

Rehab program moving forward

Contracts are OK'd for engineering, radon testing

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Jay County is moving forward with plans for an owner-occupied rehabilitation program.
Jay County Commissioners approved contracts Monday for engineering and radon testing related to the \$1 million project intended to help residents pay for home improvements. The contracts are contingent upon approval from Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.
The owner-occupied rehabilitation is mainly funded through an OCRA grant, which was received for Jay County taking part in the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) planning process for federal coronavirus relief funds.
Commissioners agreed Monday to formally amend the overall project budget, allowing \$103,000 of the \$1 million grant to be used for professional services (engineering and radon testing). The remaining \$897,000 will be used for construction.
Mike Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Consulting, who is serving as a grant administrator on the project, explained the program requires Jay County hire an inspector to check each home before construction. He told commissioners Monday he reached out to 15 firms and received one bid for the service from engineering company Egis of Indianapolis.
The contract with Egis is not to exceed \$98,000. Another contract with Air Xray of Fort Wayne for state-required radon testing is not to exceed \$5,000.
Per grant guidelines, Kleinpeter noted the county needs to seek bids for the various housing projects by Nov. 30.
"We've got about 90 days, but that clock's going to run fast," he said.
Jay County accepted applications for the program on a first-come, first-serve basis in May and June, receiving more than 100 submissions from local residents. The proposed work may include roof, water heater or heating ventilation and air conditioning unit replacements, electrical work or upgrades to make a home more accessible. Projects are limited to \$25,000 per household.
Kleinpeter has been in communication with OCRA to seek approval for using the grant funds to pay for professional services needed to do the work. (In past meetings, Bill Walters of East Central Indiana Regional Planning District pointed out Jay County is the first entity to offer a county-wide owner-occupied rehabilitation program.)
See Rehab page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Singing for Hope

Christian hip hop artist Redeemed performs Saturday during Hopefest at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The community outreach event featured health screenings, carnival games, archery tag, refreshments and a concert that also featured Mallory Be, Clean Slate and Joe Nester.

Stopgap bill looms as Congress returns

By NIELS LESNIEWSKI
CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service
WASHINGTON — With the political conventions in the rearview mirror, Congress returns this week facing the traditional election year push and pull of members wanting to get out of Washington as quickly as possible while doing just enough to avoid a government shutdown.
House conservatives have been agitating about attaching a noncitizen voting bill to the September stopgap spending bill, and for Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, to pitch a plan to punt the spending debate into 2025.
The stopgap bill released Friday night by House Republicans would combine a six-month continuing resolution with a House-passed bill that supporters

Proposal released Friday features six-month continuing resolution

say would help to ensure that noncitizens can't vote in federal elections — something Democrats note is already against the law. If it becomes law, the continuing resolution would set a March 28 deadline to avert a partial government shutdown.
As with any spending bill in the narrowly divided House, its path to passage is far from certain. And in any case, Senate Democrats are unlikely to seriously entertain the noncitizen voting legislation — which likely would set up a scenario where the Democrat-led Senate would kick back a "clean" stopgap bill that would force a decision on Johnson's part.
Aside from that, appropriators might rather tackle spending issues in the lame-duck session, while current members are still in office. That would set the stage for an omnibus spending package — exactly what House conservatives would like to avoid.

"Democrats support a CR to keep the government open," Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-New York, wrote in a weekend letter to colleagues. "As I have said before, the only way to get things done is in a bipartisan way. Despite Republican bluster, that is how we've handled every funding bill in the past, and this time should be no exception. We will not let poison pills or Republican extremism put funding for critical programs at risk."
Spending won't be the only thing on the agenda, however.
The farm bill lapses at the end of September, meaning it will need an extension either as part of the continuing resolution or in some other legislative vehicle. And the fiscal 2025 national defense authorization measure is still awaiting action.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Jack Guez

Protesting

Demonstrators set a fire during an anti-government protest Saturday calling for action to secure the release of Israeli hostages held captive since the Oct. 7 attacks by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip, in front of the Israeli Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv.

Dems speak against sale

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
The Indiana Senate Democratic caucus spoke out Monday against the controversial sale of U.S. Steel to Japan's Nippon Steel as President Joe Biden is said to be considering blocking the move.
"Indiana's steelworkers are the foundation of our economy — individuals who have poured their sweat, skill and commitment into industries that sustain entire communities. The transfer of U.S. industries into foreign hands without ironclad labor protections is not only a risk to our workers; it is a direct threat to the stability of our local economies," the caucus said in a news release.

Biden is considering blocking Nippon purchase

"We cannot and will not stand by while the livelihoods of thousands of Hoosier families hang in the balance," the 10-member caucus continued. "Any deal that compromises worker rights, wages or job security is unacceptable. We demand that U.S. labor laws be upheld, regardless of who owns these companies."
Indiana's Gary Works is U.S. Steel's largest manufacturing plant, according to the company's website.
It can handle more than 7.5 million net tons of raw steel annually. The site has more than 4,300 employees, per Fox Business.
The Washington Post reported last week that Biden is preparing to block the sale, a move that could impact workers here in Indiana.
Nippon Steel proposed buying the Pittsburgh-based steelmaker last December, in a deal valued at \$14.9 billion.

Deaths: Alice Weaver, 88, Portland Details on page 2.

Weather: Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Sunday. The low was 36. Tonight's low will be in the mid 50s. The forecast calls for the high to climb into the upper 80s Wednesday under sunny skies. The low will be in the upper 50s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review: Redkey Town Council will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the park cabin. Also, the Jay County Election Board meeting for this month has been moved to 3:45 p.m. Monday in the voting room at Jay County Courthouse.

Coming up: Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Dunkirk City Council meeting. Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls soccer game against Wapahani. Friday — Column explains future plans for Graphic Printing sports.





# Obituaries

**Alice Weaver**  
*April 26, 1936-Sept. 5, 2024*  
Alice Marie Weaver, 88, of Portland, Indiana, formerly of Redkey, Indiana, passed peacefully on Sept. 5, 2024, surrounded by the love of family at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana.

Alice was born in Dunkirk, Indiana, on April 26, 1936, a daughter of the late Crystal (Kaufman) and Woodrow Hamilton. She was a



Weaver

1954 graduate of Dunkirk High School, hostess for the famous Yesteryears Restaurant in Redkey, Indiana, and formerly employed by the Redkey Bakery, McCord's Dime Store, the Albany Drive In, Indiana Glass, Armstrong Cork, Dairy More and the Redkey Canning Factory, all of which are sadly no longer in existence.

Alice was the loving wife of the late Jay M. Weaver, a member of Redkey Church of the Nazarene and former president of the Redkey Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Although she has witnessed the small towns she grew to know struggling to

survive, she remained the kind-hearted and compassionate lady with a sunny disposition who loved people, flowers, playing cards, listening to Blake Shelton, watching the Hallmark Channel, shopping at Hobby Lobby, cooking, reading and crocheting.

Alice is survived by her son, Bryan Weaver (Patricia); daughter Bobbi Jo Louck (Richard); grandchildren Matt Weaver (Amy), Janette Huber (Daniel), Eric Evans (Bridgette), Coral Rees (Jameson), Jon Weaver; Zach Louck (Macy), Shelbi Blankenbaker (Trevor), Allison Muhlenkamp (Brandon) and Maddison Newton (Chance); 10 great-

grandchildren and two more on the way; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Jay; son Daniel L. Weaver; and seven brothers, William, David, Rick, John, Ron, Gordon and Ivan Hamilton.

Friends are invited to call Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, from 4 to 8 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, at MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel with Pastor Phil Dorres officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Redkey Church of the Nazarene.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel.

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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.*

*They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

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

CR almanac

| Wednesday<br>9/11   | Thursday<br>9/12  | Friday<br>9/13   | Saturday<br>9/14  | Sunday<br>9/15  |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|   |   |  |   |   |
| <b>88/57</b>  | <b>89/61</b>  | <b>81/62</b>   | <b>81/62</b>  | <b>83/60</b>  |
| Sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday, when the high will be around 88. | Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high in the mid to upper 80s. | There's a slight chance of showers Friday, when the high will be in the low 80s. | Another chance of showers Saturday, when the low may hit the low 60s. | There's a chance of rain Sunday. Otherwise, mostly sunny. |

Lotteries

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Powerball</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$121 million   | 68-69-71-76-79-80<br>Cash 5: 4-8-9-12-44<br>Estimated jackpot: \$403,000   |
| <b>Mega Millions</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$800 million   | <b>Ohio</b><br>Sunday<br>Midday<br>Pick 3: 5-6-6<br>Pick 4: 8-7-7-7<br>Pick 5: 7-0-7-6-2<br>Evening<br>Pick 3: 3-3-3<br>Pick 4: 3-9-8-4<br>Pick 5: 1-9-9-3-0<br>Rolling Cash 5: 12-22-23-32-39<br>Estimated jackpot: \$120,000 |
| <b>Hoosier</b><br>Sunday<br>Midday<br>Daily Three: 0-1-7<br>Daily Four: 7-6-6-9<br>Evening<br>Daily Three: 9-6-1<br>Daily Four: 6-3-8-0<br>Quick Draw: 1-2-4-7-9-32-35-44-46-48-56-60-65-67- |  |

Markets

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b><br>Corn.....3.52<br>Oct. corn .....3.56<br>Wheat .....3.59       | Oct. beans .....9.72<br>Wheat ..... 5.17  |
| <b>POET Biorefining Portland</b><br>Corn.....3.62<br>Oct. corn .....3.62<br>Dec. corn .....3.87    | <b>ADM Montpelier</b><br>Corn.....3.53<br>Oct. corn .....3.59<br>Beans.....9.69<br>Oct. beans .....9.69<br>Wheat .....4.96        |
| <b>The Andersons Richland Township</b><br>Corn .....3.59<br>Oct. corn .....3.59<br>Beans .....9.72 | <b>Heartland St. Anthony</b><br>Corn.....3.42<br>Oct. corn .....3.42<br>Beans.....9.61<br>Oct. beans .....9.46<br>Wheat .....4.87 |

Today in history

In 1608, John Smith was selected as president of the Jamestown Colony, the first permanent English Settlement in North American. It was located in what is now Virginia.

In 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry led U.S. naval forces to victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

In 1919, World War I came to its official end when the Allied powers and Austria signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain.

In 1972, a house owned by Herbert Baumgardner of Bert Wayne was destroyed in an early morning fire. The house located east of Bryant was engulfed

in flames, with firefighters focused on keeping the flames from spreading to surrounding buildings.

In 1974, Guinea-Bissau became independent from Portugal.

In 1984, Alex Trebek made his debut as the host of “Jeopardy!”

In 1988, Steffi Graf completed the Grand Slam to win the U.S. Open. She was the first woman in tennis to accomplish the feat since Margaret Court in 1970.

In 2021, United Way of Jay County kicked off its annual campaign with an event at halftime of the Jay County High School football game against Adams Central.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.<br>5:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.<br>7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. | 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Merit Board, training room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland.<br>6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. |
| <b>Wednesday</b>  | <b>Thursday</b><br>6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special meeting, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.  |

# Felony court news

**Child porn**  
A Portland man was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to prison for possessing child pornography.

Thomas J. Clutter, 77, 238 E. North St., pleaded guilty to the Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to 34 months in Indiana Department of Correction with 30 months suspended. Clutter was given credit for time served and assessed \$189 in court costs.

**Drunk driving**  
A Dunkirk man was sentenced to jail in Jay Superior Court for drunk driving.

Charles L. Copeland, 59, 423 North Main St., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail and given 260 days credit for time served.

Copeland was fined \$1, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or more was dismissed.

**Battery**  
A Portland man was sentenced to prison for battery.

Robert P. Miller, 44, 115 West Fifth St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to battery against a public safety official, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 60 days suspended and given 10 days credit for time

served. Miller was assessed \$189 in court costs and placed on probation for 305 days.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement and a Class B misdemeanor for public intoxication were dismissed.

**Domestic battery**  
Three local residents were sentenced to serve time after pleading guilty to domestic battery in Jay Superior Court.

Trista L. Carreno, 35, 2367 West Indiana 26, Portland, pleaded guilty to domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Carreno was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but four days suspended and given four days credit for time served. Carreno was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$0 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. She was placed on probation for 361 days. Her charge was lessened from a Level 6 felony.

Omar R. Martin Jr., 27, 324 W. State St. Albany, pleaded guilty to a domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but six days suspended and given six days credit for time served. Martin was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. He was placed on probation for 359 days.

Aaron M. Hall, 43, 1132 South Massachusetts Ave., Portland, pleaded guilty to domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to

730 days in Indiana Department of Correction with all but one year suspended and given 12 days credit for time served. Hall was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. He was placed on probation for one year.

**Residential entry**  
A Tennessee man was sentenced in Jay Superior Court to four years of prison for residential entry.

Trevin W. Miller, 34, 4330 Dockery Branch Road, Sevierville, pleaded guilty to the Level 6 felony and admitted to being a habitual offender.

He was sentenced to 1,460 days in Indiana Department of Correction — his sentence was doubled because of the habitual offender enhancement — and given 130 days credit for time served. Miller was assessed \$189 in court costs.

**Dependent neglect**  
A Geneva man was sentenced to prison for neglect of a dependent.

Joseph A. Green, 40, 315 East High St., P.O. Box 315, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury, a Level 5 felony. Green was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. He was assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for visiting a common nuisance and a habitual offender enhancement were dismissed.

Rehab ...

Continued from page 1

County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted the contract with Egis stipulates responsibilities of the company, which includes reviewing owner-occupied rehabilitation applications, conducting inspections, preparing bid documents, coordinating with contractors in a pre-bid meeting, reviewing bids, evaluating change requests and doing final inspections to make sure work was completed according to the bid.

He said the subject of final inspections had been a question previously, with conversation originally circling around Jay/Portland Building and Planning Department handling the role. He mentioned he still has a few questions, specifically noting that the contract does not clarify who creates the contracts between homeowners and contractors. (He said in past meetings Egis has agreed to do it.)

Per a request from

SERVICES

Thursday  
**Weaver**, Alice: 11 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

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# Dirty lawman got a second chance

By HANK NUWER

Blackford County Sheriff Ira Barton was 49 when a photo of him with wide, hooded eyes appeared in a Muncie newspaper on Dec. 29, 1931. A headline read “Jailed!”

A defiant Barton claimed that he was a victim of a frameup engineered by Indiana Bureau of Criminal Investigation lawman Charles Bolte.

But three Chicago-area robbers captured after the holdup of the First State Bank started singing.

They had been set up.

A confidential source tipped off Jay County Sheriff Len Wehrly that desperadoes planned a heist in Dunkirk. Wehrly visited eight local businesses near the bank and armed each with rifles.

Three robbers stormed into the bank while one stayed on lookout. They filled two pillowcases with cash. A bank employee

Far From Randolph County



tripped an alarm that alerted nearby businesses. As the four criminals clambered into their getaway car, Hugh Barnett, in front of a nearby garage, clipped its gas tank with a rifle bullet.

Gas flowed from the vehicle. Dunkirk patrolman Samuel S. Bennett and a small posse began a chase.

Out of gas, the robbers tossed their pillowcases of loot into a ditch. They scurried through a farm field. A pursuer shot gang leader Tony Capitan, who dropped with a mortal wound. The remaining trio tossed their weapons.

The three reacted in anger when told they had been arrested in Jay County, not adjacent Blackford County. Barton had promised protection in his county.

The trio fingered Barton for the Dunkirk heist and a recent job at a Hartford City bank. The county coroner arrested the disgraced sheriff and took his weapon.

Justice was swift. A local court gave each of the three surviving robbers a 20-year sentence.

Barton, awaiting charges, was taken to the Hartford City jail, then to the jail in Portland.

Barton protested about being kept in a cell so near the three criminals. He was ignored.

One of the three admitted robbers confronted the disgraced sheriff.

“We’ll get you yet, you dirty rat,” shouted Albert Frabotta.

“Barton cowered in the corner of his cell and his face whitened at the threat,” noted a Muncie Press reporter.

Among other charges, Bolte charged Barton as an accessory to bank robberies in Dunkirk, Montpelier and Hartford City. He accused Barton of collaborating with the gangsters and arranging schemes to send area lawmen away on pretexts at time of the crimes.

Overwhelming evidence against the sheriff piled up over the next six weeks that demonstrated Barton was not only corrupt but clueless about covering his tracks. Several witnesses placed him in Dunkirk at the time of the holdup.

What followed next was like a page torn out of a bad detective book.

Barton convinced his own teen-aged nephew, Linden Barton, to help him break out of jail. The

prisoner took a mace and knocked out deputy Tandy Ferguson, who had been a best friend.

They didn’t get far. An Indiana state trooper rounded them up.

A 72-point headline in the Muncie Morning Star read “Ira Barton Pleads Guilty” on Feb. 18, 1932.

His motive? The divorced Barton had considered himself underpaid and wanted money to court his fiancée and furnish their lodgings.

In Jay Circuit Court that day, Judge Frank Gillespie gave Barton a 21-year sentence (slammed as too lenient by many). Barton blubbered throughout the sentencing, as well as when his nephew received a six-month sentence for the escape attempt.

Local eyes were raised in 1938 when a state clemency commission freed Barton. His second

wife had waited for his release.

The former sheriff was given a second chance.

Barton, raised a farmer’s son, lived his final years in Muncie and Hartford City, selling farm equipment for Sears Roebuck.

Ill and confined to a Fort Wayne rest home, Barton died May 27, 1969, at age 76. His survivors were a daughter, brother, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Linden Barton served his time and moved to Southern California to raise a family. He rode his horse each year in the Pasadena Rose Bowl parade.

A brief Muncie Star Press obituary noted that Ira Barton once was a sheriff of Blackford County.

Charitably, the obit writer omitted Barton’s convictions.

# Girlfriend rejects proposal because of caveat

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend’s mom has dementia. He asked me and my kids to move in with him and said he would marry me. In exchange, he expected me to quit my job and take care of his mom. I felt it was a disaster waiting to happen, and taking care of someone with dementia while raising two teenagers was a terrible idea, so I refused.

He put his mother in a nursing home, and now I am no longer treated the same by him. The woman is abusive. She hits and bites and isn’t easy to deal with. Living with her would have destroyed our relationship and been stressful for my children. My boyfriend isn’t the easiest guy to open up to. I’m sad and don’t know what to do. —

Dear Abby



TOO MUCH TO HANDLE

DEAR TOO MUCH: When your boyfriend proposed marriage, it wasn’t because he loved you. He was looking for an easy solution (for him) to his mother problem. To expect you to quit your job and sacrifice your retirement benefits was nervy. You are not trained to care for a violent dementia patient. He

treats you differently because he’s angry you didn’t go along with his plans for you. What you should do now is move on, because his resentment is unlikely to diminish.

.....

DEAR ABBY: For the entirety of our relationship, my wife has never listened to me. It’s literally the only thing I’ve ever asked her to do. She constantly tells me I have nothing worthwhile to say, without ever actually letting me finish a sentence.

My mother is coming into some money and offered me a sizable sum, provided I don’t tell my wife. I’m seriously considering “taking the money and running.” I can no longer deal with

the constant emotional abuse. My wife treats her children the same way, and it’s disgusting to me. What should I do? — TEMPTED IN CANADA

DEAR TEMPTED: If things are as bad as you have described, talk to an attorney and legally declare your independence. After that’s done, take your mother up on her generous offer.

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DEAR ABBY: When I married in 1974, my mother had one of my wedding photos of me in my wedding dress and holding my bouquet. It was lovely, and she had it made up into a large 36-inch-by-26-inch portrait with a beautiful frame. It hung in my old bedroom until she passed

away. I have had it in a closet in my house ever since. I’ve asked my daughter and son if they would like to have it, and they don’t. I’m wondering if I should throw it away or leave it up to them when I’m gone. Because we have always had a loving relationship, I don’t want either of them to feel bad about disposing of it. — PICTURING THE FUTURE

DEAR PICTURING: You must be sentimental about that portrait, or you wouldn’t have kept it all these years. Because of that, I don’t think you should toss it. After you are gone, your daughter or son may change their mind about having it. Let them decide when the time comes.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

Today

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8

p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

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

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

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS —

Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles’ lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at Pizza Hut in Portland.

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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday’s Solution

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

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

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# Substance rises above superficial

To the editor:  
The setting was nearly perfect for my evaluation of this minor dilemma of singer versus song. Although rendering a solution came with ease, the below details are absent of any intrigue. But it's laced with traces of twisted humor and therefore worthy of intense commentary as I "solve" this curious debate.  
Decades ago, we dropped anchor in Naples, Italy, harbor and several of us migrated to the Marina Mercantile Circolo (Italian merchant marine club). The name is proper indication (warning) it was not a white-tie establishment nor even a lesser black-tie requirement. A rabies

## Letters to the Editor

shot would have been a more appropriate necessity.  
Entry was initially intimidating but our apprehension soon dissipated as all of us were followers of the sea. Merchant seamen (civilians) ply their trade moving cargo while U.S. Navy sailors roam the oceans in a more aggressive profession. Certainly not quite in league with the great Biblical flood, the alco-

hol flow was immense and deserving of entry in historical journals.  
Two female vocalists provided entertainment. The first singer was naturally adorned with impressive enhanced features and attributes that can only be described as grandiosely bestowed. But her vocal performance greatly contaminated her striking profile. The lady's voice was a great example of an enormous catastrophic endeavor: Two loaded trucks colliding — one carrying hogs the other empty milk cans — would have produced a much-improved sound.  
The second vocalist's appearance and performance were extremely opposite her col-

league's and worthy of a Guinness mention. Her hair resembled collateral damage from a steel wool plant disaster and her applied makeup the result of standing too close to a paint factory explosion. A greater example of self-inflicted cosmetic cruelty had yet to be discovered. I indirectly referred to her as a melancholy baby, which was fitting if not proper. She possessed the body of a melon and a face like a collie with the sex appeal of a burned-out jeep.  
But unlike her counterpart, our second vocalist was richly blessed with vocal talent that lent beauty to her physical being. Singing in her native tongue did not diminish our profound admi-

ration. An extended longevity gap prevented the opportunity for a center stage appearance before Simon Cowell and his "Got Talent" team, which no doubt would have erupted in thunderous applause. Performing in a cappel-la mode was certainly her forte. Changing to an alternate format would only delude her purity of voice and deprive her listeners of superb talent.  
Talent minus beauty should always reign supreme over ill quality rendition of any musical event no matter how great its content.  
It's the singer.  
Respectfully  
Roy Leverich  
Portland

## Preparedness must be front and center

By KELLY MCKINNEY  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Thirty-two years ago, a tropical storm wandered over an area of superheated water and exploded into a monster Category 5 hurricane with 174 mph winds.

Compact and powerful, Hurricane Andrew slammed into south Florida, obliterating houses and leaving 65 people dead. In the days that followed, our response to the disaster was a textbook case of failure, with a breakdown in communication and coordination at all levels of government. Nobody, from the White House down, had any inkling what was going on. Peg Maloy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's spokesperson at the time, put it best: "Something is wrong. Nobody knows where it's breaking down. I'd like to know myself."

The result of our failed government response was, as always, human suffering, with the affected communities left to fend for themselves. The town of Homestead was a devastated landscape, littered with dead animals, the smell of human waste hanging in the air. Dade County's Emergency Management director, Kate Hale, said during a televised news conference: "Where in the hell is the cavalry on this one?"

The bad news is that, when it comes to responding to catastrophes, little has changed in the decades since that hot August morning some three decades ago. While some agencies (FEMA is a notable example) have improved their capabilities and their processes, as a nation we have made no progress in our readiness for major disasters.

This was clearly shown 13 years later in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and, most recently, by our national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, when a clumsy federal bureaucracy and its various components, from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA, failed to take an ownership stake in the crisis. Instead, they pointed at each other and dithered, while the virus spread rapidly across the nation.

Although it's true that the COVID-19 disaster unfolded in a polarized political climate, its failures cannot be attributed to partisanship. The caus-

Kelly McKinney



es of our national failure arose out of incompetence. The partisan divisions that emerged were the result of that incompetence, not its cause. Meanwhile, the absence of a cohesive national plan leaves us vulnerable.

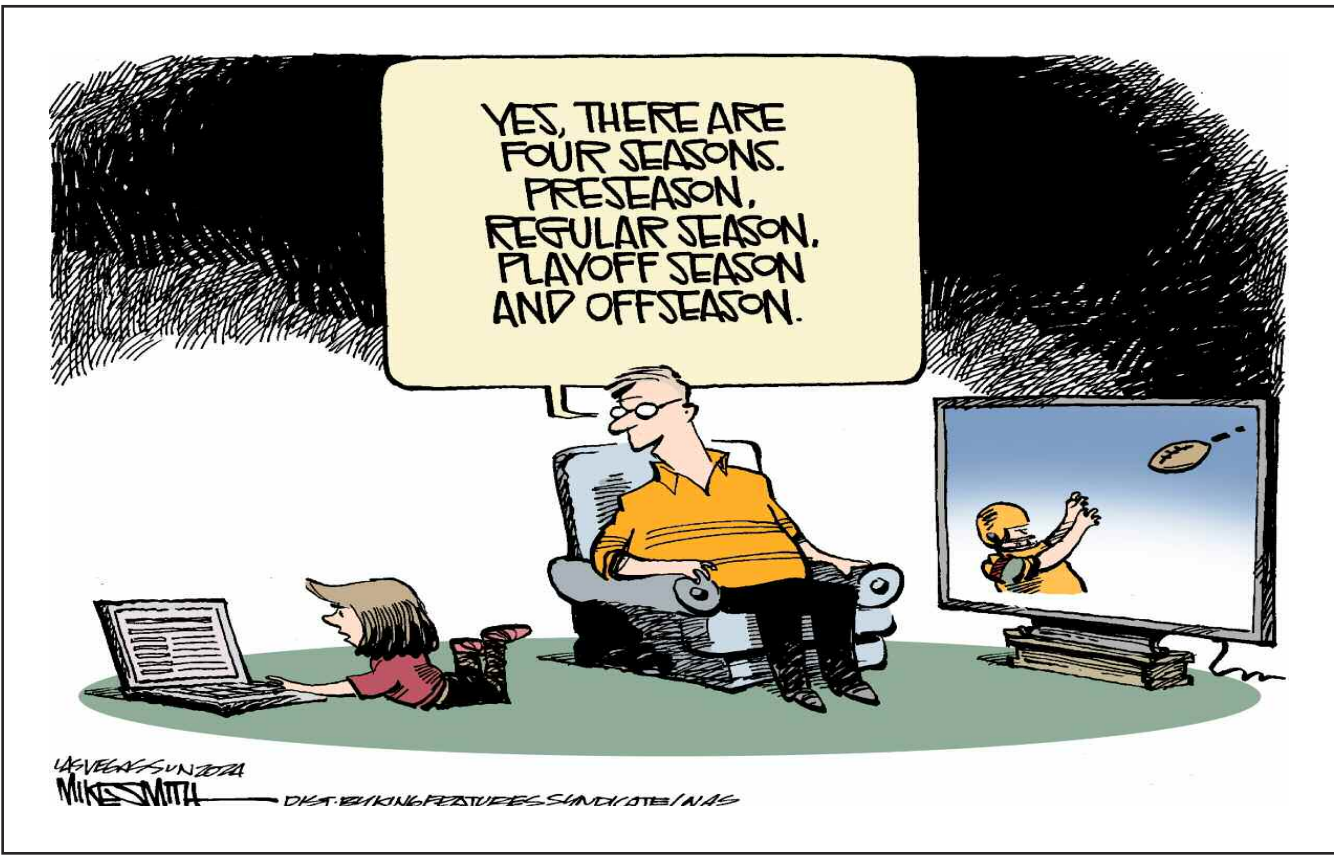
Catastrophes overwhelm us, affecting everyone in the same way at the same time. They ignore political boundaries, sowing chaos and demanding information and resources way beyond what is immediately available. Many people, even some crisis management professionals, think the challenges are just too great. They believe that planning for catastrophes is wasted effort; an exercise in futility. They are wrong.

Planning (i.e., what must happen and who is on the hook to do it) enables coordination, and, with effective coordination, nothing is impossible. Only national executive leadership can build the plan that establishes accountability across all levels of government, that connects to the private sector and deploys the resources and solutions needed to address widespread and urgent human suffering.

Now is the time for us to stop the dithering and the finger-pointing and to start reconfiguring ourselves to confront the unknown in a complex environment. With the national nominating conventions over and the candidates engaged in a nine-week sprint to Election Day, this is a critical opportunity to elevate this issue. Preparing the nation for the inevitable next catastrophe — whether it be a natural disaster, pandemic or terrorist attack — is a fundamental responsibility of the federal government. The president owns this issue, and we should not let the candidates off the hook.

How many more failures must we be forced to endure before we get the plan we need? The voters deserve to know.

.....  
*McKinney is the assistant vice president of emergency management and enterprise resilience at NYU Langone Health in New York City. He is a former deputy commissioner for the New York City Office of Emergency Management.*



## Cities pitch their own agendas

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The momentum is clear: property taxes are a top issue in this election cycle and will almost certainly be addressed in some way in the 2025 legislative session. That's why cities and towns are coming to the table now.

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) is touting three areas in the discussion its members can find common ground on.

"I want to say that this is a free-market system that was developed by the legislature in 2009 and overwhelmingly put into the state's constitution. So, we don't believe, from a local perspective, this needs to be a massive overhaul," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said. "This really should be a surgical examination of pain points for Hoosiers and addressing them accordingly."

He chairs the organizations' legislative committee and talked with the ICC about the coming session.

AIM says it doesn't want Hoosiers to lose their homes. But the group also notes that property tax revenue accounts for almost 60% of a municipal budget — and nearly half of those budgets are spent on public safety. The remaining funding comes from local income taxes, road dollars, food and beverage taxes and more.

Any significant revenue losses could mean cuts in services that mayors around the state want to avoid, especially with inflation remaining problematic.

### Looking at the data

But there are also numbers on the side of the homeowner.

According to an analysis by the Association of Indiana Counties and Policy Analytics, the gross assessed value of homes jumped 16.5% on average between 2022 and 2023 and property tax bills increased by 18.2% on average.

The jumps are largely related to increased assessed value of property following the pandemic. The value is based on sales of similar properties.

But Jensen and others note this is cyclical and values are already starting to normalize. For instance, the certified net assessed value for all

properties statewide grew 6% in 2024, a lower increase than 15% in 2023.

The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance has recent data for the property taxes being paid in 2024.

The median property tax bill for homesteads went up 5.63% in 2022 compared to 3% in 2018. But then in 2023 the median property tax bill for homesteads jumped almost 13%. For 2024, that increase is 4.73%.

All three candidates for governor have laid out plans that would have differing impacts on local government budgets.

The Libertarian proposal is most drastic but also has little to no chance of becoming law.

Republican Mike Braun, however, could gain traction with his plan should he win in November. The campaign didn't provide a fiscal analysis for his proposal but rough estimates are upwards of a \$1 billion loss for local government. Of course, that also means a savings for citizens.

Then there is Democrat Jennifer McCormick, who would focus on giving income tax relief to make up for increases in property taxes. Her plan would save taxpayers \$600 million but would put the brunt of the losses on state revenue instead of local units of government.

### Push their own ideas

The three areas cities and towns want to focus on are:

- The maximum levy growth quotient currently limits how much local property tax levies can rise in a year based on a six-year rolling average of non-farm personal income growth. Because of inflation, it rose to 5% in 2023 compared to 3.4% in 2019. Lawmakers last year put in an artificial cap of 4% — when, without the cap, this year's maximum would've been 5.5%, according to the Indiana Office



Niki Kelly

of Management and Budget. AIM says it supports regional averages to soften spikes but doesn't support hard statewide caps.

- Mayors would like additional local revenue streams. This could come by making it easier for cities to implement local income taxes without going through the county council, or through food and beverage taxes without having to seek permission from the Legislature each year. "I don't think any of us are big spending mayors," Jensen said. "At the same time we know our communities, and if we need to go to that for an alternative revenue stream for our community, we should be allowed to do that and face the consequences and be accountable to voters."

- The last area would be targeting relief for at-risk Hoosiers, such as low-income seniors. AIM thinks the relief should be means-tested instead for every Hoosier above 65 years of age. Jensen noted there are many seniors in the state that are well off and can afford the tax bill; and seniors are the highest users of funded services by property taxes, such as police and fire.

Jensen said he thinks lawmakers want to take a measured approach.

"Our goal right now is to link up with the legislature, to come out and say, 'Hey, we hear you. We want to be a part of this solution,'" he said.

I hope legislators consider these options and find a balanced approach. The fact is the system is operating as designed. And because property taxes are paid in arrears, the worst of the spike is already in the past.

There is always room for tweaks and minor change but if lawmakers cut too deeply cities, towns and counties won't be able to provide the basic services their current residents expect, and that attract newcomers to stay. And that puts jobs and state progress at risk.

.....  
*Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.*

*Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.*

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Photos provided

Funds donated

A pair of local causes recently received financial support from businesses. Above, POET Bioprocessing of Portland provided a \$4,000 Community Impact Grant to Jay County Junior-Senior High School for enhancing career exploration opportunities for junior high students. The funding will be used to allow students to perform hands-on research and experiments on vital topics such as water quality, soil health, recycling, organic fertilizers, and plant life cycles. Pictured, from left junior-senior high assistant principal James Myers, Area 18 CTE coach Lindsey Leonhard, Adam Homan of POET and junior-senior high principal Chad Dodd. Below, First Bank of Berne recently donated \$1,000 to Jay County 4-H's Back a 4-Her program. It is designed to help 4-H members practice networking and other workforce readiness skills. Pictured, from left, are Tracy Carpenter of First Bank of Berne and Jay County Purdue Extension employees Jessica Kerrigan and Allison Keen.



Veterans resource fair set for Sept. 26

Eastern Indiana Works will host its Eastern Indiana Veterans Resource Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at the First Bank Expo Center, 861 Salisbury Road, Richmond.

The free event will bring together service partners and employers to provide assistance to military veterans. It will include free health screenings, employment and educational opportunities, connections with government resources and mental health services.

For more information, email [brea@dwd.in.gov](mailto:brea@dwd.in.gov) or call (765) 238-0007.

Application denied

An application for a Texas Energy Fund loan was denied after Aegle Power allegedly included NextEra in documentation without its consent.

According to Utility Dive, the project was listed as "Application 162 - NextEra and Aegle Power." But NextEra told Public Utility Commission of Texas that the company's name "was submitted without our knowledge as part of a July application seeking funding" and that it "is not seeking funding as part of the TEF Program, is not participating in the project for which NextEra was named, and hereby requests that NextEra be immediately removed from PUCT records as a sponsor for the Aegle Power project."

Growing in Bulgaria

Ardagh Glass Packaging – Europe announced Thursday that it has entered into a long-term power purchase agreement with Rezolv Energy's St. George solar facility in Bulgaria.

The energy — 110 gigawatts per year — from the purchase will be used for Ardagh's glass manufacturing operations in Europe. The 12-year agreement is part of Ardagh – Europe's effort to have 80% of its energy come from renewable sources by 2030.

"We are pleased to have finalized this agreement in just six months, which is largely due to Rezolv's flexibility, the support and technical know-how of Schneider Electric, and our own experience in this field," said Ardagh – Europe CEO Martin Petersson in a press release. "The Bulgarian solar project perfectly meets our aim to diversify the locations of our renewable energy supply and to support emerging energy markets: AGP-Europe benefits from a supply of renewable electricity, while helping Bulgaria's transition to low-carbon energy."

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Leader named

Indiana University recently named Stephen Boehm as its first executive director of the Institute for Human Health and Wellbeing and Indiana University Indianapolis.

Boehm is a professor at the col-

Business roundup

lege and serves as chairman of the department of psychology. He is also a primary faculty member in the Stark Neurosciences Research Institute.

In a press release, IU Indianapolis chancellor Latha Ramchand said Boehm's experience "positions him well to provide leadership and vision that will foster transformative research and collaboration with central Indiana's life sciences community and result in the improved health and well-being of all Hoosiers."

He has worked for IU Indianapolis since 2009.

Training scheduled

ServSafe training is held at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Additional sessions are set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays Oct. 29 and Nov. 26.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Tickets available

PrimeTrust Credit Union and Second Harvest Food Bank have opened ticket sales for their 12th annual Soup Crawl.

The event is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 in downtown Muncie. The event will feature a variety of soups from local chefs and restaurants.

Tickets are available at [curehunger.org/soupcrawl](http://curehunger.org/soupcrawl). For more information, email [KMoresy@curehunger.org](mailto:KMoresy@curehunger.org).

Courses offered

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will offer a Safety Leadership Principles seminar Sept. 19 and 20 in Indianapolis. The seminar will focus on helping attendees improve their skills related to worksite analysis, accident investigation, the impact of stress on safety, key performance indicators and employee involvement.

The chamber will also hold its annual awards dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 13. It will feature NBC political analyst and former "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd.

For more information, call or email (800) 824-6885 or [events@indianachamber.com](mailto:events@indianachamber.com).

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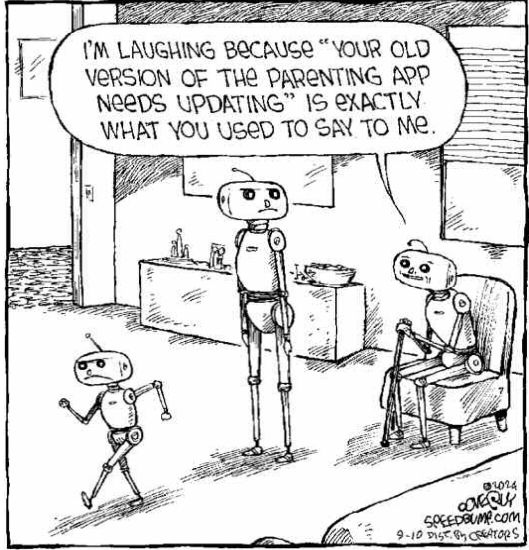
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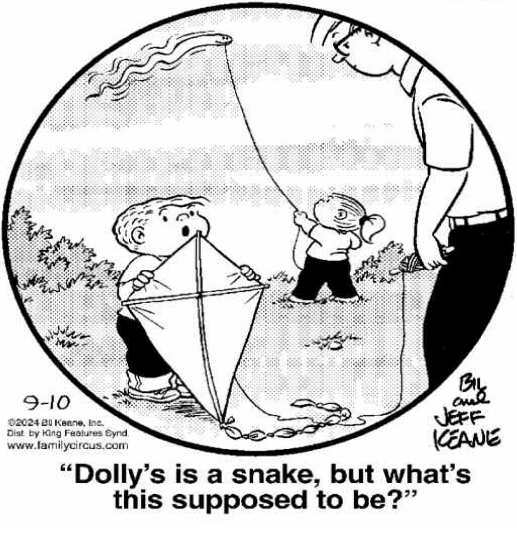
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Peanuts



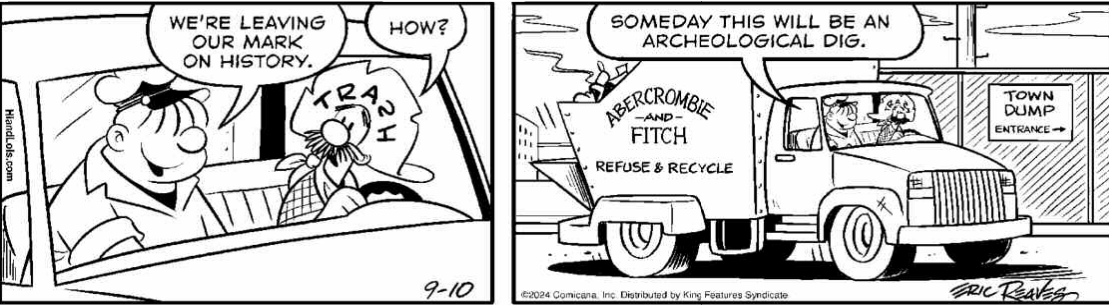
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The battle for trump control

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

| NORTH       |  |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| ♠ 8 6 5     |  |  |  |
| ♥ Q 7       |  |  |  |
| ♦ 10 9 2    |  |  |  |
| ♣ A K Q J 9 |  |  |  |

| WEST       |  |  |  |
|------------|--|--|--|
| ♠ J 3      |  |  |  |
| ♥ 9 6 3 2  |  |  |  |
| ♦ J 6 4    |  |  |  |
| ♣ 10 6 4 3 |  |  |  |

| EAST         |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| ♠ 10 9 7 4   |  |  |  |
| ♥ A K J 10 4 |  |  |  |
| ♦ Q 8 5      |  |  |  |
| ♣ 7          |  |  |  |

| SOUTH     |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| ♠ A K Q 2 |  |  |  |
| ♥ 8 5     |  |  |  |
| ♦ A K 7 3 |  |  |  |
| ♣ 8 5 2   |  |  |  |

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead — two of hearts.  
Trump control determines the outcome of many contracts, as witness this deal where South reached four spades on the bidding shown. West led a heart, and East cashed two hearts before shifting to a low diamond. Declarer went up with the ace and played the A-K-Q of trump, hoping to find the opposing spades divided 3-3.  
When West showed out, South was in hot water. He had no real

choice but to start running dummy's clubs, but East defended perfectly by waiting until the third round of clubs to ruff with the ten of spades. East then reverted to hearts, and South eventually finished down two.  
Had declarer exercised better control of the trump suit, he would have made the contract. Instead of putting all of his eggs in one basket — a 3-3 trump break — he should have taken steps to guard against the more likely 4-2 break.  
After winning East's diamond return at trick three, South's next play should have been the deuce of spades! This unusual maneuver elevates declarer's chances of making the contract from 36% (the likelihood of the opposing spades dividing 3-3) to 84% (the likelihood of the spades dividing either 3-3 or 4-2).  
In the actual deal, once South makes this play, the defenders are helpless. Declarer wins any return, trumping a heart return in dummy if need be, draws trump and has 10 ironclad tricks consisting of three spades, two diamonds and five clubs. By conceding a spade at trick four, he more than doubles his chances of making the contract and so wins the battle for trump control.

Tomorrow: Try and make it.  
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9-10

CRYPTOQUIP

E L F J W B D C W F H A D P C F X T W F P B  
D T B Q W W Y H K C Q B I L E X W  
Y P E J E A U , H K Z E ' C B X D I X M

U W Z Z E A U D J W P Z L W C .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF RELIGIOUS MEN IN ABBEYS ARE PRODUCING SALTY SNACKS MADE FROM POTATOES, ARE THEY CHIP MONKS?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS       |              |             |             |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 Faction    | boastful     | 2 Physics   | 22 Chal-    |
| 5 Ener-      | 38 Student   | 3 "CSI"     | 23 Indiges- |
| gizes,       | 40 Buffalo's | evidence    | tion        |
| with "up"    | lake         | 4 Art props | 24 Hotel    |
| 9 Ninny      | 42 UFO       | 5 Carrots'  | worker      |
| 12 Hawaiian  | crew         | 6 Different | 26 Lads     |
| coffee       | 43 Jakarta's | 7 Architect | 27 Jargon   |
| 13 Power co. | land         | I.M.        | 28 Pealed   |
| supply       | 48 — chi     | 8 Triangle  | 29 Salon    |
| 14 Ultimate  | 49 Within    | type        | jobs        |
| 15 Classic   | (Pref.)      | 9 Gra-      | 31 Makes    |
| Ingrid       | 50 "Peter    | nada's      | a come-     |
| Bergman      | Pan"         | region      | back        |
| role         | pooch        | 10 Flower   | 34 Luau     |
| 17 Actress   | 51 "Caught   | part        | memento     |
| Ruby         | ya!"         | 11 — butter | 35 Hogs the |
| 18 Gaelic    | 52 Line of   | 16 Attempt  | mirror      |
| 19 Andean    | fashion?     | 20 Varnish  | 37 Crib     |
| animal       | 53 Hot tubs  | ingre-      | 38 Anti-fur |
| 21 "Strange  | to say ..."  | dient       | org.        |
| 24 Repeat    | 1 Reggae     | 21 Skunk's  | 39 Hex-     |
| 25 Calendar  | relative     | defense     | agonal      |
| squares      |              |             | state       |
| 26 Tofu      |              |             | 40 Ice-     |
| 30 Hosp.     |              |             | landic      |
| areas        |              |             | epic        |
| 31 Wartime   |              |             | 41 Leeway   |
| riveter      |              |             | 44 Compass  |
| 32 "Don't —  |              |             | dir.        |
| a word!"     |              |             | 45 Enervate |
| 33 Aired     |              |             | 46 Chef     |
| again        |              |             | Garten      |
| 35 Yearn     |              |             | 47 Small    |
| 36 Congers   |              |             | batteries   |

Solution time: 22 mins.

|          |          |      |
|----------|----------|------|
| ERAT     | VAL      | PILE |
| MIGRAINE | AMID     |      |
| OCTUPLET | CAIN     |      |
| DEE      | TRICIA   |      |
| SONGS    | JUAN     |      |
| GHEE     | LECTORS  |      |
| TSA      | METES    | EON  |
| OPIATES  | MART     |      |
| MUDS     | EARTH    |      |
| NUNCIO   | TAR      |      |
| OHIO     | WRISTLET |      |
| BOLO     | NAVY     | YARD |
| SHEL     | SHO      | RYES |

Yesterday's answer 9-10

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
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# Texans extend Colts' week 1 winless streak to 11

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

INDIANAPOLIS — Anthony Richardson was the Indianapolis Colts' leading rusher Sunday at Lucas Oil Stadium.

The defense allowed 213 rushing yards on an average of 5.3 yards per carry.

And the Houston Texans won the all-important turnover battle.

Yet, the Colts still went toe-to-toe with the reigning AFC South champions in a 29-27 loss that extended the home team's winless streak in Week 1 to 11 games.

"It was a good fight, but in critical situations, we've got to be able to win our share," cornerback Kenny Moore II said. "So they just made a lot more plays than we did when it comes down to it, to the critical moments. So

we've just got to be better, and we've gotta be intentional throughout the week to win those matchups."

The most critical play came with two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter and the Texans facing third-and-11 from their own 29-yard line.

Houston quarterback C.J. Stroud sprinted to his right, looking for star wide receiver

Nico Collins. Colts cornerback Jaylon Jones had blanket coverage, but Stroud threw the ball low and to a spot only Collins could get to.

The wide receiver extended to make the catch as he was going to the ground and managed to get his knee down inbounds for an incredible reception that kept the drive alive.

Three plays later, running

back Joe Mixon broke through the middle of the Indianapolis defense for 9 yards on third-and-3 and the Texans were able to run out the clock for the victory.

"Week in and week out, it's gonna come down to these one-score games a lot of times," Colts head coach Shane Steichen said. "We've gotta take advantage of it when it happens."

# Messy ...

Continued from page 8

"(Heitkamp) does a really good job spreading out the court," Cameron Muhlenkamp said. "She does a really good job of knowing who's having a good game. If me and Bridget are having a good game, she does a good job of feeding us, or if we have a couple bad (hits) in a row, she'll get it to the middle. ... When Kayla gets that good set for me, I can get it anywhere on the floor."

Things started to slip a little in the second set, as Fort Recovery committed nine errors and hit into the block three times. Despite the struggles, 16 Indian kills and seven Patriot errors pushed FRHS to win the game 25-18.

Tri-Village finally found an offensive groove in the third game, netting 17 of its 39 kills (43.6%) in the match.

"In that third set, we took control back in the game when we started communicating," said Tri-Village coach Taylor Rawlings. "We found our energy and when we have good energy, it reflects in how we play. So, our hitters start putting the ball down more, our defense gets excited and everyone is involved."

Even with the improved offense, FRHS led 24-22 late in the set with a chance to sweep. TVHS outscored the Indians 6-1 to take the 27-25 win, with the final three points coming on a block by Kenna

Wilcox and Bailey Frech, and kills from Gabby Kirby — who led the Patriots with 10 — and Frech.

In between sets, Guggenbiller urged his players to bring the pace of play back up to their speed and to focus on playing their own game.

The set went back and forth until Fort Recovery led 14-12. It then rattled off six straight points to start an 11-6 run to win the match. The final three points came on a Cameron Muhlenkamp kill, a Heitkamp ace and a Homan kill.

Guggenbiller cited struggles with hesitation, watching the ball in the air as opposed to reacting, communication and a lack of aggressive serving that he wants his team to improve on from this match.

While Guggenbiller could have done without the mistakes, he did mention that proving his team could win a match while being pressured is a good sign and something to build off of.

"If you can win a game like that, it's always something positive, because you lose that third set and even in the second and fourth games were tight," Guggenbiller said. "So being able to pull away like that tells you that you can do it. That's one thing I'm very proud of is that the girls did not give up. They fought hard and figured out a way to win the game."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

FRHS sophomore Bridget Homan puts down a kill during the first set against Tri-Village on Saturday. Homan has had double-digit kills in all three matches since coach Travis Guggenbiller made a change to the lineup.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**

Jay County — Girls golf vs. Wes-Del/Yorktown — 4:30 p.m.; Boys tennis at Randolph Southern — 5 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Wapahani — 6 p.m.; Volleyball at Bluffton — 6 p.m.; Cross country vs. Union City/Winchester — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high football at Adams Central — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high volleyball at Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Union City/Winchester — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Allen East — 4:30 p.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. New Bremen — 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**

7:45 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

**Wednesday**

7 p.m. — College volleyball: Florida at Georgia Tech (ESPN2)

7:45 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

9 p.m. — College volleyball: Pitt at USC (BTN); Houston at Texas (ESPN2)

9:40 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Seattle Mariners (FS1)

## Local notes

**Outing announced**

The Rocket Rally for 18 holes golf tournament is set for Sept. 29 at Portland Golf

Club with a 10 a.m. start time.

The tournament still has space for up to six more teams. It costs \$240 per team that includes green fees and cart rental.

There will also be a fellowship meal at the Greazy Pickle at 3 p.m. following the outing.

Hole sponsorships are also available with a minimum of \$100 for the spot.

The Rockets are also collecting items for a Facebook Auction and raffle prizes for the golf outing. Items need to be donated by Sept. 20 so that the auction can go live on Sept. 23.

To sign up a team, inquire about a hole sponsorship or donate an item, contact coach Randy Miller by calling (260) 703-2003 or Sam Murdock by calling (260) 251-5514.

The race will start at Adams Memorial Hospital at 1100 Mercer Avenue, Decatur. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will cost \$25, with the race starting at 9 a.m.

The Callithumpian Canter will follow on Sunday, Oct. 4. Preregistration is \$20 and can be done at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

The race will begin with a \$10 fun run at 1:30 p.m. before the 5K at 2 p.m.

**Turkey Trot sign-up open**

Cooper Farms will be hosting its 17th annual Turkey Trot Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant in St. Henry, Ohio.

Participation costs \$15. All proceeds benefit EverHeart Hospice.

The race will begin at 10 a.m. There will be splits at each mile of the 3.1-mile course. There will also be chip timing for participants operated by Speedy Feet.

Water will be provided throughout the race, as well as a to-go turkey meal at the end.

You can register by visiting [bit.ly/cooperfarmsturkeytrot](http://bit.ly/cooperfarmsturkeytrot), or search for "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5k" on speedy-feet.com.

**Classic set**

The 11th Annual Adams Health Foundation 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](mailto:kim.trombley@adamshealthnetwork.org) or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

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TIME 10:00 A. M.  
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VEHICLES-TRAILER-GENERATOR-TOOLS  
2008 Ford Explorer XLT, 2007 Chevy Impala LT, 2005 Continental Cargo 20ft. enclosed trailer with ramp door, Agri-Fab- 38 inch law sweeper, Delta 10 inch table saw, Homecraft planer, portable scaffolding, and garden planter.  
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[www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com)  
**PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21TH, 2024**  
TIME 10:00 A. M.  
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## 90 SALE CALENDAR

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: Woman's Building Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN  
Thursday Afternoon  
September 19th, 2024  
5:00 P.M.  
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## 90 SALE CALENDAR

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Craftsman LT2000 riding mower, Husky 1650 psi power washer, Craftsman toolbox, Craftsman 12 amp edger, tree saw, furniture clamps, cement urns, and other items not listed.  
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CHARLES SANDERS, Deceased  
SHIRLEY SANDERS, MARGARET PATTERSON, Deceased  
Loy Auction  
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Auctioneers  
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Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024  
9:00AM  
Location 891 W 650 N, Bryant, IN 47326  
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Messy win

Indians battle through mistakes, pressure to beat Tri-Village in four

**By ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

NEW MADISON, Ohio — The Indians breezed by the Patriots of Jay County on Sept. 3.

Four days later, they took on a new group of Patriots. While the Tribe didn't play nearly as clean in this match, it still had enough to pull out the victory.

The Fort Recovery High School volleyball team withstood the late pressure from the Tri-Village Patriots on Saturday to secure a 25-10, 25-18, 25-27, 25-18 triumph.

Following the match in which the Indians dominated the first set before slowing down, FRHS coach Travis Guggenbiller had mixed feelings about his team's performance.

"Ugh, that's what I feel," Guggenbiller said as an immediate reaction to the match. "I'm glad we were able to find a way to come out with a win like that.

"I'd like to see us get back to how we played against Jay County though, that's where my frustration is right now. But, growth is not linear, so we have to take it day-by-day and learn from these mistakes."

The Indians (5-3) didn't make many mistakes in the first set. The set the tone early, taking the first three points on kills by Cameron Muhlenkamp and Bridget Homan — the two leaders in kills with 12 and 11, respectively — and a net violation on Emma Whaley.

The first of three mistakes in the set came on a service error by Kayla Heitkamp to give the Patriots (4-4) their first point. FRHS developed an eight-point lead at 15-7 before another mistake would happen. Whaley



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School senior Karlie Niekamp hits the ball past the outstretched block of Gabby Kirby during the Indians' 25-10, 25-18, 25-27, 25-18 win over Tri-Village on Saturday. Niekamp tied with Brynn Willmann and Kennedy Muhlenkamp for eight kills.

earned a defensive kill off of a serve receive that happened to land on the Indian's side of the floor before Cameron Muhlenkamp had a hitting error to cut the deficit to 15-9.

The Indians absolutely dominated the rest of the set, with Tri-Village only scoring on a hitting error by Kennedy Muhlenkamp, for the 25-10 victory.

Heitkamp, the setter who had 41 assists, spread out the scoring in the opening game with Homan's five kills leading FRHS. Cameron and Kennedy Muhlenkamp both added three, Brynn Willmann contributed two and Karlie Niekamp had one. Niekamp and Heitkamp combined for a block, and Heitkamp also had an ace during the stretch.

See Messy page 7

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Fifteen Indians run season-best times

BROOKVILLE, Ohio — Fifteen of the 17 Tribe runners ran at Golden Gate Park over the weekend.

Of those 15, 11 crossed the finish line with a new season low.

Seven of the runners, six freshmen and a sophomore, set new career best times as well.

The Fort Recovery High School cross country team had a strong day Saturday as five of the girl runners set season best times to fuel a fourth-place finish, while six boys put up their best time of the year in a 10th place effort at the Brookville Invitational.

The girls wound up with 101 points to beat out McNicholas (105) and Oakwood (106) to secure fourth place. They trailed Harrison by 15 points for third, while host Brookeville claimed the top spot with just 51 points.

The boys ended up with 271 points to take 10th place out of 12 teams. They beat out Yellow Springs (283) and Greenview (346). Centerville dominated the field with only 38 points.

Three returning runners for the girls notched season-best times, including Joelle Kaup. The senior ran a 20 minutes, 46.8 seconds time – 2.32 seconds off of her career best – to cross the finish line in fourth place. Jazlen Simpson of Northmont claimed the top spot in 20:40.7.

The other two returners that put up season best times are Maddie Heitkamp with a 23:11.2 and Nicole Braun with a 26:04.1. The former added the fourth score for the Indians and placed 26th, while the latter finished 62nd.

The two freshman girls, Riley Heitkamp and Kendall Ranley, both set new top times for their young careers. Heitkamp's time of 21:23.6 got her across the line in eight place, while Ranley ran a 25:04.9 for 47th.

Anna Roessner added the third best score for FRHS. She finished 19th in 22:23 flat.

Reese Diller and Russell Hart, the top and third scores for FRHS, didn't set their top times, as those came in the first meet of the season. They did, however, come in 39th and 102nd with times of 18:30.4 and 19:34.7.

The Indians had a second runner finish in the top 100, as Evan Evers' season-best time of 19:34.7 got him 79th place.

Milo Filey was the only returning Indian to set a new career best. His time of 20:30.5 also helped him claim 108th place.

Four Tribe freshmen also moved the mark for their best times. Evan Diller's time of 20:44.4 also helped him add the fifth score for FRHS. He finished 111th overall.

Chase Filey and Charlie Stammen didn't score, but took points away from other teams with their new top times. Filey (21:30.1) claimed the 129th spot, while Stammen (22:21.9) got 149th.

Henry Jutte also set a career best time at 22:38 flat for 154th. Mason Laux also competed, finishing 171st in 23:48.8.

DeHoff, Vance lead junior high tennis

The junior high season is officially underway.

The Jay County Junior High School tennis team hosted Bluffton and Randolph Southern on Saturday, with 30 players participating, 16 of which were Patriots.

Each Jay County player got at least three matches against opponents from the opposing schools.

Maci DeHoff and Jace Vance had the strongest days for the Patriots, each going 3-1 on the day.

Claudia Dirksen, Henry Dirksen and Maria Laux weren't far behind as each only dropped one match as well. They each finished 2-1.

Grady Warvel broke even on the day to finish 2-2.

Six more Patriots finished the day with just one win at 1-2. They were Elly Byrum, Madison Clark, Paul Dirksen, Finn Hemmelgarn, Parker McCoy and Armon Solis.

Also competing, but unable to secure a victory were Bently Brunswick, Jakson Denton, Job Dirksen and Grant Glentzer.

Jay County's next action will come on Sept. 21 when it hosts Bluffton, Hagerstown and Marion.