

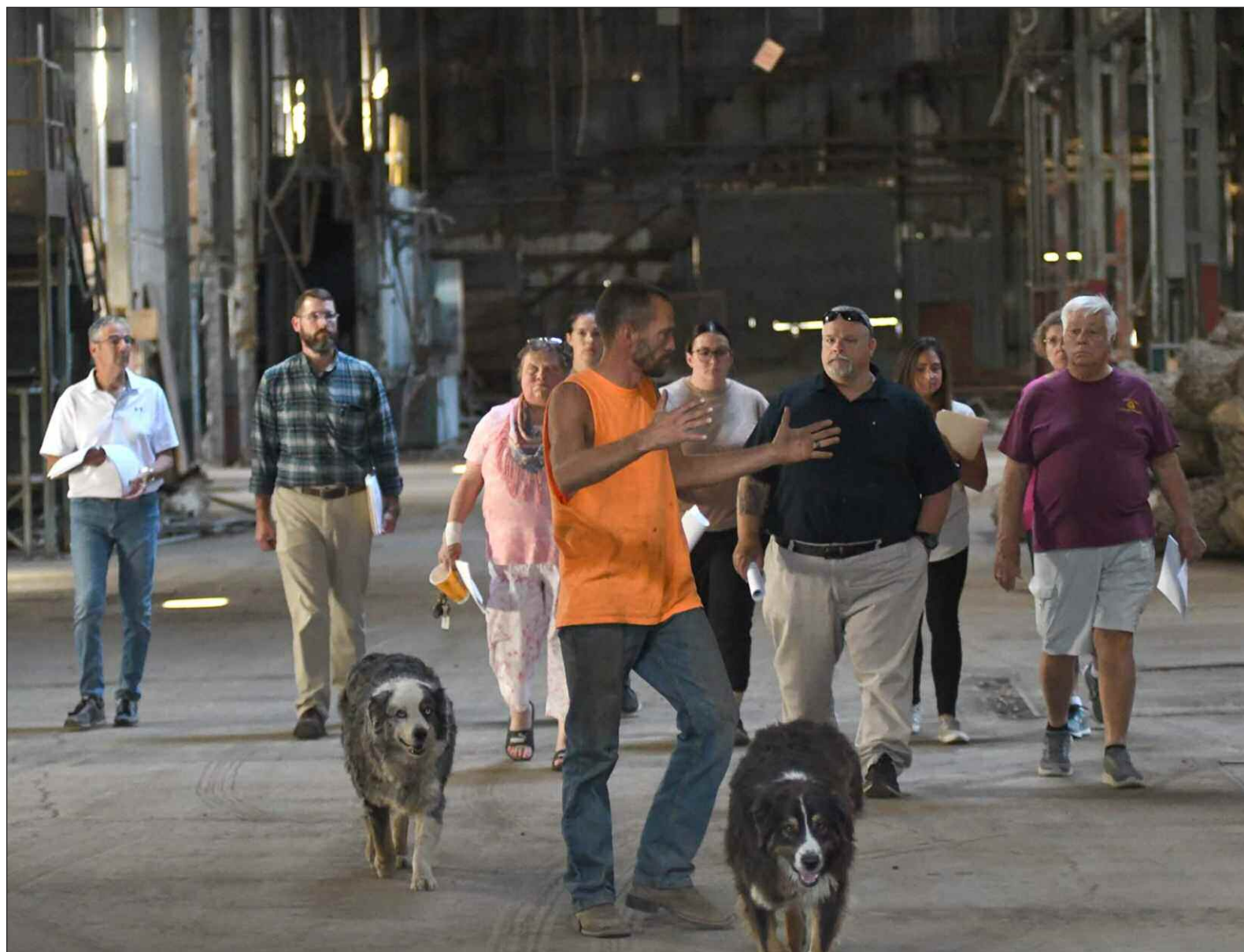
# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Loan approved



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Chad Fifer (center) of Fifer Services explains some of his plans for the former Sheller-Globe south site to members of Portland City Council, Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake and other guests during a Sept. 9 meeting at the facility. Portland City Council on Monday approved a \$309,372 partially forgivable economic development income tax (EDIT) loan for Fifer Services to help with improvements to the property.

### Portland City Council OKs EDIT funds to help Fifer Services with renovations to the former Sheller-Globe south property

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

A local company will get some financial help with its efforts to rehabilitate a former industrial site.

Portland City Council on Monday approved a \$309,372 partially forgivable economic development income tax (EDIT) loan for Fifer Services for its work on the former Sheller-Globe south property.

Travis Richards, executive director of Jay County Development Corporation, presented the loan request from Fifer

Services. He explained that the loan would have an eight-year term. If the company reaches specified goals, including hiring additional employees, 75% of the loan would be forgiven.

The loan funding would be used predominantly for new walls, insulation and doors for the northernmost building on the site, which is planned to house a new sawmill. (Fifer has a future goal to manufacture furniture at the location as well.)

Richards noted that the city's EDIT advisory commit-

tee recommended approving the request.

Council member Ron May, acknowledging that he did not attend a special council meeting at the Fifer Services property at 510 S. Bridge St. last month during which owner Chad Fifer provided a tour of the facilities and shared his plans, raised several questions. They included how many new employees would be added, how much money Fifer had put into the project himself, how much property tax money the property would

generate and where the 75% forgiveness number came from.

Fifer responded that the number of new employees will depend on how big the company gets, but he said he plans to add 10 to 15 by the time it starts making its own furniture at the location.

He added that he sought a quote from a Fort Wayne company for the work Fifer Services has already done at the site. He said it came in at more than \$900,000.

See **Loan** page 7

## County looks at option for insurance

*ParetoHealth plan would be partially self-funded*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

The county has options if officials choose to opt into partially self-funding employees' health insurance.

Jay County Commissioners heard one of those options Tuesday.

Michael Harmon, a representative of ParetoHealth, shared details about his company's work with helping groups to partially self-fund their employees' health insurance.

ParetoHealth has more than 2,700 members nationwide, covering more than 850,000 individuals. Harmon explained ParetoHealth is a captive manager that works with stop-loss insurance carriers to help provide groups with partially self-funded insurance.

If the county chooses to join ParetoHealth, it could keep the same plan designs for its employees under its current network, Physicians Health Plan.

Harmon compared projected costs if the county were to continue to operate under a fully insured model. Next year's premium renewal is estimated at \$1.6 million, with annual increases thereafter coming in at an average of 9 or 10%, or a projected \$25 million over 10 years.

Switching from fully insured to self-insured status includes paying a benefit administration cost — it's projected at \$93,869 annually, or \$62 per employee per month — for the health insurance carrier to administer claims. The county would still pay stop-loss insurance premiums to protect itself against large claims or a large amount of unanticipated small claims, with the county paying the first \$75,000 in claims for each individual and then the provider covering the remaining cost.

See **Option** page 2

## PBM picture still murky

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A review of five years of data from the state's major pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) cataloged more than 63 million claims and nearly \$6.7 billion paid to the entities across state-sponsored plans — including Medicaid and the health plan for state employees, according to an analysis presented before lawmakers on Tuesday.

But the benefits of PBM spending remained murky for lawmakers with the Health Care Cost Oversight Task Force, who spent hours listening to presentations about PBM oversight and contracting.

The preliminary version of the audit, performed by RxConnection, LLC, was shared with lawmakers with the caveat that PBM actions hampered data collection efforts, prompting the Office of the Attorney General to file civil investigative demands.

PBMs have made national

### Lawmakers struggle to get a handle on benefits

headlines following federal lawsuits and state legal action as well as studies concluding the companies add to the nation's growing health care cost burden, which is far more expensive than other wealthy countries.

Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, likened the report to a study on the "black box of state PBM spending," saying efforts to analyze such spending have been stymied by the lack of transparency.

"Five of the seven state plans are still incomplete, awaiting data from the PBMs," Zay said. "... almost all (of) the plans had a dramatic increase in overall plan

cost (that) was disproportionate to member count growth.

"If the PBMs, by design, were to be saving the state money, they have failed miserably."

Zay said he compared PBM spending in Medicaid using the state employee plan as a basis, concluding that the state overpaid PBMs by \$1.6 billion. However, individuals covered by Medicaid are generally less healthy than their counterparts. He urged his peers to explore unconventional options, pointing to West Virginia's decision to create its own PBM as an example.

See **Murky** page 2



Tribune News Service/Miami Herald/Carl Juste

### Preparing for storm

Joanna Parnell, 33, right, fills bags with sand as Hollywood residents join South Floridians prepare Tuesday for possible flooding due to Hurricane Milton in Broward and Miami-Dade counties at Jefferson Park in Hollywood, Florida. The storm was expected to make landfall in central Florida late Wednesday or early today.

#### Deaths

**Larry Bickel**, 81, rural Portland  
Details on page 2.

#### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 70 degrees Tuesday. The low was 37.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 40s. Expect sunny skies Friday with a high in the upper 70s.

For an extended outlook, see page 2.

#### In review

Fort Recovery Public Library will host pumpkin painting on Saturday.

The charge is \$2 and all pumpkins and paint will be provided. To register, go online to [fortrecoverylibrary.org](http://fortrecoverylibrary.org) call the library at (419) 375-2869.

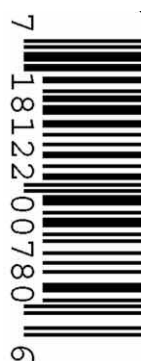
The library is located at 113 N. Wayne St.

#### Coming up

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

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

**Tuesday** — Foundations teamed to support Honor Flight for veterans.



# Option ...

Continued from page 1  
(ParetoHealth estimated the annual stop-loss insurance premium to come in at \$599,836.)

One benefit to ParetoHealth membership includes a 30% rate cap on stop-loss renewal premiums.

Harmon explained the county would have aggregate claims protection, meaning the county would at maximum pay up to \$1.28 million in small claims. (ParetoHealth projected the county to pay just over \$1 million in small claims.)

Commissioner president Chad Aker asked county auditor Emily Franks what the county paid in recent years for health insurance. Franks noted the county is expected to pay \$1.4 million for the current year.

Harmon noted ParetoHealth is member-owned. It involves members paying two capital contributions — first at the time they join and then at their first renewal — at about 10% of their annual stop-loss pre-

mium cost, or an estimated \$59,609. That funding is deposited in an account to be used if needed for claims. (Harmon said ParetoHealth has never utilized funds from its members' capital accounts but confirmed it could happen.) If a member decides to leave the captive manager, available funding in their respective capital accounts is returned to them.

According to ParetoHealth's preliminary estimates, the county could save more than \$2.3 million over 10 years if it switched to the captive manager's partially self-funded insurance. Harmon compared the

total cost for partial self-funding through ParetoHealth as opposed to the county's fully-insured premium cost for 2025. With ParetoHealth, the county would likely pay between \$1.5 million and \$1.7 million in total for partial self-funding as compared to \$1.6 million.

Harmon said groups saved an average of 7.5% when switching from a fully insured plan to partial self-funded insurance with the captive from ParetoHealth.

Members benefit from a plan that doesn't allow new "lasers." According to the company's website, a laser is a "separate, high, individual

specific deductible that applies to a single, identified person within an individual stop-loss policy." (Although it doesn't allow for lasers to be added to plans at renewals, lasers identified at the time a group joins ParetoHealth membership are still in place.)

On average, Harmon said, ParetoHealth has a 96% annual retention rate with groups joining its membership. He pointed out other industries aiding in partially self-funded insurance have on average 60% retention rates.

Jessica Clayton, who currently serves as the county's insurance broker through

OneDigital, noted partially self-funded insurance can be detrimental to a group if established incorrectly. She suggested a captive manager like ParetoHealth is the safest way to begin partially self-funding health insurance.

Harmon pointed out the financial aspects he shared Tuesday are still estimates and that it would take about a week to secure hard numbers. He asked commissioners to consider ParetoHealth and let him know if they are interested in joining its membership.

Aker questioned why OneDigital hadn't offered the option before to the county, with Clayton noting financial troubles for the last several years. She pointed out when they last considered partial self-funding, it would've initially increased the county's contribution.

Commissioners will hear from another option for partially self-funded insurance at their next meeting Friday.

## Commissioners will hear another insurance presentation at a special meeting Friday

## CR almanac

Friday 10/11	Saturday 10/12	Sunday 10/13	Monday 10/14	Tuesday 10/15
<b>78/54</b>	<b>77/55</b>	<b>70/40</b>	<b>58/34</b>	<b>54/32</b>
More sun is expected Friday, when the low at night may hit the low 50s.	Saturday looks to be warm and sunny with a high of 77 degrees.	There's a slight chance of rain on Sunday under mostly sunny skies.	Columbus Day looks to be sunny. At night, the low will dip into the low 30s.	Tuesday shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 54 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$336 million	Evening Daily Three: 2-3-9 Daily Four: 7-0-6-5 Quick Draw: 1-3-4-5-10-11-20-24-28-38-40-50-56-58-61-64-68-69-79-80
<b>Mega Millions</b> 3-19-20-22-66 Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$150 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 5-8-6 Pick 4: 8-1-8-3 Pick 5: 9-9-0-6-0 Evening Pick 3: 1-5-4 Pick 4: 2-9-5-8 Pick 5: 9-2-4-8-4 Rolling Cash: 2-16-18-32-39 Estimated jackpot: \$544,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 3-0-3 Daily Four: 4-4-1-7 Quick Draw: 3-5-7-9-16-21-31-37-39-44-45-48-58-59-60-68-69-71-73-79	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....3.72 Dec. corn.....4.02 Wheat.....4.99	Nov. beans.....10.13 Wheat.....5.49
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....3.67 Dec. corn.....4.02 Jan. corn.....4.24	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.71 Nov. corn.....3.73 Beans.....9.67 Nov. beans.....9.79 Wheat.....5.39
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....3.67 Nov. corn.....3.67 Beans.....9.61	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....3.57 Oct. corn.....3.67 Beans.....9.52 Jan. beans.....9.67 Wheat.....5.19

## Today in history

In 1935, the opera "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin opened on Broadway.

In 2018, Jay County Council agreed the county would pay the bond — \$28,495 annually — for Jay County Regional Sewer District's sewer systems. Residents had come to council seeking help as they were project-

ed to see their monthly bills clear the \$100 mark beginning in 2019.

In 2022, Carolyn Carducci was announced as the acting director of Arts Place. She took over from Desiree Duell, who resigned after just over two months. Carducci later was named executive director.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Friday</b> 2 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, law library, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	5 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
<b>Monday</b> 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
	7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

## Obituaries

### Larry Bickel

July 30, 1943-Oct. 7, 2024  
Larry L. Bickel, age 81, of rural Portland passed away on Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, at his residence.

Born in Portland on July 30, 1943, he was the son of Marvin and Elsie (Worth) Bickel. He was married on Aug. 2, 1964, to Marilyn Flory and she passed away on Jan. 15, 2016.

Larry was retired from Teledyne Portland Forge as a hammer operator. He was a Poling High School graduate, member of VFW in Fort Recovery, Portland Eagles Lodge, American Legion and IOOF.

Surviving are one son, Kent Bickel

(wife: Samantha) of Portland; two daughters, Tane Beckman (husband: Steve) of Hoagland and Danielle Bickel (husband: Lee Lawson) of Portland; two brothers, Don Bickel (wife: Donna) of Ridgeville and Lester Bickel (wife: Julia) of Warren; two sisters, Marilyn Boyce (husband: Don) of Geneva and Marjorie Johnson of Portland; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Friday, Oct. 11, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman



Bickel

Funeral Home with Pastor Jason Rice presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamoniam Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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.

## Murky ...

Continued from page 1  
Other options could include using PBMs that aren't linked to the nation's biggest insurers.

Smaller, mom-and-pop pharmacies reportedly squeezed out of the market by uneven PBM contracting could be saved by mandating all pharmacies be in network, Zay continued. The largest pharmacy chain, CVS Health, also owns a PBM and has long been accused of diverting consumers away from independent pharmacists to its own retail stores.

"Clearly, doing it the same way we have always done it is only costing Hoosier taxpayers more money," Zay said.

RxConnection and Zay credited the Attorney General's Office for working to provide unredacted contracts for analysis, though the office respond to a Tuesday email asking it to confirm the legal action.

The wide-ranging audit, which stems from a 2023 law, included analysis of rebates, formularies, spread pricing and more — presenting reams of technical data that are often shielded from public view.

As the middleman between insurers, drug manufacturers and pharmacies, PBMs develop formularies — or lists of covered medications — that manufacturers pay rebates

toward in order to keep their drugs listed. Lawmakers have long contended that those cost savings for PBMs should be passed onto consumers, who pay the final cost at their local pharmacy.

But the contracts setting such rebates and more are closely guarded secrets, complicating efforts to understand why costs go up. Previously, PBMs have pointed to increased drug manufacturing costs as a driver, but that data isn't usually public either. Tuesday's review was limited to government-sponsored health plans because, as the policy holder, the state could better obtain the data.

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## SERVICES

<b>Friday</b> <b>Bickel, Larry:</b> 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Faller, Michael:</b> 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Monday</b> <b>Whitenack, Charlene:</b> 11 a.m., Lawndale Cemetery, rural Ridgeville.
<b>Hurst, Janice:</b> 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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# There are many benefits to physical activity

By ALEX JOHNSON

There are numerous benefits of physical activity that are both immediate and long-term for children and adults. Staying active can help people's overall health along with help them move better, feel better mentally and sleep better.

## Your Health Matters



but can also include more moderate activities such as biking or doing yard work. Any physical activity is beneficial, and by burning more calories than you consume which includes eating a well balanced diet, you can keep your weight in check to help you move better.

Physical activity can also help your brain health. Regular physical activity can sharpen thinking, learning and judgment skills while reducing the chance of depression and anxiety. Physical activity can also help people sleep better.

There are also numerous health benefits to staying physically active. Some of those benefits include reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke, reducing the risk of developing diabetes and some cancers, and reducing serious side effects from infectious diseases such as the flu,

pneumonia and COVID-19. Staying physically active can also lower blood pressure and improve cholesterol.

How much physical activity is needed?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children between the ages of 3 to 5 should be active throughout the day to stimulate growth and development while those age 6 to 17 should have at least 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous activity each day. Adults over the age of 18 should get at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity

each week. Muscle strengthening activities are also an important part of physical activity and overall health.

What are some ways to stay physically active?

There are many ways to stay physically active. When the weather is nice outside, there are numerous options such as walking, biking, yard work, rollerblading or gardening. When temperatures drop or the weather is unpleasant outside, there are activities such as dancing, house cleaning and climbing stairs. Even walking in place with light weights can be ben-

eficial. You can also check with your local community center for selections of exercise classes and activities such as yoga, pickleball, spinning and more. Attending groups or classes can also help you stay socially connected which is beneficial for your health and well-being. It is important to check with a healthcare provider before beginning any new exercise regimen.

.....  
Alex Johnson is a nurse practitioner seeing patients at IU Health Jay Family First.

# Niece, partner let their dog sleep in the same bed

DEAR ABBY: I own a lake cabin and enjoy hosting friends and relatives. Even though I don't have a pet myself, I like animals and don't mind if people ask to bring their dogs, because the ground floor is linoleum that's easy to clean when the inevitable sand and water get tracked in.

Last year, I invited my niece and her husband to spend the weekend, and they showed up with their large, long-haired dog. Even though they hadn't asked in advance, I didn't have a problem with it until it was time to go to bed. They brought their dog to bed with them in the upstairs guest room. I was so surprised I didn't know what to say.

Dogs have never gone upstairs before, much less rolled around in the bed. They have either slept downstairs on their own, or their owners brought crates or had the dogs sleep in their cars. After the couple left, I had to deep-clean the room to remove the dog hair, including dusting, vacuuming

## Dear Abby



(it is carpeted) and washing all the bed linens (comforter, shams, throws, etc.). I usually just spiff up the room and change the sheets in preparation for the next visitors.

Abby, this couple is coming to the cabin again, and I assume they still have the dog. Should I broach the subject, after setting a precedent during their last visit, or resign myself to the extra cleaning? My relationship with this niece is cordial but slightly strained due to some past family history, so what's more important — relationships or a clean room? — CABIN HOST IN MINNESOTA

DEAR HOST: They are both important. You can clean up a room, but you can't repair

a severed relationship as easily. That said, avoid this dilemma in the future by explaining your house rules to your niece BEFORE she, her husband and her dog come to the cabin again. Ideally, it should have been done when you and your niece discussed her visiting a second time.

.....  
DEAR ABBY: A friendship of 40 years has fallen apart because he refuses to stand up for himself to his wife. She has dominated him throughout their many decades of marriage. Like any narcissist, she managed to isolate him from his family and move him to remote places where he knew no one. Now she is terminally ill and refusing to allow him to move where his family could help him care for her.

His family and I feel the same. Like any narcissist, she has also turned him against me. Along the way, they have made terrible and troubling financial decisions. It is too painful to watch,

so I've withdrawn from the friendship rather than support these bad decisions. Was that the right thing to do? — FORMER FRIEND IN IOWA

DEAR FORMER FRIEND: Yes, it was the right thing to do. Because your friend's wife still controls who may be in contact with her husband, even in her weakened condition, you had little choice but to step back. Once she passes, offer support to him. He is going to need it.

.....  
DEAR ABBY: My 28-year-old son was killed by a semi in a hit-and-run. We didn't find out for weeks until he was identified by fingerprints. My husband and I were faithful members of a church congregation. Many times, I was in charge of the nursery. For three months prior to the accident, I had been keeping a child for a church member at no charge because her dad was sick with cancer.

When my son was killed, Abby, not one person sent a casserole or even called me. Of

course, I didn't go to church for a couple weeks. But no one, including the preacher, reached out! Since then, I no longer attend that particular congregation. Am I expecting too much? — SO HURT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SO HURT: Please accept my sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. As an active member of that congregation, you expected more of a response than universal silence. More than one person dropped the ball after your tragedy, and under the circumstances, your hurt is natural. You did the right thing by changing churches, and I hope you are receiving emotional support from the new congregation you have joined.

.....  
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

**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.

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP** — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

**JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB** — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

## Friday

**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.

## 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.

## Sunday

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

## Monday

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

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

**JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION** — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP** — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

**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 ongo-

ing 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.

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Wednesday's Solution

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

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

## Celebrating Harvest

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The News-Gazette (Winchester)  
The News Times (Hartford City)  
The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

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1/2-page B&W – \$400  
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## GRAPHIC PRINTING

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# Reader offers differing view

To the editor:  
I have to disagree with Randy Geesaman's letter to the editor headlined "Be confident in our voting process."

## Letters to the Editor

Indiana, of course, has a high level of confidence with voter ID and real two-party representations at the polling places and the counting locations. The rest of the country is not so lucky.

Democrats have fought tooth and nail to stop both voter ID and proof of citizenship. The only possible reason should be obvious to anyone. We register millions of illegal aliens to vote when we give them a driver's license and many states then send them a ballot in the mail. Only a fool would believe that many don't vote.

In other states they refuse to clean up the registrations and remove dead, nonresidents and illegal

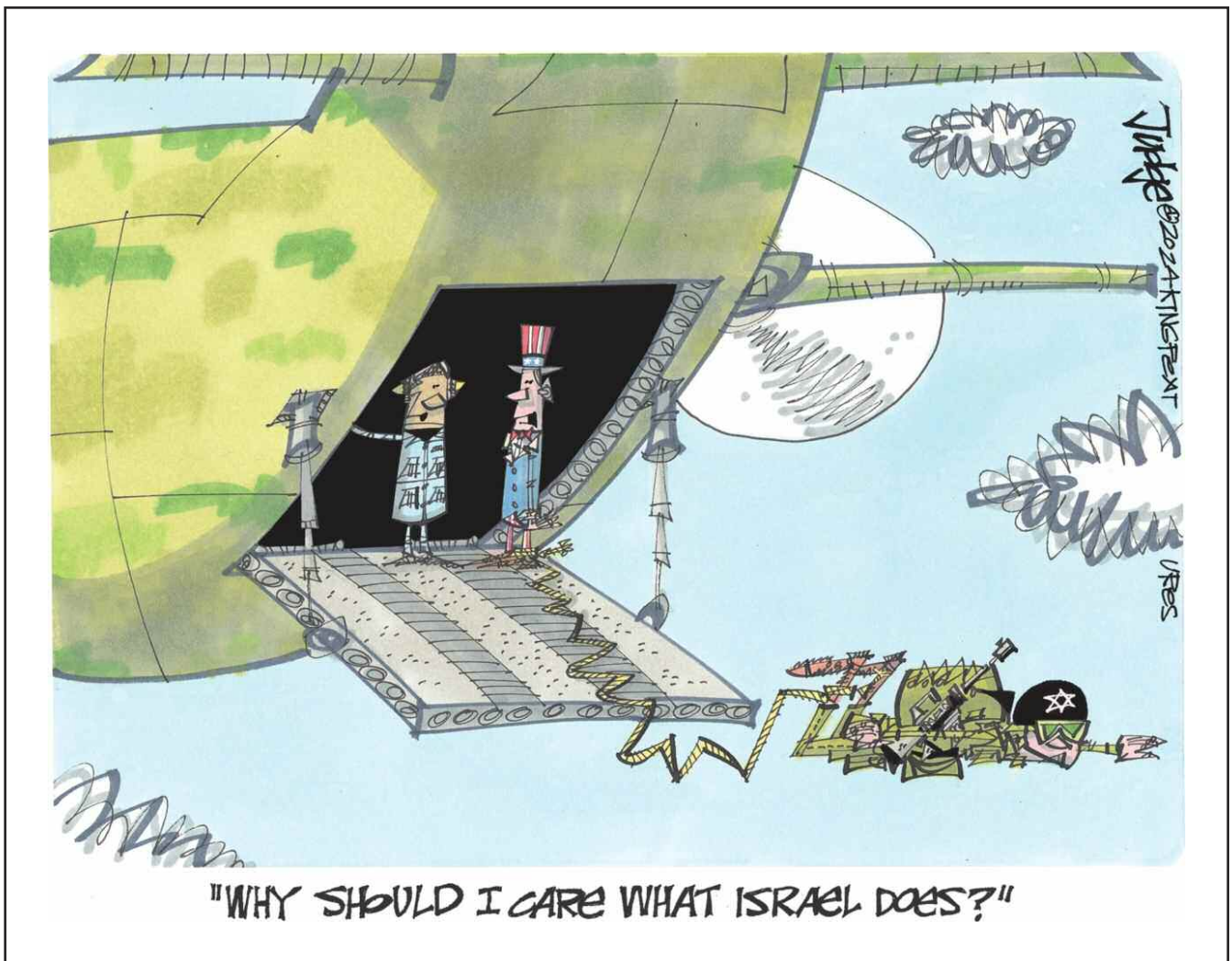
aliens. There can only be one reason for that.

In 2020, one important counting location would not let Republican poll watchers within 50 feet of the ballots. Over many elections there has been a history of Democrats miraculously finding hundreds of thousands of lost ballots in the middle of the night after Republican poll watchers were sent home.

Is it fraud or just the appearance of fraud? Only the Democrats know.

But I guarantee there is no confidence nationwide on the Republican side.

Stephen Erwin  
Portland



# Dominoes are unleashed

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Elizabeth Shackelford



*Will anyone have the power and courage to pull either side back from the brink before it's too late? Momentum is narrowing that window.*

War is unpredictable, but recent developments in the Middle East conflict have precipitously narrowed the options for key players. Contrary to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims, it leaves no possible path to peace.

For a year, U.S. officials have implored the warring parties to avoid further escalation and pursue diplomatic solutions. They have specifically warned Israel against escalating its conflict with Hezbollah on the border with Lebanon into a second front in the war. But that is exactly what Netanyahu decided to do last month.

Israel had good cause to try to neutralize Hezbollah, as tens of thousands of Israeli civilians have had to flee the militant group's ongoing attacks over the past year. But that justification doesn't change the fact that more war, not less, is now on the horizon.

Using thousands of pagers and hundreds of walkie-talkies as mini-bombs across Lebanon, followed by dozens of airstrikes, Israel has killed scores of senior figures of the terrorist group, with ample civilian collateral damage. More than 1,000 people are already dead and more than 1 million displaced across Lebanon. It is also the first time in nearly two decades that Israel has struck central Beirut and conducted a ground invasion into the south.

When Iran fired nearly 200 ballistic missiles on Israel Tuesday, it was undoubtedly a further escalation. This was only the second time Iran, which has traditionally worked through proxy militias, has ever directly attacked Israel this year. President Joe Biden noted that the attack was "defeated and ineffective," since Israel, with American help, managed to intercept most of the missiles and prevent any Israeli casualties, just as it had in April when Iran attacked Israel directly for the first time. Even so, this was a more serious and dangerous effort than in April, with more advanced weaponry and no early warning. This time, Iran meant it. But it still failed to land a punch.

From the perspective of the Iranian regime, it had to try. Iran's reach in the region is through its proxy militias, and

Israel has taken a hammer to them. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps said Iran's attack was in retaliation for Israel's assassination of Hezbollah's longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah in a strike in Beirut, and Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in a guesthouse in Tehran in July.

But Israel's assault on Iran's proxies goes far beyond the leadership. Hamas has been cowed by a yearlong scorched-earth assault in Gaza, and Israel's recent actions in Lebanon have pummeled Hezbollah, Iran's strongest and most well-armed nonstate ally.

Iran would have lost all credibility with its "axis of resistance" partners had it failed to respond, but in doing so, Iran revealed its limitations.

So what's next? Unlike after Iran's failed attack in April, no one is telling Netanyahu to "take the win" this time. Both Israel and the United States have promised that Iran will pay.

Iran, meanwhile, is looking at a world where Israel's military and intelligence advantage is proving overwhelming. If neither its proxies nor its own military capacity can still project power and deter attacks, nuclear weapons are probably looking as attractive as ever to the Islamic Republic. And the state is believed to be within reach of producing them.

Neither the United States nor Israel is ready to allow that. This means that the next logical step in this chain of events is likely Israel, probably with U.S. support, striking nuclear facilities inside Iran, thereby sparking the all-out war that so many have feared for a year.

For Netanyahu, and many hawks in the U.S. foreign policy establishment, this is the moment they've been hoping for. Iran and the groups that act as its muscle in the region are all on the back foot. What better time to strike?

But overwhelming military advantage doesn't necessarily translate to a quick and clean war. The United States learned

that lesson in Iraq. It doesn't even guarantee success is preventing Iran from going nuclear. And the civilian harm would surely eclipse the horrific suffering we've already seen in Gaza.

Most importantly, though, this path has no endgame. The conflict undergirding the region's instability would remain intact. At best, it would contain threats for a period of time. More likely, it merely spawns more.

As has been the case for years before this war and every day since, the only path to lasting peace, for Israel and all its neighbors, is political resolution of the Palestinian question. Even if Israel succeeded in toppling Iran's destabilizing regime (an unlikely outcome but likely Netanyahu's ultimate aim), what then? The deep traumas that this region's people have faced will continue to fuel extremism for a population that is offered no better options.

Will anyone have the power and courage to pull either side back from the brink before it's too late? Momentum is narrowing that window. The U.S. electoral timeline seriously diminishes the chance that America will play that role effectively, at least until January.

Does leadership in Iran or Israel realize how fraught the path ahead is?

The world can only hope.

Shackelford is senior policy director at Dartmouth College's Dickey Center for International Understanding and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune. She was previously a U.S. diplomat.

# Strategy needs to be rebalanced

By MORTON J. MARCUS

It was refreshing to read the McCormick-Goodin Balanced Economic Development Strategy released last week.

Yes, it says some of the same things any such document is bound to say: "Invest in Education and Workforce Development." Who could argue with that one?

"Increase Transparency and Accountability at the IEDC" (Indiana Economic Development Corporation). Of course!

Hoosiers want to see what goes on behind the curtain where the Wizards work. To what extent and in what circumstances is secrecy actually warranted and who benefits from keeping the public in the dark?

There is a theme that runs through the report which is most noteworthy, and which has been ignored for decades by both parties. "[S]hift from prioritizing the largest employers to prioritizing people and small businesses." And add to that, thoughtful decentralization of economic development.

The reality of centralization hits us in the face when we see that 49.3% of the population growth in Indiana in this century (2000 to 2022) has been in just three of our 92 counties.

Marion remains the most-populace county and enjoyed 15% of the state's population growth.

Hamilton moved up from fifth to fourth place in population size thanks to gaining 24% of the state's increase. And Hendricks shot up from having the 16th-largest population to eighth place as it enjoyed (suffered with) more than 77,000 added Hoosiers in those 22 years.

In that time span, 38 Indiana counties lost population. Grant, Delaware, Wayne and Wabash counties each lost more than 4,000 persons. Blackford, Wabash, Randolph and Grant

Eye on the Pie



counties each had a loss of 10% or more.

That's population. The picture is similar if we look at the earnings of workers in each county before commuting moves earnings from one county to another.

Total earnings produced in only 17 Indiana counties matched or exceeded the rate of increase experienced nationally over those 22 years. Among the top eight counties, five were in suburban Indianapolis. The other three were Gibson, Daviess and LaGrange.

The total buying power of money made while working declined in 29 Hoosier counties. The hardest hit were Fayette, Howard, Blackford, Madison and Henry counties.

The number of jobs in the nation increased in those 22 years by 28.5%, but only 13.5% in Indiana.

In 52 of our 92 counties, the number of jobs decreased. The top five growing counties were all in metropolitan Indianapolis and accounted for 72% of the state's job growth.

At the same time, the average earnings per job lost buying power in 15 counties.

Such declines can be ruinous for local merchants.

The IEDC's jubilant reports trumpet their achievements while neglecting the rot permeating our Hoosier economy.

These data support the need for a comprehensive reexamination of Indiana's economic development policies and the practices of our state and local agencies.

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

# The Commercial Review



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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto: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.

"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

**Bellefontain United Methodist**  
440 S. 600 East  
Pamela Freeman  
Services: 9 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**  
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery  
(419) 733-1469  
christchapelfr.com

**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  
David Davidson  
(260) 202-9718  
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.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

**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. Carol McKay  
(304) 617-0101  
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 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 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
(419) 375-4153  
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

**Mount Tabor Community Church**  
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) 223-2961  
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 Church of Christ**  
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland  
Bob Graham  
(260) 726-7777  
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.  
Services: 10:20 a.m.  
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday  
portlandcoc.com

**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.  
Fred Stevens  
(765) 369-2676  
redkeynaz.org  
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@therockjkc.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**  
3984 N. 550 West, Portland  
Pastor Mike Heckman  
(615) 517-1017  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

**Sugar Grove Church**  
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

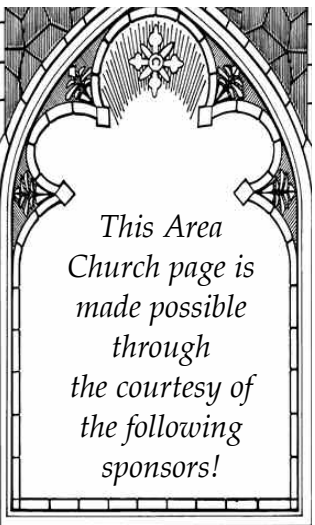
**Union Chapel**  
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant  
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow  
(260) 849-0687  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

**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.  
westwalnutchurchofchrist.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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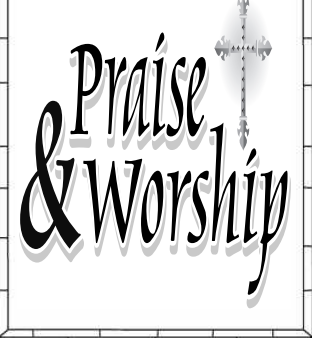
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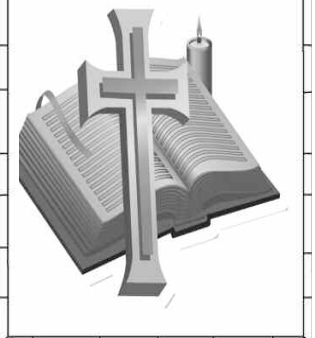


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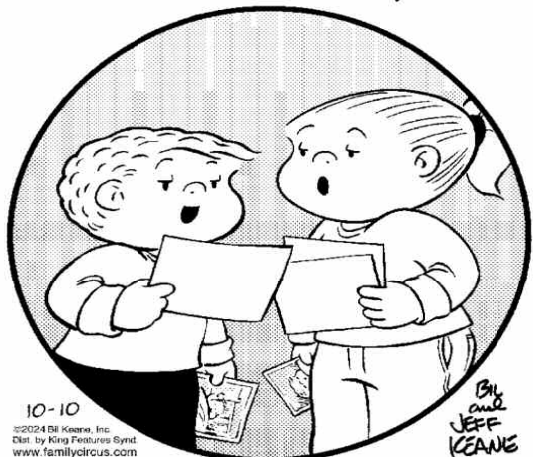


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"I used to be a beautiful baby." "But then you grew up."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Score one for the defense

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: 754, AKQ, AJ102, 974. WEST: 1062, 86, Q4, AKQ1053. EAST: J3, 19752, 98763, 8. SOUTH: AKQ98, 1043, K5, J62.

following suit to the first club and then discarding a low heart and a low diamond on the next two clubs. What should West play next? Actually, there is only one correct play — another club!

Not many players would continue with a club at trick four. This is because such a play is contrary to standard procedure, which holds that one should avoid making a play that allows declarer to ruff in one hand and discard from the other.

In the present case, it should not be difficult for West to work out, given South's opening bid and dummy's hand, that there is no chance of stopping the contract unless his side can score a trump trick.

Accordingly, West leads a fourth round of clubs in the hope that East will produce one of those three cards on the trick. If East has none of them, the contract cannot be defeated, and West will at least get an "A" for effort.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

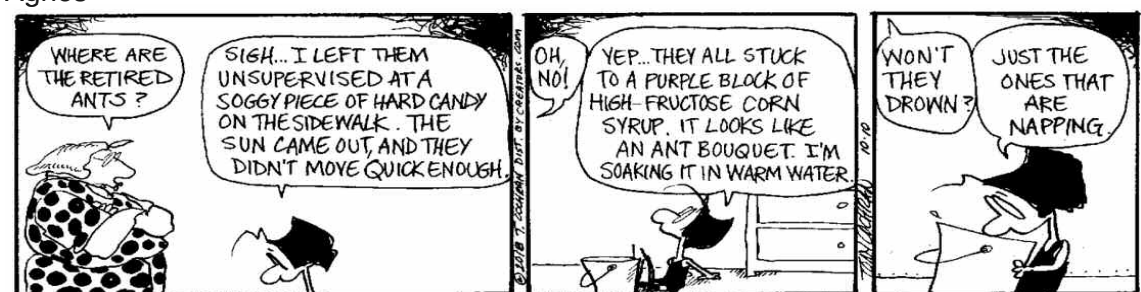
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



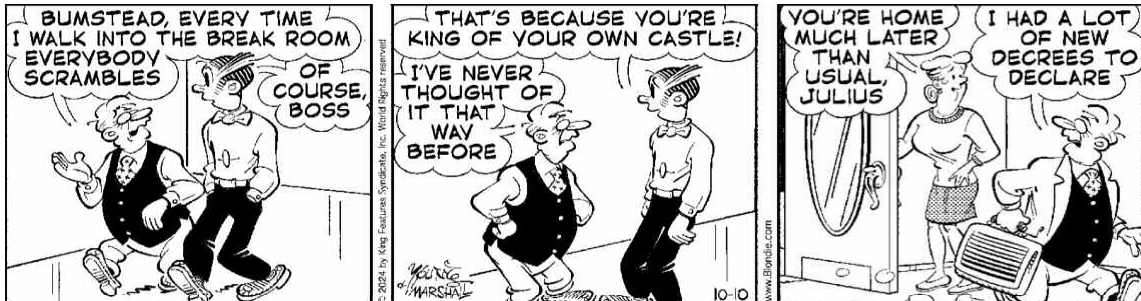
Hi and Lois



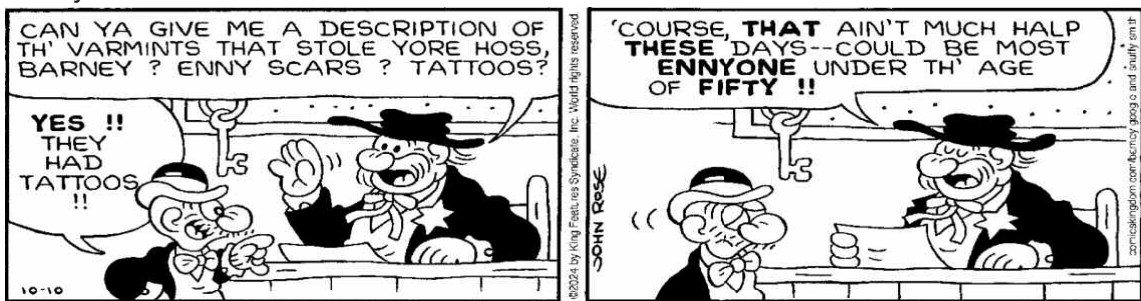
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



10-10 CRYPTOQUIP

ZNKO UVENO K FXSGRI GKB ZNXI K OLSOHX RS KI KHHVEKORS WHRGXG VOG

Yesteryday's Cryptoquip: FAMED ROCK ALBUM WITH AN ICONIC COVER SHOWING FOUR CATS TRAVERSING A CROSSWALK: "TABBY ROAD." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

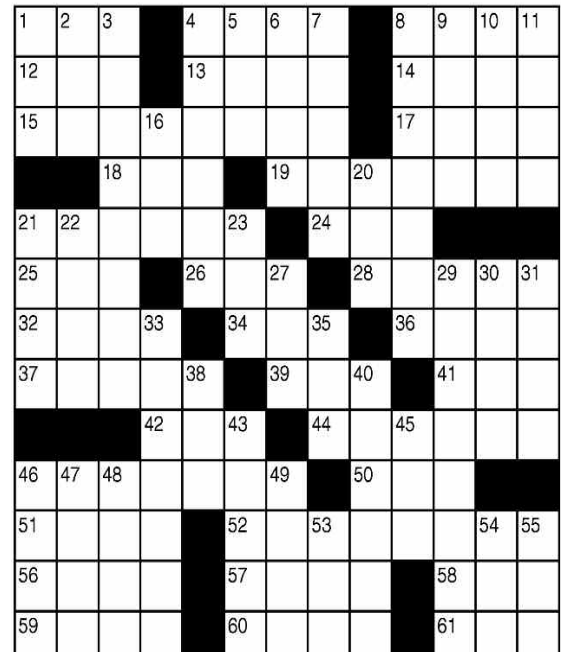
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Sound booster, 4 "Othello" villain, 8 Stir-fry pans, 12 "The Bells" writer, 13 "— chic!" singer Lipa, 14 Creative spark, 15 Fondness, 17 Petty of "Tank Girl", 18 "Levi-tating" singer, 19 Vine growth, 21 Handheld purse, 24 Rock's Ocasek, 25 Army rank (Abbr.), 26 Pioneering ISP, 28 Mowing sites, 32 Golf bag item, 34 QB's goals, 36 Pond duck, 37 Debussy work, 39 Go astray Olympics city, 42 Cistern, 44 Excellent, 46 "Great work!" Eastern "way", 51 Done with writing implement made from a feather, 56 Chutzpah, 57 Desire of TV, 58 Longoria, 59 Sole of shoe, 60 Part of Q.E.D., 61 Just out, DOWN: 1 PC program, 2 Homer's bartender, 3 Swinging clock part, 4 Cornell's home sign, 5 Notre Dame's Par-seghian, 6 Bloke, 7 Blender brand, 8 Villanova athlete, 9 Scent, 10 Russell of "Wait-ress", 11 Go yachting, 16 Snip, 20 Zilch, 21 Roman, 22 Classic Kinks song, 23 Sizzling church, for short, 29 Store window sign, 30 Director Mira, 31 No neatnik, 33 — Hills, 35 Bro's sib, 38 "The Big Bang Theory" role, 40 Squirrel's snack, 43 Chef's hat, 45 Bud, 46 Scrapped mission, 47 Tennis great, 48 Honey-comb division, 49 Duelist Aaron, 53 Polish tennis star, 54 Prior night, 55 Slangy denial

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-10



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# Mozambicans vote for new leader

By **BORGES NHAMIRE**  
and **MATTHEW HILL**

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Mozambicans voted Wednesday for a new leader who will need to quell an insurgency that's stalled massive liquefied natural gas projects with the potential to transform one of the world's least-developed nations.

There's little question over the frontrunner: Daniel Chapo, the candidate of the Liberation Front of Mozambique, which has ruled the southeastern African nation since independence in 1975.

The 47-year-old former provincial governor is "all but certain" to beat his three opponents, according to Oxford Economics Africa, while Eurasia Group put



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Zinyange Auntony

the odds of his party securing a two-thirds majority in parliament at 70%.

Long lines of people queued outside polling stations in the northern city of Nacala and voting proceeded smoothly. More than 17 million people registered to cast ballots.

"Let us all join in this moment of celebration, but remain serene and calm so that everything takes place in a spirit of peace and tranquility," incumbent President Filipe Nyusi said in a posting on Facebook, urging citizens to exercise their democratic rights.

Voters queue outside a polling station at a school in Munhava in Beira on Wednesday during Mozambique's national election.

Attacks by an Islamic State-backed group prompted TotalEnergies SE to delay work on its \$20 billion LNG project in the northern Cabo Delgado province in early 2021. Patrick Pouyanné, the company's chief executive officer, plans to visit Mozambique later

this month to assess whether the president-elect will continue enlisting Rwanda's help to maintain security in the area.

Mozambique had hoped that the gas project and an even bigger one proposed by ExxonMobil Corp. would lift millions out of poverty in a nation where nearly three in four people lived on less than \$2.15 a day last year. The seven-year insurgency that's killed thousands is one of the government's biggest challenges, draining finances and delaying hydrocarbon revenues.

In an interview last week, Chapo said he will wait until he takes office to make a decision regarding Mozambique's security partnership with Rwanda, which dates back to 2021 and was initiated by

Nyusi. Chapo favors starting dialog with the militants in parallel with the military response.

While the possibility of renegotiating deals with multinationals emerged as a key theme during the campaigns, Chapo said Mozambique has always prioritized stability for investors.

His main challenger is Ossufo Momade, president of the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana party, or Renamo.

But the election also has a potential wildcard in former lawmaker Venâncio Mondlane, who is standing as an independent candidate with the Podemos party. He quit the main opposition earlier this year after it blocked him from challenging Momade as Renamo leader.

## Loan ...

Continued from page 1

Addressing property taxes, Richards said that number is unclear as it will be based on the assessed value of the property as it is improved over time.

Fifer said he requested the 75% loan forgiveness because he is aware of some previous loans, including one for the antique mall and event center across the street, were provided with 100% forgiveness.

"It's a huge project and we need as much help as we can get," he said.

May said he was not comfortable at the 75% loan forgiveness option. He also referenced previous situations in which the city "got burned" in the past, including to XPLEX, Community Home Improvement and Geesaman Industries.

Council member Mike Aker agreed with May's concern about the 75% loan forgiveness, saying a 25% payback is not enough. Council member Matt Goldsworthy said he was initially hesitant as well, but he noted that his concerns were mitigated because Fifer's contract would also allow the city to continue to use the site for storage for three years.

Council president Kent McClung and fellow council member Dave Golden spoke in

support of the project, with the former noting the decades that the property has sat idle.

"For me, it's someone that's taking pretty much a Brownfield site that we had and turning it into an asset," said McClung. "We've spent almost \$300,000 tearing building's down in the city in the last year. ...

"And I see what he's done to the building. He's got a lot of sweat equity in it. ... This will help him with that one part of the building, but he's also taking on the rest of it, and turn the site into something that's not a liability for the city anymore."

Council approved the loan request as presented on a 5-2 vote, with Ashley Hilfiker, Michele Brewster, McClung, Golden and Goldsworthy in favor. May and Aker dissented.

Also Monday, council passed its 2025 budget of \$10.61 million on a second reading after May raised various questions.

Before the vote on the budget, which was approved on a first reading last month, May expressed his opinion that all departments should review the numbers and look for reductions. He asked a few direct questions of Police Chief Dustin Mock regarding money budgeted for vehicle purchases and targeted funds for a parks study

and for additional pickleball courts in the parks budget.

Mock reiterated his plan to have the police department replace vehicles in rotation in order.

"I think that's the responsible thing to do is to have it in the budget and not come to you asking for it when we need it," he said.

McClung added that he was reluctant to consider any cuts to the park board budget without talking to its members.

The budget — it includes \$4.77 million in the general fund, up from \$4.42 million; \$1.39 million in the motor vehicle highway fund, up from \$1.31 million; \$1.3 million in the insurance surplus non-reverting fund (unchanged); and \$569,420 in the park and recreation fund, up from \$509,000 — passed unanimously, with May saying he was voting "reluctantly" in favor.

Council passed two ordinance amendments on a first reading, one that allows for dollars to be moved within like funds in designated sections of the budget and another that corrects a typographical error in the progressive discipline section regarding pay if an employee is dismissed because of a violation.

Both ordinance amendments will need to be approved on sec-

ond reading before going into effect

In other business, council:  
•Set residential trick-or-treat hours for 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31.

•Approved a three-year tax abatement for Pioneer Equipment on \$2 million in new equipment. The abatement is estimated to save the company \$51,000 while generating \$159,000 in property taxes.

•OK'd an additional appropriation of up to \$25,000 for a mayor's vehicle on a 6-1 vote with May dissenting. Purchase of a specific vehicle will be up to the city's board of works.

•Approved the following street closures: Ship Street between Main and Walnut streets and Walnut Street between Commerce and Ship streets from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, for an American Legion Post 211 trunk-or-treat and car show; and Ship Street between Arch and High Streets from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, for Jay County Public Library's Fall into Fun event.

•Heard thanks from Goldsworthy to emergency responders during the Sept. 22 tornado. Aker, Brewster, McClung, Golden and Westlake echoed those thoughts. McClung and Golden also thanked WPGW's Rob Weav-

er for his on-air reports during the storm.

•Heard May complain about the "migrant situation," saying one of the houses he owns was hit by a vehicle and pushed off its foundation. He also shared other stories about things he said he has been told have happened. "Portland's got a problem," he said. Golden later cautioned that specifying a certain group of people could be considered racial profiling and asked that council members be more respectful of people.

•Learned from Hilfiker that Pregnancy Care Center is holding a Ladies Night at 6 p.m. Thursday at Wheel and Spoke Event Center.

•Received updates on community projects following questions from Golden:

—The U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) work — it includes sidewalk work, new traffic signals and paving — in Portland that was originally scheduled to be complete this month will stretch into November.

—The Blaine Pike paving and multi-use path project is nearly complete. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said issues with Americans with Disabilities Act ramps have been corrected and the project should close out soon.

### 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 outbuild-  
ings. 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  
King Tulip bowls; Faber-  
ware; Pepsi clock; Coke  
sign; buggy seat; wagon  
wheels; milk cans; and  
other items not listed.

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By Dave Tillman Personal  
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### 90 SALE CALENDAR

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY OCTOBER  
12TH, 2024  
TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 715 E MAIN  
ST

#### PORTLAND, IN. OPEN HOUSE SEPT.

29TH 1-3PM. Both prop-  
erties will be offered at  
715 E Main St.  
REAL ESTATE

715 E Main St.-3 Bed-  
room, 1.5 bathroom bun-  
galow containing 1984  
sq ft finished living area.  
Central air, Det. garage  
w/heated shop. Move in  
condition.

660 E Water St.-2 Bed-  
room home containing  
936 sq ft finished living  
area, Central air 20" x  
24" detached garage.  
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357mag revolver, Sava-  
ge hex barrel  
22cal.pump, Parker  
Brothers 12ga side by  
side with rabbit ears.  
Large lot of ammo.  
ANTIQUES-FURNI-  
TURE-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, Power-  
matic 12" planer, roll  
away tool box, Utility  
carts and cabinets, V  
bottom aluminum boat  
and trailer, Fishing Seals  
and supplies, Several  
items not mentioned.  
OWNERS; DONALD  
SUTTON ESTATE,  
HELEN (Toni) SUTTON

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### 90 SALE CALENDAR

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER  
24TH, 2024  
TIME 5:00 P. M.  
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Pearl St., Dunkirk, IN  
LAND

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Townships, Jay County,  
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32.5 tillable located in  
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Township, Jay County  
Indiana, with frontage on  
County Roads 400 S  
and 800 W.

Tract 2: 44 Acres all till-  
able in Section 6, Jef-  
ferson Township, Jay  
County Indiana with  
frontage on County  
Roads 400 S, 800 W,  
350 S.

Tract 3: 36 Acres wood-  
ed in Section 6, Jef-  
ferson Township, Jay  
County Indiana with  
frontage on County  
Roads 400 S, and 350  
S.

Tract 4: 20.5 Acres all  
tillable in Section 6, Jef-  
ferson Township, Jay  
County Indiana with  
frontage on County  
Road 350 S.

Tract 5: 28.5 Acres  
wooded in Section 6,  
Jefferson Township, Jay  
County Indiana with  
frontage on County  
Road 400 S.  
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COOK ESTATE.

LeeAnn Hedges Combs,  
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soft and AuctionZip for  
more photos.

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### 90 SALE CALENDAR

#### 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  
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dows. Alley access as  
well as on-street park-  
ing.

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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  
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The voters of JAY County are notified by the county election board  
in accordance with Indiana Code 3-10-2-2 that a general (or special)  
election will be held in the county on November 5, 2024, with the  
polls open for voting from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., prevailing local  
time.

In accordance with the list of candidates and the public questions  
certified to me by the Slate of Indiana or this county's election  
board, and the certificates of candidate selection filed in the office  
of the circuit court clerk of this county (or the Lake or Porter County  
election director), the following offices and public questions or ju-  
dicial retention questions, if applicable, will be on the general (or  
special) election ballot:

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

US SENATOR

GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR, INDIANA

ATTORNEY GENERAL INDIANA

US REPRESENTATIVE, 3

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 033

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 079

JUDGE, CIRCUIT COURT, JAY

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, JAY

COUNTY TREASURER, JAY

COUNTY CORONER, JAY

COUNTY SURVEYOR, JAY

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, JAY

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER, JAY

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, JAY SCHOOL CORP

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO VOTERS

The text of public questions submitted to voters, if applicable,  
are as follows

Public Question #1

Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to remove  
the state superintendent of public instruction from the list of of-  
ficeholders who shall discharge the powers and duties of the gov-  
ernor if the office of the governor and lieutenant governor are both  
vacant?

JUDICIAL RETENTION QUESTIONS  
TO BE SUBMITTED TO VOTERS

The text of judicial retention questions submitted to voters,  
if applicable are as follows:

Retention of Justice of the Derek Read Moller be retained in office?  
Retention of Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana Loretta H.  
Rush be retained in office?

Retention of Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana  
Shall Justice Mark S. Massa be retained in office?

Court of Appeals Judicial Retention - Fourth District  
Shall Judge Rudolph Reginald Pyle III be retained in office?

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE OR "EARLY" VOTING INFORMATION  
The dates, times and locations of in-person voting at the circuit  
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120 N COURT STREET  
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Open Tuesday 10/08/2024 until Friday 10/11/2024 8:30AM to 4:30PM

Open Monday 10/14/2024 until Friday 10/18/2024 8:30AM to 4:30PM

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Open Saturday 10/26/2024 until Saturday 10/26/2024 8:00AM to 3:00PM

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# Jets ...

Continued from page 10  
In Saleh's first season with the team, the Jets finished 4-13. The following season, in 2022, the Jets went 7-10 and lost their final six games of the year after having a 7-4 record.

Following two seasons in which the team recorded back-to-back losing seasons, the Jets acquired Aaron Rodgers in a trade with the Packers in April 2023. At that point, Gang Green's expectations changed.

However, Saleh received a mulligan following a 7-10 campaign in 2023 and Rodgers' season-ending Achilles tear. After Rodgers' injury, the Jets started three quarterbacks: Zach Wilson, Tim Boyle and Trevor

Siemian. The team's offense continued to finish near the bottom in yards and points per game. At NFL Honors in February, Johnson put Saleh and Jets general manager Joe Douglas on notice.

"They've seen me about as mad as I could be with what was going on with the offense particularly," Johnson said. "We've got all this talent and we've got to deploy talent properly."

With Rodgers healthy, the Jets were again pegged as Super Bowl contenders. In Week 1, Gang Green lost in embarrassing fashion to San Francisco on Monday Night Football. The Jets then recovered by defeating the Titans and Patri-

ots in back-to-back weeks.

But over the next two weeks, it was clear something needed to be fixed as the Jets offense continued to be putrid under Saleh's leadership, following back-to-back losses to the Broncos and Vikings.

After scoring three touchdowns in three consecutive games, the Jets offense didn't score a

*'They've seen me about as mad as I could be with what was going on with the offense particularly. We've got all this talent and we've got to deploy talent properly.'*

—New York Jets owner Woody Johnson

Williams raised eyebrows with his comments about the team.

"I'm going to be honest, people get tired of hearing the same s—," Williams said. People gotta start taking accountability from the top to the bottom, that's the main thing."

The Jets are currently 27th in yards (286.6) and 25th in points per game (18.6).

Including Rodgers, six different players — Wilson, Mike White, Siemian, Joe Flacco, Boyle — started games for the Jets during Saleh's tenure.

Wilson started 11 games in 2023 following Rodgers' Achilles injury but was traded to the Broncos during the off-season.

touchdown in the loss to the Broncos. In addition, the Jets committed 15 penalties against the Broncos, 13 of which were accepted.

In the postgame press conference following the loss to Denver, Saleh appeared to blame Rodgers' cadence before days later saying the media created the issue.

At Tottenham Hotspur

Stadium in London on Sunday, the Jets fell behind 17-0 before coming back with a chance to win the game late in the fourth quarter. But Rodgers threw an interception to Stephon Gilmore on the final drive, ending the Jets' hopes of winning the game.

When speaking to SNY on Sunday, Quincy

# 2024 HOME COMING

GAME TIME

**FRIDAY**  
**October 11th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
Barrenbrugge Athletic Park

Fort Recovery



Indians

vs.



Parkway Panthers

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# Eagles ...

Continued from page 10  
Dirksen fell to Vest in the regional opener in 2023 and 2022 as well. (Delta swept Jay County 5-0 in 2022, while Eli Dirksen's cousin, Abraham Dirksen, pulled off the sole victory against the Eagles in 2023's 4-1 loss.)  
Dirksen came close to winning a game a few times, like in the third game of the first set. The seniors traded points before Dirksen made deuce on a Vest forehand into the net. He came up short of the win as Dirksen

sent his own forehand into the net and then had to hit a volley in self defense that went wide right.  
"I just feel bad for Eli," Gillespie said. "The kid played out of his mind. Even coach (Tim) Cleland said that's the best he's played. Those weren't easy shots he was hitting at the net. Eli had some really low balls. The kid just got him back, some days you get that."  
Also falling 6-0, 6-0 was Gabe Pinkerton in the No. 3 singles match to Luke Atkinson, who

Gillespie described as a "buzz-saw."  
Tucker Griffin found the most success of the Patriots. While only aiming to win at least one game, he found himself taking three games against the Eagles' No. 2 singles player Owen Cupp in the first set.  
The JCHS senior couldn't build upon the success in the second set, falling 6-3, 6-0.  
Blake Kahlig and Carter Wellman finished their final match as Patriots with a 6-0, 6-2 loss at the No. 2 doubles position to

Tyce Dishman and Aaron Elliot. Carpenter and Miller were the last Jay County players on the court, falling to Ben Miller and Brady Williams seconds after Dirksen and Vest wrapped up. The freshmen constantly tested the Eagles duo, but only claimed one victory from it in the 6-0, 6-1 loss.  
In the game the JCHS freshmen won, — it was the third game of the second set — they scored points on a self defense volley by Miller that landed wide left, a strong volley by Carpenter,

and a pair of forehands by both Eagles on serves from Miller.  
"I hope they build from this," Gillespie said. "If you look at their second half of the season, they grew. I thought that they played Bluffton and South Adams very well."  
"I had people come up to me and say, 'Your No. 1 doubles is improving from the first part to the second part.' And that's what we need to do."  
"I'm very proud of them and they'll be fun to work with for the next three years."

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls soccer sectional semifinal vs. Delta or New Castle at Missisnewa — 6 p.m.; Volleyball vs. New Castle — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Volleyball (including freshmen) vs. St. Henry — 5:30 p.m.;

Middle school football at Parkway — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Jay County — Football vs. Lapel — 7 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Football vs. Parkway — 7 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
6:08 p.m. — MLB Divisional series: Cleveland Guardians at Detroit Tigers (TNT)  
7:30 p.m. — College football: Coastal Carolina at James Madison (ESPN2)

8:08 p.m. — MLB Divisional series: New York Yankees at Kansas City Royals (TBS)  
8:15 p.m. — NFL: San Francisco 49ers at Seattle Seahawks (FOX)  
**Friday**  
12 a.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — PGA Jr. League championship (ESPN2)  
4:33 p.m. — MLB Divisional series: New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies (FS1)  
6 p.m. — College football: Harvard at Cornell (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — College football: Northwestern at Maryland (FOX)

8:08 p.m. — MLB Divisional series: San Diego Padres at Los Angeles Dodgers (FOX)  
9:15 p.m. — College football: Prairie View A&M at Arkansas-Pine Bluff (ESPN2)  
10:30 p.m. — College football: Utah at Arizona State (ESPN)

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# G

# INDIANS

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**Good Luck, Indians!**

**Fort Recovery volleyball took down St. John's, see story below**

**Jay girls soccer plays in sectional semifinal today, see Sports on tap**

# Sports



*Review preview*  
Friday - 7 p.m.

## Jay County Patriots

Portland, 2-5  
**Coach:** Grant Zgunda, fourth year (27th overall)  
**Conference:** Allen County  
**Last week vs. South Adams:** The Starfires blanked Jay County in the first half en route to a 34-14 victory. The Patriots ran 36 more plays than South Adams, and gained an extra 81 yards, but couldn't find ways to put the ball in the end zone.  
**Season leaders:** Passing — Sean Bailey — 59-of-117 for 845 yards and six TDs. Rushing — A.J. Myers — 122 carries for 290 yards and four TDs. Receiving — Benson Ward — 13 receptions for 274 yards and one TD. Defense — Lucas Strait — 54 tackles and two interceptions.

vs.

## Lapel Bulldogs

Lapel, 4-3  
**Coach:** Tim Miller, 13th year  
**Conference:** Independent  
**Last week vs. Heritage Christian:** The Bulldogs rattled off 21 second-quarter points, but played from behind the entire way after giving up 21 to the Eagles in the first. Lapel got blanked in the second half to give HCHS a 40-21 victory.  
**Season leaders:** Passing — Devin Craig — 123-of-183 for 1,868 yards and 19 TDs. Rushing — Jack Miller — 133 carries for 706 yards and nine TDs. Receiving — Rylie Hudson — 34 receptions for 605 yards and six TDs. Brice Burress — 22 receptions for 371 yards and five TDs. Defense — Isaiah Young — 83 tackles.

**Last season:** The Bulldogs defense kept Jay County quiet in the 28-7 defeat a season ago, only allowing one rushing touchdown by Sean Bailey in the second quarter. While Lapel's defense excelled, the Patriots' lagged behind giving up a touchdown in three of the four quarters on two passes and one rush. Lapel also scored on a fumble recovery in the third quarter.  
**Game notes:** Jay County is 0-5 all-time against the Bulldogs ... Lapel has dropped three straight games after starting the season 4-0 ... John Harrell predicts Jay County to lose 31-21, while Calpreps.com also has the Bulldogs as 16-point favorites.

# Can't pick off Eagles



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS' Carter Wellman hits a forehand during Tuesday's No. 2 doubles match against Delta in the regional opener at Noblesville. Wellman is one of five seniors that had their career end in the 5-0 loss.

## Patriots' season ends at hands of Delta in regional opener for third year in a row

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review  
NOBLESVILLE — In the 30 days leading up to the regional, the Patriots were rolling.

While they dropped four matches, they picked up eight victories.

No one came in hotter than Eli Dirksen, who built a 15-match win streak and hadn't lost since the month of August.

None of that mattered to the Eagles, as they ended the Patriots' season.

The Jay County High School tennis team fell 5-0 to the Delta Eagles on Saturday in the IHSAA Regional 14 hosted by Noblesville for the third consecutive season.

"I hate it for the seniors," said JCHS coach Donald Gillespie, who graduates five of the seven players in his lineup. "We had a good group of kids this year. ... Started very inexperienced. When I say reload instead of rebuild, to me that means I need upperclassmen to come in and we got that."

Along with the hopes of advancing as a team being put to bed, the chance of Dirksen or the No. 1 doubles pair, Kady Carpenter and Alex Miller, moving on individually ended as well.

Coming into the regional tournament, Dirksen won 15 straight matches, with his last loss coming

on Aug. 20, 5-7, 7-5, 10-6 to Alexandria-Monroe's No. 1 singles player.

Not only did Delta's Kody Vest end that streak, he didn't give up a game to the Jay County (9-11) star for a 6-0, 6-0 sweep.

"He's a really good net player," Dirksen said. "I just could not get the ball past him whenever he went to the net. I remember him the past two years I played him and he's been a really good player. ..."

"But it's definitely been a good time (on the win streak). I definitely need to give credit to my coaches and teammates, just keeping my head up."

See Eagles page 9

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# Tribe picks up second MAC victory

DELPHOS, Ohio — The Midwest Athletic Conference can be brutal. If you aren't prepared to compete with the top teams, you need to take whatever wins you can get to keep your head above water.

The Indians may not be able to climb into the top half of the standings this year, but they know they won't finish in the cellar either.

The Fort Recovery High School volleyball team's 24-26, 27-25, 25-19, 25-21 victory over the St. John's Blue Jays on Tuesday, guaranteed the Indians can't tie for the last place in the conference in 2024.

Cameron Muhlenkamp and Bridget Homan powered the offensive effort for the Tribe spikers (9-12, 2-6 MAC) with 13 and 10 kills, respectively. A trio of Indians finished just outside of double-digit kills, as Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp and Brynn Willmann each had nine kills.

Assisting the hitters was setter Kayla Heitkamp, who finished with 36. She

## Local roundup

also had a team-high five aces

Niekamp and Homan led the defensive effort at the net, with the former blocking seven shots and the latter six.

## Warriors dominated

WOODBURN — The Jay County Junior High School eighth grade football team dominated the Woodlan Warriors 30-6 on Tuesday to close out the season.

Logan Wendel jump started the offense with a 5-yard rushing touchdown to break the ice for Jay County (8-2). Wendel later scored the final TD of the game, when he connected with quarterback Brady Millspaugh on a 10-yard pass in the second half.

Walter Campofiore also had a big day, finding the

end zone on a 15-yard pass from Millspaugh and converting on three two-point attempts.

The other touchdown came from Kenton Cochran on a 35-yard carry near the end of the first half.

## Last minute win

MONROE — Roman Clamme and Abraham Lee connected for a touchdown with seconds left to give the Jay County seventh grade football team a 12-6 victory over the Adams Central Jets on Tuesday.

Both of the Patriots' touchdowns came on pass-plays from Clamme to Lee.

Michael Gabbard led the defensive effort with five tackles for losses, including two sacks of the Jets' quarterback.

Paul Campofiore and Salamon Petro supported Gabbard's effort with three and two tackles for losses, respectively.

The Patriots finished the season with a 4-3 record, going 2-2 in the Allen County Athletic Conference.

# Jets fire coach Robert Saleh amid struggles

By ANTWAN STALEY

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — After their disappointing loss to the Vikings on Sunday in London, the Jets have fired head coach Robert Saleh.

Defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich will be the interim head coach, a source said. The Jets will host the Bills on Monday Night Football in Week 6 for first place in the AFC East.

Saleh had one year remaining on his contract that he signed in 2021.

"This morning, I informed Robert Saleh that he will no longer serve as the head coach of the Jets," Jets owner Woody Johnson said in a statement. "I thanked

him for his hard work these past 3 1/2 years and wished him and his family well moving forward. This is not an easy decision, but we are not where we should be given our expectations, and I believe now is the best time for us to move in a different direction."

Saleh registered a 20-36 record in four seasons with the Jets. This is the first time since becoming the owner in 2000 that Johnson has fired a coach during the middle of the season.

The Jets hired Saleh as their coach in 2021, following a successful stint as the 49ers' defensive coordinator from 2017-21. He replaced Adam Gase, who finished with a 2-14 record in 2020 before he was fired.

See Jets page 8