

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Deal approved *Board OKs agreement with Fifer*

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

City council approved the funding.

Now the development agreement is in place as well.

Portland Board of Works on Tuesday approved a development agreement with Chad Fifer for an economic development income tax (EDIT) loan to help with improvements at the former Sheller-Globe south property.

Last week, Portland City Council approved a \$309,372 partially forgivable EDIT loan for Fifer for improvements to the property at 510

S. Bridge St. He plans for his company, Fifer Services, to install a sawmill in the north building on the property. The loan funds will be used to install new walls, doors and insulation.

Fifer, who completed the purchase of the property from the city early this year, said he hopes to rent the remainder of the property to other businesses and in the future would like to manufacture furniture at the site as well.

The loan agreement the board of works addressed Tuesday calls for 75% for-

giveness if Fifer meets certain criteria, including completing construction and hiring at least one new employee within one year and being fully operational within three years. He will also need to make regular reports to the city and has agreed to allow the city to continue using 6,400 square feet of one of the buildings for equipment storage for three years.

The loan has an eight-year term, with no interest or payments for the first three years. Fifer will then have five years to pay back the loan.

Board of works members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Mayor Jeff Westlake unanimously approved the agreement.

Also Monday, the board approved a \$14,704 contract with IWM Consulting of Fort Wayne for environmental work related to the Sheller-Globe north property. The work includes utility clearance, delineation of wells and groundwater sampling.

The board also approved the hiring of Mandy Ellsworth as a police department dispatcher.

FR man died in crash Sunday

Vehicle flipped after going off of Ohio 49

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A Fort Recovery man died and two children were injured in a vehicle accident Sunday afternoon in Ohio.

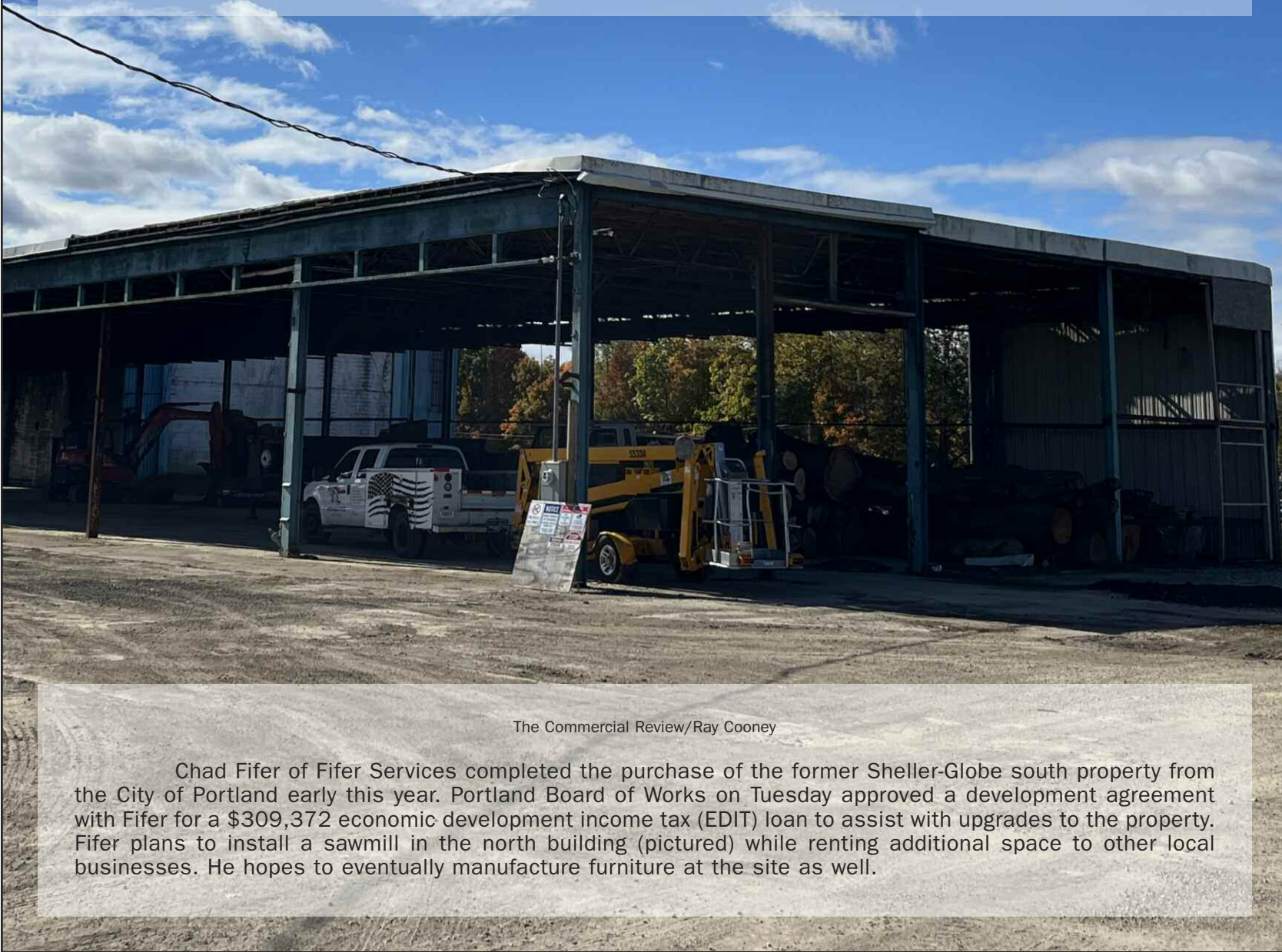
Kimo K. Bechtol, 44, died after his vehicle struck a guardrail and flipped off Ohio 49 in Gibson Township, Mercer County, Ohio. Passengers Kolson Bechtol, 13, and Leah Bechtol, 8, also sustained injuries from the accident.

Kimo Bechtol was driving a Dodge Ram 1500 north on the highway near 972 Ohio 49 about 3 p.m. Sunday when the vehicle crossed the center line, according to an accident report from Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Bechtol's vehicle continued to drift into the opposite lane before going off the west side of the road and striking a guardrail. The impact caused Bechtol's vehicle to become airborne and flip sideways an unknown amount of times, the report says, heading northwest before hitting an embankment.

Kimo Bechtol was pronounced dead at the scene.

Kolson Bechtol sustained serious injuries, and Leah Bechtol sustained minor injuries, according to the report. Kolson Bechtol was trapped inside and had to be extricated from the vehicle. Kolson and Leah Bechtol were transported by Saint Henry Emergency Medical Service personnel to Mercer Health of Coldwater, Ohio, for treatment.

The vehicle was towed.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Chad Fifer of Fifer Services completed the purchase of the former Sheller-Globe south property from the City of Portland early this year. Portland Board of Works on Tuesday approved a development agreement with Fifer for a \$309,372 economic development income tax (EDIT) loan to assist with upgrades to the property. Fifer plans to install a sawmill in the north building (pictured) while renting additional space to other local businesses. He hopes to eventually manufacture furniture at the site as well.

Redkey delays process

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

All Indiana governmental reporting units have until Nov. 1 each year to file the following year's budget with the state.

Redkey will be pushing back its budget adoption until a few days prior to that deadline.

Redkey Town Council discussed its 2025 budget Tuesday. It also noted the resignation of town marshal Zach Moser.

Clerk-treasurer Gloria May provided council members — absent council member Dave Dudelston — with copies of next year's proposed budget, which comes in at \$791,822, approximately \$283,000 more than the current year's budget. (Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding accounts for \$157,836 of that amount. The dollars are being used to gradually purchase new water meters.) May created the budget with help from consulting agency Local Government Services, which has been providing assistance to the clerk's office since April.

Council hosted a public hear-

Special meetings are scheduled for Oct. 22 and 29

ing for the budget Tuesday. (According to the notice to taxpayers on Indiana Gateway, the website used for budgets by Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, Redkey hosted its public hearing Sept. 19. Redkey's notice for Tuesday's meeting described it as a special meeting.)

Amid discussion, council president Brenda Beaty noted requirements with Alliance of Indiana Rural Water, a non-profit membership association affiliated with National Rural Water Association. The group will cover certification costs for training utility workers if they are paid at least \$20 an hour, about \$2 an hour more than the current rate for employees. That comes out to

an approximate \$8,320 more annually for the two utility workers.

Currently, \$7,500 is factored into the budget for a contract renewal with Jay County Humane Society for animal control services. However, Redkey agreed in September to terminate its contract for the current year. Beaty suggested pulling from that amount to help make up the difference in salaries.

Firefighter Mark Leavell pointed out a significant decrease in his department's budget. Questions also arose about other aspects of the budget, with May sharing confusion with how the budget has been set up.

See Redkey page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Mahmoud Zayyat

Strikes continue

A man walks Tuesday past a building that was destroyed during an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Zeita a day earlier amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hezbollah. The Israeli military reported on Monday that 90 projectiles had crossed from Lebanon, and sirens were later heard across the center of the country.

Deaths

Grace Garner, 94, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 50 degrees Monday. The low was 36.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 30s. Expect sunny skies Friday with a high in the upper 60s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay School Board has scheduled an executive session for 4 p.m. Monday. The board will then hold its regular meeting at 5 p.m. Monday in the gym at General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. The agenda includes recovery from last month's tornado and a tentative agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the Jay County boys soccer regional semifinal at Park Tudor.

Tuesday — Results from JCHS and FRHS in volleyball sectional/district tournaments.



Redkey ...

Continued from page 1
Council informally decided it would need to hold off on approving the budget this week — council will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. today — and instead coordinate with departments and Local Government Services to sort out changes to the 2025 budget. May agreed to print individual copies of budgets for each department and coordinate with Local Government Services to answer questions at council's next budget review meeting now slated for 6 p.m. Oct. 22. Plans are

to compare the current year's budget to the 2025 budget and make adjustments as needed. Council members tentatively planned Tuesday to vote on formally adopting the budget 6 p.m. Oct. 29. Also Tuesday, Beaty mentioned that Moser resigned Friday. His last day with the department will be Tuesday. She explained Moser has been using his vacation days and will likely continue to use them through his last day. Redkey is currently looking for applicants for the position.

According to officials, Moser has accepted a position as an officer with Albany Police Department. Moser has served as Redkey town marshal since December and worked for the department as an officer for seven months prior. He finished his 10-week training at Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in June. Tensions have been rising the past few months between council members and the police department regarding employee conduct and interpretations of town ordinances.

In August, council discussed taking disciplinary actions against Moser, who had been accused of using foul language around other Redkey Town Hall employees and smoking in his police vehicle. (He explained his actions for the former offense stemmed from Beaty allegedly violating Indiana Data and Communication System protocol, which she denied.) Questions about whether Moser was allowed per town policy to take his police vehicle home after work and drive his

children to and from Redkey Elementary School in his police vehicle each day have also surfaced at council meetings in recent months. Relatedly, in September, Dudelston brought up a "heated" discussion between officer Jon Cave and Beaty outside Redkey Elementary School. Dudelston demanded Beaty apologize to Cave, and when she refused, Dudelston left the meeting. A few members of the crowd followed him and criticized the council as they walked out of the building.

CR almanac

Friday 10/17	Saturday 10/18	Sunday 10/19	Monday 10/20	Tuesday 10/21
68/38	71/41	74/43	75/49	74/49
Sunny skies are on the horizon for Friday, when the low at night may dip into the upper 30s.	Saturday's forecast shows clear and sunny skies. The low at night may be around 41 degrees.	Another day of sun is expected Sunday. At night, cool temperatures.	Monday looks to be sunny with a high in the mid 70s.	There's a slight chance of rain Tuesday. Otherwise, mostly sunny.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$408 million	Evening Daily Three: 5-0-0 Daily Four: 7-8-2-5 Quick Draw: 6-11-12-18-28-35-38-41-42-51-53-57-62-64-65-67-70-75-76-78
Mega Millions 22-34-44-54-62 Mega Ball: 3 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$185 million	Ohio Tuesday MIDDAY Pick 3: 2-3-6 Pick 4: 0-8-8-2 Pick 5: 2-8-0-2-4 Evening Pick 3: 3-1-2 Pick 4: 0-9-4-0 Pick 5: 6-9-0-6-7 Rolling Cash: 8-28-30-35-37 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Tuesday MIDDAY Daily Three: 4-6-4 Daily Four: 4-9-0-1 Quick Draw: 7-11-14-16-17-22-24-30-33-34-35-38-48-49-50-64-65-72-79-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.49 Dec. corn.....3.81 Wheat.....4.80	Nov. beans.....9.79 Wheat.....5.30
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.46 Dec. corn.....3.81 Jan. corn.....4.02	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.51 Nov. corn.....3.53 Beans.....9.41 Nov. beans.....9.49 Wheat.....5.19
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....3.46 Nov. corn.....3.46 Beans.....9.31	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.36 Oct. corn.....3.36 Beans.....9.21 Jan. beans.....9.36 Wheat.....5.00

Today in history

In 1939, the movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" made its premiere. It starred James Stewart.
In 2013, Barry Hudson was voted chair of Portland History Preservation Commission. He took over for Emily Roberts, who had resigned from the post.
In 2018, recreational marijuana was legalized in Canada.
In 2019, the Fort Recovery High School volleyball team rolled to the sectional championship as it recorded 20 aces in a three-set sweep of Columbus Grove. Kiera Wendel racked up 10 aces for the Indians.
In 2020, Sophia Fugiet and Lydia Keihn of Jay County High School advanced to the semi-state thanks to their efforts in the regional cross country meet at Muncie Sportsplex. Keihn a sophomore, finished in 15th place while Fugiet, a senior, was 26th.
In 2022, Jay School Corporation superintendent presented Jay School Board with a tentative collective bargaining agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association. The agreement sought to sort out oddities with the wage scale that saw teachers in the middle of their careers not keeping up with competitive salaries. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	ty Country Living Advisory Board, Jay County Country Living, 1194 E. 200 South, Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Jay Coun-	

Obituaries

Grace Garner

Dec. 14, 1929-Oct. 9, 2024
Grace C. Garner, age 94, of Portland passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland. She was born in Portland on Dec. 14, 1929, the daughter of Dwight and Mary (Jones) Whitacre. She was married to Robert Garner and he passed away on Nov. 17, 2012. Grace was the original owner of Garner Tax Service in Portland, working there for several decades as a bookkeeper and tax preparer. She had attended First Baptist Church. Surviving is a son Randy LeMaster of Portland; one daughter, Carolyn McKibben of Coldwater, Ohio; one sister, Mary Katherine Heiby of

Portland; grandsons Cory McKibben (wife: Gina) of Coldwater, Shane McKibben (wife: Julie) of Loveland, Ohio, and Corey LeMaster of Berne; great-grandsons Kyle Zack (wife: Olivia), Boston McKibben and Christian and Cameron Current; great-granddaughters Katie Stammen (husband: Paul) and Nancy Taylor McKibben; and great-great-grandchildren Vivian, Roman, Gianna Stammen and Arianna and Michael Whittington. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley LeMaster (age 4); husbands Dale LeMaster and Robert Garner; and sisters Phyllis Baders



Williams, Anna Marie Marsh and Wilma Nash. Private family services will be held and burial will be in the Salamon Cemetery. Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Memorials can be made to 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.

Chemical manufacturer targeted

By NOAH GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service
LOS ANGELES — Before harmful and deadly drugs such as fentanyl and xylazine reach the streets of cities such as Los Angeles, they must first make their way into the country. An indictment unsealed last month in federal court in Los Angeles seeks to slow the flow of such drugs into the U.S. by targeting a Chinese company and its executives accused of manufacturing the chemicals used to make the drugs. Instead of focusing on street drug dealers, the indictment goes after Wuhan-based Hubei Aoks Bio-Tech Co. and four of its executives. "What's important to see with this indictment is that we are really

taking a comprehensive approach to fighting the fentanyl epidemic," Martin Estrada, U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, said in an interview with The Times. "We're not just going after mid-level sellers on the dark web and going after cartels seizing large amounts of pills, we're also going after these precursor companies." The indictment targets the company's owner, Xuening Gao, along with Guanzhou Gao, who handled the companies cryptocurrency wallets, as well as Yajing Li and an unnamed defendant, who were salespeople for the company. It hits the front end of the supply chain process, Estrada said. Chemical precursors are largely sourced from chemical companies in China

that sell their products internationally. "These chemical companies ship fentanyl precursors and adulterants around the world, including to the United States and Mexico, where drug cartels and traffickers use the precursors to synthesize and manufacture fentanyl into powder and pills, mix the fentanyl with various adulterants, and distribute it throughout the United States," prosecutors wrote in the indictment. Between 2016 to 2023, the company sold 11 kilos of fentanyl precursor and two kilos of xylazine — an animal tranquilizer often mixed with fentanyl — to an American buyer and falsely labeled the drugs as furniture, makeup, vases and apparel, according to the indictment.

Capsule Reports

Left the scene

A Ridgeville man was arrested after he allegedly left the scene of an accident in the Pak-A-Sak parking lot in Portland about 2:48 p.m. Sunday. Cameron R. Newman, 18, was driving his 2002 Cadillac Deville south on Meridian Street when he began to turn west into the lot at 1300 N. Meridian St. At the same time, Jackie Stevens, 60, Portland, was driving a 2019 Ford Fusion and attempting to turn south onto Meridian Street. Newman told police he took the turn too wide and didn't notice Stevens' vehicle in his path before striking it. He said he continued driving and stopped in the Northside Carry Out parking lot, 1226 N. Meridian St., Portland, to get off the road. Witness Richard Monroe told police Newman hit Stevens' vehicle and a stop sign at Meridian and Lafayette streets before parking his vehicle at 217 W. Lafayette St.

Newman was cited with a Class B misdemeanor for leaving the scene of the accident. He was arrested Tuesday and released from Jay County Jail on a \$1,000 bond.

SERVICES

Today
Klenke, Elmer: 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Catholic Church, 471 St. Anthony Road, Fort Recovery.
Paxson, Raymond: 11 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.
Quinn, Susan: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Lehman, Shirley: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
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Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Redkey Police Department is accepting applications for full-time Deputy Marshal.

- Must have high school diploma or GED.
- Would like experience.

Applications may be picked up at the Redkey Town Hall.

Applications must be turned in before October 25, 2024.

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Photo provided

Lions recognize

Portland Lions Club recognized seventh grader Jake Arnold and eighth grader Maddie Clark, pictured above, as its students of the month for September.

Canning exhibit showcases history

Minnetrasta Museum & Gardens of Muncie has a new exhibit — Crisis Canning — open through Jan. 26.

The exhibit highlights the evolution of canning as a crucial practice during times of crisis, showcasing historic objects from Minnetrista's collection that show how the art of food preservation has transformed from an ordinary cooking method into a vital form of emergency planning throughout American history. It shares how canning has played a role through wars, pandemics and economic challenges.

"Canning seems like a modest household task, but it represents so much more," said Tania Said, Minnetrista vice president of exhibits and programs, in a press release. "This exhibition illustrates the importance of canning for independence, survival, and community connection, especially when seen

Taking Note

through the lens of major historical crises like the World Wars, Great Depression, and the Covid pandemic."

Minnetrasta will also host canning workshops on No. 7, 8 and 14, and Dec. 18.

Library sale

Fort Recovery Public Library will host a used book sale Monday through Oct. 26.

Free-will donations will be accepted for items at the sale. The library is open Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Fight with sister comes at terrible time

DEAR ABBY: My out-of-state sister is facing major, life-threatening surgery. Even though she isn't well, I asked to visit her a few days prior to a family reunion, and she agreed. While I was there, I noticed she was irritable and sharp-tongued, more so than she usually is. I let it go. However, on the morning of the reunion, as we were getting ready to go, she turned her anger on me, screaming and yelling at me and making all kinds of accusations.

I'm sorry to say that after repeated statements, I started shouting back. When I regained my composure, I apologized to her for everything she said I had done as a guest. Then I packed my bags and went to stay at another family mem-

ber's home. At the reunion, she was sweet and nice to everyone but, of course, our conversation was minimal.

I'm home now, but at a loss as to what to do next. I already apologized, but the silence from her is deafening. She has always been headstrong, argumentative and self-righteous, but she's my only sibling, and I love her. I'm not perfect either, but I can't help but think that an apology from her is the only way we can move forward.

Dear Abby



Agree? — BROTHER WHO TRIES IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BROTHER: No, I do not agree. Your sister is very ill. The treatment is life-threatening. In this situation, many people are not at their best. Do not demand or expect an apology from her. Call, text or write her to tell her you love her and wish her well in the coming weeks and months, and that she is in your thoughts. In a case like this, a dose of selective amnesia on your part might be beneficial.

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out my 32-year-old distant cousin (male) on my dad's side has been flirting with my mom on Facebook Messenger. (For the record, my parents have

been divorced for 18 years.) I saw this when I was helping Mom set up her new phone and she received one of the messages. She has asked him to stop, but he keeps sending messages that start with "Hey, beautiful," "Hey, most beautiful lady in the world" and "Hey, hot stuff." He says he wants to take her on a date and kiss her, even if it's just once.

I know I was wrong for doing this, but I decided to review the whole conversation and other conversations from previous FB accounts my cousin has had. These messages go back two years, including when he was in another relationship. Neither my mom nor my cousin knows that I know about these messages.

I am reluctant to confront my

cousin because of how I found out, and I want to avoid causing embarrassment for my mom from that side of the family. But I feel he needs to be held accountable and to know that this is not OK. What should I do? — KNOWS TOO MUCH IN WISCONSIN

DEAR KNOWS: Your mother is an adult, and presumably in her right mind. If she didn't enjoy the attention, she could block the messages. My advice is to stop snooping and stay out of 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
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.
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay

Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.
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.
EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.
ORGAN TRANSPLANT

SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.
PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.
FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.
Friday
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.
CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Oct. 18, 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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



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- Powder Coating & Galvanizing



What is impacting job numbers?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Happy, happy, happy are we who now know the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) “is taking [steps] to ensure large corporate, large partnerships and high-income individual filers pay the taxes they owe.”

Yes, we’re cracking down on the high fliers in their high-flying corporate jets.

But what about the ordinary worker in Muncie, Munster, Mooresville or Middlebury who writes off a pickup truck as a farm or construction business expense when its primary use is as a means of getting to work and the family to high school sporting events?

Real life example: Mrs. S has a fabric store that is often closed. The vehicle she drives to and from the shop has magnetic signs on each side door advertising “Mrs. S Fabrics.”

Were her expense records for the vehicle audited by the IRS?

Eye on the Pie



Probably not! Too small an item to be worth the time of an IRS agent. Too much pressure from the NFIB (National Federation of Independent Businesses) to sustain the 2017 gratuitous tax cut? And, just the sheer number of small business folks, startups, college programs, venture capitalists and honored heroes of American entrepreneurship must deter extensive investigation.

This aspect of tax equity came to mind while reviewing data on the growth of Hoosier non-farm proprietorships. Over the 20 years between 2002

and 2022, the number of these businesses has grown by 62% while ordinary wage and salary (W&S) jobs have realized an increase of a mere 9%.

If we declare, arbitrarily, that only changes of plus or minus 5% at the county level are significant, we will find only 29 of Indiana’s 92 counties saw increases in the number of W&S jobs. However, 83 counties witnessed growth in the number of non-farm proprietorships.

Despite an average annual rate of inflation of 2.5%, 73 counties had real growth in average wages and salaries. Yet, non-farm proprietors’ income advanced in only 15 counties.

What’s the problem? Imaginative readers will develop fine stories about the reasons for the diverse patterns of growth observed. How come Fayette County lost 3,800 W&S

... just the sheer number of small business folks, startups, college programs, venture capitalists and honored heroes of American entrepreneurship must deter extensive investigation.

jobs (38%), but gained only 75 nonfarm proprietors (4%)?

How did it happen that, after adjustment for inflation, average real W&S advanced statewide 11% and nonfarm proprietors’ average real income similarly grew by 11.1%?

Does the federal tax code, which treats wages and salaries differently from non-

farm proprietors’ income, magically eliminate, offset and equilibrate the living standards of two very different economic pathways?

Glory be to Congress! It doth do no harm while it doth do nothing!

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

Take steps to help lower suicide rates

By EMMY HILDEBRAND

Unfortunately, suicide is a leading cause of death among all Americans, especially veterans. In fact, suicide is the 13th leading cause of death for veterans, and the 2nd leading cause of death for veterans under the age of 45.

Every day, 17 veterans die by suicide.

6,392 veterans died by suicide in 2021, including 140 Hoosier veterans. Each of these deaths represents a life ended tragically. Prematurely. Each of these deaths is still mourned by family and friends. Each of these veterans deserves to be here today.

The Department of Veterans Affairs produces a National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which outlined seven recommendations to address veteran suicide in 2023:

1. Promote secure firearm storage for veteran suicide prevention: 72% of veteran suicides were by firearm in 2021. 1 in 3 veterans store at least 1 firearm unlocked and loaded. Securing firearms has been found to reduce suicide.

2. Implement and sustain community collaborations to reach more veterans: Over 60% of veterans who died by suicide in 2021 were not seen at a VA facility. More partnerships in the community focused on preventing veteran suicide would save more lives.

3. Continued expansion of crisis intervention services: Access to crisis prevention services is available 24 hours a day by calling 988.

4. Improve prevention and intervention services: Create culturally sensitive interventions to address the unique subpopulations with higher suicide rates, including American Indian/Alaskan Natives, younger veterans, transitioning service members, and women.

5. Incorporate suicide prevention in non-clinical settings: Suicide risk factors include factors beyond mental health, including financial, work related, legal and social factors. Reducing strain in employment, housing,

Emmy Hildebrand



legal support and financial strain is suicide prevention.

6. Increase access to and utilization of mental healthcare: Mental health challenges increased for everyone during the pandemic, including veterans. Making access to mental health care is a critical piece of suicide prevention.

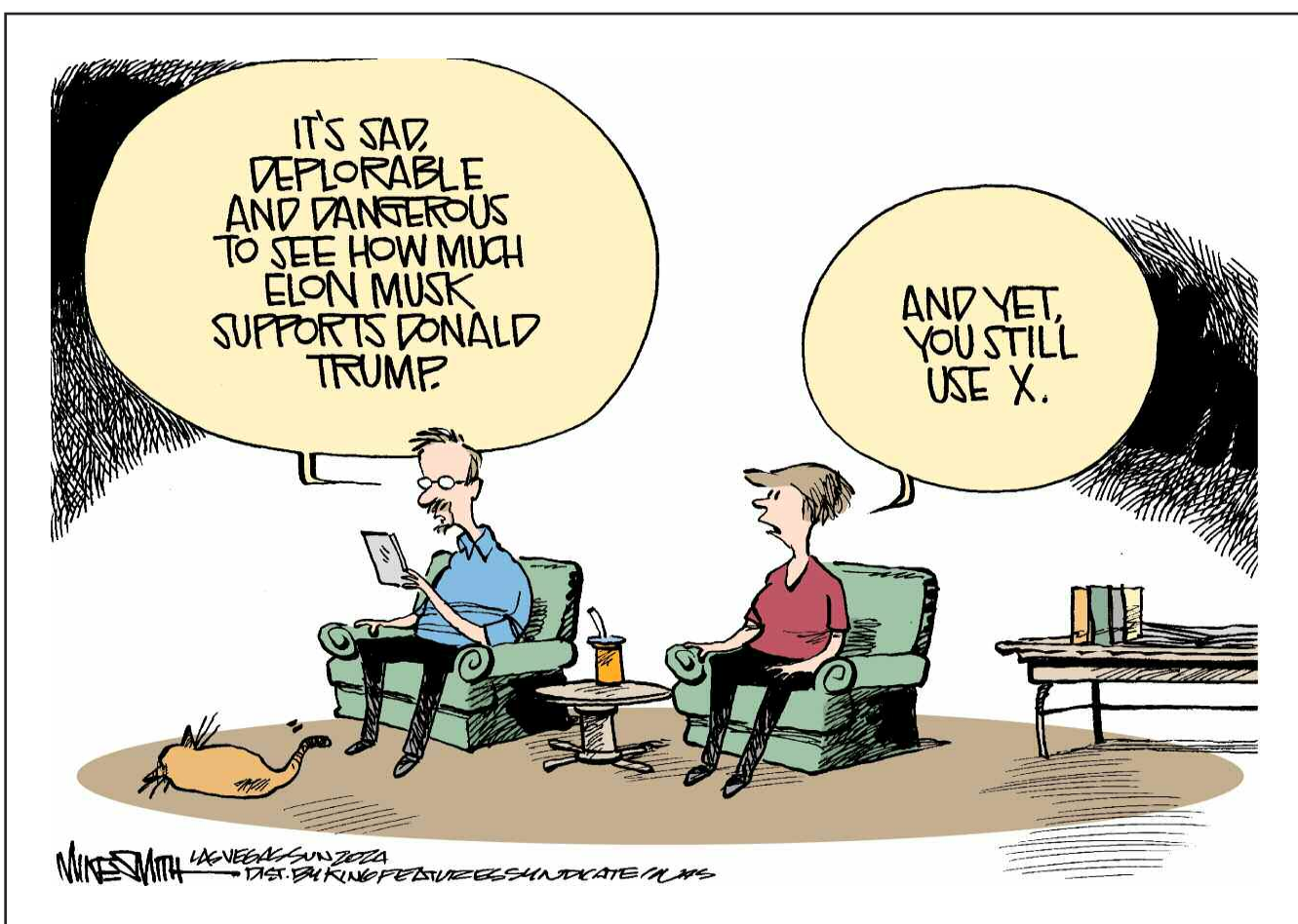
7. Integrate suicide prevention within medical settings to reach all veterans: Suicide screening, assessment, and safety planning should be an integral part of all medical settings.

Community organizations, including non-profits like HVAF, must be focused on suicide prevention when serving vulnerable populations. While veterans are nearly twice as likely to die by suicide as non-veterans, veterans experiencing homelessness have an even higher risk of suicide. HVAF staff participate annually in SAVE training to understand the increased suicide risk veterans face, how to recognize warning signs, and how to intervene and offer support.

Suicide prevention is possible. To complete an online, self-led suicide prevention training, please visit SAVE’s website. The life you save might be that of a Hoosier Hero.

*.....
If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.*

Hildebrand is the CEO of Helping Veterans And Families (HVAF), which helps homeless veterans return to self-sufficiency and engages at-risk veterans and their families to prevent them from becoming homeless by providing supportive housing, case management, employment support, therapy, and basic needs including food, hygiene and clothing.



Move to cashless requires care

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Tribune News Service

It used to be common to see Let’s Make a Deal contestants leave the TV game show smiling after winning \$100 for every coin they could pull out of their purse or pocket. But as America moves ever closer to becoming a cashless society, it’s just as likely to see contestants who couldn’t scrape up a dime.

About 41% of Americans no longer use cash to make most of their weekly purchases, according to a Pew Research Center survey. That’s a huge jump from the 24% who said they rarely used cash in 2015. Conversely, only 14% of Americans make almost all their purchases with cash, compared with 24% in 2015.

As one might expect, 71% of adults older than 50 are likely to have some cash on them, compared with 45% of those under 50. Americans with lower incomes are also more reliant on cash. Roughly 30% of people with household incomes below \$30,000 a year use cash for almost all of their weekly purchases, compared with 6% among those living in households earning \$50,000 or more a year.

While such statistics suggest where this country is headed, there’s less certainty as to how or when it will get there. Before it phases out bills and coins, the federal government must create a cashless replacement similar to debit and credit cards or digital wallet apps such as Zelle, PayPal, Apple Pay, Venmo, or Cash App.

America’s new digital currency would replace all coins and paper money. But unlike privately held cryptocurrency, which busi-

Guest Editorial

nesses aren’t legally required to accept, a central bank digital currency (CBDC) overseen by the Federal Reserve Board would be legal tender that can be used to make purchases in any store or restaurant.

The Bahamas rolled out the world’s first central bank digital currency in 2020. China, Japan, and Sweden have begun digital currency trials, and the Bank of England and the European Central Bank are preparing to take that step. But this country has made little progress since President Joe Biden signed an executive order two years ago announcing the government would explore the potential of a CBDC.

A good first step toward a cashless economy would be to stop minting pennies, which most people don’t use anyway. An estimated 240 billion pennies are more likely in a piggy bank or a coffee can instead of being circulated. That has created a vicious cycle in which the U.S. Mints in Philadelphia and Denver keep making pennies that don’t get spent to replace pennies that didn’t get spent. Since it costs three pennies to mint a penny, that’s a losing proposition.

Noting the cost to keep replacing unused pennies, Treasury Secretary William E. Simon 48 years ago asked Congress to stop minting them. More recently, former U.S. Mint

director Philip Diehl said the penny should have been retired when vending machines stopped taking them. Coinstar machines still take pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, but will charge you a 12.5% service fee to count them.

Canada stopped distributing its penny coin in 2012 and subsequently removed six billion pennies from circulation. Over the next three years, it returned most of those coins to the nation’s mint, which melted them so the metal could be used otherwise. Pennies remain legal tender in Canada and can still be used to make purchases. But once a penny reaches a bank, it is taken out of circulation. That fate may await all currency.

Centuries have passed since money replaced the barter system. The first coins, bronze and copper imitations of cowry shells, were made by the Chinese around 1000 B.C. The first gold and silver coins were made around 700 B.C. in the ancient kingdom of Lydia, now part of Turkey. Minting coins spread to Greece, Persia, Macedonia, and Rome. The United States struck its first coins in 1793 at the Philadelphia Mint and issued its first paper money in 1861.

What comes next requires care. A huge issue to be resolved with digital money is its vulnerability to identity theft as phishing hackers use malware and other means to obtain private information. No data available digitally seems to remain private these days. That means if the Federal Reserve Board ever develops a digital alternative to U.S. currency, it must come up with a better security system than banks are using now.

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

“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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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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

Bellefountain 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.umc.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@therockkjc.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

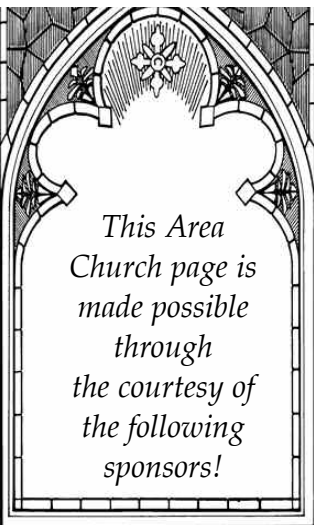
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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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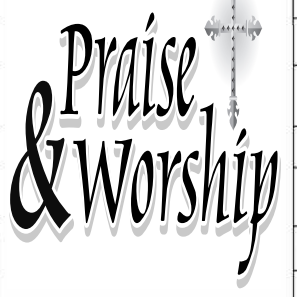
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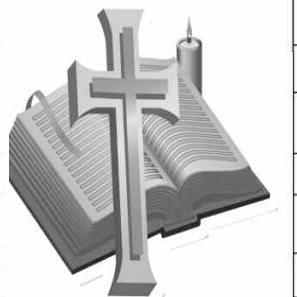


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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The rule of eleven

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

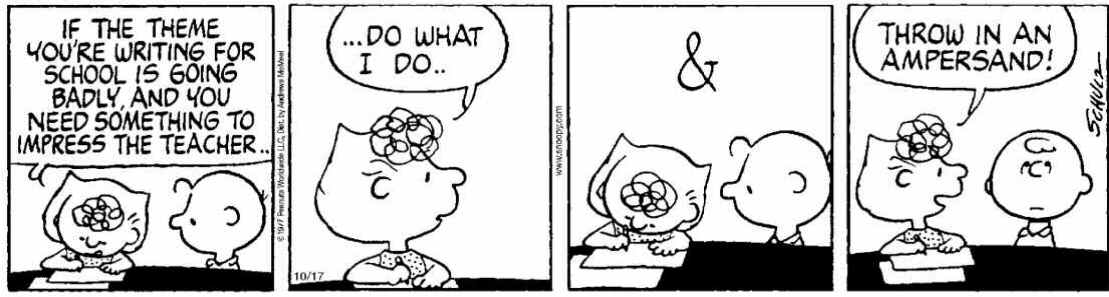
from dummy to West's opening heart lead, the outcome rests on which card East chooses to play. If he plays the seven, South goes down; if he plays the ten or king, declarer makes the contract.

The bidding: East South West North Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT. Opening lead — five of hearts. The practice of leading fourth-best goes way back to the days of whist, grandparent of contract bridge. But it wasn't until 1890 that R.F. Foster formulated the Rule of Eleven, a gadget designed to interpret the lead.

Declarer is helpless against the seven play. When he takes it with the ace and leads the king of clubs, West wins and plays another heart, trapping dummy's Q-9. Since the diamonds don't break 3-3, and the spade finesse, if attempted, fails, South must go down regardless of how he proceeds.

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

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



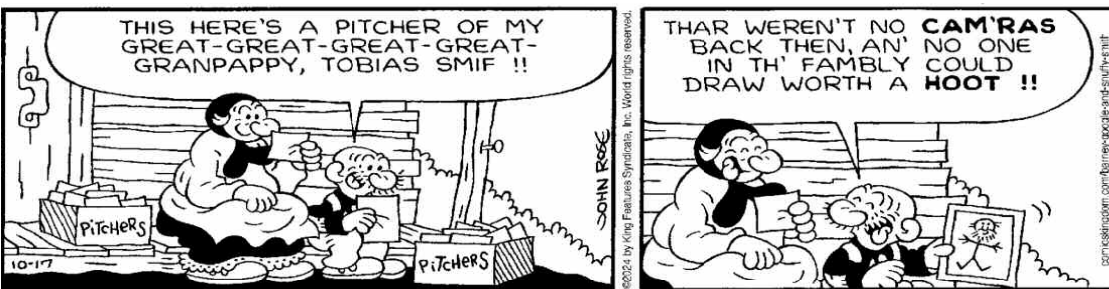
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



10-17

CRYPTOQUIP

UN AANYF YBTK UVL B LKFNVY NY EQNSQ XBLANSWHBL BLVTBANS XHBYAZ FLVE OKZA:

B YBAWL BH QKLO-NABA. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL SPECIALIST VETERINARIANS WHO ARE ONLY HAVING POOCHES AS PATIENTS? DOGTORS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 24 mins. and Yesterday's answer 10-17.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN October 26th, 2024 9:30 A. M. OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-COINS-JEWELRY-HOUSEHOLD-TOOLS Dining room table with extra board and 4 chairs; cedar chest; freezer; stove; GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY; 14K men's ring with diamond; 18k ladies ring, several 10K pins; beer steins; McCoy; Fiesta; Fire King; CURRENCY & COINS; (26) \$1 silver certificates, 1934A \$5 Silver Certificate; Mercury Dimes, Buffalo Nickels; and others; crocks; Gene Stratton Porter books; Boyd's Bears; Matchbox Cars; old Toys; Toro 5200 snow-blower; Ryobi pressure washer and other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing. Please note that we will be running 2 rings. JON & DONNA OVERMYER, Deceased & JOHN'S FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU1031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

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2024 boys tennis All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year Kody Vest

Delta High School senior

Kody Vest was selected as the inaugural Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for boys tennis.

"It's pretty cool because I wasn't going to expect anything like this," he said. "This year has definitely been better than I thought it was going to be. Last year, Simon Marlow was at No. 1 singles and he had a record of 5-20. I just had a bad mindset going into this season, thinking I was going to have a record like that.

"Now that I've gone through most of the season, it just feels a lot better and I've been able to have a more positive mindset throughout these last few weeks."

Vest stumbled out of the gate in his senior season, only winning one of the first six matches at the No. 1 singles

position. After grabbing a second win and taking two more losses, he caught fire, claiming 13 of his final 15 matches en route to a 15-9 record.

The DHS senior who became the 39th Eagle to win 50 varsity matches, triumphed in all four sectional and regional contests, including the regional semifinal against Jay County's Eli Dirksen, who beat all of the other No.1 singles players within the GPC's coverage area.

"He's phenomenal," coach Tim Cleland said. "He's just a tough kid and has no ego. He just plays hard. He's a good athlete. He's got length and is relentless. He doesn't try to do things he's not good at. So there's no big secret to his game really, it's just hard work."



All-Graphic Printing Company first team

Owen Cupp
Delta senior

Cupp overcame a slow start to roll to a 14-12 record, 14-10 at the No. 2 singles position. Cupp dominated in the post-season, winning all four sectional and regional matches.

Eli Dirksen
Jay County senior

After dropping the first four matches of the season, Dirksen rattled off 15 consecutive victories to lead the Patriots to a sectional title. His streak only ended with a loss to Vest.

Tyce Dishman & Aaron Elliot
Delta sophomore and junior

The Delta duo dominated the No. 2 doubles position, only dropping three of 16 matches. Dishman missed the first eight matches with an injury before joining Elliot for the run.

Ben Miller & Brady Williams
Delta juniors

Miller and Williams put together a 15-6 record, the best of any doubles team within the Graphic Printing Company's coverage area

Honorable mention

- Noah Allen (junior), Randolph Southern — No. 1 singles
- Luke Atkinson (freshman), Delta — No. 3 singles
- Brennan Hoggatt (senior), Union City — No. 1 singles
- Foster Kratoska & Aiden Mendenhall (juniors), Winchester — No. 1 doubles
- Jake Diller & Mason McFeeley (juniors), Blackford — No. 1 doubles

Corners ...

Continued from page 8
Playing both in the slot and on the outside as injuries affected the roster around him, PFR credits Womack with five pass breakups on just 10 targets.

Quarterbacks have completed only 30% of their pass attempts when targeting him for an average of 6.7 yards per completion.

"He's got really good instincts," defensive coordinator Gus Bradley said. "Sam kind of reminds me of a (two-time Pro Bowler) Casey Hayward. We had him back at the Chargers and Raiders — very football savvy, very smart, high football IQ, studies receivers, studies routes, things like that.

"He's got some speed too, right? Like you can see him run. But ever since he's come in here, you've seen him get some — his hands on the ball — get some PBUs. So it's good to see that carry over to some of the games, but he plays with a lot of confidence."

Womack said the transition to the Colts' defensive

backs room has been helped by the tight bonds on the roster.

After just a little more than a month on the roster, Womack believes the culture built inside the locker room is one of his new team's strengths.

"The DBs, we go out every Thursday to dinner, whether it's at somebody's

house or we just go out to eat at a restaurant," he said. "So I feel like that kind of helped with just talking outside of football and building a personal relationship. ...

"As the football goes, I mean we hold each other accountable to a standard, to a certain standard in the room. So, I mean,

we've been building the personal relationships and having that many talks — conversations when we go hang out with each other, hang out outside of football, that helps you respect it more when you know a person that you respect as a person is holding you accountable on the field."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys soccer regional semifinal at Park Tudor — 6 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Football at Heritage — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football vs. Anna — 7 p.m.

TV sports

Today
5:08 p.m. — MLB ALCS: New York Yankees at Cleveland Guardians (TBS)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball exhibition: St.

John's at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — College football: Georgia State at Marshall (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA preseason: Charlotte Hornets at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Boston College at Virginia Tech (ESPN)
8:08 p.m. — MLB NLCS: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Mets (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA preseason: Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns (TNT)

Friday
1:30 p.m. — Formula 1: United States Grand Prix (ESPN2)

5:08 p.m. — MLB NLCS: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Mets (FS1)
5:30 p.m. — Formula 1: United States Grand Prix (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Ambetter Health 302 (USA)
7 p.m. — College football: Florida State at Duke (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College football: Oregon at Purdue (FOX)
8 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Minnesota Lynx (ESPN)
8:08 p.m. — MLB ALCS: New York Yankees at Cleveland Guardians (TBS)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Oklahoma

State at BYU (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — NBA preseason: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (ESPN2)

Local notes

Final race
The final race in the Adams County 5K Challenge is the Rainbow Lake 5K Run/Walk, which will take place on Nov. 26. Preregistration can be done at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

Turkey Trot sign-up open
Cooper Farms will be hosting its 17th

annual Turkey Trot Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant in St. Henry, Ohio.

Participation costs \$15. All proceeds benefit EverHeart Hospice. The race will begin at 10 a.m. There will be splits at each mile of the 3.1-mile course. There will also be chip timing for participants operated by Speedy Feet.

Water will be provided throughout the race, as well as a to-go turkey meal at the end. You can register by visiting bit.ly/cooperfarmsturkeytrot, or search for "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5k" on speedy-feet.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2024
TIME 5:00 P. M.
LOCATED: Westlawn Business Center, 234 W Pearl St., Dunkirk, IN LAND

170 Acres located in Richland and Jefferson Townships, Jay County, IN. To be offered in 5 tracts or in any combination thereof.
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Tract 2: 44 Acres all tillable in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Roads 400 S, 800 W, 350 S.
Tract 3: 36 Acres wooded in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Roads 400 S, and 350 S.
Tract 4: 20.5 Acres all tillable in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Road 350 S.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday October 19th, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 714 S VINE ST

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By Lisa Bonifas and Amy Stephenson

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Sports

Victorious Vaughn

Jeff Vaughn honored as MAC Coach of the Year for leading Indians to perfect record in conference

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

The Midwest Athletic Conference is known around Ohio for the strength of its athletic teams.

It has certain teams that make deep runs nearly every year, from Marion Local often competing in the Division VII state football championship, to Minster being a regular contender at the cross country state meet. Along with the regular state appearances, many of the other schools will make runs on other years like the Indians' trip to Akron for the state baseball tournament in 2024.

With the success of the MAC as a league being evident, recognition from the conference holds some extra weight to it.

This fall, one of the Tribe's own received some of that recognition.

In his first full year as the head coach for the Fort Recovery High School girls golf team, Jeff Vaughn earned MAC Coach of the Year honors for leading the Indians to an undefeated season and its first MAC title.

"I've been around the MAC a long time in a lot of sports and anytime you can get MAC coach of the year, it's a heck of a privilege and honor because you know your team was pretty good to be able to do that," Vaughn said. "After reflecting for a month or so since we played, it's unbelievable yet. I still can't believe we went undefeated, but it's just an honor to be coach of the year but the MAC being the great conference that it is, (makes) it an even more prestigious award."

Vaughn initially was disappointed with the start of the season, dropping the opener against Tri-Village by eight strokes. FRHS followed up the loss with a split against Tri-Village and Arcanum and never looked back.

Following the two opening losses, the Indians took second place at the Gary Broering Invite and won every nine-hole event. They swept all eight MAC opponents, including runner-up and reigning champion Minster by two strokes near the midpoint of their season.

While the season ended earlier than the team wanted, it finished with a 13-2 record (8-0 MAC) and the first MAC championship in school history after winning the MAC tournament.

'Obviously Joe (Bruns) set the foundation. He was the head man and the one who really prepped these girls. I was fortunate enough to inherit some good players. ... I kind of took over and just kept doing what he did.'

—Fort Recovery girls golf coach Jeff Vaughn

Vaughn found success trusting his golfers during matches and helping upon request rather than trying to provide coaching without the athlete looking for it. Rather than trying to correct wrongs, he focused his energy on being a support point to keep the girls positive.

"My philosophy when we went out there to play matches was I wasn't going to coach too much," Vaughn said. "They knew what they needed to do. I felt like through practices they were prepared."

"I think you can overcoach. I mean, obviously if they asked me for advice I would give it to them. Come match night I kind of just let them play and I think that kept them calm as well."

Vaughn earned the award in his first full year as the head coach of the girls golf team. Prior to taking over the girls golf team, he has coached various teams either as the head or assistant at FRHS, including softball, boys golf and the basketball teams.

Most recently, Vaughn was the freshman boys basketball coach and the girls golf assistant coach. Vaughn assumed responsibility as the head girls golf coach following the passing of his close friend Joe Bruns.

"Obviously Joe set the foundation," Vaughn said. "He was the head man and the one who really prepped these girls. I was fortunate enough to inherit some good players. ... I kind of took over and just kept doing what he did."

The team dedicated this past sea-

son to their late coach, who died of cancer midway through the 2023 season. Bruns revived the program alongside Vaughn back in 2013.

"Joe has always wanted to win that MAC title," Vaughn said. "I'm honored to be able to do that in his name. Joe was a guy that really didn't really care about honors and I'm not either. We'd rather see the girls have success."

Beyond winning the first girls MAC title in Bruns' honor, Fort Recovery is holding a ceremony on Friday at 5:45 p.m. to dedicate the new putting green to his name.

The ceremony will start with a welcome and invocation by Ryan Steinbrunner, followed by Fort Recovery Local Schools superintendent Tony Stahl talking about the details of the project. Jim Tobe, Bruns' brother-in-law, and Brad Evers, former golf coach and colleague of Bruns, will speak about Bruns.

There will then be an honorary putt for friends and family before closing with Steinbrunner again.

"It's just remarkable for me and many other ADs that have come before me who worked with Joe," said FRHS athletics director Aimee Pottkotter about the dedication of the putting green. "We hate to see him leave us here on earth, but he leaves behind a legacy that is unmatched. There will be a plaque out there that tells a little bit about Joe, has his picture, and his motto for golf, 'Grip it and rip it.' ... It's great we can keep his legacy going and hopefully can benefit future golfers for years to come."



Review preview

Friday - 7 p.m.

Jay County Patriots



Portland, 2-6 (1-4)

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

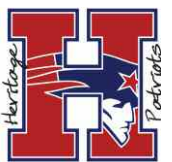
Conference: Allen County

Last week vs. Lapel: The Patriots came up short on multiple occasions as they fell to the Bulldogs 14-12. JCHS got stopped on the 1-yard line in the first half and failed two point-after-touchdown attempts in the loss. It also turned the ball over five times, including twice in the fourth quarter.

Season leaders: Passing — Sean Bailey — 46-of-101 for 658 yards and six TDs. Rushing — Sean Bailey — 75 carries for 348 yards and four TDs. Receiving — Benson Ward — eight receptions for 183 yards and one TD. Defense — Lucas Strait — two blocked punts and one sack.

at

Heritage Patriots



Monroeville, 7-1 (4-1)

Coach: Jeremy Hullinger, first year

Conference: Allen County

Last week vs. Southern Wells: Heritage demolished the Raiders in a 70-0 victory. Eli Tigulis only needed eight attempts to sling five touchdowns and 150 yards. The Patriots added three TDs and 237 yards on the ground in the dominating performance.

Season leaders: Passing — Eli Tigulis — 94-of-130 for 1,465 yards and 20 TDs. Rushing — Nasir Martin — 95 carries for 784 yards and seven TDs. Receiving — Braden Walter — 32 receptions for 553 yards and eight TDs. Defense — Mason Abbott — 70 tackles and 6 for loss.

Last season: Heritage opened the second half with a 12-play, 61-yard drive that put it in firm control as they beat Jay County 28-6 last season. JCHS couldn't get any offense going until Bryce Wenk busted out a 25-yard rush with less than eight minutes left in the fourth quarter. Kobe Meyer was dominant for Heritage, opening the game with a 1-yard rushing touchdown before slinging three passing TDs.

Game notes: This is the 14th meeting all time between Jay County and Heritage, with the latter holding an 8-5 lead. ... The last three games in the ACAC's annual battle of the Patriots has gone to Heritage, with Jay County last winning in 2019. ... Heritage has a Sagarin rating of 69.47 which is 12th in Class 3A, while Jay County's 40.07 sagrin rating is 44th in 3A. ... Next week JCHS will travel to Bellmont in the opening round of the sectional while Heritage travels to Delta. For the teams to meet, both would have to make it to the sectional championship ... John Harrell predicts Jay County to lose 35-14, while Calpreps.com also has Heritage as 29-point favorites.

Degree of difficulty increases for young Colts corners

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — A busy day on the NFL trade market Tuesday increased the degree of difficulty for the Indianapolis Colts' upcoming schedule.

The New York Jets completed a trade for disgruntled Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams in the late morning, and the Buffalo Bills responded hours later with the addition of Cleveland Browns wideout Amari Cooper.

The Colts — who enter the week ranked 26th in pass defense (234.3 yards per game) — host Buffalo on Nov. 10 and travel to face the Jets on Nov. 17.

Indianapolis (3-3) faces four teams with winning records in the next six weeks, and the slate included some of the NFL's most dangerous offensive weapons even before Tuesday's trades were completed.

It starts Sunday with a matchup against the struggling Miami Dolphins (2-3), who will be without starting quarterback Tua Tagovailoa for the fourth straight game.

But Miami boasts a pair of top-notch wide receivers in Tyreek Hill (23 catches, 286 yards, one touchdown) and Jaylen Waddle (21 catches, 258 yards).

That should provide a

sturdy challenge for the Colts' young cornerback duo of Jaylon Jones and Samuel Womack III, who will be making their fifth straight start together.

Jones often draws the assignment against the opponent's top target and leads the team with two interceptions.

According to Pro Football Reference, he's allowing a 61.4% completion rate on 44 targets, but he's yet to surrender a touchdown and quarterbacks have a 70.5 rating when throwing in his direction.

"He's got a great mentality is really what it comes down to," Indianapolis head coach Shane Steichen said. "He's aggressive. He's growing, obviously, in coverage — the tight man coverage. Stepping up to the challenge every week has been great."

"Obviously, (he's been) in the system now for two years and understanding what we're trying to get done on every play. Man, he's been a pleasure to be around for sure."

Womack has been an extremely pleasant revelation.

Claimed off waivers from the San Francisco 49ers after initial roster cutdowns in September, he worked his way into the starting lineup for the Week 3 victory against the Chicago Bears.

See **Corners** page 7

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