

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Storm strikes

*Jay County Junior-Senior High, teacher's home and American Legion hit with most severe damage*

By RAY COONEY and BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Twisted metal and other debris were strewn across the parking lot and grassy area in front of Jay County Junior-Senior High School, where entrances to the facility were blocked off by barricades and school buses after emergency vehicles departed.

A house across the highway had most of its roof torn off.

Rubble from the second floor of Portland's American Legion post was piled in its parking lot.

A storm with high winds, including a reported tornado, hit Jay County on Sunday evening with the most severe damage at the junior-senior high school, a home in the Beacon Heights housing addition across Indiana 67 and at the American Legion post at the intersection of Walnut and Ship streets.

There was additional damage at Sheffer Acres, along Tyson Road and generally in the area between Water and Walnut streets in Portland.

Jay Schools were closed Monday.

"To me, it looks like a quarter of that building has got some significant damage to the roof, which affected the interior, primarily in the area of the IMC and those adjacent rooms," said Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gully at 10:40 p.m. Sunday, adding that the rest of the building looked normal except a few ceiling panels. He also noted the heating ventilation and cooling equipment strewn across the property. "You've got a lot of fluids and items that are associated with HVAC that are now on the floor in that portion of the building."

A house owned by Kyle Love, a junior-senior high teacher, at 2041 Indiana 67 in the Beacon Heights addition had most of its roof torn off. He was watching "Football Night in America" and awaiting the start of the Sunday Night Football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Atlanta Falcons to begin when the storm hit.

"I was watching TV, scrolling through TikTok, waiting for the game to start, relaxing, and heard rain. And then all of a



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

sudden the sound kind of changed — almost a jet engine type of sound, like a really weird, high-speed wind sound," said Love.

The noise prompted him to get up off the couch and look out his front window.

"I saw debris flying everywhere," Love added. "The next thing you know, I saw my front porch covering lift off the ground and I was struck with falling ceiling. That knocked me down to the couch."

"Insulation was flying everywhere, so it was hard to see, hard to breathe, hard to know what was going on."

See **Strikes** page 2

Jay County Junior-Senior High School and Portland American Legion Post 211 were severely damaged during a storm Sunday evening. Pictured above, a piece of metal debris is intertwined with a snapped tree in front of the junior-senior high. All Jay Schools were closed Monday. At right, what used to be the second floor of the American Legion post sits in the parking lot on the northwest side of the building.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

### Hudson died in tractor accident

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A rural Portland man died Friday after his tractor flipped on him at the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association grounds.

David L. Hudson, 64, died as a result of the accident that occurred on the grounds on the west side of Morton Street in Portland across from Jay County Fairgrounds.

Hudson sustained blunt force trauma to the head, killing him instantly, according to Jay County coroner Michael Brewster. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Portland police received a call from Hudson's sister,

Patricia, about 11:51 p.m. Friday. She explained she hadn't heard from her brother, David Hudson, since 7:30 a.m. Friday. David Hudson left that morning to work at the Tri-State grounds at 1010 N. Morton St.

Police found Hudson's body pinned under his 2005 John Deere tractor in a ditch on the west side of the grounds.

According to a report, Portland police suspect Hudson had been fixing areas in the grounds when he backed up his tractor too far, causing its back tires to fall into the ditch. The tractor flipped on top of Hudson, crushing him.

### Scout agreement updated

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Sun Chief Solar is working through the process to amend its project timeline.

Jay County Commissioners on Monday approved amendments to the economic development agreement with Scout Clean Energy for its Sun Chief Solar project.

Most notably, the updated agreement includes a two-year extension on the proposed timeline for Scout Clean Energy to begin construction and start operations and requires the company to provide its first economic development payment before construction is completed.

Scout's plans call for a 100-megawatt facility northeast of Redkey. Located on approximately 1,200 acres near the company's Bitter Ridge Wind Farm, Sun Chief Solar first moved through Jay County governmental proceedings about three years ago.

Scout is estimated to save about \$3.8 million in property taxes with its 10-year tax abatement approved by the county in November 2021. The company will provide about \$1.3 million in economic develop-

ment payments to the county over four years, and its facility is projected to result in additional \$38.9 million in assessed value. It is projected to generate more than \$24 million in property taxes over its 35-year life.

Scout Clean Energy east region associate project manager Spencer Micali noted Monday construction on the project will include between 100 and 150 workers. Once operational, Sun Chief Solar will have up to two permanent employees on site for general maintenance.

Sun Chief has been working through regional transmission organization PJM Interconnection's process for hooking up to the electrical grid. Similar to other prospective farms in Jay County — they include Skycrest Solar planned in Penn and Jackson townships, Rose Gold Solar planned north of Dunkirk and New Jay Solar planned east of Dunkirk — Sun Chief has been impacted by delays amid the PJM process. PJM announced plans in April 2022 to revamp its analysis process for new electricity services joining the power grid, leading to delays for project studies and approvals.

Projects have been divided into three queues, and Sun Chief Solar's application was sorted into the "fast track" Sept. 13. (Because of this, Micali pointed out, Sun Chief could be the first among the Jay County solar farm projects to begin construction.)

Hopes are for Sun Chief to secure its interconnection service agreement by the end of this year, noted Micali. Construction would begin in June, with commercial operations to start just over a year later.

Per the new agreement timeline, Scout must begin construction on the facility no later than Dec. 31, 2026, with completion set for no later than Dec. 31, 2027.

"We're asking for an extra year, that's simply out of an abundance of caution," said Micali. "(We) don't want to have to, you know, come back to the well, take another bite of the apple, do this process again."

Also, per the updated agreement, the company will provide the county its first economic development payment no later than six months following the start of construction. See **Agreement** page 2

#### Deaths

**Kay Neumayr**, 81, Attica  
**Sandy Plack**, 58, Fort Recovery

**Harry Hiday**, 70, Salamina

**Michael Bartlett**, 65, Pennington

Details on page 2.

#### Weather

About an inch of rain fell during Sunday evening's storm. The high temperature was 84 degrees and the low was 57.

The forecast calls for rain tonight with a low in the upper 50s. Skies will be mostly cloudy Wednesday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

#### In review

Jay County Highway Department reported that county road 700 West between county roads 200 South and 300 South is closed indefinitely because of problems with a bridge. It will remain closed until bridge repairs can be completed.

#### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Coverage of this week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

**Thursday** — Results from the JCHS girls soccer game against Delta.

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





# Agreement ...

Continued from page 1  
(Previously, the first payment was due no later than 15 days after commercial operations begin.)  
“It essentially puts the EDA

payments within a couple of months of ... when they would have come in originally,” said county attorney Wes Schemenaur. “This essentially allows the county to start receiving

those payments almost on track with what would’ve come in under the old agreement.”  
Jay County Council approved the amended agreement with Harold Towell dissenting and

Jeanne Houchins and Randy May absent on Sept. 11. It also approved updating the timeline in the tax abatement.  
Next steps in coming months for Sun Chief include formally

requesting to amend the project’s timeline with Jay County Plan Commission and to provide affiliated landowners with a summary of the changes.

## CR almanac

Wednesday 9/25	Thursday 9/26	Friday 9/27	Saturday 9/28	Sunday 9/29
<b>75/57</b> Mostly cloudy skies are expected Wednesday, when the low at night may hit the mid to upper 50s.	<b>80/58</b> There’s a chance of mostly sunny skies Thursday. The high may reach around 80 degrees.	<b>80/59</b> Friday’s forecast shows a chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies.	<b>79/58</b> Another chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a low of 58.	<b>80/57</b> There’s a chance of rain on Sunday under mostly cloudy skies.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$208 million	44-46-60-67-68-71-75 Cash 5: 6-17-26-41-44 Estimated jackpot: \$747,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$62 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 3-8-3 Pick 4: 9-3-3-2 Pick 5: 4-2-8-6-3 Evening Pick 3: 1-4-7 Pick 4: 1-2-9-8 Pick 5: 7-5-2-0-4 Rolling Cash 5: 16-22-30-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 7-4-0 Daily Four: 5-8-8-1 Evening Daily Three: 5-7-3 Daily Four: 1-4-3-6 Quick Draw: 1-4-9-10-14-15-17-18-25-27-39-41-42-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....3.60 Oct. corn .....3.65 Wheat .....3.85	Oct. beans .....9.87 Wheat ..... 5.33
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....3.67 Oct. corn .....3.67 Dec. corn .....3.92	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.64 Oct. corn .....3.64 Beans.....9.87 Oct. beans .....9.87 Wheat .....5.13
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....3.62 Oct. corn .....3.62 Beans .....9.87	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....3.47 Oct. corn .....3.47 Beans.....9.65 Jan. beans .....10.03 Wheat .....5.03

## Today in history

**In 1896**, author F.Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is best known for his classic American novel “The Great Gatsby.” (He is named after his distant cousin, Francis Scott Key, author of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”)

**In 1934**, Babe Ruth played his final game for the New York Yankees.

**In 1936**, Jim Henson was born in Greenville, Mississippi. The puppeteer and filmmaker is the creator of the “Muppets.”

**In 1938**, Don Budge became the first to win a tennis Grand Slam with his victory over Gene Mako at the U.S. Open.

**In 1947**, the World Women’s Party met for the first time since World War II.

**In 1948**, Soichiro Honda founded Honda Motor Company.

**In 1957**, federal troops were sent to Little Rock, Arkansas, to maintain order and enforce the right of Black students to attend school during the era of racial desegregation.

**In 1960**, the U.S. launched the Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

**In 1968**, the hour-long news magazine “60 Minutes” debuted on CBS.

**In 1973**, Guinea-Bissau declared its independence from Portugal.

**In 1979**, CompuServe began offering one of the first consumer online services.

**In 1991**, alternative rock group Nirvana released its album “Nevermind.”

**In 1993**, Norodom Sihanouk was crowned king of Cambodia for the second time.

**In 1994**, Aung San Suu Kyi formed the National League for Democracy in Myanmar to fight against dictatorship.

**In 2003**, the Jay County High School girls soccer team defeated the Burriss Owls 4-0. Sarah Miller scored two goals for the Patriots and Abby Schmiesing and Jamie Bruggeman each added one.

**In 2020**, the Federal Aviation Administration announced it would fund 100% of the first phase of Portland Municipal Airport’s runway extension project. The work was estimated at \$2.4 million.

**In 2022**, Jay County Fair Board started a new attraction as its corn maze opened for the first time. The design of the maze on the north side of Jay County Fairgrounds featured the 150th Jay County Fair logo, an American flag and an eagle.

—The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<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.
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## Obituaries

### Kay Neumayr

Aug. 27, 1943-Sept. 21, 2024  
Gwendolyn Kay (Willis) Neumayr, 81, Attica, passed away surrounded by her family at her home on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, at 6:20 a.m. from pulmonary fibrosis, a complication of rheumatoid arthritis.



Neumayr

Kay, as she was known to family and friends, was born Aug. 27, 1943, in Danville, Illinois. She was the daughter of the late William Dudley. Willis and Emily Elizabeth (Wellmaker) Willis Stonebraker. She attended Attica schools, graduating with the class of 1961, and graduated from Indiana Business College in 1962. On June 11, 1966, Kay and Gerald “Jerry” Anton Neumayr were married at St. Patrick Catholic Church in South Bend, Indiana, and celebrated their 58th anniversary in 2024.

Kay was a life-long horse person and loved raising the baby Quarter Horses. She would say her therapist had four hooves, a mane and tail and she spent many hours riding horseback. She loved teaching her sons and then grandchildren how to handle horses and to rise and successfully compete in horse shows, along with the value of patience and kindness.

Her greatest joy was helping her grandchildren learn to bake and cook and learn Native American culture in week-long summer classes. She loved camping and hiking with the grandchildren at Turkey Run State Park.

Kay got her first boxer dog in 1964 and was quite a fan of their intelligence, sense of humor and eternal puppyhood. Over the following 60 years, she and Jerry tried to always have at least one boxer. Taking in numerous cats and dogs, she and Jerry were also pushovers for strays.

As a member of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Attica, she was lector for over 30 years and a member of the choir, singing alto,

for over 25 years. Kay also was a member of the St. Francis Ladies Guild, participating in funeral dinners and the annual noodle-making.

She was a former member of the Fountain County 4-H Council and former co-leader of the Fountain County 4-H Horse and Pony club. She was a founding member of the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture and served on the board of directors for 21 years, 17 as board chairman. She was a member of the American Quarter Horse Association and also a member of many organizations supporting the right to life, conservative issues of the American Republic, the U.S. Constitution especially the Second Amendment, education, history and Native American culture. Her favorite books to read were historical documentaries.

Kay leaves behind her husband Gerald “Jerry” Neumayr; two sons, Chris (Shelley) Neumayr of Lafayette and Tony (Jennifer) Neumayr, Cincinnati; five grandchildren, Trinity Neumayr, Sydney Neumayr, Kaylie Neumayr and Allie Neumayr; all of Lafayette, and Josef Neumayr of Cincinnati; a sister, Constance LaLena of Centro Guanajuato, Mexico; boxers Rocky and Ziva; two horses; and seven barn cats.

Kay was preceded in death by her youngest son, Joshua Neumayr; her parents, William Willis and Emily Willis Stonebraker; and her stepfather, William Stonebraker.

Friends may call at the Maus Funeral Home, Attica, on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 to 8 p.m., with rosary services recited at 4:30 p.m. A funeral Mass for Kay will be held at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Friday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. with the Rev. David Rasner officiating. Burial will follow in the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Attica.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Life League, P.O. Box 6170, Falmouth, VA 2203, or the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, P.O. Box 1063, Portland, IN 47371.

Condolences may be expressed at mausfuneralhome.com.

### Sandy Clack

Aug. 22, 1966-Sept. 22, 2024  
Sandy Clack, age 58, a resident of Fort Recovery, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, at her home in Fort Recovery, Ohio.



Clack

She was a former Portland resident.

Sandy was born Aug. 22, 1966, in Portland, Indiana, the daughter of Jerry Hale and Marilyn (Wood) Irelan. She worked for Spring Meadow Farms in Rossburg, Ohio.

Survivors include:  
Her companion — Bill Androne, Fort Recovery, Ohio

Her children — Jessica Jury (husband: Lee), Ansonia, Ohio, Megan Hoffman (husband: Mike), Troy, Ohio, Zachary Androne (wife: Morgan), Ansonia, Ohio, Lacy Vernak (husband: Michael), Cleveland, Ohio

Her siblings — Jerry Hale (wife: Linda), Portland, Indiana, Terry Hale, Portland, Indiana, Todd Hale (Michele Moore), Portland, Indiana, Joseph Hale, Portland, Indiana, Sharon Hamilton (husband: Ron), Portland, Indiana, Trudy Wilhelm (husband: Wayne), Portland, Indiana, and Helen “Billie” Carter (husband: Stacey), Marion, Indiana

Stepfather — Jerry Irelan, Portland, Indiana

Several grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, two great-nephews and two great-nieces

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Sandy’s life will follow at 5 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

**Harry “Tim” Hiday**, Salamonia, Jan. 21, 1954-Sept. 20, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

**Michael E. Bartlett**, Pennville, June 18, 1959-Sept. 12, 2024. Services will be at noon Saturday at Bartlett Pond, 550 N. 1025 West, Pennville.

## Strikes ...

Continued from page 1  
There was damage to other surrounding houses — some of it caused by pieces of Love’s home being thrown around by the wind — as well as downed trees and branches.

The most significant evidence of damage on the exterior of the junior-senior high on Sunday evening was the housing unit that ended up on the front lawn. The rest of the area in front of the school was scattered with pieces of metal and debris from trees. A tree was uprooted on the south side of the school and the stop sign at the main entrance was folded in half.

Photos provided by Jay Schools show colored liquid in the hallways of the junior high area of the building. There is also a significant hole in the roof.

Gulley said there was no indication of damage to any other schools.

See Strikes page 5

### SERVICES

**Today**  
**Arnold**, Linda: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

**Wednesday**  
**Hiday**, Harry: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Thursday**  
**Neumayr**, Kay: 10 a.m., St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 407 Perry St., Attica.  
**Clack**, Sandy: 5 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Bartlett**, Michael: noon, Bartlett Pond, 550 N. 1025 West, Pennville.

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# Single parents need more credit

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

I have a tremendous amount of respect for single parents.

A couple months ago, I wrote a column about how Chrissy and I took Baby Schanz on our first family adventure, a drive down to see friends in Spencerville, Ohio.

There was only one minor hiccup, but overall the trip went well.

I wish I could say the same for when we had our first Daddy/Daughter adventure earlier this month.

Aubree, a friend from my days in Indiana who in recent years moved back to her home state of Washington, was back in the Midwest for a wedding. Knowing she'd be relatively close for the first time in a while, we wanted to try to get together for a number of reasons. First, we hadn't seen each other since my

## Parental Ponderings



own wedding in 2019, and I wanted her to meet my daughter.

Aubree was going to be in the Syracuse, Indiana, area for the wedding, and we decided to meet in the middle, near Lansing, Michigan.

There was one caveat, though. My in-laws were in our area camping so they, too, could see their granddaughter. Therefore, I'd have to pluck Baby Schanz from their visitation in order to take her to meet Aubree.

No one had an issue, thankfully.

The Sunday after the wedding Aubree attended, we decided on a coffee

shop in Marshall, Michigan, which is a little further for me than we originally planned and more in the middle for both of our commutes.

Chrissy and I made sure I had everything I needed to care for Baby Schanz: a few frozen bags of breastmilk and accompanying bottles, diapers and wipes, spare clothes in the event of spit-ups or blowouts, a pacifier, toys and a host of other things "just in case" because I tend to overpack for myself, let alone an infant.

I am a firm believer it's better to have and not need than need and not have. Hence my overpacking.

I've said before that Baby Schanz loves riding in vehicles. She generally falls asleep rather quickly, so car rides generally go without a hitch.

This was true as we drove the two hours to

Marshall; she slept the entire way.

Not long after Aubree and I met at the coffee shop, Baby Schanz needed to eat. In past experiences, Chrissy and I had just used bathroom sinks to warm the milk, but in this instance time was of the essence because my daughter gets hangry without any notice.

The wonderful barista behind the counter gave me some hot water to thaw the milk and avoid the disaster of a baby crying hysterically.

After my much-needed visit with Aubree, it was late afternoon and time to head home. Baby Schanz was starting to get a bit cranky, so I changed her diaper in an attempt to alleviate her uneasiness. I was taking a gamble by not feeding her before we left. On one hand, it had only been about two hours since her last bottle

(we generally feed her every three hours), and on the other hand, if I waited to feed her when I got home, she'd be at four-plus hours between meals.

The first hour of the drive home was like the excursion there; quiet and carefree. The second hour is why I am writing this column.

Baby Schanz has ditched her hunger cues. She goes from zero to 100 in the blink of an eye. Such was the case shortly at the midway point of our drive home.

I won't bore you with the details, but it was a frustrating final leg. It seemed no matter what I did, I couldn't calm my daughter. I was desperately in need of a reprieve and Chrissy was an hour away.

Single parents, especially single mothers, do not get enough credit.

Parenting alone is no easy task. Millions of single mothers and single fathers raise a child, or children, on their own.

Admittedly, this was one of a few times Baby Schanz has tested my patience in her short six months of life. I've always gotten through it with some help from my partner.

Others may not be as fortunate as me, and I'm thankful to have a spouse to help.

Taking a line from the Lazlo Bane song used as the theme for my favorite TV show, Scrubs: "I can't do this all on my own / No, I'm no / I'm no Superman."

Single parents, they're the real superheroes.

Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor embarking on a new journey as a father. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.

# Sister-in-law's behavior becomes unhinged

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law "Bethany" has been diagnosed with PTSD from her military service. For the past 15 years, Bethany has picked fights with my wife, her sister, over anything and everything. She feels my wife "changed" after she married me.

Bethany didn't like how we treated their father after we moved in four years ago so we could take care of him. (He recently passed.) She also doesn't like that we are living in the house that was her childhood home. She starts fights that escalate into screaming matches, while making herself out as the victim. She keeps reminding us that she has PTSD. My wife

screams, cries and sobs during these conversations.

My wife won't cut Bethany off because they're siblings, but I'm sick and tired of seeing her in tears trying to figure out what she did wrong. Whenever Bethany comes to visit, she ends up staying at our house. The fights are unbearable. I have begged and pleaded for my wife to cut her off.



## Dear Abby

It's affecting me now. Any advice would be appreciated. — POWERLESS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR POWERLESS: Please share this with your wife. Has it not occurred to her that she has done NOTHING wrong, and that Bethany's rages may have less to do with PTSD than plain old jealousy? By now, the two of you must have realized that the price of having a relationship with her sister is too high. That your wife would allow herself to be repeatedly abused this way mystifies me.

When Bethany starts up again, your wife should hang up the phone. If Bethany shows up and can't control herself, she should not be

allowed in. If she's already in, she should be told to leave immediately. Until the two of you draw a firm line, nothing will change, and it could very well destroy your marriage.

DEAR ABBY: After 28 years, I found out my husband, "Jerry," was having an affair. While we were in the middle of the divorce, my nephew was getting married, and I told Jerry that, considering the circumstances, it was improper for him to go. I also told him that although he was denying everything and telling our daughters he had done nothing, my family knew everything.

Jerry insisted on going, but I told him he would NOT be in fam-

ily pictures and wasn't invited to the reception. Abby, he insisted on sitting in the pew with our daughters and me, and even tried to walk my mother in. Was what he did in bad taste and improper etiquette? To me, it felt like another slap in the face. — DIVORCED BUT NOT DONE

DEAR DIVORCED: That your almost-ex-husband would force his way into the wedding and sit with you and your daughters was gross bad manners. Was he invited by your nephew's family? If he wasn't, I hope he didn't show up uninvited to the reception, which could have caused a major disruption. I think you will be well rid of this man.

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

COMPASSIONATE 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 - BRANNA'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.

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednes-

day 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 - BRANNA'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

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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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**The Commercial Review**



# Restore tax break to what it was

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Donald Trump is a late convert to restoring the federal income tax deduction of state and local taxes (SALT) that were capped at \$10,000 when he signed his big Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2018. But Trump's support is still most welcome and his fellow Republicans in Congress should follow his lead. The current law is simply unfair, putting an extra burden on people in states like New York.

Before the Internal Revenue Code was changed, the full amount that Americans paid in property taxes, sales taxes and income taxes to localities and states was deductible on their 1040s. But in 2017, Trump and the GOP-controlled Congress, to

## Guest Editorial

help pay for their tax cuts, targeted this SALT deduction.

At first, it was going to be totally wiped out, punishing people in higher-taxed states like New York, California, New Jersey and Illinois (all states that favor Democrats). But a late intervention by moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine capped the deduction at \$10,000, which is what Trump signed. The \$10,000 cap, along with the other tax changes, was set for eight years and sunsets

when 2025 ends. Still, tax cuts for some become tax increases for others.

As we said last year: "Take a firefighter married to a teacher, not rich at all, but middle class. They own a house in the suburbs of New York and pay \$20,000 in property taxes a year and thousands more in state income taxes. Yet, while once they could deduct all of those taxes, now only 10 grand can be deducted. That's a tax hike on them."

When Joe Biden took office in 2021, along with Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress, there was some hope for a restoration of the full SALT deduction, but it never made it into law, despite passing several times in the House.

Now comes Trump. That he

finally came around on the eve of yesterday's rally on Long Island to win support there — an area especially hurt by the SALT limit — is fine by us. That's how politics works in a good sense. In 2017 and 2018, Trump in the White House, with a GOP House and a GOP Senate, wasn't looking to win over the New York suburbs. Now he is.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who has been trying to restore the SALT deduction ever since the Republicans capped it, should use Trump's support as leverage with the Senate's Republican minority.

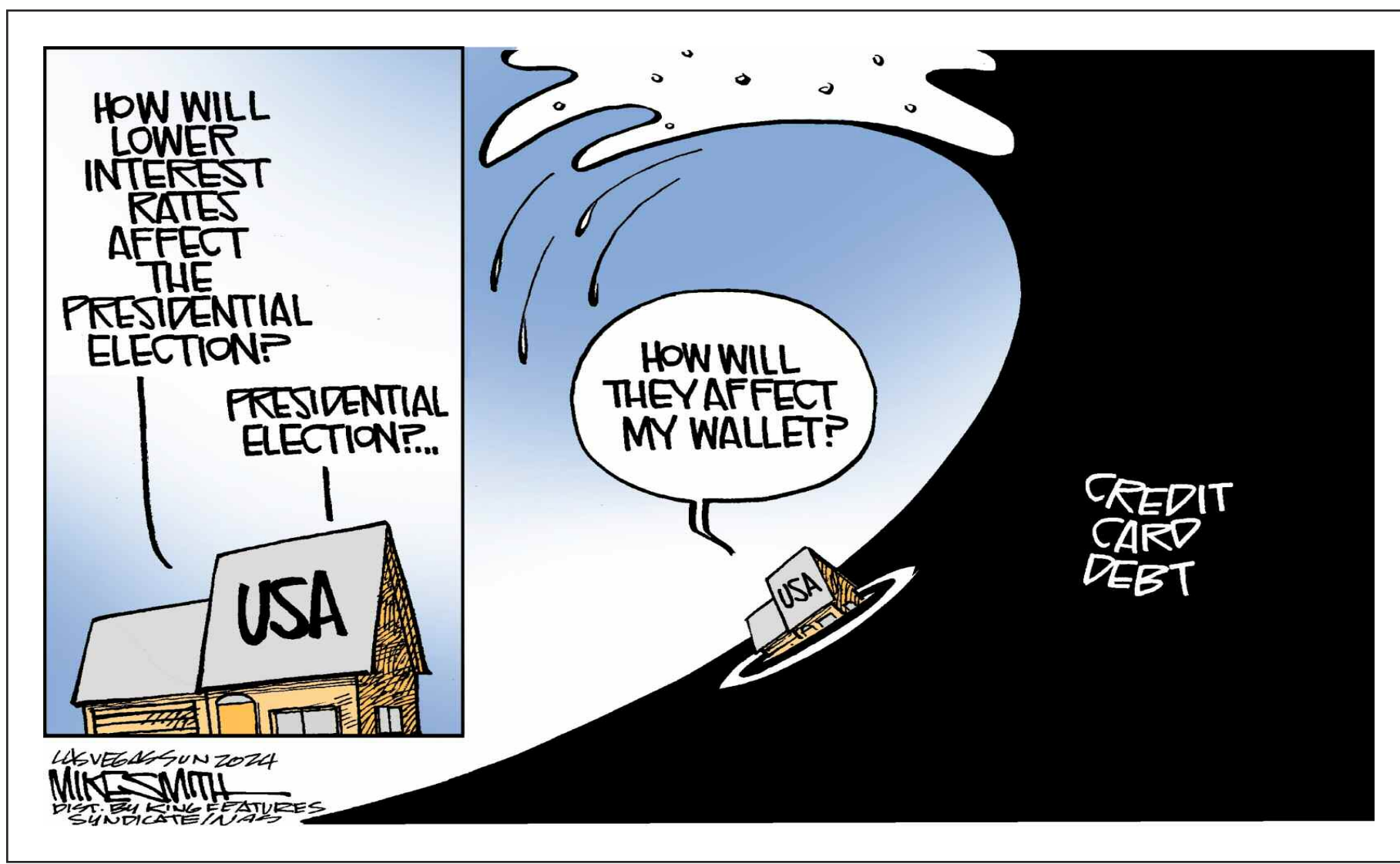
If lawmakers want to restrict those who can benefit by keeping the deduction to people with incomes less than \$500,000 or if they want to limit the deduction

to say, \$80,000, instead of the current \$10,000, are both fine options to prevent the super rich from getting the break.

But the unfairness must end.

Trump has also called for an end to taxes on tips, (as has Vice President Kamala Harris), to no more taxes on Social Security benefits and for overtime pay being tax free. That's a lot of tax cuts, trillions in fact. Trump hasn't said how they would all be paid for or if the federal deficit, approaching \$2 trillion this year, would just grow, adding to the \$35 trillion gross federal debt, of which \$28 trillion is held by the public and rest is what Uncle Sam owes his various federal trust funds and other government accounts.

Restoring SALT must be first in line.



# Indiana's small towns need more immigrants

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Population decline remains a tough, chronic problem for much of the Midwest, particularly rural places. It's not a new problem, but over the next two or three decades, the consequences and speed of decline are likely to become acute rather than chronic. It is time for some hard decisions and honest political leadership. I begin with facts.

Indiana is fortunate to be a compact state. Most rural counties are within an easy commute to a metropolitan county. Still, nearly 3 out of 4 counties are projected to either lose population over the next 25 years or see their populations remain effectively unchanged.

There's no easy way to say this, but migration is almost exclusively among residents with high human capital. This phenomenon of high human capital migration is among the best-documented facts in the social sciences. So, healthier, better-educated people and those more likely to start a business are the very people most likely to migrate. This is true between and within nations.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the folks who stay near home have low human capital. It does mean that, if "leavers" outnumber "stayers" over time, the average resident will have less education, poorer health and be less likely to start a business.

One way to think about this is to imagine two large classrooms in each classroom have the same average height. If you randomly move 10% kids from one room to

Michael J. Hicks



the other, the average height of students in each classroom won't change.

Suppose instead that you move 10% from one classroom to the other, but can only choose kids who are in the tallest half of the class. Almost immediately the average height of one class will drop and the other will rise. It works the same way across other measures of human differences.

This condition explains some of the economic somnolence of shrinking communities. It also explains much of the geographic concentration of poor health and drug use. The rates of opioid and fentanyl use was especially high in places with chronic population declines. A big part of this was simply that the people who left over the previous decades were healthier and better educated. They left behind a higher share of people at risk of addiction and disease.

The longer that population loss occurs, the worse this becomes. Many Midwestern counties are in their fourth or fifth decade of population decline. This doesn't mean the future is hopeless, but it is a pretty good argument for realism and far more aggressive policies.

It is worth noting that it took Ireland about 150 years to recover

from two heavy decades of outmigration. Many shrinking counties in the Midwest are forecasted to become smaller for another half century or longer. These forecasts might be wrong, but here in Indiana, population forecasts have mostly erred in the direction of optimism.

It is likely that the 40-plus Hoosier counties with shrinking populations will continue to lose people for most of this century. If you suppose things are bad in those counties now, imagine them in 2060.

State policy has tried to address the problem, with no real success. The same dozen counties that grew over the past 25 years will continue to grow over the next quarter century, fueled heavily by Hoosier families moving within the state.

There are many reasons why state policy has been unsuccessful. Most state support for declining communities focuses on housing and infrastructure. These are supply-side problems, but population decline is really a demand-side problem. Communities lose people because folks choose not to live there.

Subsidizing new home construction in declining communities might be popular, but it won't reverse population loss. Making a community a place people wish to live is much costlier than paying for broadband, building new homes or extending water and sewer systems. However, public services — especially good schools — are magnets for families.

For places that have lost population, paying for the public

services that attract people is difficult because of the overhead costs of doing so. Economists call this "economies of scale" and this is an especially challenging problem in rural communities.

As an example, today about 1 in 5 Hoosier school corporations cannot afford to offer a single Advanced Placement course in the big three STEM courses — calculus, chemistry or biology. Thus, their graduates are unprepared for rigorous college work at a typical state university. All of these are small schools that have been losing enrollment for decades. They are short-changing students.

These places are unlikely to recover on their own. Funding schools sufficiently well to attract new families would mean large property tax referendums. But, it is primarily urban and suburban communities that pass school operating referendums to improve schools. Those places will grow, making the funding challenge in rural places even worse over the decades to come.

If you think this is a dismal prognosis, you are mistaken. It is realistic, and everyone who studies the issue seriously knows it. When a school cannot afford to offer classes I took in high school almost a half-century ago, it is unlikely to lure more new families than it loses. The prognosis for that community is necessarily dismal.

There is one magical elixir that can reverse population decline: international immigration. Immigrants who come to the

U.S. are almost wholly motivated by economic opportunity or freedom. They are also possessed of very high human capital. Of course, for many, it is not well measured. In the developed world, education is a good measure of human capital. Not so among less-developed nations.

Someone who walked here from Guatemala to Logansport has a lot more human potential than the average human anywhere. We would be foolish to ignore it. And just to be clear, I'm not hypothesizing here. The kids of immigrants are probably the single most successful demographic group in America today. That has been true for more than a century and a half.

Immigrants are also less sensitive to many of the quality-of-life considerations that drive native-born migration. Citizens leaving other countries in search of freedom and economic opportunity find better locations across almost every small town in America.

A century ago, the Ku Klux Klan polluted many of Indiana's cities, scaring immigrants and costing decades of population decline. We'd be far wiser to wish for more immigrants today. For half of Indiana, it may be the only thing that prevents ghost towns.

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

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—Thomas Jefferson

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Most of the roof was torn off of this house owned by Kyle Love at 2041 Indiana 67. The portion of the roof that remains over the garage was part of an addition to the original structure.

"I saw debris flying everywhere," said Love. "The next thing you know, I saw my front porch covering lift off the ground and I was struck with falling ceiling. That knocked me down to the couch."

"Insulation was flying everywhere, so it was hard to see, hard to breathe, hard to know what was going on."

## Strikes ...

Continued from page 2

But he added that the corporation's internet systems are partially controlled at the junior-senior high building.

"I need time over the next 24 hours to assess all of these things," said Gulley. "And giving a day off, canceling school with no remote learning allows us to let everything pause and assess and focus on that situation and issue there. That's why it's just canceled."

The American Legion post, 211 W. Walnut St., lost the bulk of its second story.

"Nobody was here, so we got lucky there," said Butch Micheau of the American Legion on Monday morning.

Rubble was concentrated in the parking lot on the northwest side of the building. (Ship Street was closed briefly Sunday night between Main and Walnut streets because of debris from the building.)

"This is the entire roof off the second floor," Micheau added, looking at the pile of debris in the parking lot. "Of course, there's water damage upstairs."

The storm also destroyed the building's air conditioning unit that had been installed just four weeks earlier.

The adjacent Jay County Community Corrections building, 120 and 122 N. Commerce St., which houses apartments upstairs, was also hit. Deputy director Gary Hendershot explained to Jay County Commissioners during their meeting Monday that the structure's roof came off during the storm, exposing the apartments above Jay County Community Corrections to rain. Water has since trickled down into the western portion — it includes a restroom and conference room — of Jay County Community Corrections's space on the first floor, leading to about 4 inches of standing water and a collapsed

ceiling, noted Hendershot. The front eastern portion of the first floor, which houses Jay County Community Corrections' offices, has no damage.

The storm moved generally east, with downed trees in the Sheffer Acres neighborhood across county road 75 South from the junior-senior high as well as the Beacon Heights addition, then along Tyson Road with a semi trailer overturned in front of Tyson Mexican Original at 1355 W. Tyson Road, trees snapped at Rose Drive and Oak Street and soccer goals overturned between Oak and Charles streets.

"We were upstairs getting ready to put the kids to bed and then the house kind of shook and we looked out the window and there was trees down," said Bridget Reinhart, a resident of Joan Drive in Sheffer Acres. "So it was quick. I had no idea it was coming."

Another tree was snapped along Water Street just east of Charles Street, with the path of damage continuing generally between Water and Walnut streets. A large piece of a tree that came down along the Noble Street side of a house at 430 W. Main St. landed on two cars. Harrison Street between Main and Walnut streets was still closed Monday morning because of a downed tree.

"I was in the garage," said Osmar Gonzalez, 17, who lives at the intersection of Williams and Main streets. "The house started shaking. ... As soon as I came out, the tree fell on my car. There was nothing I could do about it, but I was trying to keep calm because of my little brothers."

After Love's house was hit, he called 911 and then headed across Indiana 67 to the junior-senior high property to wait for first responders.

"The medics checked me out. And they did a great job," said Love, who also works for Portland Fire Department. "They were phenomenal. And everybody was super quick to get there."

"I would say within three to five minutes there were multiple ambulances, multiple firetrucks, multiple sheriff's deputies, multiple city (officers), all within that mile range there. I mean, they sent the cavalry and they came quick."

A text alert sent out at 7:57 p.m. Sunday indicated that a tornado touched down "outside of Portland." The National Weather Service was on hand Monday for an assessment.

In a press release at noon Monday, Jay County Emergency Management Agency said no injuries had been reported.

State officials had reached out to school personnel to offer

assistance, but Gulley said he feels it is within the capacity of local officials to handle.

He said he has contacted the school corporation's insurance company and expects a representative to be on hand Monday. He has also reached out to architectural firm Barton Coe Vilamaa, which led the renovation project in the area of the building that was damaged, for support from its structural engineering professionals.

Though there are not currently any structural concerns, Gulley said an assessment will be done to ensure safety.

School officials were at the building Sunday evening, with caution tape along the junior high portion of the building facing Indiana 67 and wrapping around the south corner.

Assessing the overall situation, Gulley said he was thankful it was not worse.

"Blessed, blessed that this did not result in any injury to students or staff since the building was primarily unoccupied with the exception of a custodian or two," he said. "If this had happened at another part of the day, we would have a very different tomorrow. I'm just very grateful that there's been no injuries here. But there is significant damage to a portion of that building."

Anyone who needs to report

damage can do so by calling Jay County Emergency Management Agency at (260) 726-6908.

Tornado sirens began going off in Portland shortly before 8 p.m. Sunday. At that point, there was no indication of a thunderstorm or tornado watch or warning from the National Weather Service.

A few minutes later, a text alert went out indicating that a tornado had touched down outside of Portland.

A pair of text alerts sent at 8:05 p.m. notified residents that Tyson Road was closed and indicated "heavy damage with Portland city limits," asking residents to stay inside with the exception of emergencies.

In addition to Jay County, there was also damage in Delaware County with a report of a tornado near Yorktown.

As of 9:30 a.m. Monday, about 100 Indiana Michigan Power customers were without power. The company expected to have service restored by 4 p.m.

Jay County Emergency Management Agency planned to work with the National Weather Service of northern Indiana on a damage assessment Monday.

According to the emergency management agency press release, Tyson Mexican Original was closed for its first shift on Monday. Second-shift employees should have reported to work.

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A lack of finesse

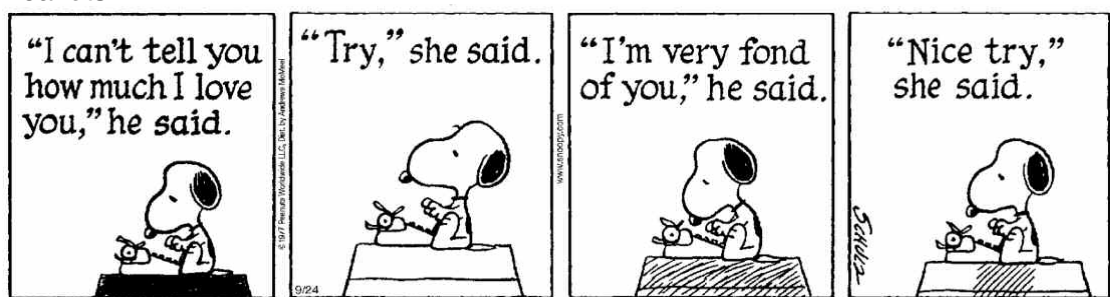
South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: A J 7 6, Q 8 5, A Q, 8 4 2. WEST: 8 5 3, 6 2, J 9 7 6 3, K J 5. EAST: K 10 9 2, 4, K 8 5 4, Q 10 9 7. SOUTH: Q 4, A K J 10 7 3, 10 2, A 6 3.

finish down one. Declarer was unlucky to lose both finesses, but, even so, he could have assured the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt by rejecting the diamond finesse at trick one. Had he instead gone up with the ace, nothing could have stopped him from making at least 10 tricks. He could then have drawn trump and led the queen of spades, planning to finesse. In the actual case, the queen would lose to East's king, but the only other tricks the defenders could score would be a diamond and a club, since dummy's A-J of spades would provide a parking space for one of South's club losers. It is true that when declarer has x-x of a suit facing the A-Q, he ordinarily finesesses. But this generality should take a back seat whenever the finesse would jeopardize the contract while refusing to finesse would guarantee the contract. If South's primary objective in this deal was how to score two diamond tricks, he would of course finesse the queen on the opening lead. But here South's primary objective is to make the contract, and he should not allow himself to be diverted from that goal merely because he is presented with a ready-made opportunity to finesse.

The bidding: South West North East 1 Pass 2 NT\* Pass 3 Pass 4 Pass. \*heart raise, forcing to game. Opening lead - six of diamonds. It is normal to allow past experience to influence your play in situations encountered many times before, but this is a penchant every aspiring player should attempt to curb as soon as possible. Consider this deal where West led a diamond and declarer finesessed dummy's queen, losing to the king. Back came a club, and South could now do nothing to avoid defeat. He ducked the first club and won the club continuation, but later lost a spade finesse and another club to

Tomorrow: The rationale of good defense. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



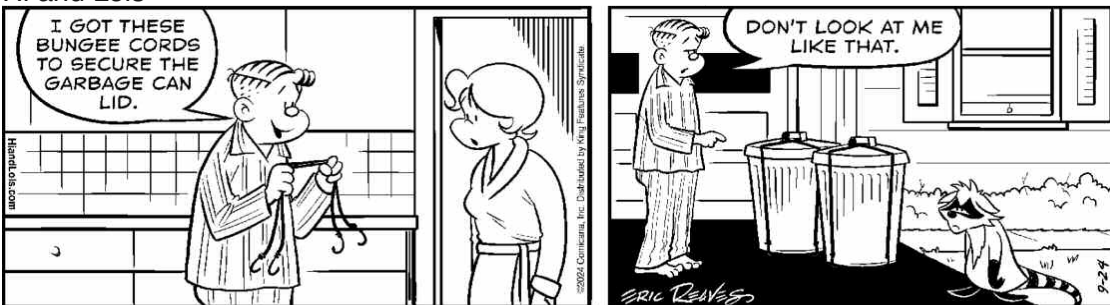
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



9-24

CRYPTOQUIP

LO FWWQF DF ONUTPN ZDFNLUJ VWFLPJWCF NDHW D HWCA JDCCUR ZUITF. ONWA'CW

DBRDAF IBUONWF-QLJVVV. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN FOLKS IMMIGRATE TO STOCKHOLM'S LAND, PEOPLE MIGHT CALL THEM ARTIFICIAL SWEDENERS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Innocent one, 5 Pvt.'s superior, 8 Throat clearer, 12 Corp. bigwig, 13 Knee protector, 14 Modern money, 15 Some hair sprays, 17 Baseball stats, 18 Last (Abbr.), 19 ISP giant, 20 Schnozzes, 21 "Bow-wow!", 22 Owns, 23 Greek sorceress, 26 "Holy cow!", 30 Always, 31 Pallid, 32 Oaxaca water, 33 Time between flights, 35 "Ivanhoe" novelist, 36 Bro or sis dessert, 37 Picnic, 38 Olympic symbol, 41 Bank account, 42 Diner order, 45 California city, 46 Balloon pilot, 48 Oodles, 49 Desk wood, 50 Without purpose, 51 Cleanse, 52 Metric distances (Abbr.), 53 Snitch, 54 Boyfriend, 2 Skater's leap, 3 Ernie's pal, 4 Green prefix, 5 Parody, 6 Chutzpah, 7 QB stats, 8 High-flying industry, 9 Centers, 10 Toledo's lake, 11 Rolling stone's lack, 16 Singer Evans, 20 Dundee denial, 21 "Sweet Emotion" rock band, 22 Chick's mom, 23 Director Brooks, 24 Actress Mendes, 25 Susan of "L.A. Law", 26 Honey holder, 27 Swelled head, 28 Boring routine, 29 Perched, 31 Entanglement, 34 Compete, 35 Missile shelter, 37 Urban oases, 38 Imperfection, 39 Classic Kinks song, 40 Big fusses, 41 Ray of light, 42 Commanded, 43 Temporary calm, 44 Texter's sign-off, 46 Fine, at NASA, 47 Petty peeve

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# Jay girls soccer claim ACAC title

WOODBURN — Kendra Muhlenkamp was a freshman in college the last time the Patriots were Allen County Athletic Conference champs.

In her third year at the helm, the Patriots have reclaimed the title.

The Jay County High School girls soccer team remained undefeated in ACAC play with a 3-1 victory over the Woodlan Warriors on Saturday, clinching the conference title.

The first half nearly finished without a score, but with just 37 seconds left, Raylin Hummer found the net on an assist from London Lloyd to give Jay County (7-4, 5-0 ACAC) the lead.

Less than five minutes into the second half, the Warriors (3-5, 2-2 ACAC) tied the game up, but JCHS soon reclaimed the lead on a corner kick from Aixa Lopez.

Hummer found the net a second time after crashing the goal on a free kick by Morgan DeHoff with 8:32 remaining in the game.

Maleah Parsons sent four Woodlan shots away to control the game from the goal.

## Comeback win

WOODBURN — Jay County's boys soccer team overcame a slow start to

## Jay County roundup

beat the Woodlan Warriors 6-2 on Saturday.

The Warriors (4-6-1, 1-2 ACAC) jumped on Jay County (8-2, 2-1 ACAC) early with a pair of goals.

Dylan Marentes worked to get the game tied by half-time, scoring the initial Patriot goal with 19 minutes left on an assist from Raif Beiwanger and nine minutes later, finding Jaxon DeHoff for a score.

The Patriots owned the second half, starting with a goal from Levi Muhlenkamp.

The fourth and fifth goals were both assisted by Osmar Gonzalez. First, he found Blake Collins with 23 minutes remaining, before giving it up to Marentes two minutes later.

The final score came from Marentes on a corner kick that deflected off of one of the Warriors into the goal.

Goalkeeper Peyton Yowell ended with five saves.

## JC finishes third

YORKTOWN — The Jay

County cross country teams both finished third at the Yorktown Jim Leffer Invite on Saturday.

The girls scored 60 points, while the boys finished with 99. The top spot in the girls race went to Yorktown with 31 points. Lawrence North claimed the boys race with 29 points.

Caleb Garringer paced the boys, finishing sixth, while clocking in at 17 minutes, 12.52 seconds.

Dash Thacker (17:55.33) and Joseph Boggs (18:08.96) weren't far behind, claiming 14th and 17th.

Max Klopfenstein's career best 19:02.89 earned him a 27th-place finish, while Dougie Cox (19:24.88) rounded out the team score.

For the second time this season, Abby Fifer led the girls. A time of 22:10.39 got her across the finish line in eighth place.

Jessie Homan was the next to score, claiming 13th in 22:29.42.

Alexis Sibray, Brooklyn Byrum and Ava May finished back-to-back-to-back to round out the team score. Sibray's season-best time of 22:37.39 netted her 15th, Byrum got 16th in 22:37.46 and May took 17th in 22:46.11.

# LeFevre claims MAC match medalist

CELINA, Ohio — The Indians didn't quite have the regular season they were hoping for.

In the conference tournament, they started to turn things around, and their top golfer left with some hardware.

Reece LeFevre claimed match medalist honors at the Midwest Athletic Conference tournament Saturday held at Mercer County Elks Golf Course to lead the Fort Recovery High School boys golf team to a third-place finish.

The Indians finished with 318, falling two short of Coldwater and 12 short of MAC Champion Minster. FRHS finished the year fifth in the MAC standings.

LeFevre's round of 72 tied Minster's Bryce Prenger, but in a playoff on the 18th hole, the FRHS junior made par to beat Prenger's bogey for the title.

Highlights from LeFevre's round include three birdies and an eagle on the par-4 10th hole.

## FRHS roundup

Keegan Muhlenkamp finished three strokes back with a 75 for the sixth-best score. Caleb Smith followed with an 85. All three golfers received MAC honors, with LeFevre and Muhlenkamp making the first team and Smith being an honorable mention.

Colson Post rounded out the team score with an 86, while Mason Diller's 89 and Eli Lennartz's 94 didn't affect the final.

## Kaup paces

VERSAILLES, Ohio — The Fort Recovery girls cross country team got back on track with a third-place finish at the Tour de Sewer on Saturday, while the boys finished 10th.

The girls finished with 93 points, while Brookville's 53

claimed the top spot. On the boys side, FRHS scored 264 points and host Versailles won the race with 28.

Joelle Kaup paced the Indians with a time of 20 minutes, 47 seconds flat to finish as the runner-up. Ava Rismiller of Versailles crossed the finish line 19.9 seconds before the FRHS senior.

Riley Heitkamp also made the top 10, crossing the line eighth after 21:52.4. Other scores for the Indians came from Anna Roessner (23:03.4 – 20th), Maddie Heitkamp (23:36.1 – 26th) and Kendall Ranley (26:18.4 – 59th).

Reese Diller led the boys as a time of 18:44.9 netted him a 40th-place finish. Evan Evers came in next, crossing after 20:26.3 in 74th.

Russell Hart (21:01.4) and Milo Filey (21:04.2) had back-to-back finishes for 83rd and 84th, respectively.

Rounding out the team score was Evan Diller, claiming 91st in 21:35.5.

# Snow ...

Continued from page 8

JCHS freshman Bailey Towell finished just five strokes behind Snow for a 91. The freshman had a strong front nine with three pars and four bogeys, but ended it on a sour note as a ball in the creek on the ninth hole resulted in a double-par for a total of 45.

She didn't get going right away on the back half either with a double-bogey, but a solid drive, iron shot left short, solid chip and short putt gave secured par for Towell on the 325-yard, par-4 11th hole. The freshman added two more pars and two bogeys for a 46 on the back nine.

"I'd say the whole last week it has been clicking (for Towell)," Allred said. "We moved her stance position, which has improved her driving. Today she went like 8-for-8 with a one-putt with 10 feet out. I mean, she was killing putting today which is a huge win for her."

Erin Aker had a tough time on the front nine, taking 56 strokes, but three pars and three bogeys after the turn cut eight strokes off the score for a total of 104.

While Brooklynn Bright's 2023 performance of 102 was her career best, the sophomore set a season best at

107 strokes with three pars.

"One thing I'm going to take away from today is I'm really going to miss Maddy, but I do get to see what she's going to do at the regional," Allred said. "I feel like today shows them if they start early on, then next season we will pick up from this

score and only be better by next sectional. ...

"I still have the shakes, that's how excited I am right now. This being my first season, getting these girls shooting 89 strokes better than the first one and making sure Maddy got out is a huge accomplishment for the coaching staff."

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys tennis vs. Muncie Central — 5 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Delta — 6 p.m.; Volleyball vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Muncie Southside — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high football vs. South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high volleyball vs. South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high football at Bluffton — 6:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Middle school volleyball at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Fort Recovery — Girls golf sectional at Stillwater Valley Golf Club — 9 a.m.

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Boys tennis vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.; Girls soccer at Yorktown — 6 p.m.; Junior high cross country at Wes-Del — 5 p.m.; Junior high volleyball at Union City — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high football at Richmond — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Volleyball vs. New

Knoxville — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football vs. New Bremen — 5 p.m.; Middle school volleyball at Marion Local — 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Cleveland Guardians (Bally Indiana)  
7:05 p.m. — MLB: Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees (TBS)  
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Atlanta Dream at New York Liberty (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — WNBA: Seattle Storm at Las Vegas Aces (ESPN)  
10:10 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Los Angeles Dodgers (TBS)

**Wednesday**  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Cleveland Guardians (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — College volleyball: Penn State at Purdue (BTN)  
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at Connecticut Sun (ESPN)

9 p.m. — College volleyball: Wisconsin at Minnesota (BTN)  
9:30 p.m. — WNBA: Phoenix Mercury at Minnesota Lynx (ESPN)

## 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.

**Grand opening set**  
The Jay County Clubhouse will host a grand opening from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.  
The new sports facility is located at 822 S. 500 West, Portland. The event will include games, door prizes, raffles, food and refreshments.  
The Clubhouse will be offered discounts on premier memberships as well.

**Final races**  
The second-to-last race in the Adams County 5K Challenge is the Callithumpian Center on Oct. 8.  
A fun run will start at 1:30 p.m., with the 5K to follow at 2 p.m. at the River Greenway.  
Preregistration is \$20 for the 5K and \$10 for the fun run until Sept. 23. Admission will be raised to \$25 and \$15 after Sept. 23. Preregistration can be done at

adamscounty5kchallenge.com.  
The final race of the season, the Rainbow Lake 5K Run/Walk, will take place on Nov. 26.

**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, or search for "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5k" on speedy-feet.com.  
.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY OCTOBER 12TH, 2024**  
TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 715 E MAIN ST  
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GUNS  
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22cal.pump, Parker Brothers 12ga side by side with rabbit ears.  
Large lot of ammo.  
ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-MISC  
Cedar chest, Shoe shine box, Victor combination safe, Old Radios, Coke Cooler, Wooden Keg, Sofa and coffee table.  
WOODWORKING-SHOP-MISC  
Grizzly 10" table saw, Grizzly router, Powermatic 12" planer, roll away tool box, Utility carts and cabinets, V bottom aluminum boat and trailer, Fishing Poles

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

and supplies, Several items not mentioned.  
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**PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday September 28th, 2024**  
TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 1854 W SR 28,  
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Grasshopper 725K with 1453 Hours, JD 345 riding mower with 54" cut. Single axel utility trailer, Bullsens 1050 garden tractor, Craftsman roll around tool box, Chainsaw sharpener  
8 chain link panels, Dewalt and Craftsman battery powered tools.  
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## 90 SALE CALENDAR

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## 110 HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND** will be accepting application for the position of Full Time and Part Time Dispatcher. Applications are available in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at City Hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland IN 47371, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. thru Monday September 30, 2024. No applications will be accepted after 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2024. The City of Portland is and Equal Opportunity Employer.

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## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Notice is hereby given that the Jay County Election Board will conduct a Public test of the Election automatic tabulating equipment in accordance with IC 3-11-14.5 at 10:00 a.m., local time on September 30, 2024. All members of the public are invited to attend the test which will be held in the Election Room at the Jay County Courthouse, Portland, Indiana.  
Jon Eads  
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court  
CR 9-24-2024- HSPAXLP

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## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2024 TERM  
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:  
Dorothy J. Burgess, Deceased No. 38CO1-2409-EU-000024  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION  
Notice is hereby given that Terrence W. Burgess and Ginger M. Shawver were, on the 17th day of September 2024, appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Dorothy J. Burgess who died on September 3, 2024. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 18th day of September, 2024.  
Jon Eads  
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana  
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR  
121 W. High Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
Attorney  
CR 9-24-10-1-2024- HSPAXLP

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Jay girls soccer secured the ACAC title with fifth win, see story page 7

Jay County volleyball hosts South Adams today, see Sports on tap

# Sports

## Snow moves on

Jay County senior shoots 87 to earn regional berth

By ANDREW BALKO

MUNCIE — Maddy Snow has consistently improved her performance at the sectional.

As a freshman in the No. 3 position, she shot a 115 for the fourth Patriot score.

The following year, Snow shaved off six strokes to provide the second score for her team.

As a junior, Snow's 91 matched the final regional-qualifying score from the previous year, but fell three golfers short of moving on.

Finally as a senior, Snow will make the trip to Anderson.

Jay County High School senior Maddy Snow put up the second best score from a golfer not on an advancing team Saturday at the IHSAA Sectional 17 girls golf tournament hosted by Muncie Central at Crestview Golf Course.

"I'm very, very, very excited," Snow said. "I couldn't be more proud of myself and I'm so so thankful for my coaches. I couldn't have done it without them."

The top three golfers that aren't on teams that qualify for the regional tournament (the top three teams move on) get to compete in the regional meet as individuals on Sept. 28 at Edgewood Golf Course. Winchester's Alyssa Cole took the top spot with a 6-over-par 78, while Monroe Central's Charlee Morris just made the cut with an 89.

Snow's career-best 18-hole score of 87 strokes led Jay County to a sixth-place finish out of eight teams with enough golfers to score at the sectional. The Patriots finished with 389 strokes, falling 38 short of third-place Yorktown for the

final regional berth. Wapahani took home the title with a 341, while Delta trailed by six.

While Jay County didn't make the regional cut, all four golfers shot season best 18-hole rounds to shave 59 strokes off of the team's best round.

"Last night we came and practiced here and the girls shot really well," said JCHS coach Carissa Allred. "They knew that coming into today that they could shoot one of their best scores ever. We were all hoping maybe, possibly, we could qualify as a team, but them shooting their 18-hole best is an accomplishment for my girls."

Snow's round didn't start off very hot. After paring the 264-yard, par-4 first hole, the senior took a pair of double-bogeys on holes No. 2 and 3. A par on the fourth started to correct the mistakes, but the fifth hole got her back on her feet.

Snow's drive on the 320-yard, par-3 left her just five yards to the right of the green. Her chip put her within 10 feet of the cup and the ensuing putt fell in for birdie.

"That hole I had a really, really great drive and chipped on," Snow said. "It wasn't close and just a 'gimme' putt, but I putted it in for a birdie. That was what really got me going today. ... It brought my head back where I needed it to be."

Snow finished off the front nine with another birdie on the 236-yard, par-4 eighth, two bogeys and a triple-bogey for a 43. On the back nine, she made four pars three bogeys and only had a rough time on the 14th hole.

See Snow page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Maddy Snow drives on the fifth hole at Crestview Golf Club on Saturday during the sectional match. Snow birdied the hole to catch a spark en route to a round of 87 that qualified her as an individual for the regional meet.

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Special to The Commercial Review/Amy Bihn

The Fort Recovery High School girls golf team poses with the MAC championship award. FRHS won its first girls golf MAC title on Saturday.

## Indians earn first girls golf MAC title by one stroke

By ANDREW BALKO

CELINA, Ohio — The Indians made school history on Sept. 12 by beating St. Henry by just one stroke on Saturday to claim the MAC tournament title at Stillwater Valley Golf Club to claim the outright MAC title.

"It was probably one of the most stressful days I've had coaching, because it was so close," said FRHS coach Jeff Vaughn. "So it was exciting. Once the girls heard their name called at the end it was pretty cool because they were shocked. ... To go undefeated is unbelievable. I know that doesn't happen very often and we feel very blessed to be able to do that. Like I said, hats off to those girls because they came through."

The Indians needed to take the top spot in the tournament to claim the school's first MAC title in girls golf outright.

The title comes a little over one year after former Fort Recovery girls golf coach Joe Bruns' death. During the 2024 season, the Indians uniforms had the letters JB stitched into the collars of their uniforms as they dedicated the season to him. The tournament victory left Vaughn, the long-time assistant to Bruns and friends since childhood, emotional.

"It's always been in the back of our minds throughout the year," Vaughn said. "Last year, we lost him at the beginning of the year, so it was kind of a tough transition. We wanted to win that for him. "He did a heck of a job building the program and always wanted to be MAC champs. For us to go undefeated in the league and finish the way we did was pretty special. It's pretty emotional. I won't lie, I had many tears in my eyes and it was a great way to finish the season and to win it for him."

The Indians were led by junior Olivia Knapke, who shot a career low score of 98 to finish fourth among all golfers. Versailles' Ella Porter earned the Individual MAC tournament title by shooting an 82, 11 strokes better than the runner-up.

as only the seventh gave her trouble en route to a 46. Joining Knapke in the top-10 was Mallory Evers. The junior put up a score of 105 to be a part of a three-way tie for eighth place. Out of the No. 5 position, Georgia Wenning shot a 107 to add the third score, and Emma Will rounded out the final with a 108.

Scores of 126 and 153 from Evvie Briner and Eva Kahlig didn't affect the team's final.

Between the regular season and the conference tournament, Knapke and Evers both made the First Team All-MAC, while Will and Wenning were both on the second team. Vaughn was also recognized as the MAC Coach of the Year.

Fort Recovery will return to Stillwater Valley Golf Course Wednesday for the sectional meet. Vaughn said he's hoping that without the pressure of an undefeated season and a conference title on the line that the girls will be able to play more relaxed.

"I personally feel like we can post a lot better score Wednesday than what we did (Saturday) just because yesterday that's pressure. ... Our mindset was we wanted to win this thing outright and we didn't want to share it, but I feel like we're going to play more relaxed on Wednesday."

Knapke's round consisted of three pars and 11 bogeys. She played particularly well on the front nine,