

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Park \$ set aside



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Portland Park Board agreed Tuesday to encumber \$30,000 in order to purchase new playground equipment for Haynes Park next year. Plans are to remove the old yellow and blue equipment pictured above near the center pavilion and install a new playground near the southeast corner of the park.

Haynes will get new equipment

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Haynes Park will be getting new playground equipment.

Portland Park Board agreed Tuesday to encumber \$30,000 to go toward purchasing new playground equipment for the park in 2025.

Board members asked street and parks superintendent Matt Shauver to get an updated quote for the equipment at their last meeting.

Park officials have discussed in the past replacing

the yellow and blue playground on the north side of Haynes Park near its center pavilion. Signs of wear are evident on the structure, such as the missing bridge that once connected two pieces of the set.

Plans call for a new Smart Play system Motion Playground from Landscape Structures. Aimed at children ages 2 through 5, it features a curved slide, inclined tunnel and various interactive components, including

shape-sorting tables and bongo, bead and alphabet panels. The quote also includes two bucket seat swings and two regular swings.

Although not included in the original quote, plans are also to fence in the playground area.

Measuring at 55 feet by 40 feet, the new equipment won't fit in the space currently occupied by the current playground.

"There's just not enough

space when we get what we need from the slide, say, to the fence," explained Shauver. "It just (doesn't) fit."

He noted there's room for the playground closer to the southeast corner of the park. He pointed out it could be a more beneficial location, with the other playground and parking in close proximity. Shauver mentioned that parents often watch their children play on the playground from their vehicles.

See **Park** page 2

Bowers charged with conduct harmful

Former teacher was arrested on Tuesday evening

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A former teacher has been charged in court for alleged crimes committed during the 2023-24 school year.

Joel R. Bowers, 37, 116 S. Middle St., Portland, is accused of masturbating in front of a class of eighth grade students on April 9. Bowers was arrested Tuesday and charged in Jay Superior Court with performance before a minor that is harmful to minors and dissemination of matter harmful to minors, both Level 6 felonies. He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Bowers was placed on administrative leave from Jay County Junior-Senior High School on April 11 following allegations of misconduct. The former social studies teacher later resigned from his position.

He was also chair of the Democratic Party in Jay County at the time of the incident and resigned his post shortly after. (In June, Jay County Democrats elected former two-term Portland mayor Randy Geesaman as their new chair.)

According to a report filed in connection with the case, a 14-year-old girl told school resource officer Cody Jessee on April 10 that Bowers masturbated in her sixth period class at the junior-senior high the previous day.

She told Jessee about the alleged incident and gave a written statement.

See **Charged** page 2

JCDC approves contract

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation has approved its contract with The City of Portland.

The board of works will consider the deal today.

JCDC's board of directors unanimously approved its contract with the city during its meeting Tuesday.

The board also agreed to move forward with an application for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' new Rural Empowerment and Development Program.

JCDC executive director Travis Richards visited Portland City Council last month to discuss funding from the city, which has been \$50,000 for the last few years. Following a question from council member Ron May, city attorney Wes Schemenaur said his reading of state statute is that a contract is required and he recommended that one be in place before any funds are dispersed. Council members unani-

City's board of works will consider agreement today

mously approved council president Kent McClung's motion to approve the funding contingent on a contract at the status quo, meaning no requests for changes to board membership or new definitions of duties that have been requested by Jay County Commissioners in their separate contract negotiations.

Since then, Richards shared a previous version of the contract to the city, with Schemenaur making minor language updates. The board reviewed the contract Tuesday and approved it unanimously.

Also Tuesday, Richards advocated for taking part in the Rural Empowerment and

Development Program, a planning process to build capacity in rural communities.

Board president Angela Paxson and Richards both said they feel JCDC should apply in partnership with local government units to show the community can work together.

"I think that's a huge thing," agreed board member Bryan Alexander. "I feel like there's an opportunity, now, for JCDC to have a leadership role in the community show what we, this board and this organization is about."

He expressed that JCDC's mission should be addressing quality of life issues.

See **Contract** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Atta Kenare

In protest

Iranians burn an Israeli flag during a rally in Tehran on Tuesday, a day after Iran fired a barrage of missiles at Israel. Israel vowed to make Iran "pay" for firing a barrage of missiles at its territory, with Tehran warning on Oct. 2 that it would launch an even bigger attack if it is targeted.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 77 degrees Tuesday. The low was 54.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 40s. Expect sunny skies

Friday with a high in the mid 70s. Highs will be in the 70s through the weekend as well.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Jay County Commissioners meetings will be held at 5 p.m. in the Jay County Courthouse auditorium this month to accommodate early voting during the day. Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 24 and 28.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of the JCHS boys tennis sectional opener.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS football game against South Adams.

Tuesday — Photos from weekend activities including the Heritage Festival.



Charged ...

Continued from page 1
According to the report, she texted her mother about the situation and sent her pictures and videos of the situation. She alleged Bowers stayed at his class the entire period and would not get out of his seat. "There was white stuff on his pants and he would not get up for anything," she said, according to the report. "He had his hand down there and was sweating but it was cold in his room. His hands was down there but when someone went up there he would wipe his hand off with paper towel ..."

The report says photos taken of Bowers during the class period show his shirt partially untucked, with a white stain in the crotch area as well as at the

bottom of his pants. Video footage shows him at his desk, looking down, with one hand under the desk as if he were on his cellphone, according to the report.

Other students also witnessed the alleged incident and reported similar views, mentioning his hand movements beneath his desk and stains on his pants and noticing he was sweating profusely.

Students alleged he was acting out of character, saying Bowers normally would go to the board or walk around class and begin teaching but on April 9 stayed in his seat. If students had questions, they told police, Bowers would ask them to come to his desk. One 14-year-old girl told police Bowers

overheard students talking in class about what he was doing, and he told them he was using his phone for other reasons. Students also alleged he looked at students' buttocks as they stood or walked away from his desk.

During an interview with police April 17, Bowers showed the pants he wore the day of the alleged incident. Bowers told police the white stain on his pants — police noted it was located in the same spot as the students indicated — was paint, and he denied touching himself during class. He was served a search warrant for his phone and cooperated with police, the report says.

Police discovered a Snapchat conversation Bowers had with a

person indicating they were 15 years old. According to the report, Bowers sent pictures of his erect penis to the recipient. The report indicates there were other conversations in which he sent nude pictures of himself to females as well.

Bowers told police the conversation had nothing to do with the April 9 incident. He told police he believed she was an adult because they met on a chat platform called Free Chat Now, which requires that individuals must be 18 years old or older to use it. Bowers noted its age restriction is loosely enforced because users only need to provide a name and date of birth. Bowers said they couldn't exchange photos on the platform and switched to

Snapchat to engage in what he allegedly called "age play."

Bowers admitted to police he should have stopped the conversation when the person said they were 15, according to the report. It says he told them he was not sure of her actual age but had "got caught up in the moment."

When asked if he looked at underage porn sites, Bowers advised he Googled "youngest or younger porn." He also admitted to sending nude photos of himself to other women in the past.

According to mycase.IN.gov, Bowers has no criminal history beyond a traffic infraction.

In Indiana, sentences for Level 6 felonies range between six months to two and a half years, with an advisory sentence of one year.

CR almanac

Friday 10/4	Saturday 10/5	Sunday 10/6	Monday 10/7	Tuesday 10/8
76/48	76/55	79/46	66/41	67/41
Friday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high in the mid to upper 70s.	Another day of sunny skies is expected Saturday with the low around 55 degrees.	There's a slight chance of rain on Sunday under sunny skies.	Monday's forecast shows sunny skies with the low at night dipping into the 40s.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Tuesday, when the low may hit 41 at night.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$275 million	Evening Daily Three: 5-5-4 Daily Four: 7-9-8-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-5-17-18-21-23-24-25-28-30-33-45-50-51-53-56-58-72-80
Mega Millions 27-35-47-50-66 Mega Ball: 25 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$108 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 3-2-6 Pick 4: 9-2-1-4 Pick 5: 8-1-8-5-0 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-5 Pick 4: 5-0-3-1 Pick 5: 9-6-4-3-1 Rolling Cash: 1-2-7-18-39 Estimated jackpot: \$238,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 2-7-9 Daily Four: 8-9-2-8 Quick Draw: 1-4-5-6-11-12-17-18-29-34-35-39-40-41-46-48-54-56-59-76	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.82 Dec. corn.....4.12 Wheat5.10	Nov. beans10.46 Wheat 5.60
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.82 Dec. corn4.12 Jan. corn4.34	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.83 Nov. corn3.83 Beans10.02 Nov. beans10.02 Wheat5.70
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.82 Nov. corn3.84 Beans9.98	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.67 Oct. corn3.77 Beans9.82 Jan. beans9.97 Wheat5.30

Today in history

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again."

In 1951, the New York Giants won the National League pennant by a score of 5-4 as Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers in the "shot heard 'round the world."

In 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," also starring Mary Moore, made its debut on CBS.

In 1970, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established under the Department of Commerce.

In 1974, Frank Robinson was named major league baseball's first Black manager as was he hired by the Cleveland Indians. Robinson also played for the team.

In 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.

In 2022, Jay County Council agreed to incorporate raises ranging from 6% to 31% into the county's 2023 budget.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort	Wednesday 7 a.m. — Jay County Board of Health, health department, 504 W. Arch St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Contract ...

Continued from page 1
Board members asked if participating in the program would lead to future grant funding. Richards said there is nothing currently identified.

"One thing for sure, it may or may not lead to money," said board member Chad Towell, "but it for sure won't if you don't participate."

"You need a strategy, whether there's money that comes (or not)," said board member Barb Street. "When an opportunity is there, if you don't have a strategy ... it's obvious when somebody just tries to throw something together."

The board informally agreed to move forward with the application process.

Board members also briefly discussed the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI 2.0), with Jay County Commissioner Rex Journay asking about timelines and the process for project selection. Richards explained that the East Central Region's steering committee has met and presented projects to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for its review. He said he expects the list of projects to be finalized by the end of the month and that the regional steering committee will have significant input with the projects that are selected. The region, which includes Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Wayne and Fayette counties, was awarded \$35 million through READI 2.0.

Park ...

Continued from page 1
He again pointed to the state of the playground near the center pavilion.

"It needs to be done, the playground equipment there is sad," he said.

The process would involve Portland Street Department employees removing the existing equipment and filling the area in with top soil and grass seed. As for the new location, PlayPros of Kokomo will be doing work, including pouring concrete for foundations, assembling the equipment and conducting a final inspection. Street department employees will finish out the project by spreading pea gravel around the area.

The equipment is priced at \$29,030. Shauver noted there's also a \$10,160.50 cost for PlayPros to install the equipment.

Park board president Brian Ison explained the department has \$30,000 in its park street materials account, which hasn't been utilized in several years. Shauver noted parks department used to receive \$40,000 in the account years ago and said he requested bumping the allocation back to

\$40,000 in next year's budget. He shared concerns about using the fund for the playground, pointing to needs in the near future to do paving work throughout the parks.

Ison suggested the board encumber the \$30,000 for purchasing the playground equipment next year. The remaining dollars would come out of the capital fund.

"We really don't have that smaller play equipment for that age, 2 to 5, and this is one of those pieces that we feel that we can add to our park," said Ison.

Park board members Jennifer Weitzel, Michael Brewster, John McFarland and Ison, absent Shauna Runkle, agreed to encumber the funds.

Also Tuesday, park board agreed to cancel its next meeting, which had been scheduled for Nov. 5. Park board will meet next Dec. 3. (The meeting would have fallen on Election Day.)

Board members also OK'd meeting on the second Tuesday of September in 2025 to avoid a scheduling conflict with Portland City Council's meeting that day.

JCDC will apply to be a part of new state program

The board also looked at its 2025 budget, which is expected to be up for approval in February. Richards noted that at current funding levels the organization would have a budget deficit next year. He asked board members to consider ways to increase funding.

Richards added that he feels the organization should go back to three employees by bringing back the Jay County Community Development position that was eliminated when Jay County Commissioners decided to hire their own community coordinator.

The board also received various updates from members:

- The Indiana Department of Transportation U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) project that was slated to be complete next week is now expected to stretch into November, said Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake.
- A thank you from Jay School Corporation assistant superintendent Trent Paxon regarding the community's support following damage to Jay County Junior-Senior High School in the Sept. 22 tornado.

- Events scheduled this weekend include:
 - The Portland Lions Club and Portland Optimist Club Hot Cakes for Cold Kids breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Lions Civic Center, 307 E. 100 North, Portland. (Attendees are asked to bring a new or gently used coat for a free breakfast or purchase a meal for \$10, with the proceeds going toward the effort to purchase coats. Kids under 14 will eat for free.)
 - The Main Street USA craft show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at West Jay Elementary School in Dunkirk.
 - Jay County Historical Society's Heritage Festival that was postponed last weekend will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Jay County Historical Museum, 903 E. Main St., Portland
 - A ribbon-cutting and open house for Jay County Baseball Club's The Clubhouse, an indoor training facility at 822 S. 500 West, Portland, from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday.
 - The Launch Jay! business pitch competition at 6 p.m. Saturday in the auditorium at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

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SERVICES

Sunday

Horsman, John: 2 p.m., Shrine of Remembrance America the Beautiful Chapel, 1730 E. Fountain Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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60th anniversary



Patty and John Bye - 1964

John and Patty Bye

Patty and John Bye are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary today.

Patty Ann Kelly and John C. Bye Jr. of rural Portland wed Oct. 3, 1964, at Westchester EUB Church.

They are the parents of Cheryl Ann Bye (husband: Keith Walley) of Bangersville and David A. Bye of Portland.

Patty Bye is a retired artist. John Bye retired in 2009 after working 49 years across the following companies: Marsh of Portland, GE Motors of Decatur, GE Aircraft Controls of Fort Wayne, Lockheed Martin of Fort Wayne and BAE Systems of Fort Wayne.

The family plans to celebrate the day together.



John and Patty Bye - 2024

Rowdy kids unwelcome at relative's wedding

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended a funeral for a family member. During the 90-minute service, my great-nieces and nephews (ages 3 to 6) were running around the church. Their parents said nothing and allowed them to continue.

Following the service, we were all invited to a sit-down meal in the banquet room of an upscale restaurant. Again, the children (ages 3 to 13) were allowed to run around, screaming and body-slaming each other on the dance floor in the center of the room. The noise became deafening with no regard to the older attendees. Again, the parents

seemed oblivious to the noise and did nothing to stop them.

My son is being married in two months. Several of the children who attended the funeral will be in attendance at the wedding. How can I address the fact that I don't want the same performance



Dear Abby

from these kids at the wedding and reception? My husband and I are putting out a large sum of money for this event, and I don't want to leave early because of the deafening noise and embarrassment. — DREADING IT IN COLORADO

DEAR DREADING IT: I don't blame you for not wanting anyone, regardless of age, to detract from your son's wedding. Now that you are aware of the young relatives' behavior and lack of discipline, you will have to deal with it directly. Inform the parents that this behavior

will not be tolerated or welcome. When you receive pushback (and you will), all you have to do is point to what happened.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I am a stepmother to a beautiful woman I love very much. She has given us three beautiful granddaughters and a handsome grandson. Sadly, my husband has a rare and aggressive form of cancer, and it looks terminal. My question is, after his passing, do I continue to be a stepmother?

I know it's most likely up to her, but I'm curious about the proper

protocol. This will help me determine how I introduce her to others. Will she always be my stepdaughter, or does she become my late husband's daughter? — UNKNOWN IN NEW YORK

DEAR UNKNOWN: When it comes to love, the rules are not important. This conversation is premature. After your husband's funeral, ask his daughter what she would like you to call her in the future, and assure her that you love her as though she is your natural child, and would not want to use any label that would make her feel less than that.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents,

friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

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.

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS

LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Oct. 4, at Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

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

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

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - 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

JAY COUNTY HOSPITAL RETIREES — Will host a carry-in lunch for hospital retirees and former employees from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 7 in the community room at Jay County Public Library. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite dish to share and beverages. Contact Sharon Taylor at (765) 578-0357 with questions. No reservations needed.

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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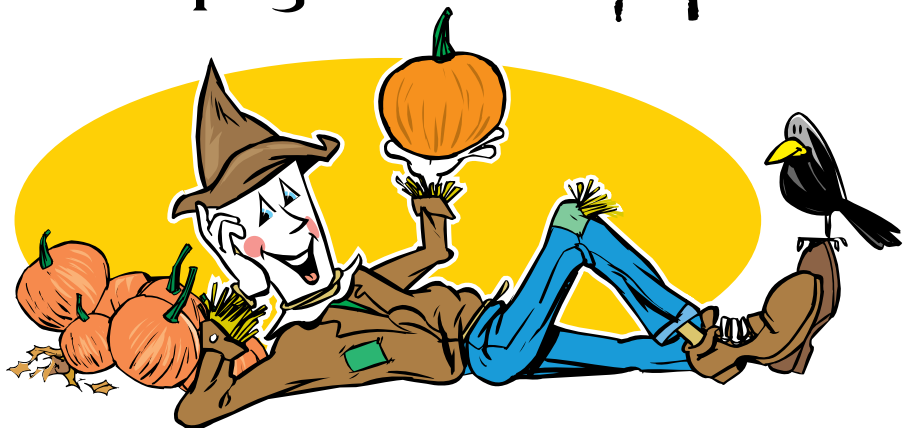
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Formulas determine adjustment

By MORTON J. MARCUS

You'll soon hear about the cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the monthly retirement benefit paid by Social Security. That benefit won't show up until January in 2025, but there will be enough time to grouse about it.

Pappy Pickel is reading his newspaper aloud to his niece: "According to the information to be had at this writing, the Social Security COLA for 2025 will be close to 2.6%. That's down from the 3.2% for this year, and way down from the 5.9% and 8.7% of 2022 and 2023, respectively."

"That just follows the inflationary decline," Paula responds.

"Right!" pronounces Pappy, the paterfamilias of a Portland, Indiana, patriarchy.

"Egg prices and gas prices are

Eye on the Pie



still up from what they used to be," Paula pouts.

Pappy, folds his newspaper and says, "Stock prices are up so much, a decent person can't afford to buy them."

"How do they get that 2.6%?" Paula asks.

"It's all here in the newspaper," Pappy replies and reads: "The Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS] uses CPI-W for the third quarter of the current year (July, August and September) com-

pared to the same quarter a year earlier, as the factor by which Social Security benefits are adjusted for inflation in the coming year."

"Two questions," Paula says. "What's this CPI-W and why the third quarter?"

"That's a bit of history," Pappy says. "In 1913, BLS started the Consumer Price Index (CPI) covering price changes for household expenditures by urban wage earners and clerical workers. But that slowly became just 28% of the U.S. population."

"Of course," Paula pops up. "Jobs changed, life-styles changed, and what worked well before World War I didn't hold any more."

"Right," Pappy says. "By 1961, a report recommended broadening the CPI population, to

include 'professionals, the self-employed, the poor; the unemployed and retired people.'"

"But, that wasn't sufficient," Paula says.

"Right again," Pappy beamed. "It took another 11 years before Congress passed legislation linking cost-of-living adjustments to increases in the CPI. Up to that point, any COLA required a separate act of Congress. This new approach removed some of the politics from that adjustment."

"So," Paula takes charge, "CPI-U now applied to 88% of Americans. That was a real step forward."

"Ah, you're forgetting a basic truth," Pappy says sagely. "If CPI-U replaces CPI-W, it's an upheaval for unions and others who have built compensation, rental programs and other contracts

around the older, more narrow standard."

"What happened?" Paula asks innocently.

"Typical government," Pappy answers. "CPI-U becomes the standard, but CPI-W continues to be produced by changing the weights of different categories of spending by the two different populations."

"Is there much of a difference between CPI-U and -W?" Paula asks.

"No," Pappy says, "and the third quarter is not very different from other calendar quarters."

"That's what Gen. MacArthur said," Paula confirms. "Old data don't die, they just fade away."

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

Schools facing financial pressure

By DAVID MARCOTTE

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The 37-member Indiana Urban Schools Association, representing approximately one-third of all students in traditional public schools, plays a crucial role in preparing the next generation of Hoosier leaders for employment, enlistment, or higher education.

However, like other local entities, school districts across Indiana are facing growing financial pressures, particularly from escalating non-discretionary costs, while trying to balance property tax constraints and meet community expectations.

Property tax reforms implemented in the early 2010's, combined with the lingering effects of the 2008 recession, led to a significant reduction in property tax revenue per student from 2010 to 2012. While revenues have rebounded, growing 7.6% annually from 2021 to 2023, the overall growth rate from 2010 to 2023 remains at just 2% per year.

This limited recovery has not been enough to fully address the financial restraints many school districts still face when meeting local expectations and providing mandated services like serving special education students.

From 2010 and 2023, inflation consistently outpaced the revenue growth in Indiana's schools Operations Fund. While inflation averaged 2.9% annually, Operations Fund revenue grew by 1.5%, eroding purchasing power and making it harder for districts to manage fixed costs and other non-discretionary costs. Non-discretionary costs are services and expenses school districts are obligated to provide and paid for out of the Operations Fund which is funded by local property taxes.

Transportation, utilities, and property/casualty insurance, three non-discretionary costs, account for over 75% of the Operations Fund's total revenue in many school districts.

In those districts most impacted by property tax caps, these three non-discretionary costs exceed the total revenue generat-

David Marcotte



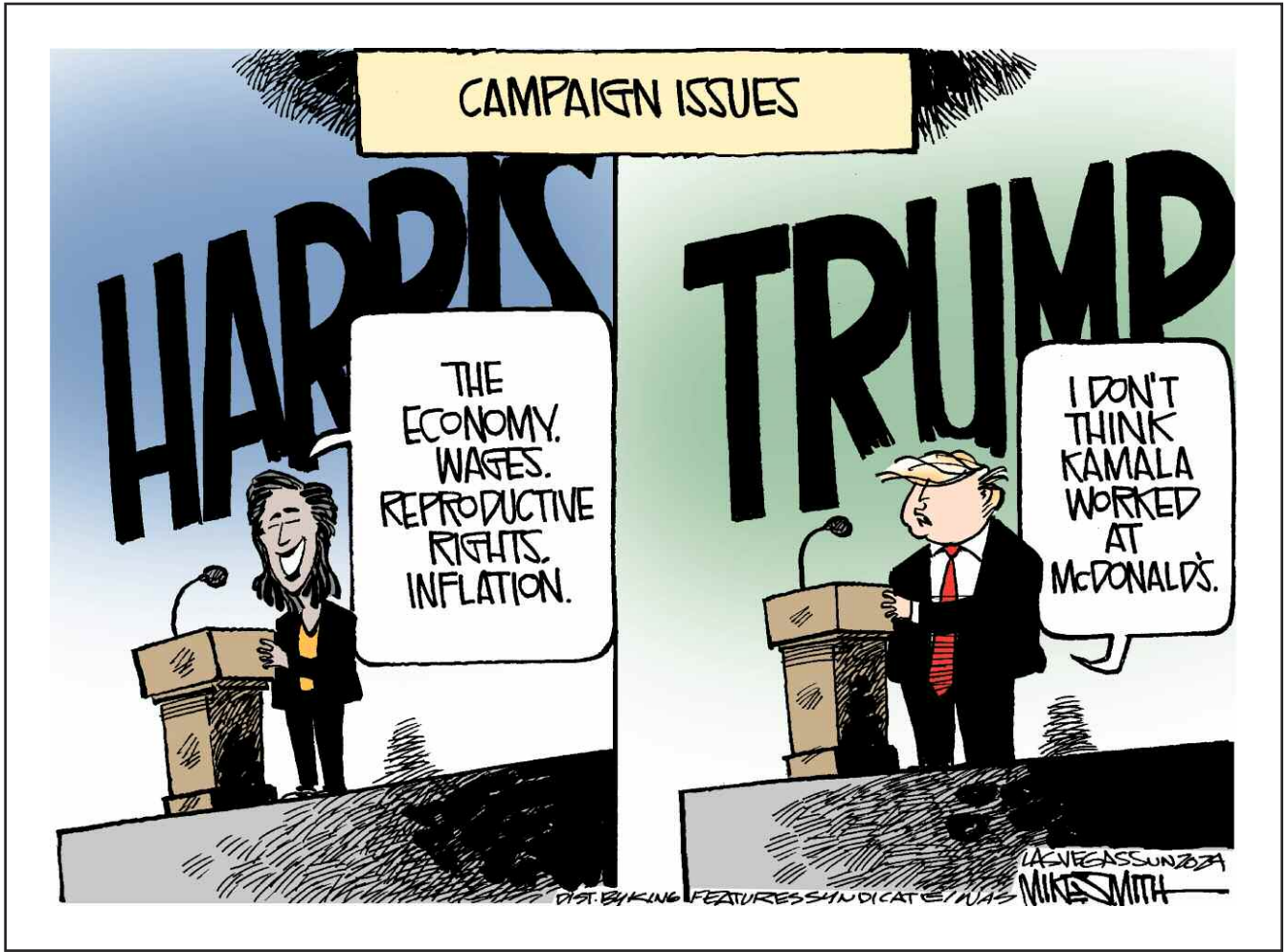
ed from property taxes. This forces districts to rely either on referendums, borrowing the money (debt), or transferring dollars from the state-provided Education Fund, which is intended to pay for teacher salaries and benefits. As a result, schools have little room left in their budgets for other critical needs such as student support services, building maintenance, technology upgrades and preparing to meet the demands of a new diploma structure.

Compounding these challenges are the increasing costs associated with the Debt Service Fund, also funded by local property taxes. Inflation in construction and capital outlay costs has driven school construction expenses up by 5.5% annually, yet debt service revenue has only grown by 2.6% per year since 2010. This gap places additional strain on school district budgets as they struggle to manage both existing facilities and future capital projects.

As lawmakers prepare to consider property tax reform, Indiana's schools around the state are navigating an increasingly difficult financial landscape while meeting the demands of their local community.

The rapid rise in non-discretionary costs restricts schools' ability to invest in critical areas such as technology, infrastructure, and student services at a time when new diploma requirements are being rolled out.

As essential costs continue to rise, Indiana's school corporations are forced to dedicate a growing portion of their budgets to cover these unavoidable expenses. With little flexibility for discretionary spending, there is an urgent need for financial strategies that address these structural challenges so schools can continue to prepare students to serve their communities and shape Indiana's future.



Corporations must expect attacks

Chicago Tribune

Tribune News Service

There's never a good time to lay off U.S. factory workers while adding jobs in Mexico or other foreign countries. But Moline, Illinois-based Deere, the top farm equipment maker in the U.S., is discovering that doing so during a presidential election is a particularly lousy idea.

Former President Donald Trump, speaking in Pennsylvania early last week, said that if elected he would slap Deere with 200% tariffs on goods made in Mexico and sold into the U.S. if they moved domestic manufacturing jobs south of the border.

Trump was reacting to news reports of steady layoffs over the past year in Deere's plants, including hundreds of job losses in Illinois, combined with the expansion of Mexican production of some Deere products.

The company, whose agricultural customer base tends to lean conservative in their political views, suddenly found itself the center of a political firestorm. It responded two days later by denying the narrative on which Trump had seized.

"We are not 'moving production' to Mexico as continues to be reported, instead, we've strategically leveraged our footprint in Mexico for cab production (that transition was announced in 2022 and is being completed this year) and now mid-size skid steers and CTLs — by 2026," a spokeswoman said. The company added that it's had a presence in Mexico since 1952 and that 75% of the equipment sold in the U.S. is made in the U.S. as well.

Pierce through the corporate-speak and it sounds like Deere is moving some existing production in the U.S. to Mexico. And that is indeed what the company has been doing over the last several years. The additional 600 layoffs, as announced at plants in East Moline, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa, which touched off

Guest Editorial

the political fireworks, were a response to substantial recent declines in the sales of the machinery made at those plants. But those 600 represent just a portion of deeper Deere job cuts over the past 12 months. Scores more have been a consequence of the production shifts to Mexico.

The criticism isn't coming only from the GOP Democratic Rep. Eric Sorensen, who represents the district including Deere's Moline headquarters, accused Deere of being less than upfront about what it's doing. "I don't believe we're at the end of Deere and Company's layoff period," he told NAFB News Service. "We need to know where the future of Deere and Company is going and we need to know that the future of agriculture in our country has an American-made John Deere being a part of that."

Trump's threat of tariffs is particularly rich because as president he negotiated the 2018 trade deal with Mexico and Canada under which Deere is shifting some production to Mexico. That pact attempted to address organized labor concerns regarding the old North American Free Trade Agreement by imposing minimum wage requirements for U.S. manufacturers who build things in Mexico and sell back into the U.S., as well as other labor standards.

There's no allegation that Deere is doing anything in violation of Trump's trade deal.

Trump's off-the-cuff threat was disturbingly like many of the other pledges the Republican nominee has

made to win votes. He's promised to end taxes on tips, on overtime pay and on Social Security benefits, among other budget-busting ideas, including yet another reduction in corporate income taxes — promises that likely would balloon an already-unustainable deficit.

Deere isn't the only farm equipment maker moving some work to Mexico, and it's coping with a significant agricultural downturn that is dampening demand for its products. It's entitled, like any company in a free market, to adjust its production in response to lower sales volumes and reduce costs.

But that doesn't mean Deere or any other major U.S. manufacturer should be immune from criticism or scrutiny when it makes decisions that harm the many communities in the Midwest and elsewhere which depend heavily on the company for employment. In moving U.S. jobs to Mexico, Deere must anticipate the potential negative effects of, say, Trump broadsides in an era in which businesses cannot divorce themselves from emotional political debates over jobs, immigration and trade, no matter how much corporate jargon they sling around.

In essence, there's a cost-benefit analysis companies like Deere must perform that goes beyond number-crunching. Deere must remain cost competitive, yes, but it also must account for the potentially negative effect on sales when politicians put the company in an unwelcome spotlight.

Many farmers think highly of Trump; his words carry weight with them. Deere's competitors just got an unexpected gift from the ex-president, even if many of them are taking similar measures to Deere.

That's not fair. But it is reality. Running a Fortune 100 company these days is a lot more complex than it used to be.

The Commercial Review



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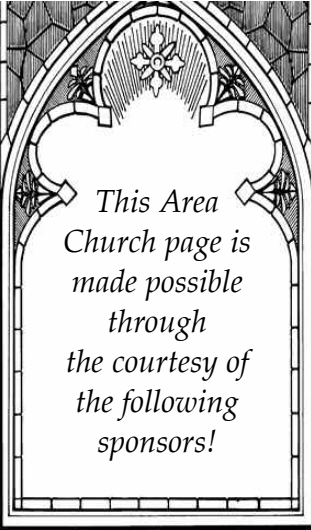
We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Banner Christian Assembly of God
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Michael Burk
(260) 726-4282
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bethel United Methodist
Indiana 167, 4 miles north of Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org

Christ Chapel
105 S. Elm St., Fort Recovery
Quentin Elsea
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of Christ (Southside)
1209 S. Shank St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
Gary Newton
(765) 669-1070
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. David Porath
(419) 678-2071
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor United Methodist
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 755-6354
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Chuck Hollandbeck
(765) 369-2676
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
County roads 400 North and 550 West
Rev. Mike Heckman
(260) 731-4733
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. (the 2nd and 4th Sunday at Pennville Park from June through September)

Sugar Grove United Methodist
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

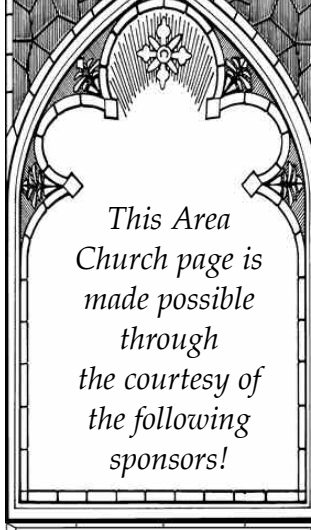
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.



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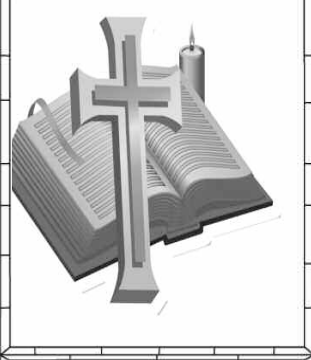


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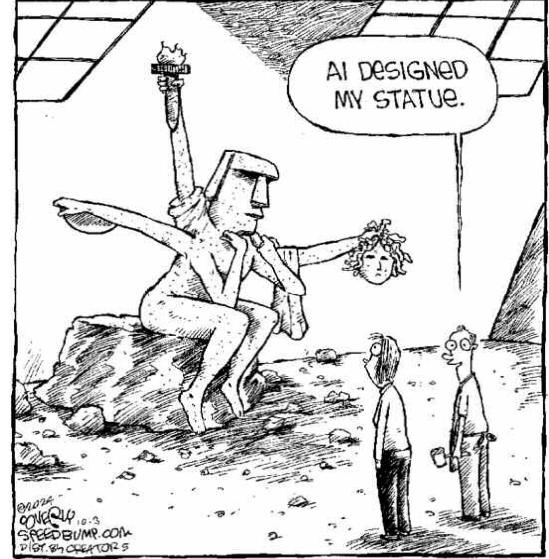
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

An optical illusion

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ K 6 4 2, ♥ A K Q, ♦ A Q, ♣ A 7 5 3. WEST: ♠ Q 10 7 5, ♥ 6 4 2, ♦ J 9 4, ♣ K 10 2. EAST: ♠ J 9, ♥ 7 5, ♦ K 10 8 6 3, ♣ Q J 8 6. SOUTH: ♠ A 8 3, ♥ J 10 9 8 3, ♦ 7 5 2, ♣ 9 4.

which case dummy's fourth spade would become a trick. But West won the spade with the ten and led still another trump. As a result, South eventually finished down one, losing a spade, two diamonds and a club.

The bidding: North 2♣, East Pass, South 2♦, West Pass. Opening lead — four of hearts. Assume you're in four hearts and West leads a trump. How would you play the hand?

Ironically, there is little doubt that South would have made the contract had dummy held the A-x of diamonds instead of the A-Q. In that case, he would certainly have played the A-x right away in order to pave the way for a diamond ruff later on.

Tomorrow: Test your play. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



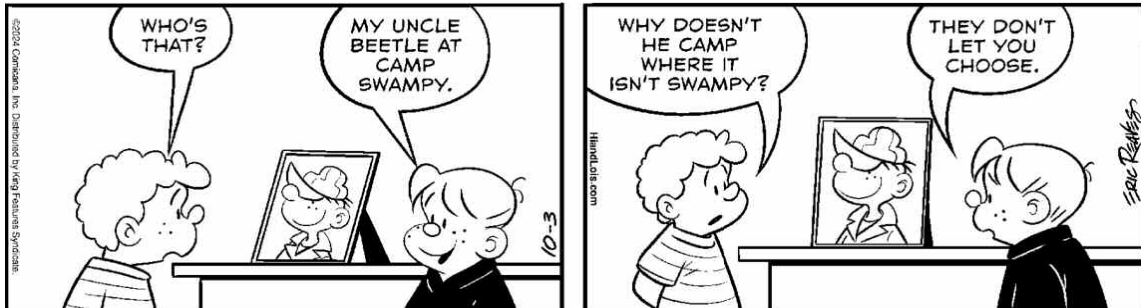
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



10-3 CRYPTOQUIP

IKCO UTM'DC ALXXQCF LXTMOF
ETHC KCLDU VKQONE HMAK
VTT JTJN, IKLV KLDC UTM

FTOC? TDCXEAKJCRRCF.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING YOU HEAR A RUMOR ABOUT BUTTER OR MARGARINE, DO YOU THINK IT'S O.K. TO SPREAD IT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals V

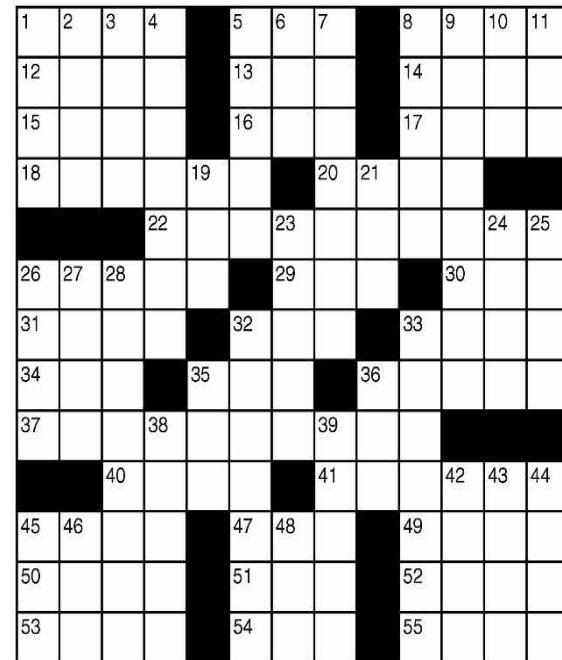
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Sandwich type, 5 Army address, 8 Young cow, 12 Waikiki's island, 13 Here (Fr.), 14 During, 15 French perfume brand, 16 Gist, 17 Driver with a handle, 18 Blueprint, e.g., 20 Words to a backstabber, 22 Setting of a 1979 horror flick, 26 Photo book, 29 Actor Stephen, 30 Motorist's org., 31 Prejudice, 32 —, Moines, 33 Norms (Abbr.).

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-3



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Review preview

Friday – 7 p.m.

Jay County Patriots

Portland, 2-4 (1-3)

Coach: Grant Zgunda, fourth year (27th overall)

Conference: Allen County

Last week vs. Woodlan: The Patriots got shut out by Woodlan amidst poor weather in a 21-0 week six loss. Jay County lost the battle at the line of scrimmage, resulting in only one rushing yard and Sean Bailey getting sacked six times for 52 yards. They also gave up 82 yards and two TDs to Drew Fleek.

Season leaders: Passing — Sean Bailey — 43-of-87 for 620 yards and six TDs. Rushing — A.J. Myers — 53 carries for 221 yards and three TDs. Receiving — Benson Ward — eight receptions for 183 yards and one TD. Defense — Lucas Strait — two blocked punts and one sack.

at

South Adams Starfires

Berne, 2-4 (0-3)

Coach: Grant Moser, 10th year

Conference: Allen County

Last week vs. Adams Central: The Starfires held up in the first half against their county rivals Adams Central before the floodgates opened in the latter half of a 27-7 loss. South Adams didn't allow a single reception, but gave up 306 yards on the ground.

Season leaders: Passing — Tytus Lehman — 77-of-135 for 1,022 yards and 12 TDs. Rushing — Dylan Ramirez — 51 carries for 318 yards and two TDs. Receiving — Derek McKean — 34 receptions for 455 yards and two TDs. Defense — Kaleb Minger — 55 tackles, nine tackles for loss and

Last season: Diesel Zeigler made a key defensive stop to prevent Sean Bailey from scoring with 10.2 seconds left, allowing Owen Wanner to kneel out a 23-20 victory. The Starfires took the lead with 6 minutes left with a 4-yard Wanner rush. A.J. Myers led the offense with 107 yards on 32 carries with one touchdown. The second quarter was the most offensively fruitful for Jay County, as the Patriots found the end zone twice.

Game notes: The Patriots need to win this week to have a shot at going .500 in the ACAC for the first time since 2018. ... Jay County has a 40.06 Sagarin rating, which is 218th overall and 46nd in Class 3A. South Adams' 50.24 rating is 164th overall and 12th in Class 1A ... John Harrell predicts Jay County to lose 28-24, while Calpreps.com also has the Starfires as 4-point favorites.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Morgan DeHoff of JCHS breaks Destany Matura's ankles during the Patriots' 5-2 win over Blackford on Tuesday. DeHoff dished out two assists, pushing her to seven on the season, which is also most on the team.

Rebound ...

Continued from page 8
The Patriots reached their final tally with a goal from Brilyn Wilmore at 19:59.

"This game was definitely the definition of we have so many girls that can contribute to our success," Muhlenkamp said. "We won 5-2 and that was from everyone. I can't say

that it was (because of) this person. I can't predict who's going to score for my games at this point. People step up at the right moments and I think that's why we've become a great team."

JCHS has had 10 different players, all but one of them has made two or more goals.

The final Blackford score came on a direct free kick by Mays. The kick came as the result of offensive pressure by Mays and Da'khia Elkins, causing JCHS goalkeeper Meleah Parsons to pick up the ball outside of the box.

Mays and Gulley were highlights for the Bruins in the match. Mays with

her two goals, and Gulley, who made 17 saves.

Jay County will close out its regular season today against Muncie Central before they prepare to take on the winner of Delta and New Castle in the IHSAA Class 2A Sectional 24 semifinal hosted by Mississinewa on Oct. 10.

Gonzaga ...

Continued from page 8
It's unclear as to the deal Gonzaga struck with the Pac-12 in terms of revenue share. In leaving the WCC, the Bulldogs give up some \$8 million in NCAA men's basketball credits, according to a source. According to The Athletic, the Pac-12 has a performance-based revenue share. Schools keep 50% of the money earned through CFP and NCAA basketball appearances, with the other conference schools splitting the rest.

Adding Gonzaga gives the Pac-12 significant heft as a men's basketball conference. The Bulldogs haven't missed an NCAA Tournament since 1999, and have reached the Sweet 16 the past nine years, tying an NCAA record. Gonzaga has sold out 319 consecutive home games, dating back to the 2001-02 season. Gonzaga joins a conference that already has NCAA Tournament regulars like San Diego State and Colorado State. Boise State, Oregon State, Utah State and

Washington State have made recent NCAA appearances.

Gonzaga also has a strong women's basketball program, as the Bulldogs have played in 15 NCAA Tournaments, including the past seven.

The Pac-12 might not be finished adding schools without football programs. The conference has had discussions with Saint Mary's and Grand Canyon, which is slated to join the WCC next year.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys soccer at Liberty Christian — 5:30 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Volleyball at Heritage — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Volleyball (including freshmen) at Versailles — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. St. John's — 5:30 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Football vs. South Adams — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football at Marion Local — 7 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Cross Country at Winchester Invitational — 9 a.m.; Volleyball in Patriot Invitational — 9:30 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Cross Country at Lions Meet at Coldwater — 9 a.m.; Volleyball at Fort Loramie — 10 a.m.; JV football vs. Marion Local — 10 a.m.; Middle school cross country at Lions meet at Coldwater — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
2:32 p.m. — MLB playoffs: Detroit Tigers at Houston Astros (ABC)
4:08 p.m. — MLB playoffs: Kansas City Royals at Baltimore Orioles (ESPN)
6 p.m. — College volleyball: Maryland at Penn State (BTN)
7:08 p.m. — MLB playoffs: Atlanta Braves at San Diego Padres (ESPN)
8:38 p.m. — MLB playoffs: New York Mets at Milwaukee Brewers (ESPN2)

Friday
1 a.m. — Asia Pacific Amateur Championship golf (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Love's RV Stop 250 (FS1)
7 p.m. — College volleyball: Oregon at Penn State (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Houston at TCU (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Minnesota Lynx at Connecticut Sun (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — College football: Michigan State at

Oregon (FOX); Syracuse at UNLV (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Las Vegas Aces (ESPN2)

Saturday
3 a.m. — Asia Pacific Amateur Championship golf (ESPN2)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool at Crystal Palace (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Missouri at Texas A&M (ABC); Navy at Air Force (CBS); SMU at Louisville (ESPN); Pitt at North Carolina (ESPN2); UCLA at Penn State (FOX); Purdue at Wisconsin (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: NASCAR Xfinity Series Race at Talladega (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United (NBC)
1:08 p.m. — MLB playoffs: Divisional round (TBS)
1:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Yella-Wood 500 (USA)
3 p.m. — College football: Weber State at Montana (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Auburn at Georgia (ABC); Iowa at Ohio State (CBS); Ole

Miss at South Carolina (ESPN); Indiana at Northwestern (BTN)
4 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at Oklahoma State (ESPN2); Rutgers at Nebraska (FS1)
4 p.m. — Hourse racing: Breeders' Cup Challenge Series (NBC)
7 p.m. — College football: Clemson at Florida State (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Los Angeles Kings (CBS)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Tennessee at Arkansas (ABC); Michigan at Washington (NBC); USC at Minnesota (BTN); Baylor at Iowa State (FOX)
8 p.m. — College football: Kansas at Arizona State (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Miami at Cal (ESPN)
11:30 p.m. — College football: Texas Tech at Arizona (FOX)

Local notes

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 Canter 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.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 2400 N 400 E Winchester, IN
Saturday Morning October 12th, 2024
10:00 A.M.

REAL ESTATE
3 bedroom, 2 bath, ranch style home 1232 sq. ft. of living area and 2 car attached garage. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas fireplace and a large rear composite deck with gazebo. 2 outbuildings. Property includes 20 acres with 2 acres tillable, a pond and woods.

TRUCKS-MOWER-TOOLS

2020 Chevrolet Silverado LT Z71- 4x4 Crew Cab Truck. Truck is in immaculate condition; 2000 Chevrolet SL; Simplicity 27hp Citation KT Zero turn lawn mower; Craftsman 10" table saw; tap & die set; Dewalt 12V 20 v chargers; DEWALT BATTERY TOOLS; Polaris front blade; and other items not listed.

VENDING MACHINE-PADDLE BOAT-HOUSE-HOLD GOODS-OLD ITEMS

Vending machine (cans); Playmate paddle boat; (2) ping pong tables; Maytag washer & dryer; Haler chest freezer; cedar chest; (2) Fire

90 SALE CALENDAR

King Tulip bowls; Faberware; Pepsi clock; Coke sign; buggy seat; wagon wheels; milk cans; and other items not listed.
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
October 5th, 2024
9:30 A. M.
ANTIQUER - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS (2) small buckboard wagons (NICE); Pie safes; Walnut corner cabinet; Grandmother Clock; Elgin pocket watches; BLUE DECORATIVE STONEWARE; assorted crockery items; Decatur Indiana foundry pieces; FENTON; BANKS; TOYS; 1800's wood soldier; tin wind up horse & wagon; and other toys not listed.
Coins; Jewelry.
GUNS-TOOLS

90 SALE CALENDAR

Stevens 22 caliber pocket rifle; Stevens A&T 22 caliber pistol. 12 gauge double barrel shotgun; Mantis hedge trimmer; Bostitch finish air nailer; concrete tools; hunting 7 fishing supplies; and other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Preview will be held Friday Oct. 4th from 4pm to 6pm . Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction, Guns will sell approximately 1pm.

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 12TH, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 715 E MAIN ST
PORTLAND, IN. OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 29TH 1-3PM. Both properties will be offered at 715 E Main St.
REAL ESTATE
715 E Main St.-3 Bedroom, 1.5 bathroom bungalow containing 1984 sq ft finished living area. Central air, Det. garage

90 SALE CALENDAR

w/heated shop. Move in condition.
660 E Water St.-2 Bedroom home containing 936 sq ft finished living area, Central air 20" x 24 " detached garage.

GUNS
Ruger security six 357mag revolver, Savage hex barrel 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 and supplies, Several items not mentioned.
OWNERS; DONALD SUTTON ESTATE, HELEN (Toni) SUTTON
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Lic. #AU19700040
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday October 19th, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 714 S VINE ST
PORTLAND, IN.
OPEN HOUSE Sunday Oct. 6th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.
REAL ESTATE
2 bedroom home containing 896 sq. ft. finished living area. GFA with Central air . Attached 1 car garage. Newer roof, siding, windows. Alley access as well as on-street parking.
ANTIQUES-APPLIANCES-MISC
Oak child's rocker, Bench with cast iron ends, School desk, Washboards, Old pap bottles, Indiana glass and other collectibles glassware, Willow tree figurines, Whirlpool refrigerator, (New) police scanner, (New) KERO Heat kerosene heater, Treadmill, elliptical, and exercise bike. Yard and garden tools.
OWNERS; SANDRA DRUMM, DECEASED.
By Lisa Bonifas and Amy Stephenson
Note: Check Auctionsoft

90 SALE CALENDAR

and AuctionZip for more photos.
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Levi Muhlenkamp scores six goals in 8-1 win, see story below

FRHS volleyball hosts Versailles today, see Sports on tap

Sports

Rebound victory

A pair of Allred put backs propel the Patriots past a bad start



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School freshman London Lloyd gets physical with Blackford's Izzy Reader to win possession of the ball during Tuesday's game. Lloyd scored the first goal of the second half to help the Patriots to a 5-2 triumph.

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

Aixa Lopez's first shot didn't make it into the net.

The same thing happened later where Lopez's shot couldn't get past Evelyn Gulley.

None of those problems were things that a good rebound couldn't solve.

Kady Allred of the Jay County High School girls soccer team put back both of Lopez's missed shots to secure the lead and help the Patriots pull away from the Blackford Bruins in a 5-2 win on Tuesday.

"One thing I said in my pre-game spiel was 'In the first five minutes, we need to keep the momentum and show them how far we've progressed,'" said JCHS coach Kendra Muhlenkamp.

"It didn't turn out that way. They scored on us quick. That threw me for a loop because I didn't expect that."

The Bruins (3-8-2) struck within the first four minutes by attacking the Jay County (10-5) defenders and making soft touch passes to each other. Freshman Hannah Jernigan created the scoring opportunity by poking the ball away before passing it off to Izzy Mays for the goal to the top left corner.

After the slow start, Jay County started to be more aggressive to the ball and dominate possession more to swing the game in their favor.

"I think the girls did very well in those first five minutes," said BHS coach Michelle Gross. "Then I think they got in their heads. We've got some new players back from injury

... I think getting their timing to click again helped (early on) and I don't think that was there after those first few minutes."

JCHS found a way to tie the game up 10 minutes later after Morgan DeHoff crossed the ball to Lopez, who got the ball in from 15 yards out.

The game remained tied for the next 15 minutes, but the Patriots started to dominate control of the ball. They finally took the lead with 12 minutes, 56 seconds remaining in the first half.

Lopez sent a shot at the goal, but Gulley made the save without holding onto it. The ball rested right in front of the white line near the left post and Allred beat the Blackford goalkeeper to put the ball in.

"I was just looking to see if she got the ball and if the ball fell," Allred said. "If it was there, I was able to get it."

Prior to the game, Allred told Muhlenkamp that she had a goal of scoring at least one goal on the season. (Including Tuesday's game, the Patriots only had two regular season contests before the sectional.) Allred didn't stop with just her first career goal, but found a way to add another.

One minute after the sophomore's first goal, another Lopez shot attempt got blocked by Gulley. Allred crashed again and got a shot past Kalyssa Limle for a second score.

JCHS got two more goals in the second half, the first coming 1:35 after the intermission on a shot from London Lloyd on a DeHoff assist.

See **Rebound** page 7

Muhlenkamp owns Bruins in 8-1 victory

HARTFORD CITY — Levi Muhlenkamp has established himself as the top scorer for the Patriots.

If the Bruins didn't believe that from the strikers' stats, they believe it now.

Muhlenkamp scored six goals as the Jay County High School boys soccer team dominated the Blackford Bruins in a 8-1 triumph on Tuesday.

Muhlenkamp's six goals pushes him to 27 total on the year. The senior scored two of his goals in the first half and four in the second. Dylan Marentes assisted three of the goals, Iker Nelson assisted him twice and another came from goalkeeper Peyton Yowell as he punted the ball over everyone's head to Muhlenkamp.

Along with the three assists to Muhlenkamp, Marentes dished out an assist to Raif Beiswanger in the latter part of the second half.

Rockland Beiswanger also scored, taking the ball himself with only six minutes remaining.

The Patriots (11-2) will get one final tuneup

Local roundup

against Liberty Christian today before they take on the winner of Delta and Yorktown in the IHSAA Class 2A Sectional 23 hosted by Eastbrook on Oct. 9.

Hemmelgarn leads

Maria Hemmelgarn provided a lift for the Jay County volleyball team on both side of the ball to fuel a 25-14, 25-12, 25-18 victory over the Southern Wells Raiders on Tuesday.

The Jay County (10-9, 4-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) junior tallied 15 kills to lead the offense and put up six blocks to aid the defensive effort.

Mya Kunkler and Hallie Schwieterman supported Hemmelgarn's offensive effort with eight and seven kills, respectively. Setter Paisley Fugiett assisted the hitters 26 times.

Elizabeth Barnett led at

the service line with four aces, while Brenna Bailey's 14 digs powered the back row defensive effort.

The win keeps the Patriots' hopes of sharing the ACAC title with Adams Central (18-6) alive. JCHS still needs to face Heritage, who is 2-4 in conference, while the Jets have to play third-place South Adams today.

Junior high sweeps

The Jay County Junior High School volleyball team swept the Southern Wells Raiders on Tuesday, with the eighth graders coming out on top 25-17, 25-11 and the seventh graders taking the match 25-22, 25-11.

The eighth grade team dominated from the service line. Emery Forthofer and Kenady Lyons had particularly good days at the service line with 10 and eight aces, respectively.

Forthofer also led with five kills, while Lyons had three assists. Brenna Weitzel also recorded eight aces, but for the seventh grade team. She had two kills as well.

Gonzaga to join PAC-12

By NICK DASCHEL
oregonlive.com
Tribune News Service

Gonzaga will become the eighth member of the reconstituted Pac-12, beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

The Pac-12 and Gonzaga made a joint announcement Tuesday morning. The Bulldogs, who do not sponsor a football program, leave the West Coast Conference following the 2025-26 school year and become a Pac-12 member on July 1, 2026.

Gonzaga, which built its brand with a high-level men's basketball program, has been a WCC member since 1979.

Gonzaga joins Oregon State, Washington State, San Diego State, Colorado State, Fresno State, Utah State and Boise State as Pac-12 members. Gonzaga made a formal application Monday night to the Pac-12. The conference's

board of directors and presidents unanimously voted in favor of accepting the Spokane-based school.

In a statement, Gonzaga athletic director Chris Standiford said: "This is a great day for Gonzaga University. We are excited to join a conference with great tradition and a commitment to innovating during this evolving time in collegiate athletics. I'd like to thank Commissioner Teresa Gould for her leadership as these talks progressed earnestly over the weekend, our alignment became evident and our vision shared."

Because it doesn't have a football program, Gonzaga isn't considered a full member. The Pac-12 has seven full members and Gonzaga. It needs eight full members by July 2026 to be considered an FBS conference.

See **Gonzaga** page 7



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