

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Boy injured after van ran over him

*Evers was taken to IU Health Ball in Muncie for evaluation*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A rural Portland boy was injured when a van driven by his sister drove over him Thursday morning.

Four-year old Kacius Evers suffered injuries along the left side of his body as a result of the incident in the Jay County Christian Academy parking lot and was transported to IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie to check for internal injuries.

Audrey L. Evans, 16, dropped off her brother Kacius Evers at the school, 289 S. 200 West, about 8 a.m. Thursday. According to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, Evans pulled up to the curb in the 2020 Chevrolet Express she was driving, Evers exited the vehicle and walked toward the school before returning to the vehicle. Evans didn't realize Evers had returned to the vehicle, and as she started to drive away, the rear passenger side tire of the Express drove over the boy.

Evers had tire track marks along the left side of his body, according to the report, as well as scrapes on the left side of his head. He complained of pain in his left arm and abdominal area.

The vehicle is registered to their mother, Jill M. Evers of rural Portland.

## Festival prep

Jim Waechter of Portland drives a 1953 M38A1 into place Thursday morning at Jay County Fairgrounds in preparation for the Indiana Military Vehicle Preservation Association's Military Vehicle Show and Swap Meet. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the fairgrounds. Admission is free. There will also be a military vehicle parade through downtown Portland at 10 a.m. Saturday. Helicopter rides will be available for \$50 for children 12 and younger and \$100 for adults.

## Funding is in; box to be upgraded

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The airport has received its funding for a planned improvement project.

It will also purchase new equipment in order to ensure night-time operations.

Portland Board of Aviation learned Wednesday that the airport has received Federal Aviation Administration grant funding for its apron expansion and approved the purchase of a new electrical box.

### Construction of apron expansion set for 2025

Jason Clearwaters of Butler, Fairman & Seufert, the airport's engineering firm, reported to the board that it received its \$654,000 in FAA entitlement funds.

It got an additional \$314,064 from the 2020 federal infrastructure bill.

With the funds available, the apron expansion project was awarded to Kwest

Group of Perrysburg, Ohio. The firm was the lowest bidder at \$965,497.15. (The board in July agreed to award the project to Kwest, pending the receipt of the federal funding.)

The apron expansion project will add 57,700 square feet (1.32 acres) to the apron — the area where aircraft are parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, boarded or maintained. Construction is planned for 2025.

Airport manager Hal

Tavzel also told the board there was a recent electrical issue in the airport's vault room that affected runway lights. As a result, the runway was shut down for several nights.

Coppersmith of Portland fixed the issue, but Tavzel recommended getting the box replaced. He estimated the cost at \$10,000 or more, plus installation.

Clearwaters agreed with Tavzel's assessment. See **Funding** page 2

## Fed announces rate cut

By DON LEE  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday slashed interest rates by an unusually large one-half of a percentage point and signaled that further cuts are on the way for households struggling with still-elevated prices and a generally slowing economy.

It was the first rate cut since 2020 and reflected a shift in policymakers' primary focus from fighting inflation to preventing the labor market from deteriorating.

While inflation has come down, job growth has slowed significantly in recent months. And the U.S. unemployment rate has risen from 3.7% at the start of the year to a still historically low level of 4.2%. California's most recent unemployment figure is a full percent higher.

"This recalibration of our policy stance will help maintain the strength of the economy and the labor market, and will continue to enable further progress on inflation," Fed Chair Jerome

### One-half percentage point reduction is first since 2020

H. Powell said at a news conference after the conclusion of policymakers' two-day meeting Wednesday.

Stocks had been trading higher in recent days and initially climbed upon news of the Fed's aggressive rate cut, but then gave up the gains to finish moderately down Wednesday.

Although lower interest rates will ultimately help with many transactions such as credit card charges and buying a house, analysts warn that it may take months for these benefits to seep down to consumers because many of the transactions associated with interest rates take time to occur and filter through the economy.

"There's not going to be some windfall for consumers. Instead

it's going to take six to 12 months to see really meaningful relief in terms of interest charges and monthly payments," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com.

The effects may be greater in California than in many other states: California's economy is highly sensitive to interest rates, especially in its housing and small businesses.

"That should help slightly with our loan payments," said Teghvir Toor, who runs a family-owned Arby's franchise in Sacramento. "The real effect of that drop won't be seen for months, so I'm hoping that will help our customers' purchasing power, meaning hopefully more discretionary spending."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Cruise offering

Luke Jellison, 11, of BSA Troop 202 of Portland offers a selection of gum to John Coldren during Saturday's Jay County Cancer Society Cancer Cruise and Carnival at Jay County Fairgrounds.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Wednesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 60s with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Expect mostly sunny skies Saturday with a high in the upper 80s.

Highs will remain in the 80s through Monday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

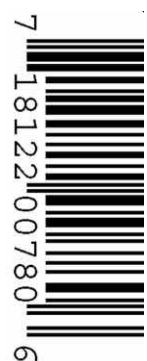
Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland. Also, Tox Away Day is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in the Jay County Junior-Senior High School north parking lot.

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from the JCHS football game against Bluffton.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of the Jay County girls golf team in the sectional tournament.

**Wednesday** — Details from next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



# Funding ...

Continued from page 1  
He noted that the equipment is not something that can be picked up at a hardware store and that the lead time can be four months or longer.

"The unit or box is a constant current regulator, so it converts power coming in to what goes to the airfield," he said. "It's aviation specific. ... And they have a significant lead time. They build them as you order them."

He added that the existing box could be kept as a back-up in case of emergencies.

The board approved the purchase of a new electrical box at the lowest quote based on specifications Clearwaters will provide.

Clearwaters also told the board that FAA representatives

along with officials from Indiana Department of Transportation Aviation will visit the airport at 3 p.m. Sept. 24. The visit will include a tour of the facility, a look at completed, ongoing and future projects and a review of the airport's capital improvement plan.

"When we submit projects for grant funding, yeah, there's a scoring system, but there's still a personal involvement in projects that go or may not go," said Clearwaters. "So it's always good to try to have a relationship with them and to make sure they understand the importance of the airport and what you guys are trying to do here."

In other business, the board:  
•Approved increasing monthly T-hangar rent to \$100 from the

current \$95. The increase will go into effect Jan. 1.

•Asked Tavzel to seek quotes for crack sealing for the airport's taxiway after he reported that he has been noticing more cracking. The board plans to encumber 2024 funds for completion of the crack sealing next year.

•Agreed to ask city attorney Wes Schemenaur to draw up a contract allowing a renter to place a fuel tank at the airport for "mogas" because his plane does not run properly on aviation fuel. Board members had various questions, including where the tank could be placed safely. Clearwaters recommended that the pilot be charged a flowage fee.

•Heard from Tavzel that the airport sold 10,813 gallons of fuel

in August for \$47,091. That's down from 15,805.42 gallons last year and a slight increase from 10, 295 gallons in August 2022.

•Learned the following from Tavzel:

—The annual Indiana Department of Transportation airport inspection was last month. There were no findings.

—Coblentz Construction of Geneva is nearing completion of concrete work in three hangars.

—Verizon is now the phone and internet provider for the airport. (Tavzel previously projected the switch to Verizon would save about \$300 per month.)

—Thirty-seven children ages 8 to 17 took free plane rides during a Young Eagles event this month.

—About 300 visitors were

served in August during the airport's pancake breakfast in partnership with the American Legion Riders.

—The Aviation Indiana annual conference is Oct. 15 through 17 in Terre Haute. Tavzel and Clearwaters will attend.

•Discussed the possibility of renting a building for the winter from adjacent landowner Richard Schafer for storage of equipment, as it did last year. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said she would get in contact with Schafer.

•OK'd an updated policy regarding on Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, as required following FFA rule updates.

•Approved \$887.82 in claims.

## CR almanac

Saturday 9/21	Sunday 9/22	Monday 9/23	Tuesday 9/24	Wednesday 9/25
<b>89/62</b>	<b>86/62</b>	<b>81/56</b>	<b>79/56</b>	<b>74/56</b>
Mostly sunny skies are expected Saturday, when the high will be near 89.	Mostly cloudy skies on Sunday. There's a slight chance of rain.	Monday also has a chance of rain as well as thunderstorms.	Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday with a chance of showers.	There's a chance of rain Wednesday when the high will be around 74 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 1-11-22-47-68 Power Ball: 7 Power Play: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$195 million	Daily Four: 8-4-7-3 Quick Draw: 6-13-15-19-29-34-36-38-40-44-49-53-56-58-59-61-62-69-73-75 Cash 5: 1-4-17-20-35 Estimated jackpot: \$639,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$47 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 5-7-2 Pick 4: 2-8-4-8 Pick 5: 0-2-7-9-0 Evening Pick 3: 8-2-8 Pick 4: 3-3-7-9 Pick 5: 1-7-1-6-7 Rolling Cash: 16-22-25-34-37 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 3-6-3 Daily Four: 5-1-8-8 Quick Draw: 1-2-9-10-15-16-29-34-35-38-42-50-57-61-63-66-71-73-77-78 Evening Daily Three: 5-3-0	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....3.62 Oct. corn .....3.65 Wheat .....4.51	Oct. beans .....9.66 Wheat ..... 5.26
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....3.67 Oct./Nov. corn .....3.67 Dec. corn .....3.92	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.64 Oct. corn .....3.64 Beans .....9.67 Oct. beans .....9.67 Wheat .....5.05
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....3.65 Oct. corn .....3.65 Beans .....9.66	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....3.48 Oct. corn .....3.48 Beans .....9.44 Jan. beans .....9.82 Wheat .....4.96

## Today in history

In 1519, a group led by Ferdinand Magellan of Portugal departed on a quest to circumnavigate the globe. Though he died during the voyage, the expedition accomplished its goal.

In 1850, Congress abolished the slave trade in Washington, D.C. It came as part of legislation referred to as the Compromise of 1850.

In 1870, Italian troops occupied Rome. The military moved eventually led to Rome being incorporated into the Kingdom of Italy and limiting the Pope's governing authority.

In 1878, Upton St. Clair, "author of 'The Jungle,'" was born in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 1886, Johannesburg was founded in South Africa.

In 2021, Fort Recovery School Board approved the hiring of Kevin Eyink as baseball coach. Eyink had been an assistant under former coach Jerry Kaup.

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 2:30 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city	<b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Service Center, 1331 W. Votaw St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council public hearing, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

## Felony court news

### Cases dismissed

Indiana v. Micah Murphy, Level 6 felony  
Indiana v. Charles L. Copeland, Level 6 felony  
Indiana v. Kimberly S. Hurst, Level 6 felony

### Methamphetamine

Several people were sentenced to serve time after pleading guilty in Jay courts to possession of methamphetamine.  
Michael A. Lemaster, 42, 235 East Rogers St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction. Lemaster was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe was dismissed.  
Nickolas P. Layton, 35, 23 Oakmont Place, Batesville, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 450 days in Jay County Jail and given 128 days credit for time served. Layton was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Caytlyn M. Ingram, 24, 432 N Main St., Winchester, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Indiana Department of Correction and given 294 days credit for time served. Ingram was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Zachary B. Combs, 34, 101 Moody Ave., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 270 days in Jay County Jail and given 204 days credit for time served. Combs was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance and a Class B misdemeanor for public intoxication were dismissed.  
Kimberly S. Hurst, 58, 118 East Main St., Bryant, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Indiana Department of Cor-

rection and given 172 days credit for time served. Hurst was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.  
Cody M. Cramer, 27, 3832 Aurora St., Indianapolis, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 128 days credit for time served. Cramer was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for two counts of possession of a controlled substance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana were dismissed.  
Alyssia N. Large, 35, 1007 W. Indiana 18, Pennville, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Harter was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe were dismissed.

## Felony arrests

**Resisting law**  
An Indianapolis man was arrested Wednesday for resisting law enforcement. Jeantinel Zephirin, 38, 3930 Breen Drive, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime. He was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was also recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program, the court would consider modifying her sentence. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 2 felony for dealing methamphetamine and a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance were dismissed.  
Brendan D. Reed, 31, 3551 East Indiana 26, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 128 days credit for time served. Reed was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for two counts of possession of a controlled substance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana were dismissed.

Joshua L. Harter, 29, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 18 months in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Harter was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe were dismissed.

Tracy L. Arnold, 55, 910 South Bridge St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony. She was sentenced to nine years in Indiana Department of Correction with five years suspended and given credit for time served. Arnold was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse,

**SERVICES**

Today  
**Schwartz**, John: John H. Schwartz residence, 555 E. 300 South, Monroe.  
**Diller**, Daniel: 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.

Saturday  
**Wolf**, Margaret: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

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# Masquerade ball set for November

A new event is coming to the fairgrounds this year.

Peer Addiction Support Team (PAST) Recovery Services is organizing a masquerade ball from 6 to 11 p.m. Nov. 2 at Jay County Fairgrounds. Dancers may visit the Bubp building, 806 E. Votaw St., Portland, for dinner, dancing, a silent auction and recovery spotlights. The event will serve as a charity fundraiser for assisting individuals in their recovery.

## Taking Note

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. They're available at Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

### Offering program

A new program to help develop technology skills

is offered for east central Indiana residents.

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District recently announced a partnership with Northstar for the Digital Literacy Program.

The program, which is free through the end of the year, provides lessons on computer basics including email usage, operating systems and software including Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Google Docs. There are also modules

regarding social media, distance learning and managing your digital footprint.

To access the Digital Literacy Program for free, visit [bit.ly/JayCoDLP](http://bit.ly/JayCoDLP) and click "sign up as a learner."

### Statehouse interns

Applications are open for interns with Indiana House Republicans for the 2025 legislative session.

The Indiana House of Representatives offers a spring semester intern-

ship at the statehouse in Indianapolis during the session, which starts in January and concludes in April. House interns earn \$900 biweekly and work full-time through the week.

The program offers opportunities for students to work in various departments related to their studies, including legislative operations, policy and communications.

Internships are open to college students and

recent graduates of all majors. Interns get career and professional development assistance, enrollment access to an Indiana government class and opportunities to earn academic credits through their school.

They're also eligible to apply for a \$3,000 scholarship to use toward school expenses.

Applications are available online at [indianahousepublic.com/internship](http://indianahousepublic.com/internship) and are due by Oct. 31.

# Friend has unwillingly become chauffeur

DEAR ABBY: I enjoy helping my friends, my partner and family members. I feel doing good deeds is important in my retirement. My hands are pretty full with getting my elderly dad to medical visits, and I also visit him three times a week. I also have older single friends I do things for, such as occasionally dropping off meals and running errands.

Lately, I have been asked to provide transportation to medical appointments for no less than three of these friends. One, in particular, is more of a friend of my partner. Nevertheless, she expects a lot of me. I feel taking care of my dad and my partner keeps me busy enough. I feel pressured by these other friends. If I say no to them, I feel guilty.

How do I gracefully bow out with these folks? One of them has implied I'm not a good friend if I don't help them get to the doctor, sit with their dog, etc. She never seems to remember past

## Dear Abby



**no is similar to weightlifting. Start small, work your way up, and in a short time, you will have developed the muscle. Try it. You'll like it.**

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I met on the debate team in high school. We would get into heated debates about every topic, and I think it was one of the things he loved most about me.

Fast-forward 14 years and a couple of children later, and I don't have the fire in me to debate "oranges vs. strawberries" anymore. Every time I state a simple opinion, he tries to engage in a debate, but he goes from zero to 100 in a minute and forgets to listen to my opinion. I have taken to "letting him win" just to shut him up because I don't want to hear it. He gets frustrated when I do this and always says that it's what we used to do.

Abby, my priorities have changed. I'm calmer than I used to be, and most of my attention is

focused on our kids. I'm tired of the constant arguing, but I know he enjoys it. Please help me find a common ground with my husband. — NO FIGHT LEFT IN ME

**DEAR NO FIGHT: Some couples enjoy contention as a form of foreplay. If you haven't told your husband what you have related to me, it is important that you do. Since "debating" has been an established pattern in your marital relationship, you may need a licensed marriage and family therapist to help you get your message across, because your husband may have difficulty adjusting to the change in how you communicate.**

DEAR ABBY: I'm dating a single dad with a teenage daughter who lives with him full time. His daughter's mother lives in the same town but rarely sees her. Mom does not want me to meet her daughter and offered the

solution of taking her daughter to live with her.

Six months later, Mom has yet to commit to actually having her daughter live with her. Because of this, I am no longer spending time at my boyfriend's home, and it's driving a wedge between us. We've been dating for a year and a half, and I'm now at my wits' end. HELP! — WAITING IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR WAITING: Your boyfriend's relationship with the mother of his child is not a healthy one. She doesn't have custody of her daughter and she shouldn't be dictating to whom the daughter is introduced. Ask him if he still feels the same about you that he did six months ago. If he says he does, suggest you get couples counseling because it feels like his ex has driven a wedge between you. His response should indicate the direction your relationship is headed.**

# 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

**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.

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

**CINCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will hold its next meeting at noon, Friday, Sept. 20, at Harmony Café in Portland.

### 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.

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

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

### 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.

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

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTER** — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

### Tuesday

**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.

**JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS** — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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

**JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in

conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

**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.

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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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# Violence must not steer elections

The Miami Herald  
Tribune News Service

Violence has no place in politics in America and yet here we are again, dealing with the possibility of another attempt on Donald Trump's life. The FBI said on Sunday that it was investigating what appeared to be an attempted assassination as the former president played golf at Trump International Golf Course in West Palm Beach.

Details of the incident were only beginning to emerge Sunday evening, but we were glad to learn quickly that Trump remained unhurt. We were also

## Guest Editorial

glad that those currently in the White House — President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris weighed in, saying they were "relieved to know that he is safe." Harris — Trump's Democratic rival for the presidency — reiterated on social media that she is "glad he is safe.

Violence has no place in America."

Those are important statements in this moment because they underline the idea that, for a democracy to work, all of us — even bitter political rivals — can and will come together to combat political violence. That has never been more critical than in this highly contentious election, where democracy truly may be at stake. We cannot let those who would commit such violence influence our elections by dividing us further.

According to published reports, Secret Service agents

shot at a man they saw hiding in shrubbery near the golf course, where Trump was playing one or two holes away. An AK-47-style rifle with a scope was found in the bushes, and a suspect was arrested in Martin County on Interstate 95.

It has been just two months since the Republican presidential candidate was wounded in an assassination attempt during one of his rallies in Pennsylvania, when a bloodied Trump pumped his fist in the air and urged the crowd to fight.

There's a lot we still need to know about what occurred

Sunday on the golf course, but if it is indeed another episode of political violence, or an attempt, this will turn up the heat in the presidential election and push us further apart.

This is not something that Americans can or should accept as inevitable. Political violence undermines democracy, and we can't allow ourselves to become numb to it. An AK-47 in the bushes near a presidential candidate should chill us to the bone. Violence, or the threat of it, cannot become a force in American politics.

# Debates are still important

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Republican Richard Nixon and Democrat John F. Kennedy appeared in the first-ever televised debate between presidential candidates on Sept. 26, 1960. More than 65 million Americans watched.

Fast forward more than half a century, and 67 million Americans tuned in Tuesday night to watch Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris square off.

So, it's not that people aren't watching. But they have become so entrenched they can't look beyond their biases to assess proposals or even a performance.

Nowadays, people watch just to see their own beliefs confirmed, not to learn and be open to new ideas.

On Tuesday, I was wrapped up with work and missed most of the event. So, I jumped on social media see how it was going. The result was jarring — a little bit like seeing two parallel universes side by side.

There was no nuance or objectivity. If a person supported Trump, they believed he won easily. If they favored Harris, they saw her as triumphant.

I desperately hope a lot of Americans who aren't as set in their choices watched with an open mind. I imagine some did. Not everyone lives on social media like I do.

If Joe Biden's disastrous performance in late June doesn't convince you that debates matter, I don't know what will. Without that event, Harris would not be the Democratic nominee now.

Trump said Thursday there won't be another debate. It is surprising that he would give up an opportunity to speak directly to voters. Especially given how close the race is.

That can't be said for some other debates here in Indiana.

Both Third District Congressman Jim Banks, who is running for U.S. Senate, and Mark Messmer, who is seeking the eighth congressional seat, have declined to debate their opponents.

On one hand, I understand. Both men are virtually assured election due to overwhelming GOP support in solidly red state Indiana. So why put themselves in a position where one slip of the tongue could torpedo a win?

Niki Kelly



One reason is that debating helps sharpen policy ideas and proposals as you prepare to defend and explain them to citizens.

Messmer's campaign manager Adam Johnson said, "Mark's track record and longstanding connection with the 8th district give voters the clarity they need on where he stands. As a campaign, we remain committed to providing ample opportunities for voters to continue to engage with Mark personally."

Banks didn't return a message this week about debates though earlier this year said he was focused on representing northeast Indiana, spending time with family and running a statewide campaign.

"He will entertain debate options as we get closer to Election Day," a campaign spokesperson told the Indiana Capital Chronicle in August.

If Banks refuses to debate Democrat Valerie McCray and Libertarian Andrew Horning, it would be a first for the Indiana Debate Commission.

Since the commission's founding in 2008, 100% of the balloted candidates running for U.S. Senate and governor have participated in IDC-sponsored debates which are broadcast live and shared freely with media outlets statewide.

Heck, I would even settle for joint town halls with alternating questions. They seem to come with less pressure, and I like the idea of letting citizens ask questions directly.

There are still two months left before Election Day, and I hope Banks, Messmer and other candidates around the state agree to stand up and debate. Let their constituents take full measure and cast their ballots as they choose.

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

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



# Reasons for optimism are many

By JUD FISHER

For over a century, East Central Indiana's identity was rooted in manufacturing — iconic names like Ball and General Motors defined our region. Glass jars, auto batteries, headlamps, and transmissions were the backbone of our economy. However, over the past two decades there's been a shift away from heavy manufacturing, tasking our region to dig deep to redefine itself. As we look ahead, I'm filled with optimism about the future of Muncie, Delaware County, and all of East Central Indiana — and here's why.

## The Impact of READI

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation's READI 1.0 and READI 2.0 programs have played a crucial role in our region's ongoing transformation. READI 2.0 was a significant win for East Central Indiana, with \$35 million awarded by the state — one of the highest awards in Indiana for a region our size.

Having learned many lessons from READI 1.0, our community came together early thanks to the leadership of East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, working across an eight-county region to clearly define our 'niche' during READI 2.0. I'm especially proud of the efforts to engage our residents — including more than 1,700 high school and college students — who weighed in to share what will keep them in East Central Indiana, what amenities they'd like to see, and what investments are needed to better support housing needs. This direct feedback is guiding our future growth, ensuring that we build a region that resonates with the generations to come.

## 'Eds and Meds'

One of the most promising developments is East Central Indiana's emergence as a hub for healthcare education. We're Indiana's "eds and meds" region, home to five key higher ed institutions — Ball State, Taylor, Indiana Wesleyan, Earlham, and Ivy Tech. Additionally, the IU School of Medicine's Muncie campus is one of the largest in the state. These institu-

tions are not just anchors for our region; they are producing the skilled healthcare professionals that Indiana desperately needs. Beyond healthcare, our region's institutions of higher education are producing graduates in critical fields: K-12 education, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades. These graduates are staying in Indiana. From our state's smallest towns to its largest cities, Indiana needs the teachers, nurses, and others that are being educated here in ECI. In the years ahead, we're excited to see more graduates embrace the quality of life that East Central Indiana offers — small-town conveniences, low cost of living, and access to excellent schools and amenities.

Leading in cybersecurity  
Another area where East Central Indiana is making its mark is cybersecurity. As cybercrime becomes an increasingly significant threat, our region is stepping up to boost the cyber workforce pipeline. Ivy Tech-Muncie has developed custom courses to support law enforcement officers who are tackling cybercrime. Ball State University is creating the Cardinal Academy of Digital Security and Education to complement its existing cybersecurity degree programs. And Anderson University's Center for Security Studies and Cyber Defense offers highly competitive internships in this critical field while also leading efforts to advance coordination between universities across Indiana that are offering cybersecurity programs.

In late July, the foundation partnered with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to host over 100 officials from across Indiana. Representatives from the military, private

sector, state government, and higher education gathered in Muncie to discuss expanding the cyber workforce pipeline. This is an exciting niche for rural Indiana, and we are fully committed to supporting it. Building on years of dedicated work in this area, East Central Indiana is poised to become a statewide leader in cybersecurity, addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

## Embracing assets

I'm also excited about our region's growing reputation for outdoor recreation, particularly along our rivers. East Central Indiana is home to the headwaters of five rivers, including the White River, which flows through our communities. For decades, Muncie has been a leader in cleaning up the White River, and we now boast some of the best stretches of this river in the region.

In recent years, Muncie has removed or significantly modified four of our five dams along the White River, creating tremendous recreational potential. Plans are in place for up to five new kayak and canoe launches in the heart of Muncie — and, at the same time, we're working with Taylor University in Upland to improve recreational access to the Mississinewa River. These rivers rival some of the best in the Midwest for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing, and we're eager to share this story with the world.

## Up for the challenge

There's a lot at stake in communities across Indiana. We're all working hard to attract businesses, provide top-quality education, retain population, and build a better life for those who live in our communities — both rural and urban alike. East Central Indiana has faced its share of challenges, but I'm particularly optimistic about the future of this region. We are redefining ourselves, leaning into our strengths, and building a brighter future for all who call this place home.

Fisher is president and CEO of Ball Brothers Foundation.



Jud Fisher

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Mississippi water levels low

*Drought is trouble for farmers and supply chains*

**By Inside Climate News**

For the third year in a row, extreme drought conditions in the Midwest are drawing down water levels on the Mississippi River, raising prices for companies that transport goods downstream and forcing governments and business owners to seek alternative solutions.

The situation could signal an emerging reality for the region, scientists say, as climate change alters the planet's weather patterns and inches the average global temperature continually upwards.

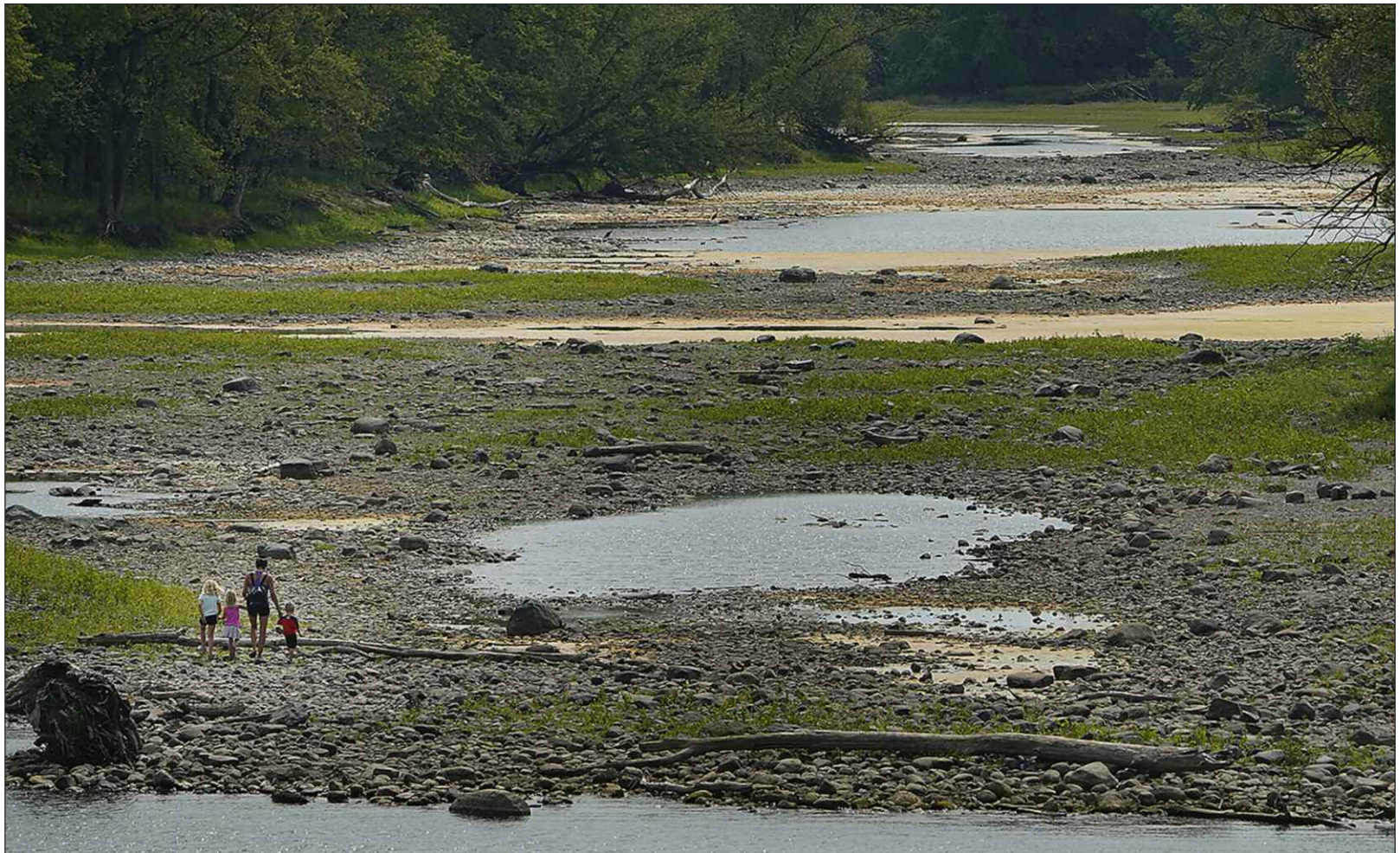
"Without question, it's discouraging that we're in year three of this. Because that is quite unique to have multiple years in a row of this," said Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition, a trade organization representing Midwest soy growers. "We're obviously trending in the wrong direction."

Since 2022, much of the Midwest has experienced some level of drought, with the driest conditions concentrated in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. Record rainfall in June and during part of July temporarily broke that dry spell, forecasters say, only for drought conditions to reemerge in recent weeks along the Ohio River basin, which typically supplies more water to the Mississippi than any other major tributary.

Water levels have been dropping in the lower Mississippi since mid-July, federal data shows, reaching nearly 8 feet below the historic average in Memphis on September 12. In October 2023, water levels reached a record-low 12 feet in Memphis. Remnants of Hurricane Francine, which made landfall in Louisiana Wednesday night as a Category 2 storm, "will provide only temporary relief," the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a news release Wednesday.

"Rainfall over the Ohio Valley is also not looking to be widespread and heavy enough to generate lasting effects and anticipate that much of the rainfall will soak into the ground with little runoff," the agency said in the release.

Those conditions have raised prices for companies transporting fuel and grain down the Mississippi in recent weeks, as load restrictions force barge operators to limit their hauls, which squeezes their profit margin. Barge rates from St. Louis reached \$24.62 per ton in late August and \$27.49 per ton by the



Tribune News Service/Minneapolis Star Tribune/David Joles

A woman and children explore a dried up channel of the Mississippi River in August 2021 in Mississippi Gateway Regional Park in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Drought conditions in the Midwest again this year are raising prices for companies that transport goods downstream and forcing governments and business owners to seek alternative solutions.

following week, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Steenhoek said barge prices during the week ending September 3 were 8% higher than the same week last year and 57% higher than the three-year average. "It does change that supply demand relationship," he said, "because now all of a sudden you're having to transport a given amount of freight with less capacity."

Aaron Wilson, Ohio's state climatologist and a professor at Ohio State University, said the whiplash between this summer's record wet months and September's drought conditions appears to fit what could be an emerging climate trend that researchers have observed in recent years.

The Midwest region has generally gotten wetter over the decades. The Fifth National Climate Assessment, released last year, reported that annual precipitation increased by 5% to 15% across much of the Midwest in the 30-year period leading up to 2021, compared to the average between 1901 and 1960.

But evidence also suggests the Midwest is experiencing more frequent swings between extreme wet and extreme dry seasons, with climate models predicting that the trend will persist into the future, said Wilson, who was the lead author of the assessment's Midwest chapter.

"This was front and center for us," he said. "One of the main things that we talked about were these rapid oscillations ... between wet to dry and dry to wet extremes."

Research also suggests that seasonal precipitation is trending in opposite directions, and will continue to do so in the coming decades, Wilson added. "And so what you get is too much water in the winter and spring and not enough during the growing season," he said, referring to summer months.

If that evidence holds true, it could have notable impacts on U.S. food exports moving forward.

Transporting goods, including corn, soy, and fuel, on the Mississippi is more efficient pound for pound than ground transportation, business groups say, and gives the U.S. an edge in a competitive global market. According to the Waterways Council, a trade association for businesses that use the Mississippi River, a standard 15-barge load is equivalent to 1,050 semi trucks or 216 train cars—meaning domestic farmers and other producers can save significant time and money moving their goods by boat.

The majority of U.S. agricultural exports rely on the Mississippi to reach the international market, as farmers move their crops to export hubs on the Gulf Coast, said Deb Calhoun, senior vice president of the Waterways Council. "More than 65% of our national agriculture products that are bound for export are moving on this inland waterway system," she said. "So this system is critical to farmers of any size farm. You can have a small farm in the middle of the Midwest and you're able to compete on the world stage."

The ramifications could be

especially harmful to the soy industry, Steenhoek said, since about half of the soy grown in the U.S. is exported. By the last week of August, grain exports transported by barge fell 17% compared to the week before, according to a Thursday report released by the USDA.

Steenhoek said the increased costs to U.S. growers hurt their ability to compete globally. Any price increase to domestic grain could encourage international clients to instead buy from rival countries like Brazil or Argentina, he said.

While it's typical for water levels on the Mississippi to drop during the fall months, Steenhoek said, the recent years of drought have been a real wakeup call for farmers to diversify their supply chains. Soy growers, he said, have since set up new supply chain agreements with rail lines and have even invested in new export terminals in Washington state and on the coast of Lake Michigan in Milwaukee.

Luckily, Calhoun said, disruptions to river transportation this year haven't been nearly as bad as they were last year, when the Mississippi's water levels reached record lows. Several barges were grounded last year and in 2022, she said, referring to when boats get stuck on the riverbed or in areas where sediment has built up. That hasn't occurred so far this year.

She chalks that up to proactive efforts this year by companies and federal agencies, like the Army Corps of Engineers, to mitigate transportation disruptions.

The Army Corps, for example, she said, has been dredging the riverbed earlier than normal in anticipation of potential disruptions. Dredging involves moving sediment on the riverbed from areas where it can cause problems to boats to areas where it won't.

Another silver lining, Calhoun said, is that the droughts have also prompted greater cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders, both public and private. "We have seen even greater cooperation over the last three years with the Corps of Engineers and with the Coast Guard working very much in concert with the industry," she said.

Wilson, Ohio's climatologist, said he has also seen stronger cooperation among stakeholders in tackling this issue. "It's a mix of climate scientists, social scientists and planners and emergency preparedness folks that are really coordinating this effort," he said.

The result, Calhoun said, is that their coalition of groups have been able to handle the disruptions relatively well this year, which leaves her feeling cautiously optimistic. "It's really hard, you know, to track this and try to figure out is it just normal? Is it getting much worse? Are we going to have to make significant changes, and if so, what would they be? But we're not there yet," she said.

.....  
*This article originally appeared on Inside Climate News. It is republished with permission.*

# UK will study drone tech

**By JORDAN STRICKLER**  
University of Kentucky

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has secured a \$910,000 grant from the USDA to develop and refine drone technology in cattle management.

This five-year project, titled "Precision Livestock Management: Cattle Monitoring and Herding Using Cooperative Drones," explores how drones can assist in herding, monitoring and collecting physiological data from beef cattle. The project aims to reduce labor demands and enhance operational efficiency for livestock producers.

"This project is a continuation of our ongoing efforts to integrate technology into livestock management," said principal investigator and Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering (BAE) assistant extension professor Josh Jackson. "We've previously worked on cattle monitoring using drones, but now our team is exploring how these drones can be used for herding. The idea is to see if we can move cattle with drones in an effective and safe way for the animals."

The research will focus

*Project could change how cattle producers save time, money and improve animal welfare*

on several key objectives. First, the team will develop a multi-agent drone control system that enables drones to work semi-autonomously near cattle. This system will be designed to adjust its operations based on the behavior and movement of the animals, ensuring safe and effective interaction.

The project will also examine the physiological responses of cattle, particularly how different breeds react to the drones' presence and movement. "We're interested in how cattle of various breeds respond to the drones," Jackson said. "For instance, we've seen in our previous work that one drone flying 30 feet above ground level doesn't bother them much, but if you introduce a second drone or change the flight pattern, their response changes. Understanding these reactions is crucial for developing practical applications."

Another critical study

aspect will be developing methods for estimating cattle weight using drone-captured imagery. By creating 3D models from aerial photographs, Jackson hopes to achieve accurate weight estimates, which could significantly streamline cattle management practices.

"The potential to estimate cattle weight without ever having to physically handle the animals is exciting," Jackson said. "If we can get within 5% accuracy using drones, it could revolutionize how farmers monitor the health and growth of their herds."

Economic feasibility will also be a major focus. The research team plans to assess the cost-effectiveness of integrating drone technology into various scales of cattle production. This will include on-farm trials to determine the optimal number of drones needed for different herd sizes and the potential return on investment for producers.

"Farmers want to know if this technology makes sense financially," Jackson added. "While it might not be cost-effective right now, there's potential for future advancements to make it more accessible and affordable."

The interdisciplinary team includes UK experts from mechanical and aerospace engineering, agricultural economics and veterinary science—ensuring that the project addresses both the technical challenges of drone deployment and cattle producers' practical needs.

"An exciting part of working on a team with such a broad range of expertise is you're constantly learning something new," said Michael Sama, who is a collaborator on the project. "We've come a long way in just a few years researching drone use for livestock management and are looking forward to where this project leads us."

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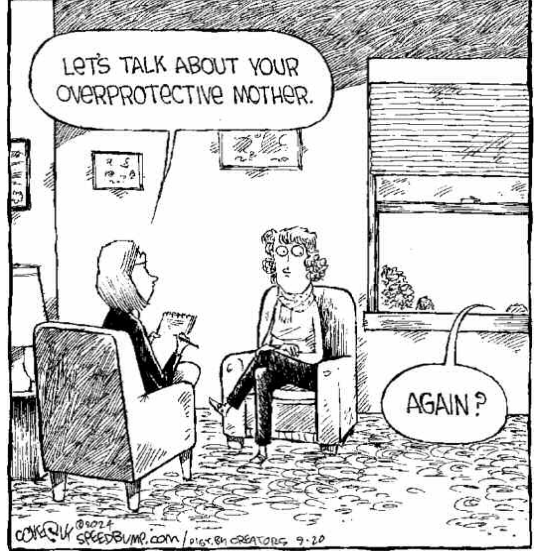
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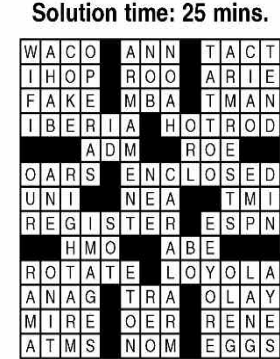
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**Trevor Heitkamp scores in his first collegiate meet, see story below**

**Jay County football travels to Bluffton today, see Sports on tap**

# Sports

## Heitkamp helps Redhawks in first collegiate meet

In high school, Trevor Heitkamp often finished near the top of the boys race to provide the Fort Recovery High School team with its best score.

In his first collegiate meet, he didn't top his team, but he did provide a valuable score to lift it to the top.

Heitkamp, a 2024 graduate of FRHS, provided the 13th score for the Roberts Wesleyan University men's cross country team during the season opener on Sept. 14 at the Daemen Alumni Invitational in Amherst, New York.

Heitkamp's score helped contribute to a first-place finish for the Redhawks, which totaled 46 points. The runner-up, Daemen, finished with 58.

The freshman finished 14th overall with a time of 28 minutes, 26.5 seconds. He finished fourth on his team behind a pair of seniors and fellow freshman Jakob Zibbel.

### Collegiate check-up

#### Whitney Rammel Fort Recovery — 2022

Had her strongest match of the season for the East Tennessee State University volleyball team as the Buccaneers took down the West Virginia Mountaineers 25-21, 16-25, 25-21, 25-19 on Sept. 13.

Rammel dominated for ETSU (5-4) at the net with a season-high 13 kills and seven blocks. She finished with a .571 hitting percentage as well.

Leading up to the win over WVU, Rammel had 25 kills over a four match stretch that included victories over Gardner-Webb and Kennesaw State and losses to Virginia and Liberty.

She had nine kills against Ken-

nesaw State and seven blocks at Liberty.

#### Paige Fortkamp Fort Recovery — 2021

Tallied 44 kills for the University of Saint Francis volleyball team as it got swept in its last four matches.

The losing streak began on Aug. 31, in which the Cougars (7-10) have lost six consecutive matches in three sets.

Fortkamp's best match came against Goshen, in which she had 19 kills, six digs and an ace.

During the previous four losses, the senior recorded 24 digs, three aces and one block.

#### Jalyn Bruns Fort Recovery — 2022

Put up the third-best score for the IU East women's golf team on Sept. 7 at The Players Club as part of a third-place finish out of eight teams.

The Red Wolves' score of 981 strokes fell short of host Taylor

University (906) and Grace College (955) for the top two spots.

Bruns finished with 248 strokes through three rounds of golf, which was 32 strokes over par. The Fort Recovery graduate shot her best round on the second day as a 79 split up an 83 and 86.

#### Cali Wendel Fort Recovery — 2024

Found success in the back row for the Edison State Community College volleyball team in a trio of matches.

Wendel set a career-high 30 digs in a 3-1 loss to Owens Community College on Sept. 7. She earned three aces in the match as well.

Following up her career-high in digs, she set a new career-best in aces as she found the floor four times as the Chargers (5-7) swept Lake Michigan College on Sept. 14. The freshman had earned 12 digs against the Red Hawks.

Later on Sept. 14, Wendel had 15 digs and two aces in a 3-1 win over Glen Oaks Community College.

#### Paige Fortkamp Fort Recovery — 2024

Set a career-high in assists as the University of Saint Francis volleyball team fell to Goshen in three sets on Sept. 14.

Fortkamp previously had 24 assists in a win against Saint Mary, but broke that mark with 27 against Goshen. The FRHS graduate assisted hitters 83 times over the past four games.

The freshman also had 14 digs, 10 kills, six blocks and three aces over the stretch.

#### Lindy Wood Jay County — 2022

Finished in 136th for the University of St. Francis women's cross country team at the Twilight Invite hosted by Indiana Wesleyan University on Sept. 6.

Wood finished the race with a time of 26:46.5. Seven other Cougars finished in front of her, leading to a seventh-place finish in the 20-team field.

## Woj retires from ESPN

By STEVE HENSON  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The person who broke so much NBA news that his scoops earned a pithy nickname announced on X on Tuesday that he is leaving ESPN and retiring from sports journalism to become general manager of the men's basketball program at his alma mater, St. Bonaventure University.

Adrian Wojnarowski, known simply as Woj, littered the hoops landscape with "Woj bombs," breaking news that he reported first, accurately and with context. Wojnarowski, 55, was hired by ESPN in 2017 after emerging as a must-read news hound and columnist at Yahoo Sports in 2007. He previously worked at the Record of Bergen County, N.J.

According to the Athletic, Wojnarowski makes about \$7 million a year at ESPN and has three years left on his contract, meaning he is leaving about \$20 million on the table. The average salary for a general manager at a Division 1 university is between \$130,020 and \$172,958, according to Salaries.com.

A successor to Wojnarowski has not been named, although Shams Charania and Chris Haynes are the most obvious choices.

Charania, 30, broke into the business at Yahoo

*NBA journalist will take job as St. Bonaventure University basketball GM*

Sports under Wojnarowski, and his contracts with the Athletic, Stadium and FanDuel expire soon. Haynes, 42, has left TNT, whose parent company Warner Bros. Discovery is in litigation with the NBA. ESPN stalwart Pat McAfee said on the air Wednesday that Charania should be the front-runner.

Wojnarowski's last Woj bomb was about himself.

"I'm thrilled and humbled to return to St. Bonaventure with an opportunity to serve the university, Coach Mark Schmidt and our elite Atlantic 10 men's basketball program," Wojnarowski said in a news release from the school. "In these changing times of college sports, I'm eager to join a championship program that combines high-level basketball, national television exposure, pro preparation and NIL opportunities with an intimate, supportive educational environment."

See Retires page 7



Photo provided

### Proclamation signed

Mayor Jeff Westlake recently signed a proclamation for National Gymnastics Day. JC Tumbling and Gymnastics will hold an open house Saturday from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Admission is \$10 per kid and all proceeds will benefit the JC Flipsters competitive gymnastics team.

## Tagovailoa out until week 8

By C. ISIAH SMALLS II  
Miami Herald  
Tribune News Service

MIAMI — Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa will be placed on injured reserve, according to NFL insiders Ian Rapoport and Mike Garafolo.

This comes less than a week after Tagovailoa suffered a concussion

during the Dolphins 31-10 loss to the Buffalo Bills.

The franchise quarterback will miss the next four games and be eligible to return after the Dolphins' Oct. 20 matchup against the Indianapolis Colts.

Tagovailoa went down in the third quarter of Thursday's game

against the Bills when the quarterback attempted to scramble on a crucial fourth down near the red zone. While diving head-first for the first down marker, Tagovailoa collided with Bills safety Damar Hamlin's abdomen. He laid on the ground for several minutes after the hit but was able to walk off the field on his own power.

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