer job clearing trails for the National Park Service. The idea of working in an office, wearing a suit and tie, scared me to death. Age and experience caused me to change careers and I guarantee you, too, will view the world very differently in five years.

Then, as now, a college degree offered several benefits. Jobs for college graduates are, on average, much better paying and less likely to face layoffs. College graduates typically experience wage growth over a lifetime, while workers with only a high school degree typically hit peak earnings in their thirties. All this adds up to college graduates doing less physically demanding work and earning about \$1.2 million more over a lifetime.

None of that means that if you don't go to college you cannot have a satisfying career and enter the ranks of the middle class, or even become fabulously wealthy. It just means that doing so takes more planning and work. I have four bits of advice on that front.

Most employers want to hire someone they can invest time and money developing into a good employee. Yes, they want work out of you, but every new face is an opportunity to bring someone into their organization to train and promote.

The No. 1 complaint about entry-level workers is work ethic. A strong work ethic really matters. No organization hires an 18-year-old expecting that they know the tasks the job will require, but they do expect an adult. They expect someone who can show up on time, ready to work; sober, clean, wearing the proper clothes and eager.

The fastest way to distinguish yourself is to respect the job and the workplace. In 40 years, I have

Michael J. Hicks



your immediate boss, or a more senior co-worker, he or she is being tested for their ability to train you and craft an effective team.

Another way to explain all these three major points comes right out of your high school experience. It is being a “coachable” employee. This is why extracurricular activities are prized by employers. Take those lessons from coaches, band directors and your teachers right into the workplace.

If you do these three things, you will have mastered the fundamental building blocks of a successful career. Mastering these workplace habits is necessary, yet not sufficient, for a stable, higher-paying career. That will require much more formal training.

All good businesses have programs to formally train new employees. These might range from tuition assistance for community and technical college to fully paid, formal training programs that lead to degrees, certifications or other credentials. This formal training will usually be recognized as valuable by everyone in your occupation and industry. Often, it will be recognized in all industries. If your employer doesn't offer such programs, start looking for a different job.

Naturally, employers are only willing to pay for that type of training for employees who demonstrate a strong work ethic, do everything well and are willing to learn. Fail at any of these and your employer will be reluctant to invest in you. Fail at any of these and you are aiming for a dead-end job.

All of this sets up my final bit of advice. View every job as an opportunity to invest in yourself. Embrace learning new skills, from the mundane task of smiling at customers to complex safety protocols. Do that consistently and opportunities for better pay, more responsibility and a satisfying career are open to you, whether or not you go to college.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

only fired workers for two reasons: work ethic and substance abuse. But the goal of a job is to do it well and get promoted; not simply avoid getting fired.

Second, the new guy always gets assigned to tasks nobody else wants. This is true for every organization and serves as the first real moment to test effort and commitment. Sometimes these tasks will be dirty and unpleasant; other times just boring. But nobody promotes a subordinate who won't do those tasks well.

Moreover, let me offer a lifetime secret. The new guy always gets the dirty jobs, whether it is an entry-level or advanced position. The junior member of the U.S. Supreme Court is the “note taker” for deliberations. If you cannot perform your assigned tasks well, no one will give you better ones.

Third, just because a job doesn't require a college degree doesn't mean that it is low skilled. Every occupation has extensive on-the-job training. The lower the formal educational requirement, the higher the level of on-the-job training.

Some of this can be very informal, learned by simply watching more seasoned workers. Much of it will be more formal, involving a very clearly specified lesson plan, with tests and quizzes aimed at evaluating your learning. Trust me, you cannot get away from tests.

There are a couple of things about this process you should understand. I recommend approaching the informal learning with a lot of humility. It is easy to breeze through the instructions for customer service or workplace safety. But everyone else in the organization depends on you mastering these tasks. There is no such thing as a “dumb question,” so don't let your ego interfere with your learning.

It is also important to understand that, at the same time you are being taught, your immediate supervisor is being evaluated. As

Cut culture has outlasted welcome

By KATHRYN ANNE EDWARDS
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Kathryn Anne Edwards



For more than two decades, America has pursued a policy as costly as the New Deal of the 1930s or the Great Society of the 1960s, but with a much narrower aim: cut taxes.

Judging from the Congressional Budget Office's latest forecasts, it has gone much too far. Extending the provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which are set to expire next year, will add an estimated \$4 trillion to the federal government's already perilously high debts.

One must hope the price tag will be shocking enough to focus attention on the three big problems of the U.S. tax system: It's unfair, unbalanced and underperforming.

Americans are increasingly dissatisfied with their taxes. As of 2024, just 49% considered what they paid to be fair, the second-lowest reading in more than two decades.

Their concerns are absolutely valid.

For one, the sheer complexity of the tax code allows those with means and sophistication to lower their bills in ways regular people can't. Consider the pass-through deduction, intended to give individuals who own small businesses the same reduction in taxes the 2017 law gave to corporations. In 2018, half of the deduction's benefits flowed to the highest-earning 1% of households, and more than a quarter went to the top 0.1%.

The second problem is that income polarization is making government revenue increasingly dependent on extreme high earners, who have proven adept at reducing their obligations. In 2021, the latest year for which the Internal Revenue Service provides data, the top 0.1% accounted for 14.3% of all taxpayers' adjusted gross income and 25.7% of all federal income taxes, up from 8.1% and 15.7% in 2001. Over the same period, the group also enjoyed the largest decline in its average income-tax rate, to 25.7% from 28.1% —

reflecting changing marginal rates, treatment of inheritances and savviness in exploiting loopholes such as the pass-through deduction.

This feeds into the third problem, which is that the federal government doesn't collect enough revenue to cover its expenses. Spending cuts can go only so far, considering the political difficulty of touching the three largest budget items: Social Security, Medicare and national defense. The entirety of means-tested programs, from Pell grants to food stamps, doesn't even add up to Medicare.

How, then, can the government make taxes fair and balanced, while also increasing revenue? Simple! Fairness requires equal treatment. The existing tax system doubles as a complex mechanism for rewarding Americans who have certain things — such as a mortgage, a bike commute or political influence to get preferences. So long as it's picking winners, it's also creating losers.

In 2005, a tax reform commission created by then-President George W. Bush recognized that eliminating deductions and credits would have a lot of benefits. Taxes would be straightforward and predictable, filing and administration costs would fall, the rules would be much harder to game and, crucially, more revenue could be raised even with lower marginal rates. This remains true, and profoundly relevant as policy makers consider what to do about a 2017 tax law that increased complexity while lowering revenue.

Cuts aren't cures. What's needed is the courage to reform a dysfunctional system.

Edwards is a labor economist and independent policy consultant.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Response to bird flu attacked

Poultry industry raising concerns

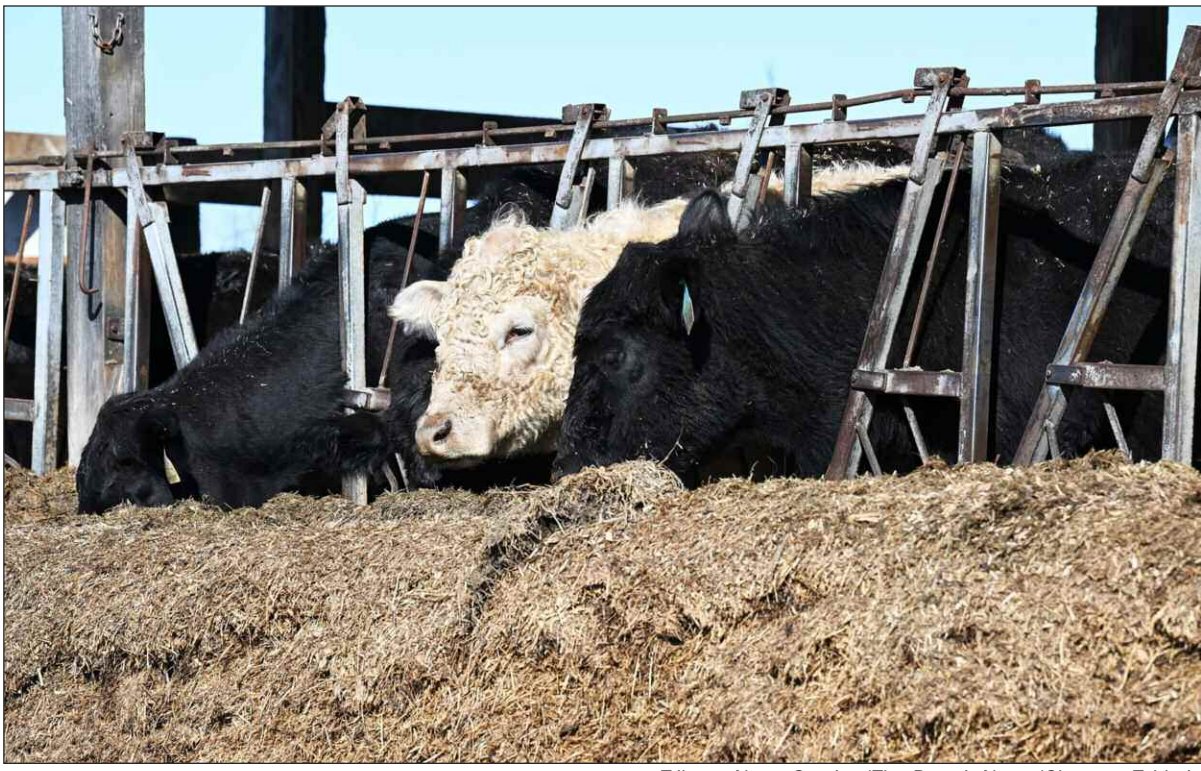
By CAROL THOMPSON
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

LANSING — Michigan's poultry industry is criticizing the state's response to avian influenza in dairy cows, raising concerns that inadequate quarantine measures for cows could mean the disease spreads to turkey, chicken and egg-laying hen farms.

The criticism emerged in a letter to lawmakers ahead of a Wednesday hearing where state officials testified that they have been aggressive in identifying and protecting against the disease compared with other states.

The ongoing avian influenza outbreak has taken a significant toll in Michigan, which was the second state to identify the virus in cattle and among the first to identify cases in people. Dairy cattle farms in Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Montcalm and Ottawa counties have been hit with the new strain. Two farmworkers also tested positive for the virus and have fully recovered, according to state officials.

Commercial poultry farms have dealt with the disease since the outbreak started in 2022 and have had to repeatedly kill off their flocks because of out-



Tribune News Service/The Detroit News/Clarence Tabb Jr.

A herd of cattle can be seen at a beef farm in Brighton, Michigan. The state's poultry industry is criticizing the state's response to avian influenza in dairy cows. Concerns are being raised that inadequate quarantine measures for cows could result in the disease spreading to turkey, chicken and egg-laying hen farms.

breaks that are extremely deadly to birds. In May, Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Ionia County temporarily laid off 400 people because the hens were "unexpectedly impacted by avian influenza," the company's human resources officer wrote.

Requiring more stringent biosecurity measures on dairy farms, such as limiting the movement of cattle or products from affected farms, would help protect against further transmission, Peter B. Ruddell, Honigman LLP attorney and lobbyist, wrote to the chairs of the

state House and Senate agriculture committees on Tuesday.

"Our goal is to stop the spread of HPAI, which has devastated poultry farms in this state," Ruddell wrote on behalf of Michigan Allied Poultry Industries. "There are simple, common-sense measures that have been adopted in other states, but are not being adopted and — from what we can tell — are not even being considered in Michigan."

Michigan's top agricultural officials said the state has been uniquely aggressive in identifying and protecting against the

disease compared with other states. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director Tim Boring and State Veterinarian Nora Wineland testified before the state House and Senate Agriculture committees on Wednesday about the nuances of the new strain of the avian influenza virus and the state's response to the disease.

"We're taking a lot of proactive steps here in Michigan to ensure we're protecting human health, workers health," Boring said. "Our concern level continues to

be of how the virus might mutate and what future threats might be, but it's a one health approach here in Michigan. There's a story here of systems working as intended and protecting animal and public health as desired."

The new strain of the virus causing concern in Michigan, H5N1 B3.13, is specific to dairy, although it also circulates in birds. It's less deadly in cows but can cause death in some with other health issues and can cause others to make less milk even after they recover.

The dairy strain of the virus was first identified in a Texas herd in March and soon after was detected in Michigan after cows from the Texas herd were sold here.

MDARD has more than 200 people dedicated to monitoring and controlling the outbreak and working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's response team, Boring and Wineland said. One of their tasks is identifying how the disease spreads.

Milk trucks that visit multiple farms, farm visitors and people who work at multiple farms or live with people working on other farms are possible vectors, Boring said. His presentation noted that workers from six affected dairies also worked on other dairies, workers from three affected flocks also worked on two affected dairies and workers from affected flocks and dairies shared housing.

"There's a lot of concern on human movement on poultry farms and understanding what risk mitigation factors might be, where they've been in other places," Boring said. "We understand that might be a path of this virus from dairy operations into poultry operations in a unique way that's impacted operations."

Software ...

Continued from page 2

Previously, the first payment was due up to 120 days after the facility began generating electricity.

Companies across the country are experiencing delays with PJM Interconnection, a regional transmission organization that coordinates wholesale electricity movement across 13 states, including Indiana, and the District of Columbia.

Leeward Renewable Energy, which is planning Rose Gold Solar on about 1,430 acres north of Dunkirk, updated its economic development agreement with the county in May. Construction on Rose Gold Solar should begin construction by June 30, 2027, and be completed by Dec. 31, 2028.

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

- Approved using \$10,000 in wind farm economic development dollars to go toward items for Bryant Area Park. Bryant has developed its park in the last three years on five acres of former railroad property west of Meridian Street and north of Elm Street. Because of inflation, additional items — a new drinking fountain, bike rack, trash cans and a leaf blower, among other amenities — had to be cut from the grant-led project. Those items will now be purchased for the park using the \$10,000.

- Amended the salary ordinance to give employees discounts on their health insurance for the next six months, which comes as a result of a refund distributed by Physicians Health Plan. They made a \$42,884.99 additional appropriation from the reimbursement to cover the discounts.

- Made the following additional appropriations: \$300 for travel and mileage to Jay Circuit Court; \$1,710 for pauper counsel; \$2,500 in economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars for East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center; \$6,500 for tile lot maintenance and garage and motor supplies; and \$18,700.06 (Towell opposed) for planning of the development of the county owned 68 acres on the west side of Portland from design and planning firm Rundell, Ernstberger Associates.

- Assigned council members to complete compliance forms for respective businesses under tax abatements with the county, which is done annually.

- Tabled a \$3,500 additional appropriation for repairing equipment at Jay County Country Living.

Registration is open for field day

Purdue Ag news

Registration is open for the Purdue Small Farm Education Field Day, an event featuring an array of demonstration stations featuring best management practices and highlights of research methods on the farm.

The event presented by the Purdue Student Farm and the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture is scheduled for Thursday, July 25.

Topics to be covered include:

- Insect dynamics in high tunnels

- Companion plants and Syrphid fly recruitment

- Advantages and considerations of raised bed gardening

- Tarps, fire, and cultivation — weed management updates and demonstrations

- Growing open-pollinated corn on small farms

- Post-harvest wash/pack design for small farms

- Digital tools for small farms

- Freight farm container farming

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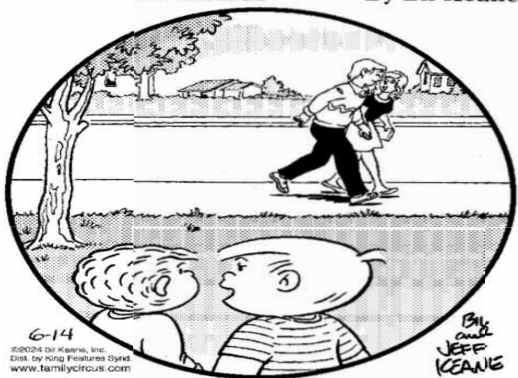
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"People getting married always hold hands to make sure the gagement ring doesn't fall off."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

Your right-hand opponent opens One Diamond, both sides vulnerable. What action (if any) would you take with each of the following five hands?
1. ♠ AQJ85 ♥ AK92 ♦ 74 ♣ K3
2. ♠ AJ ♥ Q174 ♦ KJ6 ♣ KQ85
3. ♠ AQJ93 ♥ 85 ♦ K63 ♣ K92
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5. ♠ KJ96 ♥ AQ87 ♦ 10 ♣ J984

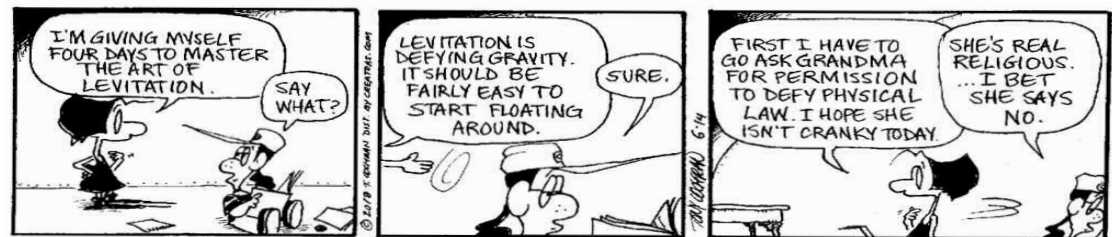
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

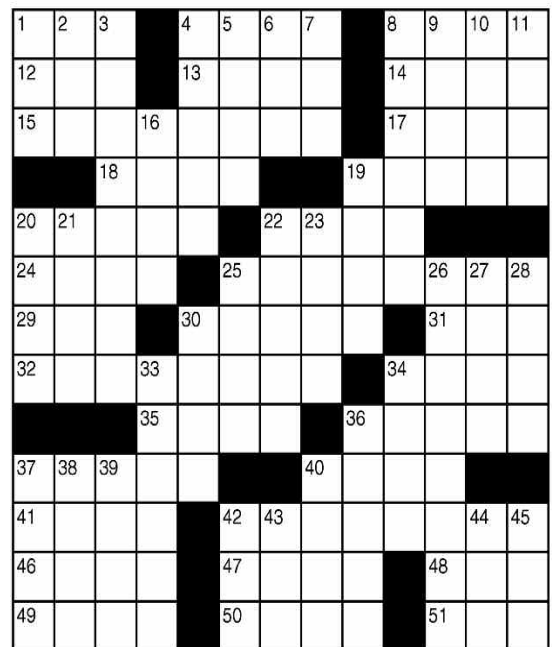
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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1 Abysmal journeys up the singer
4 Country 37 Bee bite volume James
40 Hamper part 20 Spheres
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42 Furtive 22 Persian
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44 Singer/ actor composer 24 Billboard
45 Afternoon social 25 Furry sci-fi
46 Contradict 26 Spoon critter
47 Ice and Bronze Neeson 27 Little offspring
48 Tofu source 28 Actor 29 "Ozark"
49 Atlas pages actress Laura
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51 Greyhound vehicle 31 Rosebud, to Kane
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Yesterday's answer 6-14



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Pro ...

Continued from page 8
Taking advantage of an extra year of eligibility stemming from the coronavirus pandemic, Murr played a fifth collegiate season at Minnesota. She earned first-team All-Big Ten honors again for the Golden Gophers, averaging 4.18 digs per set.

She then got drafted by the Thrill and was looking for something to do locally as the season, which ran from January through mid-May, came to a close. Her mom, former Yorktown coach Rhonda Wilson, reached out to Delta coach Kylie Johnson. Plans for the late-May camp came together quickly.

"I just think Kylie (Murr) is a big deal in this day and age because women's sports are growing so rapidly," Johnson said, mentioning Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever. "We have a couple superstars that are making this happen, but Kylie's a local superstar for us. And it's just really cool to have all of these players and coaches, who played at all different collegiate levels. We have a room full of kids today that that's their dream too."

Joining Murr as coaches for the camp were Delta graduate and Indiana Wesleyan University defensive specialist Camaya Murry; Wapahani graduates Reese Baker (current Ball State

'I just think it's super special. I think there's a lot of people in it who care about the game like I do. ... I think without this town and Delaware County and my coaches ... I wouldn't be the player I am today. So I want to make that impact on someone else.'

—Kylie Murr

University defensive specialist) and Havyn Gates (former Indiana Wesleyan and Ball State libero); Yorktown graduates Addi Rains (Clemson University defensive specialist) and Lilly Vester (Bethel University defensive specialist); New Castle graduate and current graduate assistant for Xavier University Zoe Conway; and Pendleton Heights graduate and current Indiana University libero Ramsey Gary; along with Delta coaches Haley Cross, Bailey Cooper and Johnson.

With the Pro Volleyball Federation in its first season this year, all players were on one-year contracts. That means Murr, and all of the league's veterans, are now free agents.

While she plans to continue to play — "as long as my knees let me," she said

— wherever she can get a contract, she's hopeful that it can be with the Indy Ignite. The squad that will be added to the league to help bring it to 10 teams for its second season will play its home matches at the Fishers Event Center, a 40-minute driver from where she played in high school.

Being there, she said, would give her the ability to give back to her hometown and the extended Munciana Volleyball community that got her started in the sport she loves.

"I just think it's super special," Murr said. "I think there's a lot of people in it who care about the game, like I do. ... I think without this town and Delaware County and my coaches ... I wouldn't be the player I am today. So I want to make that impact on someone else."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School junior Lani Muhlenkamp makes a pass during the Pro Bro Camp on May 29 at Delta Middle School. She and a group of her teammates took part in the camp with Kylie Murr, who was second in digs per set in the Pro Volleyball Federation's first season while playing for the Vegas Thrill. Now a free agent, Murr is hoping to sign with the Indy Ignite, which will play its home matches in Fishers.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County summer swim team vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery ACME baseball vs. Versailles — 6 p.m.

Sunday
Portland Rockets at Fort Wayne Blues — 7:15 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2:20 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Scotland vs. Germany (FOX)
4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: HyVee Perks 250 (USA)
5:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Iowa Corn

350 (USA)
8 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Iowa (FS1)
8 p.m. — International friendly soccer: Guatemala vs. Argentina (TruTV)
8:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Milwaukee Brewers (Bally Indiana)
8:30 p.m. — NBA Finals: Boston Celtics at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)

Saturday
10 a.m. — U.S. Open Championship golf (USA)
23 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: HyVee Perks 250 (USA)
12 p.m. — U.S. Open Championship golf (NBC)
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Croatia vs. Spain (FOX)
12 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Gotham FC at Racing Louisville (ESPN)
1 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Iowa Corn 350 (USA)

1 p.m. — WNBA: Connecticut Sun at Dallas Wings (CBS)
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Albania at Italy (FOX)
3 p.m. — USL League One: Tormenta at Forward Madison (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Las Vegas Aces (ABC)
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: HyVee Perks 250 (USA)
4 p.m. — BIG3 basketball (CBS)
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Milwaukee Brewers (Bally Indiana)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox (FOX)
8 p.m. — NHL Stanley Cup: Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers (ABC)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Chicago White Sox at Arizona Diamondbacks (FS1)
11 p.m. — USL Championship: Oakland Roots at Sacramento Republic (FOX)

Local notes

Meet booked
The Jay County Chamber Classic golf outing is set for Friday, July 19, at Portland Golf Club. The deadline to register is July 10, and it's limited to 20 teams. Awards of \$400, \$200 and \$100 will be given out to first, second and third place, respectively.
Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. To register, email tabby@jaycountychamber.com. For more information call (260) 726-4481.

Date set
The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.
Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m.
All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County.

For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cacdcinc.org.

Outing scheduled
The annual City of Portland Mayor's Golf Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 14, at Portland Golf Club.
Registration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the four-person teams at this time. Registration is limited to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayorsoffice@thecityofportland.net or calling (260) 726-9395.

Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST, 2024
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 2635 W. HWY 18
Bryant, IN
REAL ESTATE
17.63 Acres in section 10, Jackson Twp. Jay County, Indiana with approximately 15 acres tillable. Frontage on highway 18. For more information phone auctioneers.
OWNER: AMOS C GRABER
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com – Auctioneer ID #4243

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 1205 W McDonald Ave., Hartford City, IN.
Friday Evening June 21, 2024
5:30 APM.
REAL ESTATE
Modular home built in 1998 w/ 3 br., 2 full baths & 1620 sq. ft. of living area. Gas fireplace and gas forced air furnace with central air. For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy 260-726-5160.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD&COLLECTOR ITEMS
Roper washer & dryer, hospital bed, curved sectional, metal shelf, oil lamps, COCA COLA glasses, bowls, tins.
TOOLS
Craftsman 12.5 hp mower, Skil 9"- 2 speed band saw, Hitachi belt sander, mantis tiller, furniture clamps, tool cabinets, Cress electric kiln, Ryobi 10" surface planer, and other items not listed.
Wayne Craig Estate
Loy Auction
AC#31600027

90 SALE CALENDAR

Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3295 E 450 S, Bluffton, IN
Saturday Morning
June 22nd, 2024
10:00 A. M.
MODEL A CAR-CARTRUCK-MOWE-TOOLS
1931 Model a car with soft top, rumble seat, Parade ready title, 1962 Galaxy Car, 1986 Chevy flatbed truck, John Deer LT160 mower, metal wagon, small anvil, Craftsman tool box, Home Utility 1/2" drill press, Craftmans belt and vibrating sanders, car parts, and many other items not listed.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD ITEMS
Oak wall telephone (Chicago Supply Co., Elkhart, IN), 3 drawer marble top dresser with mirror,
1941 US Navy boat clock, Coca Coal Cooler, Aladdin green base lamp, Noritake Gold Stein china, old newspapers, organ stool with glass ball feet, Indy 500 mugs, Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa, golf clubs, and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 P.M. The vehicles will be offered both live and on Hi Bid
CHARLES UPTGRAFT, DECEASED & DEE UPTGRAFT
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

100 JOBS WANTED
AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

Visit Us At: thecr.com

110 HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: RED-KEY TOWN Hall is seeking a full-time or part-time dedicated and skilled Utility Worker responsible for the operation and maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities. Responsibilities include: Completing, filing, and reporting regulatory agency reports; Conducting required sampling - Adhering to all regulatory agency rules and regulations; Performing meter reads, shutoffs/reconnects; Conducting line locates and assisting with digs; Changing out endpoints and meters; Maintaining storm sewers; Flushing hydrants; Assisting with the maintenance of streets, parks, and all city property. Preferred Qualifications: Water and Sewage license or the ability to obtain a Water and Sewage License (CDL) within 3 years of employment; High school diploma or equivalent; Fluent in English (speaking and writing); Valid Indiana Driver's License - Ability to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL); Ability to pass pre-employment and random DOT drug and alcohol screenings, as well as a background check. Preferred Experience: Grounds maintenance - Street maintenance - Heavy equipment operation. Interested applicants should submit their resumes to: Gloria May, Redkey Town Hall 8922 IN-67 Redkey, IN 47373. For more information, please contact Brenda Beaty, Town Council President, at 419-203-9081.

JAY COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB is accepting resumes for the position of Caretaker. This position includes rent-free living quarters on the club property with electric, propane, and phone included. Responsibilities include setting up rentals, mowing club property, cleaning the clubhouse, and basic maintenance repairs. Please forward all

110 HELP WANTED

resumes to: lrce1220@gmail.com or mail to: Jay County Conservation Club c/o Jennifer Bailey 4897 E. SR 26 Portland, IN 47371. Please submit all resumes no later than Monday June 24th, 2024.
BOLLENBACHER & ASSOCIATES, Certified Public Accountants, is looking for highly-motivated, out-of-the-box thinkers to join our tax consulting team as an Intern. If you enjoy a challenge and thrive in a dynamic environment, then you may be the right fit for our accounting and tax internship program. During the internship, you'll gain first-hand knowledge of the day-to-day responsibilities that come with this exciting and rewarding career. You'll receive mentorship and guidance from our accounting and tax professionals and have opportunity to help develop solutions to complex accounting and tax issues through hands-on experience, research, use of cutting edge technology, and consultation with other team members. If this opportunity is something that you have been looking for, contact bkaup@ballc-cpa.com

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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

ALUMINUM SHEETS

23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

190 FARMERS COL-UMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

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230 AUTOS, TRUCKS
WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2024 TERM
No. 38CO1-2024-EU-000016
In the Matter of the
Unsupervised Administration
of the Estate of
Frances L. Weesner, Deceased
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
In the Jay Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana.
Notice is hereby given that Nancy J. Snyder and Gary D. Weesner were, on June 3, 2024, appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Frances L. Weesner deceased, who died on May 22, 2024.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 3rd day of June, 2024.
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court, for Jay County, Indiana
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
Attorney
cr 6-7,14-2024 HSPAXLP

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www.thecr.com

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 1205 W McDonald Avenue, Hartford City Indiana on Friday Evening

JUNE 21, 2024

5:30 P.M.

REAL ESTATE:

Modular home built in 1998 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1620 square feet of living area. Home has a gas fireplace and a gas forced air furnace with central air. There is a detached 24' x 24' garage, a small storage shed and an extra lot. This property would make a great starter home. For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160

HOUSEHOLD GOODS – OLD & COLLECTOR ITEMS

Roper washer and dryer; 9 drawer dresser with mirror; 5 drawer chest; 2 drawer night stand; hospital bed; Oak secretary; curved sectional; ornate china cabinet; wing back chair; occasional chair; Singer treadle sewing machine; Riccar sweeper; twin bed; wood rocker; 5 drawer chest; floor lamps; flip top desk; CD's; pictures; metal shelf; lamp stand; lamps; oil lamps; GE clock; Prestige china, 8 place setting; Ruby pitcher; coffee table; figurines; COCA COLA: glasses, bowls, tins, S & P set; glass baking dishes; pans; Vision Ware; crock pot; blender; hand mixer; Hamilton Beach coffee maker; plasticware; GE roaster; step stool; VHS tapes; books; and other items not listed.

TOOLS

Craftsman 12.5 hp mower; MTD21" push mower; Skil 9"- 2 speed band saw; Craftsman 9" band saw; Pro Tech 6" bench grinder with lamp; Black & Decker cyclone sander; Hitachi belt sander; Lobo 12" planer; Craftsman 10" radial arm saw; Delta 10" professional table saw; Fimco 15 gallon sprayer; Mantis tiller; Kreg jointer; furniture clamps; saws; indexers; small vise; kerosene heater; Coleman lantern; 10" orbital car waxer; saw horses; trash cans; sockets; hammers; Craftsman 3.0 shop vac; tool cabinets; Cress electric kiln; Ryobi 10" surface planer; Black & Decker electric hedge trimmers; rakes; shovels; wheelbarrow; fence posts; metal shelves; plastic chairs; flower pots; jacks; car ramps; hand sprayer; trailer ramps; and other items not listed.

WAYNE CRAIG ESTATE

LOY AUCTION AC31600027

AUCTIONEERS

Gary Loy AU 01031608

Travis Theurer AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112

CR 6-14-2024 NT 6-19-2024

She's a pro, bro



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Yorktown graduate returned to work with local athletes after finishing with the inaugural season of the Pro Volleyball Federation

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — Kylie Murr started the month of May by leading the Vegas Thrill in digs as it rallied for a five-set victory over the Orlando Valkyries.

She finished by sharing her skills with area athletes.

Murr, a 2019 Yorktown High School graduate who just completed her first season with the fledgling Pro Volleyball Federation, led the Pro Bro Camp on May 29 at Delta Middle School.

"It's definitely a lot of

excitement," said Jay County High School freshman Brenna Ruble, "knowing that she's done it her whole life and now she's pro. And we're only in high school, learning off of her. It's definitely exciting."

"It's something you don't realize it's so much different than just being coached by your coach (because she's playing right now)," added Patriot sophomore Hallie Schwieterman.

The Thrill drafted Murr out of the University of Minnesota in the third

round of the Pro Volleyball Federation's inaugural draft. She went on to finish second in the league in digs per set (4.02), trailing only Morgan Hentz of the Atlanta Vibe, and third in total digs with 358 in 89 sets.

She also had only 11 serve receive errors in 403 attempts.

Just two-and-a-half weeks after walking off the court following the Vegas squad's season finale, Murr found herself surrounded by more than 50 local high school athletes. The former

Ohio State University and University of Minnesota libero offered her advice. Working on setting, she said players tend to rush.

She shared her own trick — wait, wait, set — to help slow down the process.

"I will literally say it when I'm setting," Murr told the girls. "It just reminds me to be patient."

She shared other basics — holding platform, having good shoulders, picking a side — to help build up the young athletes around her.

"If they can just start

doing those things now, it's only going to be easier for them when they grow up," Murr said.

But she added that the game is about more than the physical skills.

"I think just starting off being a good teammate and having that energy," Murr said. "That will take you so far in life."

The message seemed to be resonating.

"It's good to have a good attitude and not get down on yourself if you make one mistake," said Ruble.

Pro Volleyball Federation player Kylie Murr, a Yorktown High School graduate, instructs athletes May 29 during the Pro Bro Camp at Delta Middle School. Murr, who finished up her season with the Vegas Thrill of the fledgling professional league earlier in the month, instructed on passing, setting, digging and defense. Attendees at the camp included a contingent of athletes from Jay County High School.

"You can always come back and do better."

Murr was a three-time all-state player at Yorktown and helped lead the Tigers to state championships in 2016 and '18. She went on to Ohio State, where she led the Big Ten in digs and digs per set in her freshman season. She became the first player in Buckeye volleyball history to be named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year in 2022, when she was also a first-team All-Big Ten selection.

See Pro page 7

Rockets get revenge on Kekiongas

FORT WAYNE — The Rockets struggled against the Kekiongas over the weekend, dropping three of four games.

They changed their fortunes midweek, but it took them extra innings to do so.

The Portland Rockets got a pair of key doubles to push them past the Northeast Kekiongas 9-7 on Wednesday at Indiana Tech.

The Kekiongas scored five runs over the final three innings against Dalton Soergel and Sam Dunlavy to come back and tie the game.

The Rockets' bats couldn't do any damage in the ninth inning to end the game in regulation, but they didn't wait long after. Peyton Smith led off with a double to start the 10th inning, scoring Camden McEldowney, who was placed on second base. Two batters later, Joel Kennedy hit his own double to score Smith and push the lead to two runs.

Conner Young finished the final two innings on the mound without giving up a single hit to earn the win.

Local roundup

Along with Kennedy's three hits, Cameron Pratt led the offensive charge by hitting a three-run home run in the fourth inning.

Tribe falls

ST. MARYS, Ohio — The Fort Recovery ACME baseball team held a 4-3 lead in the middle of the sixth inning, but a rough bottom half led to a 7-5 loss to the St. Marys Roughriders on Wednesday afternoon.

Fort Recovery pitcher Gavin Evers loaded the bases as he walked a batter, hit another and had a player reach base on an error by Austin Siegrist at second base.

A pop out to Brodie Hart behind the plate accounted for the second out without St.

Marys scoring any runs, but a passed ball allowed a run to score before Evers walked the next batter.

Fort Recovery (0-2) then moved to Alex Gaerke on the mound, who walked in the second run of the inning to give the Roughriders the lead before a two-RBI double put the Indians down three.

A double by Reece Wendel and back-to-back singles by Caden Grisez and Caden Homan cut the deficit to two, but Fort Recovery couldn't force extra innings.

Pitching dominates

PG14 couldn't be stopped as it beat Lion's Club 9-1 in Portland Junior League Willie Mays baseball on Wednesday.

Beckham Hough was perfect from the plate, going 3-for-3 with a triple and two RBIs. He also closed the game on the mound with five strikeouts over two innings.

Ashton Conn, Eli Homan and Liam Ridenour all went 2-for-3 from the plate. Homan hit a

triple and a double to plate a pair, while Conn and Ridenour both drove in one run each.

Homan started the game, striking out eight batters over three innings.

Ryker Price put together the strongest day for Lion's Club with the team's only RBI on a double. He also pitched the first three innings, in which he struck out eight batters.

Hummer leads

Joyce Dayton took down Homestead Bedding 12-7 on Wednesday in Portland Junior League Rookie softball.

Renlee Hummer collected the most hits to reach base safely four times. She had one of only two triples for Joyce Dayton and scored two runs.

Ivy Trinidad and Annabelle Wiggins both lead the team with three runs scored. They each had three hits as well, with Trinidad smacking a double and a triple, while Wiggins added a double.

Adalyn Overla hit a double and two singles and came

around to score twice for Joyce Dayton.

Isla Cook hit a double and a single while scoring a run, while Payten Twigg scored once after reaching on a single.

Both Mackenna Cramer and Ailayla Money collected two base hits.

Offense prevails

REMC edged past Wings and Rings for a 22-20 victory on Wednesday in Portland Junior League Rookie softball.

Maitlynn Castillo and Charlee Taylor of Wings and Rings both went 5-for-5 from the plate. Castillo smacked two doubles and three singles and came around to score all five times she reached base. Taylor added a triple and two doubles, but only scored on four of her trips around the bases.

Hayden Guggenbiller and Skye Ingram both finished 4-for-5. The former hit a home run and a double to add four runs, while the latter had a triple and scored twice.

Coming Soon

Special Sections

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DEADLINES ARE ONE WEEK PRIOR

Jay County Fair

Wednesday, July 3 - CR/NS*

Marching Patriots

Wednesday, July 10 - CR/NS*

Blackford band

Wednesday, July 10 - NT*

Blackford County Fair preview

Wednesday, July 10 - NT*

Randolph County bands

Tuesday, July 11 - N-G*

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar NOW.

*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review, NG = The News-Gazette, NT = The News Times, NS = The News and Sun