

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Idea expanded



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Patriot Auto Sales and Service, a car maintenance and repair shop that opened earlier this year in Portland, recently started offering used vehicles for sale. Pictured above, general manager Zach Fullenkamp stands with a 2017 Chevrolet truck for sale in September at the business, 1509 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Thought to use dealership to service fleet vehicles expanded into a full-fledged business opportunity

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The Kohler's first intent with the former Moser Motors property had been to offer automotive maintenance for their own fleet.

That idea quickly changed into a full-fledged business.

Patriot Auto Sales and Service opened its doors in April. The auto repair shop at 1509 N. Meridian St., Portland, also recently started offering used vehicles for sale.

Patriot Auto Sales and Service general manager Zach Fullenkamp explained they offer a full range of automotive services, including alignments, rota-

tions and oil changes as well as wear and tear needs on parts such as tires, brakes and rotors.

"We can do your typical transmission service," added Fullenkamp.

Within the last few months, Patriot Auto Sales and Service also started selling vehicles. Last month just under a dozen used cars of a variety of makes sat on the lot for sale. Hopes are to offer more vehicles — upwards of 40 — in the future.

After Moser Motors' Portland location closed in December, Susan and Wade Kohler decided to purchase the property, which is directly west from their other businesses, Pioneer Packaging

and Toddertown Early Learning Center.

The Kohlers had considered if nothing else they could use the space as extra parking for Toddertown, which opened its doors in February.

When the Kohlers realized the equipment available to them in the former Moser Motors building, though, they hatched another plan.

"Then we looked inside, and like, 'OK, they've got nice lifts here, we could manage our own fleet here,'" said Kohler, specifically referencing their non-diesel service trucks and other company vehicles.

"We said, 'OK, we're going to

just run a maintenance team out of this and do all of our repairs and get our own vehicles caught up," she continued.

As they began setting up the lot to meet repair and maintenance needs for their fleet, which includes roughly 60 vehicles, local residents began stopping by. Kohler noted folks asked her when they'd be ready to take on customers.

"I just think we had a lot of interest, people asking us, 'Can you fix my car? When can you take the public in?'" recalled Kohler. "Once we saw that, we were like, you know what? (Let's) get started."

See Expanded page 2

Hopefuls meet in first of 2 debates

Braun and McCormick spar over various issues

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Two of Indiana's three gubernatorial candidates spent an hour Wednesday night trading barbs and promoting their campaign platforms in the first televised debate of the general election, hosted by Fox59 and CBS4.

Republican Mike Braun and Democrat Jennifer McCormick each met the polling threshold established by the networks for the gubernatorial debate. A third candidate, Libertarian Donald Rainwater, didn't meet that standard but will appear onstage for Thursday's gubernatorial debate with WISH-TV.

Topics included a recently manipulated advertisement from the Braun campaign and the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor saying the other side invoked a "Jezebel spirit."

The conduct of Braun's running mate, self-described Christian nationalist Micah Beckwith, prompted the harshest back-and-forth between the nominees, with McCormick repeatedly calling for an apology from the campaign.

"It's ridiculous. He's dangerous," she said of Beckwith.

Braun fired back by saying, "when you're focusing on a lieutenant governor, that means you're shaky on what your own plans are going to be. Obviously, in this state, a governor is going to call the shots ... when you focus on that, that means you're afraid you don't have enough to offer Hoosiers (and) address kitchen table issues."

But McCormick said she isn't afraid to lead.

"But I also know, and I'm crystal clear, it's about character. We need someone at the top of that ticket who will represent us well at the national level, and who will also have a running mate who will serve us well."

Braun repeatedly tied McCormick to national Democratic policies, though she has never held an elected position as a Democrat. McCormick, meanwhile, pointed to low quality of life metrics and education outcomes in Indiana under the last two decades of Republican control and called for a change in leadership.

Both candidates have released detailed plans outlining their priorities if elected governor, tackling topics such as property taxes, education and economic development.

Moderators asked specifically about ballot initiatives, which have been used in other states to enshrine reproductive health care access.

See Hopefuls page 2

Israel attacks Lebanese capital

By HENRY MEYER

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israeli warplanes bombed Beirut and traded hostilities with Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon as the country's forces kept up their campaign against the Iran-backed militant group.

Nine people died in the center of the Lebanese capital after an Israeli strike on a medical site affiliated with Hezbollah, according to local authorities. The Israel Defense Forces said it killed 15 Hezbollah militants in an overnight airstrike on a building used by the group in the town of Bint Jbeil, and ordered civilians in some areas to leave immediately.

The Lebanese army said

World is awaiting response against Iran

an Israeli strike against one of its posts in the south of the country killed a soldier Israel said Wednesday eight of its troops were killed in battles against Hezbollah, its first casualties since starting a ground incursion earlier this week.

The Israeli government is yet to retaliate for Iran's barrage of missiles on Tuesday evening, which caused little damage and few casualties. World pow-

ers are concerned that, should it strike key Iranian assets, the Islamic Republic will lash out and escalate the conflict, dragging in more countries and potentially disrupting global energy shipments.

U.S. President Joe Biden said Israel should hold off from targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, something Tehran has long warned would provoke an aggressive response.

See Attacks page 2



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images

Smoke billows following an Israeli airstrike that targeted Beirut's southern suburbs Thursday. Israel kept up its bombardment of Beirut after Iran launched its second, and largest, attack on Israel in months, which prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to warn Tehran would pay.

Deaths

Joyce Paxson, 61, Bluffton
Details on page 2.

Weather

---Jay County had a high temperature of 70 degrees Wednesday. The low was 45.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 40s. Skies will be sunny Saturday with a high in the mid 70s. The high will climb into the upper 70s on Sunday.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

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

Tuesday — Photos from weekend activities including the Heritage Festival.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.



Expanded ...

Continued from page 1
Earlier this year, the building underwent a slight facelift, with the crew swapping the carpeting for hardwood flooring and putting on fresh coats of paint or new wallpaper throughout the building. New furniture, blinds and other small additions also made their way into the office as it took shape.

“(We) just (wanted to) make it a nice, comfortable entry for those that need to come in and wait for the oil change,” said Kohler. “(We wanted to) try to just focus on being attractive for the public and to match what we can offer.”

Kohler noted the property’s location along U.S. 27 (Meridian Street), making it an ideal spot for

traffic. The Kohlers began working with local auto part retail stores, including NAPA Auto Parts, to stock the parts their new business needed. After hearing more requests from customers about buying and selling vehicles, Patriot Auto Sales and Service implemented software to begin car sales.

Kohler planned to work with local banks to set up financing options for customers purchasing vehicles.

“It’ll assist the local, small-town people that want to be here and want to keep it local, which is great to see,” she said. “Portland thrives on small business.”

Fullenkamp previously served

as homestead quality livestock bedding manager and lumber inventory manager at Pioneer Packaging. He approached the Kohlers when they purchased the property in December and asked who they planned to hire as a manager for the new business.

“Always, growing up, I’ve always been interested in cars,” he said. “When the opportunity arose, I just wanted to jump at it.” The wheels started turning from there.

“When you have an employee that does well, and is willing to step up to the next project, that’s huge,” said Kohler. “Especially because it’s so different than what we’re used to.”

So far, business has been booming. Fullenkamp noted their shop has had customers in and out each day since it first opened months ago.

Keeping local roots in a local business, Kohler pointed out, is a key to success in the community.

“We named it ‘Patriot Auto’ because we are that town, you know, we’re the Jay County Patriots, so we want to be able to support Jay County in that fashion,” she said. “It was one of those things that we thought, ‘it’s a good representation of who we are.’ And we are local, and we know the community will support us in that area.”

Obituaries

Joyce Ann Paxson, Bluffton, the sister of a Pennville woman, Feb. 25, 1963-Oct. 1, 2024. A service to celebrate her life will follow at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Saturday 10/5	Sunday 10/6	Monday 10/7	Tuesday 10/8	Wednesday 10/9
75/56	80/46	66/41	66/41	68/43
Another day of sunny skies is expected Saturday with the low around 56 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.	Sunny skies are expected Wednesday, when the high will be around 68.

Lotteries

Powerball 1-2-21-37-43 Power Ball: 21 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$295 million	Daily Four: 0-7-4-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-3-20-21-34-36-37-38-39-43-44-54-55-58-60-61-63-69-71 Cash 5: 3-8-10-39-43 Estimated jackpot: \$95,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$108 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 6-9-1 Pick 4: 3-6-4-8 Pick 5: 2-9-9-5-5 Evening Pick 3: 6-4-2 Pick 4: 6-9-9-4 Pick 5: 4-4-9-4-0 Rolling Cash: 11-18-21-24-31 Estimated jackpot: \$280,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 5-7-4 Daily Four: 8-0-2-9 Quick Draw: 1-7-9-12-14-17-18-20-22-23-32-35-36-37-43-48-53-66-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 2-4-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.81 Dec. corn.....4.11 Wheat5.07	Dec. beans10.47 Wheat 5.57
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.76 Oct./Nov. corn4.11 Dec. corn4.33	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.82 Nov. corn3.82 Beans10.03 Nov. beans10.11 Wheat5.47
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.81 Nov. corn3.83 Beans9.99	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.66 Nov. corn3.76 Beans9.84 Nov. beans9.99 Wheat5.27

Today in history

In 1582, the Gregorian calendar was introduced. Slight inaccuracies in the Julian calendar had led to it being misaligned with the seasons. The Gregorian calendar, which was proclaimed by Pope Gregory XIII which is the one that is still widely used today, adjusted for the discrepancy.

In 1853, Ottoman Turks declared war on Russia, officially starting the Crimean War. The Turks would later be joined by England and France.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, which orbited Earth until the following year. The 184-pound capsule circled the earth an even 96 minutes.

In 1970, singer Janis

Joplin died of an accidental heroin overdose. She was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1995.

In 1972, Glen West said he planned to continue to pursue an effort for a new FM radio station in Portland a day after the Federal Communications Commission denied his application. At the time, West owned the AM radio station in Portland.

In 2019, the Fort Recovery High School football team denied a 2-point conversion try by Parkway to hold on for a 27-26 victory. Quarterback Clay Schmitz's 1-yard run with 3:08 remaining had put the Indians ahead after their 20-0 lead disappeared.

—The CR

Hopefuls ...

Continued from page 1
Braun said he was open to such an effort if it gained momentum but affirmed his anti-abortion stance.

“We’re a right to life state,” Braun said, throwing his support behind the state’s near-total abortion ban. “It is a bill that sanctifies life, we’re a state that does that with reasonable exceptions. And I think the people have spoken, the Legislature listened and we got a bill that seems to be working.”

Striking that ban has been a key part of McCormick’s campaign and

she claimed women have already died due to the ban. She said she would “absolutely” support an effort for ballot questions.

“I’m the only person on stage who’s been pregnant; I’m the only person on this stage who’s given birth ... and I understand firsthand the complexities associated with pregnancy,” McCormick said. “I know my opponent said that ... he thought we got it right. And when you make comments like that, we put a lot of women’s lives at risk.”

An educator and the state’s last elected superintendent of public instruction, McCormick called for increasing teacher salaries to \$60,000, saying “if we can’t get education right, we can’t get the economy right.”

“We do need to pay our teacher the way their non-educator peers are being paid or we’re never going to attract them,” McCormick said. “When I was in office, Indiana was ranked 35th in the nation ... since I left, we have fallen to 41st.”

Attacks ...

Continued from page 1
“The answer is no,” he said to a question about whether the U.S. would support such an attack by Israel. “They have a right to respond, but they have to respond proportionally.

Israel has carried out a series of devastating attacks in Lebanon since last month that almost

wiped out the leadership of Hezbollah, Iran’s main proxy militia, considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. and other countries. Iran said its salvo against Israel was because of those assaults and the assassination of a senior Hamas official in Tehran in July, which the Islamic Republic blamed on Israel. Israel sent troops into

southern Lebanon on Monday in a bid to uproot Hezbollah militants along the border. Hundreds of Lebanese civilians have died in Israeli air strikes in the past two weeks and a million people have fled their homes in the south and some other parts of the country, Lebanon’s government says.

Felony arrests

Confinement

A Portland man was arrested Wednesday for confinement and related charges.

Michael D. Malyska, 29, 609 S. Shank St., was preliminarily charged with a

Level 3 felony for confinement, a Level 5 felony for battery, a Level 6 felony for domestic battery and a Level 6 felony for strangulation.

He was being held on a \$45,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Drunk driving

A Portland man was arrested for drunk driving after his motorcycle hit a deer along New Mount Pleasant Road about 12:50 p.m. Thursday.

Robert M. Vore, 29, was driving a 2012 Harley Davidson south on the road near county road 200 South when a deer ran in front of his path, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report. He crashed into the deer and lost control of his vehicle, causing him to leave the road.

Vore smelled of alcohol and was administered a

preliminary breath test which indicated a 0.128% breath alcohol content. He complained of head pain and had visible marks on his forehead, according to the report. He was transported to IU Health Jay and administered a blood alcohol test with results pending.

Vore was arrested Thursday for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. He was being held on a \$1,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

His motorcycle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Do you have interest and questions about....

- Pond Management
- Nuisance Wildlife
- Pond Stocking
- Aquatic Weeds

Jonathan Ferris - Wayne County Ag & Natural Resources
Director/Educator
Frank Cooksey- Jones Lake Management

Will share their knowledge & expertise on
Tuesday, October 8th - 6:00 PM
at the
Rebecca Stafford Pond
1119 S HWY 167 - Dunkirk, IN
(There is a house and barn at the front of the driveway,
the pond is at the second house!)

Bring your pond weeds or identification/recommendations
Program will be held out-of-doors
Bring your lawn chair & dress accordingly

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Citizen’s calendar

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

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.



Photo provided

New barn

Jay County Fairgrounds celebrated its newly built harness barn before Jayland Trotting Association's harness race Sept. 21. The barn was built using grant funding from an Indiana State Fair Harness Racing grant. Pictured above, from left, are fair board members Gary Stewart, Brandon Swoveland and Dave Bricker, Jayland Trotting Association representatives Greg and Jane Ann Runyon, harness racing participant Lucien Bowlin, and fair board members Trent Paxson, Dalton VanSkyock and Rick Neargarder.

Plein Air demo set for Oct. 12

A Plein Air Demonstration and Workshop is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in Greenville, Ohio.

Taking Note

The event on the front lawn of St. Clair Memorial Hall, 215 W. 4th St., Greenville, will open with a one-hour demonstration by artist Angie Siefring. Participants will then have the opportunity to complete their own paintings with personalized instruction from Siefring. Registration for the workshop is \$55 and students will need to bring their own art supplies. To register, or for more information, email visualarts@darkecountysarts.org or call (440) 813-0367.

Participants will then have the opportunity to complete their own paintings with personalized instruction from Siefring. Registration for the workshop is \$55 and students will need to bring their own art supplies.

The event is part of a multi-session series aimed at teaching the public about sustainable living with chickens, wildlife management and urban gardening.

Backyard chickens
Those hoping to learn more about raising chick-

ens in their backyards are in luck. Emily Krings of Jay County Purdue Extension Office will be sharing information about "all things backyard chickens" from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland. To reserve a spot, call Jay County Purdue Extension Office at (260) 726-4707.

Relatives often drop by home without giving notice

DEAR ABBY: Some relatives come once or twice a year from out of state to stay at my in-laws' house. For the past 20-plus years, it has been the same routine. They show up, but we never know ahead of time when or how long they are staying. We are expected to drop everything to go over there to visit with them as long as they are in town. There are no plans and no

Dear Abby



schedule; we just sit around waiting for them to decide what they want to do. I'm so tired of

it. I would prefer knowing ahead of time so I won't have to cancel my previous plans when they show up. It's nice to chat, but I'd like to know beforehand that they are coming so I can meet them for a meal or activity rather than sit for hours. Can I make this request now that it has been going on for so long? — BURDENED IN THE MIDWEST
DEAR BURDENED: Yes,

you can make your wishes known. What you are proposing is common sense and common courtesy. Tell these relatives you love seeing them but would like some advance notice when they plan to be in town so you can adjust your schedule and take them somewhere rather than sit for hours at your in-laws'.

It's entirely possible that these relatives — AND your in-laws — would appreciate it.

.....
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today
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.

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.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.
TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.
BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda

Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.
Tuesday
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.
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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

YOU NEED TO **VOTE!**
but first you need to **REGISTER**
TO **VOTE!**

Indiana Voters.com

Judiciary becomes less transparent

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

The U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on Financial Disclosure, surveying the tangle of questions raised over Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas' and Sam Alito's records of receiving lavish gifts from ideologically-aligned billionaires, decided to issue some clarifications on disclosure rules for federal judges, including the Justices.

This would have been a good opportunity to show the public that the judiciary's oversight body takes seriously the possibility of misconduct and the need to preserve the public's trust in the institution. Instead, the updated rules are laxer in key regards, clearing the way for judges to accept significant undisclosed

Guest Editorial

donations under the guise of receiving "personal hospitality" from friends.

Amid swirling controversies around the appearance of conflicts of interest, external entanglements and lack of transparency, moving in the direction of further chipping away at requirements and easing the path for the behavior at issue to continue under cover of official sanction can only be read as a provocation and a marker that the courts' leadership is disinter-

ested in even appearing to avoid conflicts.

Thomas, beneficiary of millions of dollars' worth of practically in-kind donations from the right-wing billionaire Harlan Crow, can feel free to keep having these get-togethers without worrying about subjecting himself to the prying eyes of public scrutiny.

Unlike a lot of the pretty complicated and often mind-numbingly arcane matters that the Supreme Court considers, almost any regular person would have an intuitive understanding of what is meant by personal hospitality: a friend having you over for dinner, or perhaps letting you stay a night or two at their place. Most would not understand it to mean a seldom-used country estate owned by a shell company,

but that is exactly the sort of thing that the new rules would permit to happen without any disclosure whatsoever.

It would be easier to believe that all this lavishing on justices has no concerning real-world implications if the justices both hadn't seemed so keen on keeping these patronage relationships from coming to light, and if they hadn't embarked on a recent program of advancing policy from the bench.

Their decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises vs. Raimondo* overturned a longtime precedent allowing federal administrative agencies to make determinations about the application of ambiguous laws, which is now wreaking havoc across our regulatory framework.

On issues from guns to gerry-

mandering to regulation, the court has consistently pushed the envelope rightward, with the jewel in the crown being its decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and the right to an abortion, despite sworn Senate confirmation testimony from multiple justices that they'd respect the precedent on.

Now, we approach the first Monday in October and another Supreme Court term that promises to be no better, but certainly less transparent.

The other branches have no reason to accept this failure to self-police. Congress and the president have before them a range of options to constrain the court without getting into the messy business of court-packing and the like. It's past time to remind the court that they are a co-equal branch.

Give measure another look

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Will you be voting in this fall's election? You can bet I will, and I know my vote will be counted.

And matter.

Did you know in 2019 a city council race in Columbus was decided by one vote?

And that race also swung the political control of the body?

One vote! Imagine if you lived there and didn't vote. I don't want to have that kind of regret.

I hope other Hoosiers have the same sense of confidence I have, despite baseless claims in recent years of rampant election fraud.

In Indiana, voter registration isn't the problem. We have 4.7 million Hoosiers registered, according to the Indiana Secretary of State's Office. That is about 90% of those eligible to vote. Yes, there are likely some people who have moved, died or have duplicate entries in the state system. And there is an established process to winnow those out. But we don't do it lightning quick because taking away a person's right to vote is serious business.

Indiana's issue is turnout.

In recent general elections, the high-water mark for turnout was 65% in 2020. In 2022, that dipped to 40%. And primary turnout is even worse.

I am glad lawmakers have created the 30-day early voting period. Honestly, it means no one has an excuse for not casting their ballots.

There has occasionally been chatter about reducing the length of early voting. In 2022, Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales walked back a proposal to cut early voting as well as softened his previous comments on the 2020 election.

It makes no sense to take away an option in a state that has safe and secure elections.

Then there is mail-in voting. It's technically called absentee voting in Indiana, but you can do it early, in-person or by mail.

The Secretary of State's Office ran a report for ICC showing how many mail-in votes Indi-

Niki Kelly



ana has had in the last four general elections. In 2016 it was 155,582, or about 5.5%. That rose to 6.5% in 2018.

The 2020 general election is a bit of an anomaly because state elections officials removed prerequisites to vote by mail as a way to ease fears around the pandemic. That year more than 563,000 Hoosiers voted by mail, or 18.3%.

More recently, the percentage dropped down to about 8.4% in 2022.

I personally enjoy the camaraderie of voting in person, but election days can be hectic. So early voting has been a great option for me over the years.

But there are lots of folks who are introverted and would prefer filling out their ballot in the privacy of their home. There are also students who live out of state; senior citizens who struggle to get out; disabled Hoosiers that have no way to get to the polls. Heck, in some states you don't even need a reason. And in 8 states, all votes are cast by mail.

I'm not afraid of mail-in voting. The Bipartisan Policy Center said mail voting has been in use since it helped soldiers cast ballots during the Civil War.

Of course, there are people who break the law — both voting in person and by mail. There is no way to stop people from being stupid. But most of the examples bandied about were stopped by election officials enforcing the security processes already in place to thwart scofflaws. Or they were isolated in nature.

It's not a perfect system but it's pretty damn good, and I will stand by it and participate wholeheartedly.

.....

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

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



Leave George W. Bush alone

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tribune News Service

During every election cycle, cross-party endorsements snag a few headlines.

There is something oddly satisfying about the once-politically faithful finding their respective party's candidate so deficient that it compels them to publicly voice their protest before crossing the aisle on Election Day.

Donald Trump has driven that sentiment to another level, with almost daily defections of former Republican administration officials hitting the chryon.

But the one prominent Republican voice that has been notably absent from the current political fray is that of former President George W. Bush.

Indeed, he's said nary a word about the election, instead keeping his head down and his focus on the good work of his Dallas-based foundation and library.

When asked whether he planned to endorse in this election cycle — a likelihood some thought would increase after his former Vice President Dick Cheney and his former attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, threw their support behind Vice President Kamala Harris — Bush's office simply said "no."

"President Bush retired from presidential politics years ago," his office added.

The former president hasn't endorsed any candidate since Sen. Mitt Romney in 2012, and that was little more than a passing comment offered from an elevator just before the doors slid shut. Hardly an attempt to assert political influence in the presidential race.

There's something undeniably refreshing about a politician who recognizes that his or her role as an influencer should have a shelf life.

And after carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders for so many years while receiving mostly criticism for it in the media, it does-

n't seem unfair or unpatriotic for Bush to wish to live out his post-presidential days in apolitical peace.

Indeed, it is rather fun to imagine Bush in his library offices housed on the Southern Methodist University campus, characteristically chuckling to himself as he reads the daily paper, delighted to not be one of its regular subjects.

Alas, some people are trying to get him back into the headlines, dogging him mercilessly for his silence on the candidacy of Trump and insisting that he take a stand.

"By the way, shouldn't Springfield, Ohio, be the final straw for George W. Bush, who refused to demonize immigrants?" wrote Bill Kristol, the founder of the now defunct conservative magazine *The Weekly Standard*, following the recent presidential debate in which Trump's comments about Haitian migrants went off the rails.

Speaking at the Atlantic Festival in Washington recently, Kristol told an audience pointedly: "George W. Bush really should say he's voting for Kamala Harris," insisting that his endorsement, as compared to Cheney's backing, perhaps, would have some sway.

That may be true. After so many years of relative silence on national politics, Bush weighing in could have an impact on the small crop of undecided moderate voters in swing states who will likely decide the election.

But at what cost to his own principles?

Kristol is a long-time Never Trumper, a position to which many true conservatives — like Bush —

Cynthia M. Allen



can relate, given Trump's proven lack of principles on conservative policy issues, from abortion to foreign affairs.

His distaste for Trump, however, has manifested in other, less relatable ways. One is his endorsement of Harris, a candidate whose record in the Senate was among the most progressive — lest we forget that on issues from health care to fracking, Harris' record belies her sudden attempt at political moderation.

But some former conservatives seem to think the two — denouncing Trump and endorsing his opponent — are indivisible, that one must naturally follow the other.

And for his part, Kristol seems to have made it his personal mission to get the former president to agree.

To be clear, Bush and Trump are hardly friends, and Bush has criticized Trump for past comments and actions.

The former president was not present at the GOP convention in August.

But it's one thing to denounce Trump for his personal transgressions, his lack of fitness for office, or whichever of the man's vices strike you on a given day.

It is another entirely to endorse a candidate who stands for policies and values that are diametrically opposed to your own and those that you pursued (and presumably maintain) as your life's work.

Bush and the former first lady, Laura Bush, reportedly supported neither of the major party candidates in the 2016 or 2020 presidential elections. George W. Bush told *People* magazine in 2021 that he wrote in the name of his former national security adviser and secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, in 2020.

He could do so again next month with his conscience clear.

In the meantime, everyone should just leave him alone.

Allen is a columnist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Farmers frustrated by bill failure

By KARINA ATKINS

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Since the last farm bill was enacted in 2018, international wars and a pandemic have disrupted supply chains, inflation has skyrocketed and worsening climate change has put a renewed emphasis on conservation practices.

Farmers feel left behind and forgotten.

"I should be in a good mood. My Illini just won and I had a nice weekend with my family, but to be real honest, I'm frustrated," Jared Gregg, a seventh-generation farmer from Piatt County, Illinois, told the Tribune in early September.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture had just called and asked him to complete a survey when he was in the midst of preparing for a busy harvest season. It was another reminder that the federal government is out of touch with farmers, said Gregg.

Yet again, Congress is unlikely to pass an updated farm bill.

The comprehensive package of legislation that sets agriculture and food policy is supposed to be updated every five years. But partisan gridlock got in the way last year, forcing Congress simply to extend the 2018 bill another year. That extension expires Sept. 30 and, with a presidential election less than two months away, Congress isn't focused on finalizing a new five-year plan. Experts say the lawmakers are likely to extend the 2018 bill again.

"I'd like to see the government put forward as much effort as American farmers are putting forward," Gregg said. "Watching them play politics is a tough pill to swallow when prices are down and expenses are up."

Consumer grocery prices rose 25% between 2019 and 2023 and have continued to rise, but this



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Stacey Wescott

Brian Duncan transfers corn into a red grain cart last week in Polo, Illinois. Family farming dates back to the 1900s for the Duncan family.

hasn't translated to extra income for farmers. The price hikes are getting tacked on due to supply chain issues between the farm and the store shelves.

Like all Americans, though, farmers' expenses from labor to equipment and fertilizer are rising.

"Who wants to live in an income world based in 2018 with an expense world based in 2024? That's the world we're chained to without an updated farm bill," said Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan.

In the extremely unlikely event that Congress doesn't extend the 2018 farm bill by the end of the year, a permanent New Deal-era law that the temporary farm bill overrides would kick in, leaving farmers to oper-

ate with even more outdated legislation.

Rural economies in Illinois, the No. 1 producer of soybeans and the No. 2 producer of corn in the country, would be hard-hit. The state's agricultural industry supports nearly 2 million jobs and more than \$462 billion in economic output, according to House Agricultural Committee Communication Director Ben Goldey.

Jonathan Coppess, an agriculture policy expert at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is particularly worried that programs incentivizing sustainable farming could flounder without a new farm bill. Approximately 40% of valid Illinois applications already go unfunded, according to a letter a Democratic delegation of Illinois lawmakers

sent the U.S. Department of Agriculture in August.

"We're limiting the amount of funds available for farmers to do conservation, then we're expanding what we want them to do under conservation umbrellas," he said, citing growing attention to the role poor agricultural practices play in the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.

Even in 2018, the farm bill funding available for conservation programs didn't meet the demand. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act infused nearly \$20 billion over five years into these programs. But the backlog has persisted. Inflation has only exacerbated the problem.

Both the Democratic and Republican farm bill proposals bolster conservation programs,

but the Republican version eliminates the programs' focus on reducing carbon emissions and sequestering carbon, a caveat the Democrats injected alongside the extra IRA Inflation Reduction Act funding.

Illinois has particularly struggled to secure conservation dollars in the current funding landscape. It has the fourth most cropland of any state but, from 2018 to 2022, received less conservation funding than 36 other states, according to the delegation of Illinois lawmakers.

Meanwhile, the lawmakers estimate that only 4% of Illinois' 22 million acres of cropland have employed conservation practices, a dismal number they attribute to "uniform, inflexible standards" for funding that are biased against the cropping practices, weather and terrain in Illinois.

The delegation, which included Sens. Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture to double or triple the nationwide conservation funding allocated to Illinois.

Gregg has two outstanding applications to experiment with pesticide mitigation strategies and to grow cover crops, both of which are proven to improve soil quality, reduce nutrient runoff that causes harmful algae blooms and foster pollinator habitats.

He's motivated by the possibility of tapping into new clean energy markets such as sustainable aviation fuel. The federal government opened the door for jet fuel to be made from corn that meets particular sustainability standards earlier this year.

"If they expect me to produce in a conservation-minded fashion, I'm holding up my end of the bargain. But I'm not seeing it happen on their end," said Gregg, who poured hours into conservation plans for his farm.

Sentiment is lowest since '16

By MORGAN FRENCH

Purdue Ag News

WEST LAFAYETTE — In September, the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer recorded its lowest readings since March 2016. Declining income expectations pushed farmer sentiment down as the barometer fell 12 points to 88, and the Index of Future Expectations dropped 14 points to 94. The Index of Current Conditions also fell 7 points to 76, which nearly matched levels seen in April 2020, during the height of COVID-19 concerns for farmers. This month's survey was conducted from Sept. 9-13, 2024.

September's survey revealed that farmers are increasingly worried about commodity prices, input costs, agricultural trade prospects and the potential impact of the upcoming election on their farm operations. When asked to identify their top concerns for the coming year, low commodity prices and high input costs were nearly tied, with 34% of farmers citing input prices and 33% pointing to lower output prices as their primary concerns. Interest rates trailed behind as a top concern for 17% of respondents. Producers' apprehensions about commodity prices matched up with their lack of confidence in the future of U.S. agricultural exports; only 26% of respondents expect exports to rise over the next five years, the most pessimistic response to this question since it was first introduced in 2019. Additionally, 78% of producers expressed concern that government policy changes following the fall 2024 elections could impact their farms.

"The continued drop in the barometer reflects deepening concerns among farmers regarding expectations for farm income in 2024 and 2025," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "It's notable that producer sentiment dropped back to levels last seen in 2016 when the U.S. farm economy was in the early stages of an economic downturn. In addition to commodity prices

and input costs weighing heavily on their operations, producers are also facing considerable uncertainty about what lies ahead for their farms with the possible government policy changes following the upcoming 2024 elections."

The Farm Financial Performance Index fell for the third consecutive month, dropping to 68 in September from 72 in August. Farmers' financial expectations have declined markedly compared to a year ago, as the index was at 86 in September 2023 — an 18-point difference. While the Farm Capital Investment Index increased by 4 points from August to a reading of 35, it sits just above its all-time low, indicating that many producers believe it is not an opportune time for making large investments.

The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index dropped by 10 points to 95. This is the first time since 2020 that the index fell below 100, indicating that more farmers are expecting a decline in farmland values over the next year than those who anticipate an increase. This month's shift from a positive to a weaker outlook is attributable to a significant decrease in the percentage of producers forecasting rising values and a rise in those who expect values to remain steady.

The September survey marks the fourth consecutive year that the barometer has included questions regarding cover crop usage among corn and soybean producers. Consistent with prior years' surveys, more than half of the respondents indicated that they currently plant cover crops on part of their farms, while an additional 1 in 5 farmers reported planting cover crops sometime in the past. Interestingly, farmers who currently use cover crops say they are devoting a larger proportion of their farm's acreage to cover crops than in the past. In 2021, 41% of cover crop users noted planting them on more than 25% of their farm's acreage. This figure rose to 50% in 2023, and in this year's survey, 68% of cover crop users indicated planting cover crops on more than one-fourth of their farms.

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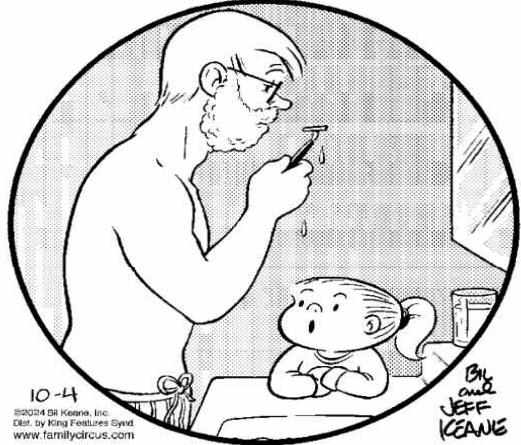
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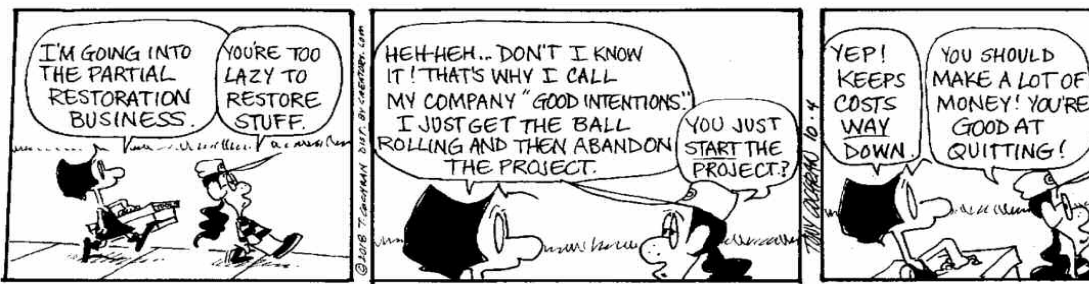
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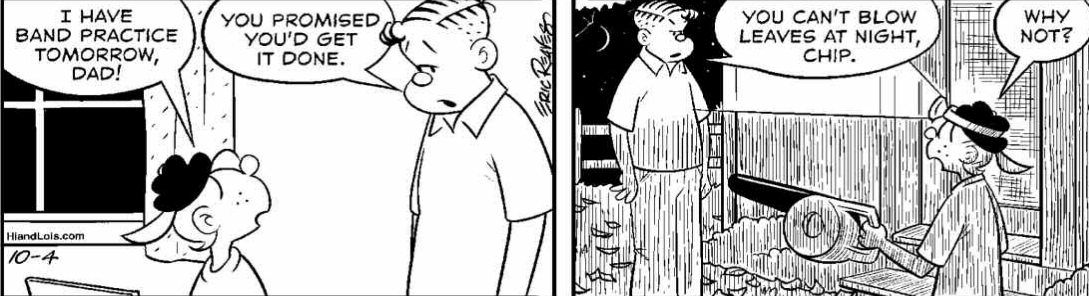
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Hi and Lois



Between Friends



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Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



1. The slam is a sure thing regardless of how the cards are divided. Ruff the club, draw trump, then play the ace and another spade. If North follows low, finesse the ten, thus assuring the contract whether the ten wins or loses.

10-4 CRYPTOQUIP

UZLJ ZO LJZQS QKZLLNSQ RYS
KJSSYODH RL LJS IZISGL, UDL
LJRL ZGS LJSYS NQ LJS ISYNSY
LSYNSY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'VE CARRIED AROUND SOME HEAVY THINGS MUCH TOO LONG, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? OVERSCHLEPPED.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Shred, 4 Code-breaker, 8 Toothy tools, 12 Writer Tarbell, 13 Bistro handout, 14 Nabisco cookie, 15 Hair-dresser's challenges, 17 Tear, 18 Eternities, 19 Dorm alternatives, 20 Seafood entrée, 22 Shopper's dream, 24 Canal feature, 25 Cowboy Cassidy, 29 Hosp. area, 30 Jeter of baseball, 31 Kanga's kid, 32 Hollow quick breads



Table with 11 columns and 11 rows representing a crossword puzzle grid. Some cells contain numbers indicating the start of words.

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Sports

Sectional sweep

Jay County quickly takes down Rebels 5-0 to earn shot at sectional title

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

The Patriots got their best matchup.

While they picked up wins against all three potential sectional opponents, the widest margin of victory came against the Rebels. Combine that fact with the Rebels needing to forfeit a point due to a lack of players for the No. 2 doubles position, and the Patriots were feeling good about their chances of making the sectional championship game.

Less than one hour later, they clinched their spot in the match.

The Jay County High School boys tennis team breezed through Randolph Southern, defeating the Rebels 5-0 in the IHSAA Sectional 53 opener on Wednesday to earn a chance at its third straight sectional title.

The victory earned them a shot to play in Thursday's sectional championship against the Union City Indians, who beat Winchester 3-2 on the other courts Wednesday.

"I'm very happy," said JCHS coach Donald Gillespie. "I think maybe that was the best performance of the year for my kids. I'm really happy that they got to that level. ... So, a great performance tonight, but that's only one night."

Back on Sept. 10, the Patriots traveled to Lynn to beat Randolph Southern 4-1. The sole loss came from Tucker Griffin in the No. 2 singles match as Braden Austin earned a 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 10-4 victory.

Griffin never let Austin sniff that level of success jumping out early to beat the RSHS junior 6-0, 6-1.

The Jay County (8-10) senior attributed his success to growth over the tail end of the season and a focus on keeping the ball in. In the final game, that strategy paid off as three of his points came from balls he just kept in bounds that Austin mishandled, including the final point when Griffin delivered a forehand to the back line that the Rebel player hesitated on and sent into the net.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Tucker Griffin hits a one-handed backhand on the move during the IHSAA Sectional 53 opener against Randolph Southern. Griffin got revenge on the Rebels' Braden Austin for a 6-1, 6-1 victory that helped the Patriots sweep.

"I feel like I've gotten a lot better over the course of these few weeks," Griffin said. "I feel like he thought he was just going to beat me. ... I wasn't hitting it out of bounds. Last time I played him I hit it deep - it felt like - every time. So, I felt a lot more consistent today."

While Griffin has shown improvements, Eli Dirksen has been consistently dominant at the No. 1 singles position.

Dirksen pulled off a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Noah Allen to complete the sweep for Jay County just over an hour after warm ups started. The final game of the second set exemplified his dominance as he won it in short order to notch his 14th consecutive victory of the season.

"Once you get on a streak it's not as easy to lose," Dirksen said. "I think it's really nice that the opponents I've played before has

built my confidence up. As opposed to the harder competition I had at the beginning of the season, I just feel more confident."

While Dirksen and Griffin completed the sweep, No. 1 doubles duo Kadyr Carpenter and Alex Miller and No. 3 singles player Gabe Pinkerton pulled out the win.

Carpenter and Miller secured the first point for the Patriots,

running Jacob Flaugh and Kohwen Pegg off the court with a clean 6-0, 6-0 sweep in 47 minutes. The Patriot pair found success with Carpenter playing behind for court coverage and Miller at the net to try and volley.

The match ended after with Miller hiding behind the net at center court as Carpenter served and then jumping up to volley Flaugh's return.

See Sweep page 7

23XI Racing, Front Row Motorports sue NASCAR

By SHANE CONNUCK
The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Two Cup Series teams, including the one owned by Michael Jordan, jointly filed an antitrust lawsuit against NASCAR.

23XI Racing, the Huntersville-based team Jordan co-owns with longtime driver Denny Hamlin, joined Front Row Motorports to argue that the sport's sanctioning body — led by CEO Jim France —

has enriched itself through "unchecked monopolistic practices."

"Everyone knows that I have always been a fierce competitor, and that will to win is what drives me and the entire 23XI team each and every week out on the track," Jordan said in a statement. "I love the sport of racing and the passion of our fans, but the way NASCAR is run today is unfair to teams, drivers, sponsors, and fans. Today's action shows I'm willing to

fight for a competitive market where everyone wins."

Teams seeking injunction after refusing to sign charter agreement

NASCAR adopted its "charter" system in 2016, which makes its race teams operate like franchises in other professional sports. The current agreement expires on Dec. 31, and teams have been trying to negotiate an extension for more than two years.

23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports, a smaller

team owned by entrepreneur Bob Jenkins, both refused to sign a final offer presented by NASCAR on Sept. 6, two days before the first race of the Cup Series playoffs at Atlanta. Thirteen of 15 teams signed the take-it-or-leave-it offer, with some telling the Associated Press that they felt "threatened" or "coerced" by the sanctioning body.

The two teams are filing a preliminary injunction over the coming days that would allow them to contin-

ue racing under the current charters without penalty while the case plays out.

"It's actually pretty simple in my opinion," Hamlin said. "When I look around, I see that the best and most competitive sports in the world understand that when teams thrive, fans benefit, and that everyone who invests in making the sport a success should share fairly in that success."

"With the right changes, we can certainly make that a reality in racing."

In a joint statement released Wednesday morning, the teams alleged that "NASCAR and the France family operate without transparency, have stifled competition, and control the sport of stock car racing in ways that unfairly benefit them at the expense of team owners, drivers, sponsors, partners, and fans."

The statement lists several practices it alleges have been monopolistic by NASCAR.

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