

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Jay rate up by 0.2 points

Unemployment increase was lowest in the region

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Unemployment rates were up across the state last month.

Jay County fared better than most.

According to estimates released this week by Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Jay County's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points in July to 4.7%.

The local increase was the smallest in the region, with every other county seeing its rate go up by at least 0.4 percentage points. Blackford and Wells counties saw their

rates shoot up by 1.4 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively.

Even so, the July rate — it was up from 3.5% for the same month last year — for Jay County is its highest since the 2020 spike during the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns. The rate had climbed to 4.1% in February, dipped back to 3% and has increased in each of the last three months.

Indiana's unemployment rate climbed as a whole, increasing 0.6 percentage points from June to 5%. The state's rate in July 2023 was 3.7%.

Howard County posted the highest unemployment rate amongst Indiana's 92 counties, hitting 7%. Fayette County followed at 6.9%, with Huntington County at 6.7%, Blackford and Lake counties at 6.6%, and Delaware County at 6.3%. See Rate page 2

Blinken: 'Time is of the essence'

May. Now it's Hamas's turn, he said.

Hamas pushed back against the idea it was the one stalling the talks and said it wanted to reach a cease-fire. It also blamed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for coming up with new demands.

"Time is of the essence," Blinken told reporters on the airport tarmac in Doha, minutes before beginning the trip home to the U.S. "Israel has now accepted that proposal — I heard that directly from Prime Minister Netanyahu yesterday — and we hope and expect Hamas will do the same."

It was Blinken's ninth trip to the region since the conflict began with Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel, and the result was just the same: Israel and Hamas unable to set aside their disagreements to halt the fighting. Stymied in the push for an enduring cease-fire, Blinken had come to the region this week with the more modest proposal aimed at building common ground and easing the violence. See Time page 2

Israel has agreed to 'bridging' agreement

By COURTNEY

MCBRIDE, TARAK EL-TABLAZY

and ALISA ODENHEIMER

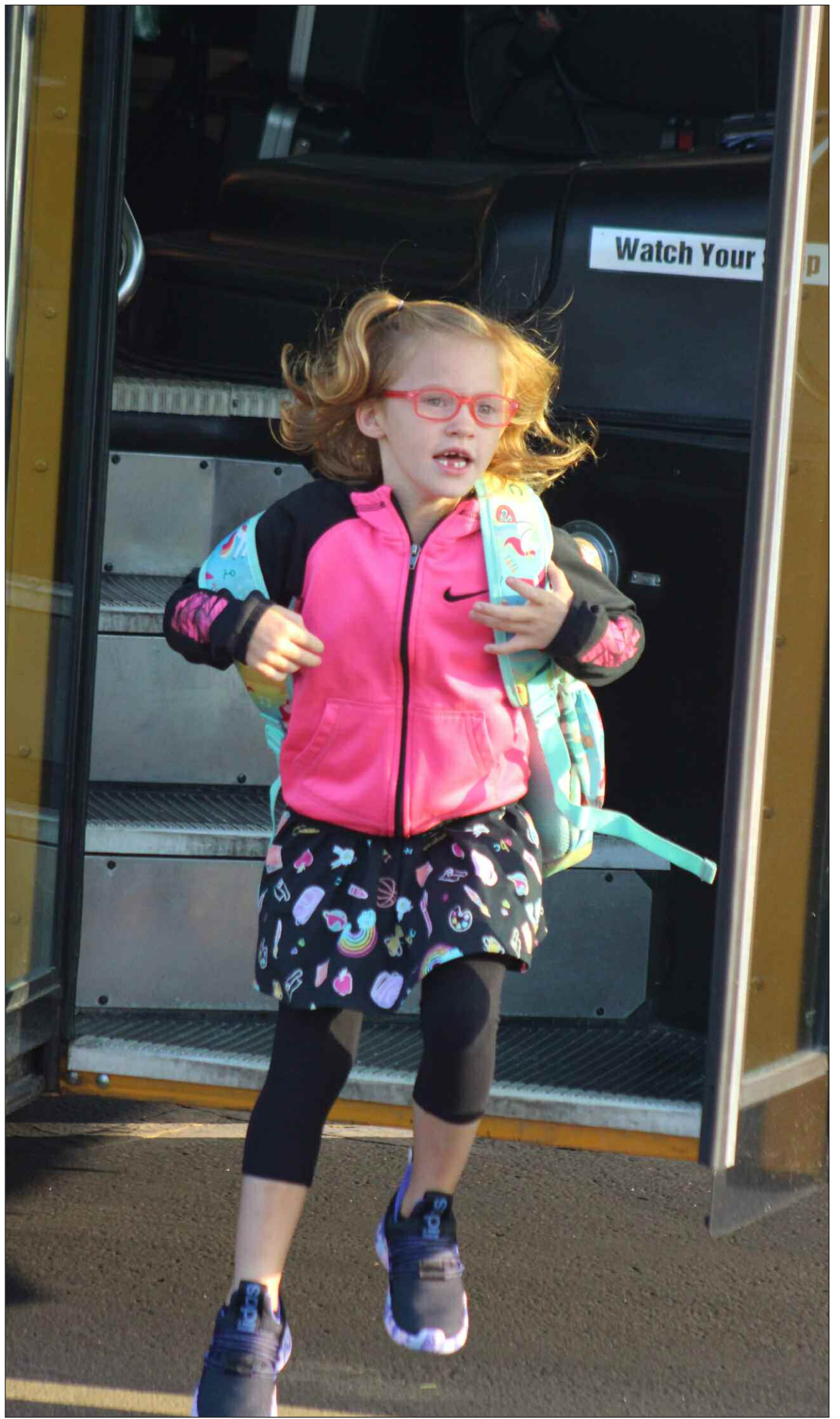
Bloomberg News

Tribune News Service

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken left the Middle East late Tuesday

with Hamas and Israel still divided over an American proposal to pause, if not permanently end, the war in Gaza.

After a day spent meeting with Egyptian and Qatari officials, Blinken reiterated that Israel had agreed to what the top U.S. diplomat called a "bridging" agreement that would create space for the two sides to hammer out the details of a cease-fire introduced by President Joe Biden in



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

First Fort day

Fort Recovery Local Schools started its school year Wednesday. Pictured, kindergartener Sofia Lessing steps off the school bus Wednesday morning at Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School.



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Niki Kelly

Indiana Supreme Court Justice Loretta Rush talks to a reporter after she was tapped for a third term as chief justice. Rush became the state's first female chief justice when she was appointed in 2014.

Rush will stay as chief

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's Judicial Nominating Commission took only minutes to confer before unanimously selecting Indiana Supreme Court Justice Loretta Rush to continue in her role as chief justice.

"We have to have a strong judiciary. You have to have a judiciary that people trust, because that's our currency," she said. "I love Indiana courts. You know, I've professionally been in them all. I've seen a lot of great changes and improvements. And it motivates me to see what can we do better."

Rush has been on the state's highest court since 2012 after being appointed by then-Gov. Mitch Daniels.

The commission named Rush Indiana's first female chief justice in August 2014, the same year

Nomination commission made unanimous selection on Wednesday

voters retained her as a supreme court judge. She was last reappointed to the chief justice role in 2019. Voters will choose whether to retain her as a judge Nov. 5.

All four of Rush's counterparts on the court supported her reappointment.

"The most important qualities that the chief justice demonstrates — just, in spades — it all begins with integrity," Supreme Court Justice Derek Molter said. "Vision is incredibly important:

vision in all directions, understanding our history and seeing a vision of where we are going, innovation."

He compared Rush to Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever and Tyrese Haliburton of the Indiana Pacers.

"It's impressive what she can do on her own but what transcends, what's incredibly impactful, is the way in which she brings the team up around her," Molter said.

See Chief page 2

Deaths

Joanna Stone, 96, Portland
Patricia Jellison, 78, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Tuesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high in the lower 80s. Highs will stay in the 80s through the weekend with a chance of rain Sunday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Friends of the Jay County Public Library annual book sale runs until 7 p.m. tonight, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. The library is located at 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Coming up

Friday — Feature from the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS football season opener at Blackford.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.





The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Car guys

Tony Morgan (right) and Jed Adewuyi check out one of the vehicles during the car show at Webster Depot Park during Saturday's Glass Days festival in Dunkirk

Obituaries

Joanna M. Stone, Portland, Dec. 4, 1927-Aug. 19, 2024. Services will be held at a later date at Green Park Cemetery.

Patricia "Pat" Jellison, Portland, Nov. 21, 1945-Aug. 19, 2024. No services are scheduled at this time.

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.

Felony arrests

Drug possession

A Redkey man was arrested Tuesday for drug possession.

Jesse A. Cooley, 27, 604 S. Meridian St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe.

He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

CR almanac

Friday 8/23	Saturday 8/24	Sunday 8/25	Monday 8/26	Tuesday 8/27
81/61	85/67	88/66	92/67	91/65
Another day of sun is in the forecast for Friday, when the high will be in the low 80s.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Saturday. The highs again will be in the 80s.	Sunday's forecast shows sunny skies with a slight chance of rain all day.	More sun is on the horizon for Monday, when the high will be in the 90s.	Sunny skies are expected Tuesday, when the high will be around 91.

Chief ...

Continued from page 1

As chief justice, Rush is responsible for supervising Indiana's judicial branch. The role involves working with the state legislature to secure funding and allocate resources, as well as overseeing a multi-agency central administrative office that handles everything from caseload measures and technology updates to the admission and discipline of lawyers.

She told the commission before the vote that one of her core beliefs is in the transparency and open-

ness. Rush said she seeks to bring the type of stability and longevity that former Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard brought.

She acknowledged that people have lost trust in courts — like all public institutions. She said people have focused too much on who appointed justices and their political views. All five of Indiana's justices were appointed by Republicans.

"We are not unanimous. We're probably at 65% unanimity rate," Rush said. She added that she

thinks Indiana's courts have done a good job of staying out of the political fray.

Prior to her appointment, Rush spent 15 years at a Lafayette law firm and was elected three times to serve as Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 judge. She earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and her law degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law, both with honors. She is married to Jim Rush; they have four children and five grandchildren.

Time ...

Continued from page 1

One stumbling block Blinken and other mediators have been unable to overcome is that Hamas wants any cease-fire to amount to a permanent end to the war, while Netanyahu wants to be able to restart the conflict to achieve his country's aim of destroying the group's military and governing capabilities.

There are also rising tensions over Israel wanting to keep troops stationed along the strategic Philadelphi cor-

ridor, the southern portion of Gaza that runs along the border with Egypt, to prevent arms smuggling from the Arab nation.

"The first thing is to eliminate Hamas and achieve victory," Netanyahu said Tuesday. "The second thing is that we are, at the same time, making an effort to return the hostages, on terms that will allow for the maximum number of hostages being released in the first stage of the deal."

Rate ...

Continued from page 1

Martin County claimed the lowest unemployment rate in Indiana at 3.6% last month after Gibson County had held that spot from February through June. Benton, Clinton and Dubois counties followed at 3.7%.

Area unemployment rates are as follows: Adams County: 4.7%, up 0.7 percentage point, tied for 44th-lowest

Blackford County: 6.6%, up 1.6 percentage points, tied for fourth-highest

Delaware County: 6.3%, up 0.8 percentage points, sixth-highest

Jay County: 4.7%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 44th-lowest

Randolph County: 5%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for 33rd-highest

Wells County: 5%, up 1.4 percentage points, tied for 33rd-highest

Capsule Reports

King crash

A Portland woman drove into Burger King's building about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Vickie Bragg, 75, was attempting to drive her 2014 Buick Encore into a parking space in the parking lot at 1610 N. Meridian St. She told police she

accidentally pressed on the accelerator pedal instead of the brake, causing her car to drive over the curb and into the side of the building next to the north-facing door. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Bragg's vehicle was towed.

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Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Evening Daily Three: 7-4-6 Daily Four: 9-2-7-6 Quick Draw: 3-7-11-13-26-27-30-32-34-40-43-53-54-56-58-61-63-64-66-68
Mega Millions 5-20-26-49-51 Mega Ball: 24 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$527 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-4-8 Pick 4: 4-1-5-0 Pick 5: 9-5-6-8-0 Evening Pick 3: 9-4-5 Pick 4: 7-4-9-7 Pick 5: 7-0-1-6-7 Rolling Cash: 12-16-22-27-35 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 9-0-8 Daily Four: 1-7-9-9 Quick Draw: 4-5-6-8-9-11-27-28-34-42-50-54-57-59-60-61-68-71-75-79	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.49 Sept. corn3.57 Wheat4.32	Sept. beans9.33 Wheat 4.72
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.55 Sept. corn3.67 Oct. corn3.62	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.46 Sept. corn3.46 Beans.....9.69 Sept. beans9.66 Wheat4.78
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.50 Sept. corn3.50 Beans.....9.43	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.45 Sept. corn3.53 Beans.....9.48 Sept. beans.....9.28 Wheat4.52

Today in history

In 2015, Mitch Clay, 42, suffered second and third-degree burns from a fire at his home in Redkey. Clay was in his garage when the fire started. He was able to get out of the garage, and he went into the house to evacuate his two sons. Clay's garage was destroyed, and his house was damaged, but Clay recovered from his injuries. — The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Morgan Drive, Redkey.	District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board executive session, Jay County Country Living, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.
Friday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, Jay County Country Living, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

SERVICES

Tosday

Hutler, Viola: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday

Brock, Kenny: 1 p.m., Millard Brown American Legion Post 156, 112 W. Green St., Montpelier.

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Recognize Overdose Awareness Day

By JENNIFER VANSKYOCK

Observed on Aug. 31 every year, International Overdose Awareness Day seeks to create better understanding of overdose, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths and create change that reduces the harms associated with drug use.

Studies show that global overdose rates have skyrocketed in the last 25 years. The situation is especially severe in the United States. Nearly 110,000 Americans lost their lives to overdose in 2022, an increase of roughly 4% from 2021 and the second consecutive year of more than 100,000 overdose deaths.

What are signs of an overdose?

Your Health Matters



Overdose occurs when someone has severe harmful reactions to taking too much of a drug or a combination of different drugs.

It is possible to overdose on all types of drugs, and it can happen to anyone, even if it is their first time using a substance. Symptoms can include any of the following:

- Unresponsiveness or unconsciousness
- Slow, shallow breathing or stopped breathing

- Gasping for breath or gurgling
- Slow heartbeat or stopped heartbeat (no pulse)
- Extremely pale, cold or clammy skin
- Blue lips, skin or fingernails/toenails
- Vomiting

What should be done if someone has overdosed?

If you suspect someone has overdosed, you need to act fast. The following steps can save a life:

- Call 911 or emergency help
- Look for signs and symptoms of an overdose
- Try to wake the person up
- Administer naloxone (NARCAN)
- Support the person's

breathing
•Stay with the person until emergency services arrive

Where can I get naloxone?

Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioids and can return normal breathing to a person who has difficulty breathing or who has stopped breathing due to an overdose.

If you suspect a person has overdosed, but you aren't sure what substance they have used, you should still give them a dose of naloxone just in case they have opioids in their system. If they did not take opioids, naloxone is still safe and won't have any effect.

Naloxone is available in multiple locations throughout the community, state and nationwide. Visit overdoselife.org for locations.

Is there a local awareness event?

A Better Life Brianna's Hope, IU Health Jay, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition/PAST Recovery Services, Meridian Health Services and the Jay County Health Department are coming together to put on the Hope Fest Health Fair at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

This is a family friendly event intended to increase education regarding addiction and health serv-

ices available to the community, including free distribution of the life-saving medication naloxone. This will be a chance to come together as a community to shine a light on addiction, identify supports available, increase the knowledge of what health services are available and how to better support everyone in the community and create community connections to improve the lives of all.

Addiction is a chronic condition that is often tragic. We believe there is help and hope, and recovery is possible.

.....
VanSkyock is program manager at IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health.

Awareness event set for Saturday

An event bringing awareness to fentanyl is slated for this weekend in Bluffton.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition and Peer Addiction Support Team (PAST) Recovery Services have joined with other organizations to host the informational event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Roush Park, 925 W. Silver St.

The event will feature three speakers: Christina Wonderly of Peyton's Story, John Humphries of Escaping the Chains and Wells County Coroner Hilarie Gaskill. Free Naloxone will be available, along with lessons on how to administer it.

There will also be resources for youth support and prevention, a food

Taking Note

truck and Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition's "Hidden in Plain Sight," an interactive experience for parents.

Party in parking lot

Mt. Tabor Community Church will host its Party in the Parking Lot on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

The event will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the church parking lot, 216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk. It will include free food, games, cornhole and other activities.

Bird gets royal treatment

DEAR ABBY: My sister has a squawky bird she insists on keeping alongside the dinner table when she invites guests for dinner. Its ear-piercing screeching inhibits guests' ability to carry on normal conversation, so I asked her if, in the future, she could please put the bird in another room during dinner. She responded that the bird is a family member. I said, "So are children, but they aren't permitted to run around the dining table screeching when there is company over." This year, when we returned for another dinner, she pulled the bird and its cage even closer to the table than last time. She apparently decided the comfort of her guests is not as important as her closeness to the bird.

I don't know how to address this in the future when she disregards my feedback. Aside from the squawking, it's not appealing to have a birdcage pulled up alongside a dinner table, or to have the host constantly distracted and conversation interrupted. What is your advice? — NERVE-WRACKED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NERVE-WRACKED:

Dear Abby



Because it's clear your advice wasn't appreciated, the next time you are invited to a dinner party at your sister's home, feel free to say you are busy. The only bird at the table should be a nice roasted chicken or a stuffed turkey.

DEAR ABBY: I have my car detailed at a car wash near the beach. When I took my car there, I forgot to remove the change I keep for parking meters and laundry machines. When I got my car back, about \$8 in quarters and dollar coins were missing. Dimes, nickels and pennies were left behind. I emailed the owner the next day. He called me, apologized and refunded the full price of my car detail. I told him the refund wasn't necessary and that I only

wanted him to know what had happened. Because I used the word "steal" in my email, he took offense. I replied on the phone that the money was gone after I got my car back. He said he wished me well, and I replied, "Are you saying you no longer want to do business with me?"

Now I feel bad. I did nothing wrong and only tried to alert him to a problem with his workers. As the saying goes, "No good deed goes unpunished." What do I do now, or should have I done differently? — SUFFERING FOR TRYING TO HELP

DEAR SUFFERING: Do not let one bad apple spoil the barrel. Of course you should have informed the owner of the business about it. By comping the price of the service, he did his best to make things right. If the conversation you had with him was civil, he likely wants you to continue doing business with him. The next time you go in, make a point of smoothing things over. In the future, remember to remove your valuables from the car when you go.

Community Calendar

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

Today

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are avail-

able from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday

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

LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

Our fall home improvement special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

- full-page color \$500
- 1/2-page B&W \$320
- full-page B&W \$400
- 1/4-page color \$350
- 1/2-page color \$400
- 1/4-page B&W \$280

Big business card (3x3.5) - \$120

Business card (2x2) - \$80

Contact Lindsey at

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

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline is Sept. 10

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Farm income has shifted greatly

By MORTON J. MARCUS

There is much emotion and dispute surrounding the use of farm land, farmers' income and the status of the farm populations.

Federal farm policy includes assistance to the poor to buy farm products. Indiana property taxes are being examined to see how farmers can get lower bills in the future.

Let's look at some of the data on farming and leave spirited farming arguments aside.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture reports 53,999 farms in Indiana. Of these, 25,190 farms have fewer than 50 acres and 6,670 occupy 500 or more acres. Put differently, 47% of our farms occur

Eye on the Pie



py 3.4% of the 14.6 million acres of Hoosier farmland while 12% of our farms are using 73% of that acreage.

Those smaller farms with fewer than 50 acres had 12% of the total \$18 billion farm receipts from sales of livestock, livestock products, crops and other sources. Another 67% of receipts went to the largest farms with more than 500 acres.

One of those other sources of receipts was \$113 million in government farm payments — 0.6% of that \$18 billion total receipts. Of the \$113 million, smaller farms got 19% and the largest farms got 58%.

Taking the long view, let's compare 1969 (the good old days) with 2022 (the good modern days).

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reports that 56% of Indiana farm receipts in 1969 came from livestock and derived products; in 2022, that was down to 35%. This meant that crops moved up from 44% up to 65% of receipts.

Cattle and calves, hogs and pigs accounted for 41% of sales in 1969, but only 12% in 2022. During that same period, corn and

soybean sales rose from 36% of sales to 60% in 2022.

Sales of farm outputs required purchases inputs. Production expenses accounted for 79% of sales in 1969 and fell to 74% by 2022. As feed and livestock spending declined from 28% to 17% between 1969 and 2022, seed and fertilizers grew to 27% from 16% of production costs.

"All other production expenses" (including repair and operation of machinery; depreciation, interest, rent and taxes) fell only 0.6 percentage points to 48.1%. This catch-all is the largest category of production expenses, but is not detailed in the data accessed for this column.

Where did the money go? In 1969, corporations accounted for

2% of net farm income; in 2022, the figure was 26%. Of the remaining income, in 1969, 88.7% went to farm proprietors and 11.3% to hired farm workers as wages, salaries or benefits. The figures were somewhat different in 2022 as farm proprietors received 89.5% and workers 10.5%.

Indiana farm earnings (excluding corporations) grew in 53 years by an annual average of 3.95% ; consumer prices rose by 3.99%.

Now you can draw your own conclusions about farming and farmers.

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

Changes needed, but cause concern

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I pulled up to Chick-fil-A the other day and my bill was \$7.03. So, I grabbed a \$10 bill and pulled three pennies out of my change bin. I handed it to the young cashier, who said, "Your change is \$3, right?"

No doubt something has gone wrong with our educational system. And perhaps experiences like that have led state officials to overhaul Indiana's diplomas.

Businesses certainly seem to be leading the push for reform, saying youth who graduate are not ready for the workforce. In what ways? We have established some struggle with basic math; others arrive late or don't show up without calling; they can't work with people in teams. The list goes on.

Many Hoosiers also believe the education system has swung too far in pushing higher education, noting Hoosiers can earn living wages with less than a four-year degree. It is true that a bachelor's degree isn't necessarily needed to make a living. But some sort of training is.

And so, lawmakers are pushing a new diploma system.

The Indiana Department of Education's first proposal seemed to over-correct toward the workforce path, leaving out basic courses needed to get into college at state institutions. Indiana University, Purdue University and other colleges pushed back, resulting in big changes.

The department unveiled its second attempt Wednesday: one baseline diploma of 42 credits. Most of those courses will be taken through students' sophomore year. As students get older and decide which path to take, they can add "seals" that theoretically prepare them for college or a job right out of high school or enlisting in the military.

For the baseline diploma, kids won't need Algebra II or a foreign language or even world history. That still seems odd to me. Officials say kids can take those as part of a cadre of 12 elective credits that are required. But I think some of those should be part of a well-rounded basic education system for all students.

Niki Kelly



The biggest change in the new system will be allowing work-based learning such as apprenticeships to count towards a diploma and seals. Let's not kid ourselves — this is partially aimed at helping businesses fill open jobs at a lower cost.

But I think it's a valuable tool that I am glad they are adding. My concern is the lack of guard rails.

For instance, there will be no limits on how much traditional school a student can miss for this work-based learning. Let's say they have a three-day-a-week apprenticeship. How does the student keep up with their other coursework at the same pace as other students who are there all week? It seems like a bit of a nightmare for teachers.

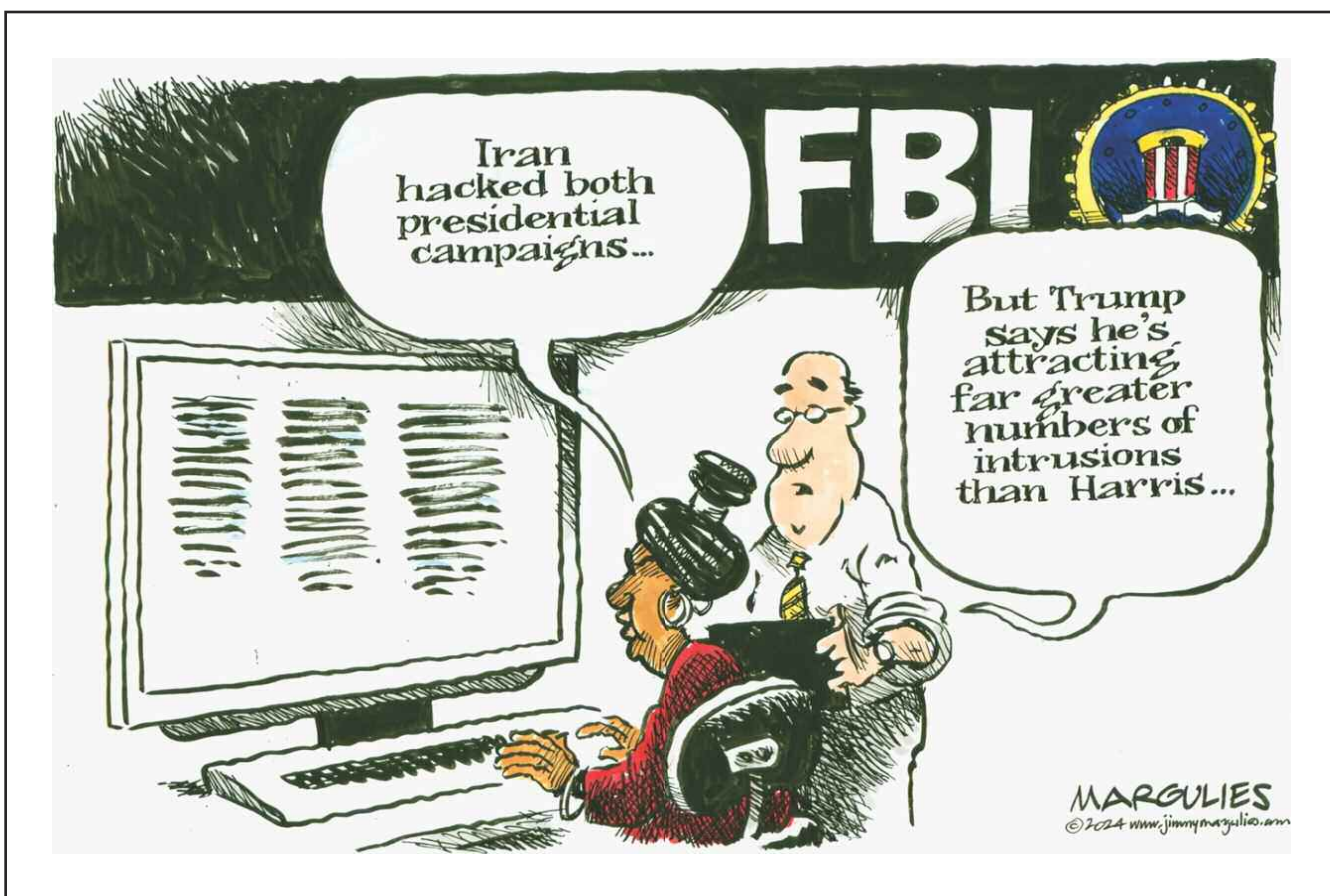
But I know of several programs already being offered that train students in machinery, health care and other sectors. That means it can be done. And some of these students are graduating directly into jobs paying \$50,000 annually. I couldn't even imagine that at 18.

One thing officials added to the employment seal track is an attendance goal, which I applaud. I know I sound like my father here, but it seems like younger generations call out of work and school way too often and aren't really held to any consequences.

The workforce path options are welcome so long as they don't dilute the path to higher education at the same time. Because all the data shows that Hoosiers' fortunes improve as their educational attainment does.

Now, if we could just teach kids how to make change.

.....
Kelly, editor-in-chief of *Indiana Capital Chronicle*, has covered the *Indiana Statehouse* since 1999. *Indiana Capital Chronicle* is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Congress needs to pass farm bill

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

After a slow start to planting this spring, Illinois' most important cash crops have taken off. Corn is standing tall across the Midwest grain belt. Soybeans are doing even better, with ideal conditions for growing their little green pods.

On Aug. 12, the U.S. Agriculture Department unveiled its most significant crop report of the year, projecting a bin-busting soybean harvest of 4.6 billion bushels, which would easily set a record. Corn is projected at 15.1 billion bushels, the third biggest haul ever, coming on top of a similarly enormous crop last year.

With little fanfare, America's farmers are feeding a hungry world. At the same time, Congress is letting them down.

Negotiations for a new Farm Bill have stalled — again. And while this page can find plenty to criticize in the sprawling legislation governing farm and food policy, the reality is that America needs a new one, and needs it now. As it stands, a huge chunk of the federal budget covering everything from crop subsidies and food stamps to conservation practices is based on the now-obsolete plan set forth in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Instead of updating that five-year bill as it expired last fall, a hyperpartisan Congress renewed it for a year, supposedly buying time to work out details. That one-year renewal expires next month, and guess what? No new Farm Bill is even close to being approved. Congress is preparing to kick the can down the road again, at least until after the Nov. 5 election and probably well beyond it.

That commits the federal government to continue shelling out more than \$100 billion a year on increasingly out-of-date programs. It's an infuriating waste of taxpayer money, and a missed opportunity to bring about badly needed reforms.

Consider everything that has happened since the end of 2018, when the last Farm Bill became law. A pandemic shut down the country, changing everyday eating habits. Russia invaded

Guest Editorial

ed Ukraine, devastating one of the world's biggest breadbaskets.

Climate change brought on harsher weather, wildfires and changes in growing conditions that affect everything from the timing of harvests to the proliferation of pests. Budget-busting disaster payments that were supposed to be reduced thanks to generous subsidies in the 2018 Farm Bill have continued instead.

At the same time, prices have shot up for food, as well as seed, fertilizer, labor, equipment and practically every other important farm input. That unwelcome burst of inflation has raised the cost of programs in the 2018 bill.

In many ways, the bill itself was an exercise in kicking the can down the road, as it enacted only a few modest reforms to the biggest budget items. The 2018 legislation put in place work requirements for food stamps that turned out to be laughably weak. Subsidies that flowed to the wealthiest farmers and landowners continued to badly distort a marketplace awash in high-fructose corn syrup and ethanol motor fuel.

This page has previously pointed out some of the most egregious sins of the 2018 bill that Congress has left to fester. The sugar-subsidy program benefits a small cartel of rich producers at the expense of every American consumer, raising the cost of producing anything with sugar in the U.S. It has badly damaged Chicago's century-old status as a leading center of U.S. candy making. It needs to go.

The 2018 bill also authorized the mass production of hemp, a variety of cannabis that contains only a tiny amount of THC, the ingredient that gets people high. Entrepreneurs quickly figured out how to make con-

centrated hemp products, so the bill in effect legalized a form of marijuana nationwide, undermining state laws from coast to coast.

Another costly error of that era was removing restrictions on using the USDA's Commodity Credit Corp. as a slush fund that ex-President Donald Trump then tapped to pay tens of billions to farmers hurt by his idiotic trade war with China. President Joe Biden proceeded to abuse the same slush fund for climate initiatives and other priorities of his administration. That loophole must be closed.

So far, Congress has accomplished practically nothing. The House GOP deserves credit for at least getting a new Farm Bill out of committee, including a few votes from Democrats. But the Congressional Budget Office recently determined the bill would add billions to the federal deficit, which means a chunk of the House GOP won't support it anymore. The Democratic-controlled Senate, meantime, aggressively attacked the House bill but hasn't yet produced one of its own.

As inspiring as it is to drive through farm country and see healthy crops for miles around, one side effect is lower prices, as supplies of corn and soybeans increase. That will translate into lower incomes for Midwest farmers who up to now have enjoyed prosperous times in recent years.

Early signs of economic problems in farm country abound. Moline-based farm equipment-maker Deere & Co. has announced mass layoffs this year, as well as plans to move part of its manufacturing from the Midwest to Mexico in search of lower costs. Some farmers who are watching their crops grow tall while their profits shrink may have trouble getting the loans they need to plant again next year as the cost of production keeps rising.

Let's go, Congress. Put partisanship aside, scrap the 2018 Farm Bill once and for all, and take some bold steps to put America's farm and food economy on the right track for the future.

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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

Bellefountain 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
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(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. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
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
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

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

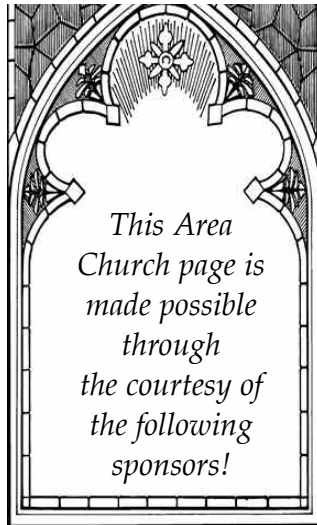
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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
Services: 10:30 a.m.



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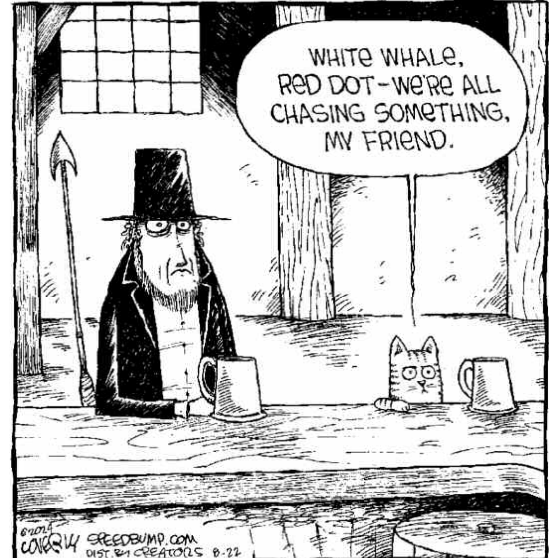
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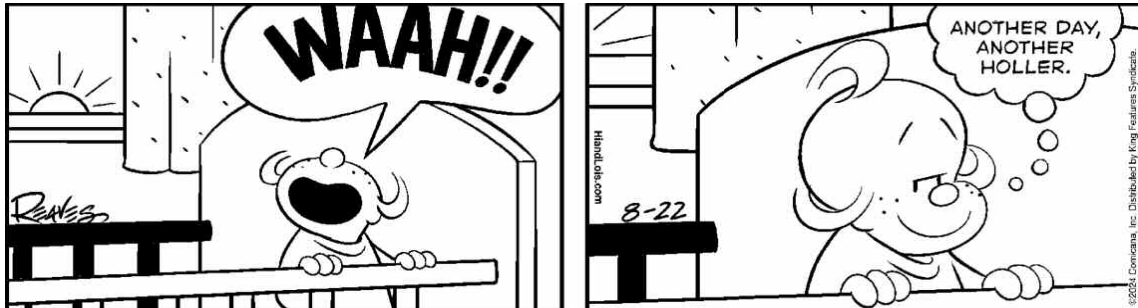
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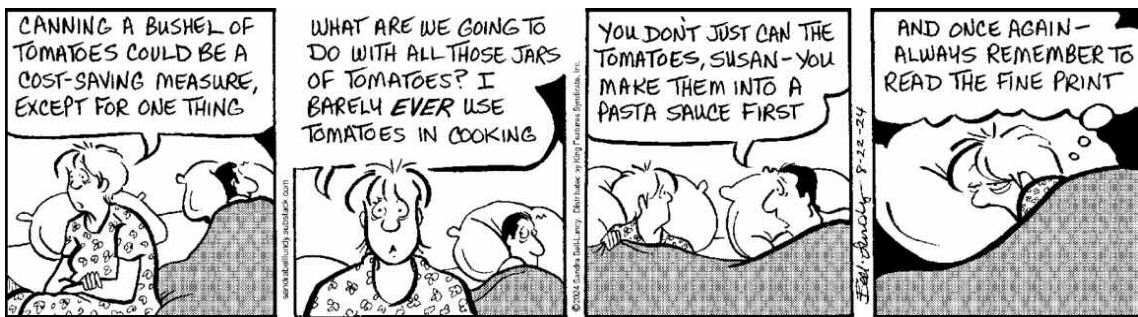
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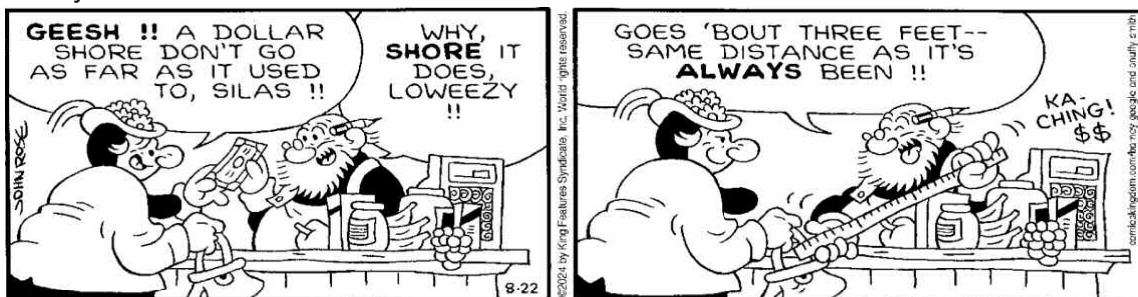
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Blondie



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8-22 CRYPTOQUIP

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PGEJ GKZ MRRQNOZWMZI
YMZDI MD DPO EQHZMZI, HKD
QD VMW MEE HGGAOJ KY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FURNITURE MAKER KNEW HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FINISH IN TIME, SO HE DECIDED TO TABLE IT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Sitcom about "nothing" 58 Pesky insect 11 Not even one 19 "I see" 21 Yucatan "Bravo!"
DOWN 1 "Moby-Dick" 24 Used to be 25 Enzyme ending 26 Hardwood tree 28 Actor Holbrook 29 Colorful fall tree 30 "Acid" 31 "Certainly!" 36 Pieces for nine 37 Enthusiast 38 Electrician's job 41 Concerning 42 Couch 43 Nile wader 44 Acknowledge 46 Persia, today 47 Opera set in Egypt 48 Future atty.'s exam 51 - Jima
Solution time: 24 mins.
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K E Y S D O N T K O S
Yesterday's answer 8-22

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Compete ...

Continued from page 8
Sinner tested positive for small traces of a metabolite of clostebol during the Indian Wells Open in March, then again eight days later.

The 23-year-old Sinner appealed a provisional suspension, arguing his physiotherapist had used an over-the-counter spray containing clostebol for a cut on his own finger before giving Sinner a massage without gloves.

Sinner won that appeal this

month. On Tuesday, the ITIA announced Sinner would still be docked the \$325,000 in prize money, along with the 400 ranking points, that he earned by advancing to the Indian Wells semifinal.

"The ITIA carried out a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the positive tests with which Mr. Sinner and his representatives fully cooperated," said Karen Moorhouse, the ITIA's CEO. "Following that investigation, the ITIA

accepted the player's explanation."

The ATP, meanwhile, said it was "encouraged that no fault or negligence has been found on Jannik Sinner's part."

Not everyone was thrilled with the ruling, however.

"Ridiculous — whether it was accidental or planned," fellow tennis player Nick Kyrgios wrote on X. "You get tested twice with a banned (steroid) substance... you should be gone for 2 years. Your performance was

enhanced. Massage cream... Yeah nice."

The Italian-born Sinner has won 15 singles tournaments, including the 2024 Australian Open for his first Grand Slam title.

This week, Sinner defeated Frances Tiafoe to win the Cincinnati Open in a final tune-up before the US Open, which begins Monday.

"Now, for sure, it's important to recover, to be ready for New York," Sinner said after the

Cincinnati Open. "This is our main goal here for this U.S. swing. I'm very happy to be in a position where I am and just trying to keep going mentally, having this hunger to keep playing, and hopefully I can show some good tennis [in] New York."

Sinner's best finish at the US Open came in 2022, when he advanced to the quarterfinal. He was eliminated in the fourth round at last year's tournament after a five-set battle with Alexander Zverev.

Stifles ...

Continued from page 8
Marentes initially got the ball 50 yards out from the goal. The senior drove the right side to appear as if he would pass to Muhlenkamp before taking the shot himself from 25 yards out and getting it to bounce into the left half of the goal at the 32:12 mark.

After the score, MCHS became more aggressive offensively, especially Rueda, who took six of his eight shots in the second half. Of those six, Yowell had to save three — he fin-

ished with six total saves — while the others were wide of the goal.

"In the second half we had plenty of good looks," said Bearcats coach Shea Hill. "We probably should have had two or three goals with the free shots right at the top of the 18, but nothing went uncontested. They were flying to the ball all over the place. Didn't matter if it was our 18 or their 18."

Reynolds also noted that he was impressed with the team's communication in

the match, especially from his upperclassmen.

After picking up the first win of the season, the first win under Reynolds and the first win on the new turf, the Patriots will look to build off of the opener.

"These guys gotta show up day in and day out, that's what it takes," Reynolds said. "They have to communicate, they have to play, they all have to click. As long as they're doing that, we're going to be very competitive."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Levi Muhlenkamp takes a shot during the Patriots 1-0 win Tuesday.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Freshman Evan Diller rounded out the score by placing 39th after 22:10.67.

Patriots win opener

The Jay County volleyball team opened the 2024 season with a 25-20, 20-25, 25-22, 25-19 win over the Madison-Grant Argylls on Tuesday.

Mya Kunkler dominated play at the net for the Patriots (1-0) with nine kills and eight blocks. Maria Hemmelgarn's net defense also excelled with six blocks.

Hallie Schwieterman also put up a strong effort with a team-high 10 kills and two blocks. Juniors Elizabeth Barnett and Kendel Rowles followed with eight and six kills, respectively.

Paisley Fugiett played a support role with 24 assists and 13 digs.

The junior varsity team also pulled out a 27-25, 24-22 victory over the Argylls.

Lydia Johnson led the way with seven kills and 11 digs for Jay County (1-0). Dishing out a team-high 10 assists in the match was Ella Rigby.

Indians sweep

ST. MARYS, Ohio — The Fort Recovery volleyball team beat the Memorial Roughriders 25-12, 25-18, 25-17 on Tuesday.

Cameron Muhlenkamp led the attack with 10 kills and three aces. Muhlenkamp also had six digs and two blocks.

Karlie Niekamp and Brynn Willman followed the sophomore with six and four kills, respectively. Niekamp led the Indians (2-0) with three blocks as well.

Kayla Heitkamp provided a

lift with a team-high 16 assists and 13 digs. She also had a pair of kills and aces.

The Tribe also had a strong day at the service line, succeeding on 59 of the 66 serve attempts with eight aces.

JC just short

The Jay County girls golf team came up three strokes short Tuesday in a 218-221 loss to the Adams Central Jets at Portland Golf Club.

Maddy Snow led the way for Jay County (1-3, 1-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) with a 49, which was good enough to earn her match medalist honors.

Snow made par twice in the round, one on the 275-yard, par-4 first hole and later on the 348-yard, par-4 ninth hole. She bogeyed the second hole and

ended as the only Patriot to not take a double-par on any holes.

Adam Central's Londyn Smith finished with the Jets' top score of 50, one stroke behind Snow.

Bailey Towell put up the second-best score for Jay County with a 56. She had bogeys on the third and eighth holes.

Rounding out the Patriots' score were Brooklynn Bright and Erin Aker, both with 58s. Aker made bogey on the second and eighth hole, while Bright parred the ninth and bogeyed the first.

Jaycee Rowles' and Jenna Brickers' rounds of 70 did not affect the team score.

Still searching

ALEXANDRIA — The Jay County boys tennis team is still searching for its first win after

the Alexandria Tigers beat it 5-0 on Tuesday.

Eli Dirksen won the first set of the year for Jay County (0-4) in the No. 1 singles match against Owen May. After taking the first set 7-5, Dirksen lost a 2 hour, 36 minute battle to Owens 5-7, 7-5, 10-6.

Tucker Griffin and Gabe Pinkerton also fell in the No. 2 and 3 singles matches. Austin Webb defeated Griffin 6-0, 6-0, while Blake Jones held off Pinkerton for a 6-4, 6-4 win.

Blake Kahlig and Alex Miller managed one game, but couldn't overcome Cale Johns and Brody Sullivan in their No. 1 doubles 6-0, 6-1 loss.

Carter Wellman and Carson Westgerdes got swept by Peyton Hill and Ryan Long 6-0, 6-0 in the No. 2 doubles contest.

All three doubles matches resulted in losses as well.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys tennis at Norwell — 5 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Volleyball at Delta — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls golf at Minster — 4 p.m.; Boys golf vs. Minster — 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball vs. National Trail — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football scrimmage vs. Versailles/Fort Loramie — 5 p.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. Franklin Monroe — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Football at Blackford — 7 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Football vs. Wayne Trace — 7 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2:15 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates (Bally Indiana)
7:08 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Atlanta Braves (FOX)
8 p.m. — High school football: Thompson (AL) at Grayson (GA) (ESPN2)

Friday
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Dutch Grand Prix (ESPN2)

7 a.m. — LPGA Tour: Women's British Open (USA)

2:30 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: Bayer Leverkusen at Borussia Monchengladbach (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Wawa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola (USA)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Coke Zero Sugar 400 (USA)

7 p.m. — High school football: American Heritage at Milton (ESPN); Bellaire at Buckeye Local (FOX)
7 p.m. — Bannan Ball World Tour baseball (truTV)

7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Wawa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola (USA)
10 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN)

Local notes

Next up
The Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallop 5K is the next race in the Adams County Challenge Series.

The race will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24. It will begin at Riverside Center in Decatur at 4:30 p.m.

The races cost \$25. Registration can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com. For more information contact Linda Morris at (260) 724-2604.

Season tickets for sale
Jay County High School began selling season tickets Monday, July 22. Tickets

can be purchased during office hours from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Patriot Pass and Senior Patriot Pass (for those 65-and-older) cover all high school and junior high events. The former costs \$105 while the latter is \$60.

For just high school events, High School Adult Super Tickets (\$80) and Senior Super Tickets for those 65-and-older (\$45) are available. Junior High Super Tickets are available for \$60.

Also available are a Pre-Paid Sports Pass, good for 12 games at \$50, boys basketball season passes for \$50 and football season passes for \$25.

Classic set
The 11th Annual Adams Health Foun-

dation Golf Classic is set to be held on Sept. 13 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

Teams of four can participate for \$400, with tee times at either 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Included are an 18-hole round of golf, a best, non-alcoholic beverages, a cooler bag and lunch.

All proceeds go to school healthcare scholarships and community health. For more information, contact Kim Trombley by emailing kim.trombley@adamshealthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

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

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At that time, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard in reference to matters set out in the petition. The petition and file on this matter are available for public inspection at the Jay/Portland Building & Planning Department, 118 S Meridian Street Ste E, Portland, Indiana 47371. If unable to attend the meeting, the Department will accept letters from the public prior to the meeting date. Letters may be sent or taken to the Jay/Portland Building Department. City of Portland Board of Zoning Appeals John Hemmelgarn Zoning Administrator/Director CR 8-22-2024 -HSPAXLP</p>

Joelle Kaup finishes as Mercer County runner-up, see story below

JC girls soccer opens ACAC play against Heritage today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Defense stifles Bearcats



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School boys soccer defenders Osmar Gonzalez (left), Iker Nelson (22) and Ashton Castillo (4) collapse in on Muncie Central forward Toby Gruver (11) during the season opener Tuesday. The three defenders along with goalie Peyton Yowell and sweeper Aryan Montes held the Bearcats to zero goals in the 1-0 victory.

Patriots hold Muncie Central scoreless, Marentes puts home winning goal

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

Most of the offense and a bulk of the midfielders returned for the Patriots.

They have a brand new defense and a new venue to play on.

Despite a fresh back line and goalkeeper, the Patriots came ready to play.

Jay County High School's boys soccer team pulled off a 1-0 victory in the season opener against Muncie Central on Tuesday in the first official game played on the new turf at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium.

"It was very important," said first-year Patriots coach Rod-

ney Reynolds. "They're always a strong team. They have so many bodies to put a good team together. We knew it wasn't going to be easy.

"We just told our guys they've got to play their game, stay level headed, do what we do, come out to fight and scrap and don't give up whatever we do. They did that and exactly what we asked of them.

"We see there's still some stuff we need to work on, but it's just going to make them better. It's a great first win for me and for the team. It's awesome."

The Bearcats (0-1) got the better of Jay County (1-0) the past two seasons. Both were high-

scoring affairs with MCHS winning 4-1 in 2022 and 5-2 in 2023.

A new back line changed that.

Reynolds has Aryan Montes as the sweeper — Montes played more as a midfielder or striker in 2023 — Ashton Castillo as the center back, Osmar Gonzalez manning the left half, Iker Nelson on the right side and Peyton Yowell in the goal. The cast only allowed one look at the goal in the first half as Toby Gruver dribbled the distance of the field.

"It feels amazing, because we knew they were going to be a really hard opponent," Gonzalez said. "We focused on (communication) in summer training. ... Coaches were telling us, 'You

need to talk, otherwise you're going to get scored on.'

"The coaches relied on me to talk more because I have more experience. I was just trying to help them as much as I can so they don't get in their heads."

The strong defense continued early in the second half. Through the first eight minutes of the second period, Muncie Central only had one look when Angel Rueda poked a through ball to Lucas Babb. Yowell shifted to the left half of the goal just in time to knock the ball away and out of bounds at the 36 minute, 55 second mark.

Four minutes later, the Patriots' offense finally pulled through.

In the first half, Jay County midfielder Dylan Marentes tried several times to send through balls upfield for striker Levi Muhlenkamp. The Bearcats often pinched their defenders in to stop the senior, who led the Patriots in goals last year.

In the second half, Marentes decided to take a different approach.

"I was going to do the same thing, pass it to Levi," Marentes said. "But then I saw the opening on the right. I thought, 'We've tried that and missed them all.' So I decided to go line and shoot it and luckily it went in."

See Stifles page 7

Sinner will compete in U.S. Open

By PETER SBLENDORIO
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Tennis star Jannik Sinner tested positive for steroids earlier this year, an international agency

announced Tuesday, but he remains eligible for next week's US Open in Queens.

That's because Sinner, the ATP's No. 1 player, will not be suspended after the International Tennis

Integrity Agency deemed that the banned substance entered his body inadvertently.

"I will now put this challenging and deeply unfortunate period behind me," Sinner said in a statement. "I will

continue to do everything I can to ensure I continue to comply with the ITIA's anti-doping (program) and I have a team around me that are meticulous in their own compliance."

See Compete page 7

Tribe girls end as county runners-up

The Indians lost some star athletes.

For the girls, it just meant the runners next in line had to step up.

The Fort Recovery High School girls cross country team finished 16 points shy of first place at the Mercer County Invitational held at Marion County Township on Tuesday.

St. Henry scored 52 points to claim the top spot, while Fort Recovery's 68 put the Indians safely in the runners-up position. The Tribe boys finished sixth with 134 points while host Marion Local won the race with 40.

Joelle Kaup also finished as the individual runner up with a time of 20 minutes, 59.33 seconds, only 14.85 seconds slower than her fastest time from 2023. Celina's Jannalee Dameron took the top spot with a time of 20:23.36.

Anna Roessner (22:02.73)

Local roundup

and freshman Riley Heitkamp (22:07.46) finished back-to-back to claim the ninth and 10th places in the meet. Madison Heitkamp (23:32.69) and Kendall Ranly (25:19.57) made up the final two scores of 19 and 28.

Reese Diller secured a top-10 finish as his time of 18:13.94 secured ninth place.

Colin Buening of Celina took the top spot in 16:43.71.

Returners Russell Hart (20:23.27), Evan Evers (20:49.06) and Milo Fiely (21:14.66) made up the next three Indians scores, finishing 25th, 29th and 32nd.

See Roundup page 7



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