

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Grant supports Dunkirk facility, ReSprout

A ribbon-cutting was held early this month for a new early childhood education facility in Portland.

Plans are already underway for an expansion in another local municipality.

The Portland Foundation announced that it has received a \$378,000 Early Years Initiative grant from Early Learning Indiana to improve early learning in Jay County, with more than half of that total slated to go toward the construction of a new facility in Dunkirk.

In addition to the project in Dunkirk, part of the funding will go ReSprout Therapy for developmental check-ups for children.

“Research is clear that a child’s brain develops most between birth and age 3 and that the neural pathways formed in these earliest years of life form the basis for all future learning and development,” said Maureen Weber, president and CEO of Early Learning Indiana. “That’s why the work of the Early Years Initiative is so critical. We must ensure supportive environments and responsive interactions between infants and toddlers and their caregivers to set the trajectory for their overall development and lifelong learning.”

See Grant page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Regional bound

Fort Recovery High School’s Kayla Heitkamp holds up the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District Championship trophy while her teammates celebrate around her on Saturday at Butler. The Indians swept Miami Valley Christian Academy to clinch their first regional appearance since 2020. For more on the match, see page 10.

Polls tight for election

Uncertainty in the air with decision day one week away

By DAVE GOLDINER
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

New national polls show former President Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris locked in a dead heat, injecting even more uncertainty into the momentous White House contest as the campaign heads into the final full week before Election Day.

With tens of millions of Americans already casting ballots, some polls show Trump closing the gap with Harris in the national popular vote, a tally he lost badly to Democrats in both 2020 and even 2016 when he won the presidency.

But Harris, the Democratic nominee,

remains narrowly ahead in polling averages in enough of the battleground states she needs to win 270 electoral votes and win the race.

In another possible good sign for Harris, some polls say previously undecided voters who made up their mind in recent days or weeks are breaking for her, a trend that could tip the contest.

Most strategists question whether Trump has any realistic chance of winning the national popular vote, given that the GOP has only won the popular vote once in the last eight elections.

Three highly respected pollsters released their final national surveys before Election Day on Friday.

Both the New York Times/Siena College and CNN found the national race deadlocked. The Wall Street Journal gave Trump a 3% lead, which is within the margin of error.

All three polls showed an uptick in support for Trump and declines in Harris’ popularity since their previous national surveys completed last month.

The real contest takes place in the seven battleground states that analysts on both sides of the aisle agree will determine the winner. Harris still leads polling averages in all three crucial Rust Belt states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, albeit by the slimmest of margins.

Allies have limited options

By NATALIA DROZDIK,
ANDREA PALASCIANO
and JENNY LEONHARD
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Russia’s decision to bring North Korean troops to shore up its war-weary forces has Ukraine’s allies realizing they have few options to respond without escalating the conflict even more.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte confirmed the deployment for the first time following a briefing by high-ranking South Korean officials Monday in Brussels — and called it a “significant escalation” of Pyongyang’s involvement in Russia’s war. Over the weekend, U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters “we

have options, it depends on what they do.”

North Korea is expected to dispatch some 12,000 troops to the western Russian region of Kursk, where Ukrainian forces made gains this year, and additional deployments are possible, according to an official familiar with the South Koreans’ briefing.

Which option to employ may divide the U.S. and its allies. They will have to decide whether to match escalation with escalation over North Korea’s step, which officials say marks a turning point in Russia’s war on Ukraine as it broadens into an increasingly global one with more outside actors.

“NATO calls on Russia and the DPRK to cease these actions

immediately,” Rutte told reporters, referring to North Korea by its formal initials, and said the move to send troops to Kursk represents a threat to European security as well as to the Indo-Pacific region.

South Korea is considering whether to send weapons directly to Ukraine, reversing a policy banning lethal aid to the country at war, according to a senior South Korean official. Seoul has previously backfilled the U.S. for shipments it has made.

If some of Seoul’s vast stores of artillery shells started heading directly to Kyiv, alongside Pyongyang’s supplies to Russia, that would result in the war drawing upon two of the world’s largest artillery forces.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Expressive Ellie

Ellie Darnell shows plenty of expression Sunday afternoon during Just Treble’s performance of its “Madeline”-themed show at Jay County Junior-Senior High School’s fall choral concert. Just Treble, the high school’s all-girl group, and the co-ed Patriot Edition debuted their 2024-25 competition shows while the junior high choir performed a selection of songs, including “We Are Warriors.”

Deaths

Beverly Wagner, 77,
Decatur
Robert Holley, 84, Muncie
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 59 degrees Sunday. The low was 32.

Tonight’s low will be around 60 with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the upper 70s and continued windy conditions.

For an extended outlook, see page 2.

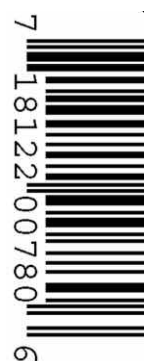
In review

Among the Halloween activities scheduled for Thursday is trick-or-treating at Jay County Public Library. Children who visit the library from 5 to 7 p.m. will receive one book, a bookmark and candy.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week’s Jay School Board and Jay County Commissioners meetings.

Thursday — Preview of the JCHS football sectional semifinal against Bishop Luers.



Obituaries

Beverly Wagner

Dec. 11, 1946-Oct. 26, 2024
Beverly K. Wagner, 77, of Decatur, Indiana, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Swiss Village in Berne, Indiana.



Wagner

She was born on Dec. 11, 1946, in Decatur, Indiana, to the late Lloyd R. Spiegel and the late Doris B. (Jones) Koomler. Beverly was united in marriage to Anthony L. Wagner on Sept. 17, 1966, at Zion Lutheran Church in Decatur, Indiana.

She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur, where she sang in the choir and was a member of the altar guild. Beverly was also a member of the Indiana Hairdresser's Association.

She graduated from Decatur High School in 1965 and went on to obtain her cosmetology license in 1967 at Warner Beauty College in Fort Wayne. Beverly was a beautician working at several dif-

ferent Salons spanning over 49 years, to include La Mademoiselle Beauty Salon, Mi-La-Dee Styling Salon and Rita's Styling and Tanning, before retiring in 2016.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends at Marble Lake in Quincy, Michigan.

Survivors include her husband, Anthony L. Wagner of Decatur, Indiana; three daughters, Michele Shuler of Decatur, Indiana, Amy (Branden) Kissell of Decatur, Indiana, and Rebecca (Chad) LeMaster of Portland, Indiana; brother Stewart (Dian) Spiegel of Monroe, Indiana; sister Dianne O'Shaughnessey of Decatur, Indiana; granddaughter Nina (Derrick Penrod) Shuler of Roanoke, Indiana; grandson Anthony Green of Decatur, Indiana; granddaughter Makayla Green of Decatur, Indiana; grandson Alexander LeMaster of Portland, Indiana; granddaughter Torrence Kissell of Decatur, Indiana; granddaughter Emma LeMaster of Portland, Indiana;

and two great-grandchildren, Persephone and Artemis Green.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents; stepfather Gerald Koomler; brother Steven Spiegel; and brother-in-law Kevin O'Shaughnessey.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, at Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur, with Pastor Zachary Oedewaldt officiating. Burial will be held at a later date at Decatur Cemetery.

Family and friends will be received from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur and one hour prior to the service Friday at the church.

Preferred memorials can be given to Zion Lutheran Church or Lewy Body Dementia Association.

Robert Holley

March 23, 1940-Oct. 25, 2024
Robert "Bob" Holley, age 84, a resident of Muncie, passed away on Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at The Waters Edge Nursing Home in

Muncie. He was a former Portland resident.

Bob was born March 23, 1940, in Portland, the son of Orville and Lelia (Stoner) Holley. He graduated from Governor I.P. Gray High School in 1958 and served in the U.S. Army in Germany.

Bob retired in 2004 from General Motors Transmission Plant in Muncie after 45 years of service. He was a member of the Albany American Legion, Matthews Mason Lodge #650, Shriners, Museum of the Soldier in Portland and Jay County Historical Society, and was one of four founding members of the Memory Lane Cruisers in Muncie.

Survivors include: His former wife and caretaker — Paulette Hutchison, Muncie, Indiana

Two daughters — Kecia Sadler, Gaston, Indiana, and Kristi Kearney, Hartford City, Indiana

Step-children — Cristeena Collins, Muncie, Indiana, and Jason Wright, Muncie, Indiana

Cousin — Sandy Lay (husband: Jerry), Miamisburg, Ohio
Six grandchildren and great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orville and Lelia Holley; and a brother, Eldon Holley.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Pastor Darrel Borders will officiate and burial will follow at Salamonina Cemetery in Salamonina, Indiana. Portland American Legion Post #211 will conduct military graveside rites.

Memorials may be directed towards Jay County Historical Society.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

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

CR almanac

Wednesday 10/30	Thursday 10/31	Friday 11/1	Saturday 11/2	Sunday 11/3
79/63	70/42	57/36	63/45	69/55
Wednesday looks to be mostly sunny with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph.	Thursday's forecast shows a 90% chance of thunderstorms throughout the day.	Another day of mostly sunny skies with a high near 57 degrees.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be around 63 degrees.	There's a chance of showers. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$28 million	21-27-30-32-39-46-52-53-54-59-60-62-65-67-71-75-77 Cash 5: 4-5-13-26-44 Estimated jackpot: \$428,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$250 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 2-6-7 Daily Four: 5-4-7-3 Quick Draw: 1-6-13-17-20-28-31-33-38-49-51-55-61-72-73-74-76-77-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 0-1-3 Daily Four: 8-5-2-7 Quick Draw: 7-14-20-	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 6-9-1 Pick 4: 2-1-6-6 Pick 5: 7-4-2-6-5 Evening Pick 3: 7-8-9 Pick 4: 8-3-4-6 Pick 5: 5-3-5-8-1 Rolling Cash 5: 1-9-12-19-37 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.84 Dec. corn3.92 Wheat4.64	Dec. beans9.42 Wheat 5.14
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.97 Dec. corn4.12 Jan. corn4.21	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.77 Nov. corn3.77 Beans9.39 Nov. beans9.39 Wheat5.04
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.87 Nov. corn3.87 Beans9.42	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.74 Nov. corn3.74 Beans9.27 Nov. beans9.27 Wheat4.94

Today in history

In 1837, Harriet Powers, an African-American folk artist, was born in rural Georgia. n for her creations.

In 1929, 16 million shares of U.S. stock were sold on what became known as "Black Tuesday." It came five days after 13 million shares had been sold in a single day and led to the Great Depression.

In 2021, Portland

Redevelopment Commission voted to seek approval from Portland City Council to establish a "riverfront" district in the city. Council later gave its approval for the district, which allows communities to provide additional liquor licenses, at a lower cost, beyond the standard cap in order to spur restaurant development.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special meeting, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council public hearing and meeting, Pennville Town Hall, 105 N. Washington St.

Nov. 4
5:30 p.m. — Portland

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

Nov. 5
7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

Felony arrests

Battery

Two Indiana residents were arrested Wednesday for battery.

Sean M. Ashley, 23, 206 W. Main St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for battery resulting in serious bodily injury. Hayley M. Hein, 23, 3310 Vantage Point Drive, Fort Wayne, was also preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for battery result-

ing in serious bodily injury.

Ashley and Hein were each released on \$10,000 bonds from Jay County Jail.

Drug possession

A Portland man was arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine.

Anthony J. Pritchard, 47, 1213 W. Wayside Place, was preliminarily

charged with a Level 5 felony for the alleged crime, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license.

He was being held in Jay County Jail.

Dealing drugs

A Portland man was arrested Wednesday for dealing methamphetamine.

James C. Hamner, 51,

925 W. Race St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 2 felony for dealing methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Class B misdemeanor for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

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

Capsule Reports

Fell asleep

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Portland man fell asleep at the wheel, causing him to drive off Indiana 26 about 3 a.m. Sunday.

Marcelino Lopez, 21, was driving his 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee northwest on the highway when he fell asleep, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. His vehicle went into a ditch before striking a

concrete barrier, going over a driveway at 8617 E. Indiana 26, Portland, and hitting another concrete barrier.

His vehicle was towed.

Turning accident

A Portland teen crashed her car into a Muncie man's vehicle at the intersection of Indiana 67 and Indiana 26 in Portland about 3:42 p.m. Friday.

Myra L. Gonzalez, 17, was driving her 2007 Ford Focus on Indiana 26 when she began to turn northeast onto Indiana 67. She didn't see the oncoming 2015 Dodge Journey driven by 27-year-old Justin E. Coffey of Muncie. Coffey told police he wasn't able to stop before crashing into Gonzalez's vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Both vehicles were towed.

Grant ...

Continued from page 1
With Westminster Preschool Portland at the Jay County Early Learning Center set to open in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School, The Portland Foundation is targeting Dunkirk for its next early learning facility.

The foundation spearheaded the Jay County Early Learning Center effort, buying the former Judge Haynes building from Jay School Corporation and embarking on a \$4.3-million renovation project. It funded \$1.3 million of that total and was awarded grants for the remainder including \$1.5 million in partnership with United Way of Jay County from Indiana United Ways and \$500,000 from Early Learning Indiana.

The foundation is aiming to add on to the east side of West Jay community center in Dunkirk to create Jay County Early Learning Center — Dunkirk. The goal is to provide early learning opportunities for 72 children ages birth through 5.

Of the \$378,000 from Early Learning Indiana, \$211,000 will go toward that effort.

The Portland Foundation is seeking other funding for its project in Dunkirk, having already applied for financial support through Indiana's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0.

The remaining \$167,000 from Early Learning Indiana will allow ReSprout to provide free developmental check-ups for children age birth through 3 in low-income families and English Language Learner families to assess developmental milestones.

The organization is expected to be able to

serve 810 children over the two-year grant period.

"The Portland Foundation is honored to once again partner with Early Learning Indiana to provide services for Jay County's youngest residents," said Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation, in a press release. "The Jay County Early Learning Center in Dunkirk will assist in addressing the shortage of high-quality early childhood education opportunities in the community and ReSprout Therapy providing free developmental checkups to low income and English Language Learner (ELL) families is important so the children in those families receive assistance in their earliest years."

Early Learning Indiana's Early Years Initiative focuses on serving low-income households.

SERVICES

Today
Taylor, David: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Pendleton, John: 2 p.m., Waters Funeral Home, 501 W. Washington St., Hartford City.

Wednesday
Holley, Robert: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Wagner, Beverly: 10:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1010 W. Monroe St., Decatur.

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Harvest season stirs old memory

By JAMES FULKES
The Commercial Review

With the harvest season in full swing around here, it's timely to share an old memory as a youth.

A couple of years ago, I was killing time while a customer in Texas loaded up a truck.

Next door was a large farm implement dealership.

As I walked the lot, I saw grain harvesters that were well over \$450,000 and up without grain heads. They easily could exceed \$600,000 with full options and accessories.

This brought me to my

**Fulkys
Mayhem**



youthful memory of the once ubiquitous New Idea Corn Picker.

This little gem was manufactured right near my hometown region just across the state line in Coldwater, Ohio.

They came in primarily one and two row models and were famous for jam-

ming and causing many a farmer to turn the air around them blue with profanity as he attempted to clear the jammed cornstalks from the open top separator.

I personally ran a few of these machines, and never had the courage to try to clear the jam when they were running as I saw many old hands do. The reason for this was an experience I had the year my father died.

I was five years old, going on 6. The old guy farming our land near the tiny burgh of New Pittsburgh, Indiana, was across

the road from the house running a New Idea two rower with an old narrow front Farmall. The darn thing had jammed, yet again, as they were prone to do, often.

Ole Lester jumped off and with it running, attempted to clear the jam with his leather gloved hand.

Not a good idea. His gloved hand was caught. As it began to pull him in, he reached in to pull the hand out.

And the other hand was caught. By the grace of god, the New Idea let him go and he only lost three

fingers on one hand and two fingers and a thumb on the other hand that day.

I remember it like it was yesterday.

It was a valuable life lesson to me to never ramrod around running machinery and to always shut a machine down when attempting to clear a jam.

I know you all think it seems like common sense, but trust me on this one, if you've never run a New Idea corn picker you just don't understand how frustrating those things were to operate.

I guess it shows my age that I know how to run one

of those things, but after all we still had a team of oxen and a team of draft horses and two working steam engines on a farm I worked on as a youth. So the New Idea corn picker was actually as far advanced over those as that half million dollar STS S690 I saw in Texas is over the New Idea.

Progress my friends. After all, the fancy green monster will gladly take a cool half million out of your wallet, but it's a pretty safe bet that it won't take the fingers off of your hands.

Happy harvesting my friends.

Celebration leaves for a messy cleanup

DEAR ABBY: I chaired an event with a local service organization. Many hours were exhausted with planning and decorating. During the program, a few members playfully started throwing some items from the centerpieces at the guest speakers. By the end of the program, most of the room's centerpieces were dismantled and on the floor.

My committee had the job of cleanup, which was difficult and tedious. We felt the many hours we spent planning and doing hard work were disrespected because of these juvenile antics. This was an end-of-year program, ringing in new officers and celebrating a wonderful previous year, and there are always some lighthearted shenanigans. But I've never experienced total chaos before. Should I say something or chalk it up to celebrating a successful year's end? — FLABBERGASTED IN TEXAS

DEAR FLABBERGASTED: Were these lighthearted members drunk or just disorderly? "Lightheartedly" destroying the centerpieces and throwing

**Dear
Abby**



parts of them at the speakers? How disrespectful to everyone involved, not to mention potentially dangerous! I don't think what happened should be ignored. By all means, speak up. You and the other committee members are certainly entitled to let the perpetrators know how it made you feel. You're not the only person who is flabbergasted. So am I.

DEAR ABBY: How do I tell my friend "Lila" that I think she'd be happier if she got divorced? To be clear, I don't think her relationship is unsafe — it's just unhappy. Things have been rocky with her wife for a while now. They keep trying to work things out, but

every few months, something new comes up or becomes a problem again.

Lila cares deeply about her wife. She really wants to make things work, but I constantly hear she feels neglected and unattractive because of how her wife treats her. I'm obviously only hearing half the story, but it seems like Lila is putting in all the effort to make the relationship work, and her wife isn't responding in kind.

Part of the problem may be that Lila is introverted and doesn't have many friends besides her wife and me, which may be why she clings so hard to that relationship. I think both of them would be happier if they stopped trying to make the marriage work and went back to being friends, but I don't know how to tell Lila that, or even if I should.

DEAR LISTENING: Stay out of it. Lila needs a friend and a sounding board at this point, not a life coach. If her marriage is as dysfunctional as you have described, she will

figure out sooner or later whether it's time to "dial it back" or to end it. Understand that when divorces happen, most couples don't "go back to being friends" unless there are children involved.

DEAR ABBY: What can I buy for Christmas for my brother who is terminally ill with cancer? Nothing seems right — not music, books or any of the things he has always enjoyed. I'm at a loss. — SADDENED IN OREGON

DEAR SADDENED: I am so sorry about your brother's diagnosis. The surest way to give him something he will enjoy would be to ask him what he would like. His activities may be diminished, but he can point you in the right direction.

DEAR ABBY: My youngest daughter will be getting married in three months. I am 69 and have been a widower for six years. I have been dating a widow, "Rose," who was a high school friend I bumped into at church while she

was in town caring for her mother after our spouses passed away. She is well-accepted by my family and friends.

Rose is concerned about her role in the wedding. I have discussed this with her and indicated that her role is to be a guest of the wedding couple as well as my date for the evening. I believe this is appropriate and the right way to address this situation. I would appreciate any additional comments or suggestions you may have. — FATHER OF THE BRIDE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR FATHER: I gather from your question that you may be receiving some pressure from your lady friend to participate in the wedding. She may be well-accepted by the family, but if your youngest daughter and her fiance wanted Rose to be more than a welcome guest, they would have invited her to be part of the bridal party. Tell Rose that she is your date, and her role is to attend, have a good time with you and support the happy couple.

Community Calendar

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

Today

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion

for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday WEDNESDAY MORN-

ING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

Special Sections

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.
Mark your calendar NOW.

Randolph County girls basketball
Tuesday, Nov. 5 - N-G*

Randolph County boys basketball
Thursday, Nov. 21 - N-G*

How to cook a turkey
Tuesday, Nov. 26 - N-G*

How to cook a turkey
Wednesday, Nov. 27 - NT*

Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Nov. 27 - CR*

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review, NG = The News-Gazette, NT = The News Times, NS = The News and Sun

Fulfill duty and vote in the election

To the editor:
"My vote won't count, so I'm not voting."

Voting is a right, privilege and responsibility of citizens.

In a recent local election, Dave Golden and Larry Nuckols were tied. Nuckols graciously withdrew due to health.

A survey by Arizona University states that if gun owners and evangelical Christians had voted, the 2020 federal election would have had different results. The survey also found

Letters to the editor

that over 900 elections since 2020 were won by only one vote.

This election is unique in that we already have experienced four years of a Donald Trump presidency and four

years of a Joe Biden-Kamala Harris administration. We have a clear choice.

Even if a voter doesn't like either presidential ticket, much more is at stake. Presidents appoint their cabinet, Supreme Court justices, judges, ambassadors, and other administrative workers. All of these officials' decisions have the potential to dramatically affect our lives.

Likewise, the governor has similar appointment powers,

especially in appointing state supreme court justices who can rule on issues of rights and morality.

I urge every registered voter to vote their values and their faith. If not sure, pray, consult the Bible, the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution and The Commercial Review's Sept. 7 editorial. In addition, I urge pastors to encourage their congregations to vote (and vote their Biblical values).

Finally, I realize that this

political contest is primarily a spiritual one. We need to pray for our country. Since Jesus isn't on the ballot, we need to vote for the candidates whose policies most closely align with His teachings in the Bible, particularly the Gospels. Jesus said we are to be salt and light (salt stops corruption.) We will be held responsible to obey Jesus' words.

A concerned citizen,
Cheryl Landfair
Portland



Indiana is ground zero for anti-American ideologies

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

In the 1920s and 1930s, Indiana was ground zero for two of the most virulent anti-American movements in our nation's history. Again, in 2024, we find ourselves at the center of two profoundly anti-American ideologies that seek to strip from us the basic freedoms of speech, association and, perhaps most importantly, religion.

The earlier movements sought to dismantle key parts of our Constitution. They wanted to isolate those who weren't part of their religious heritage and establish a national religion. One of these movements was a vast uprising that eventually grew to include 1 out of every 3 adult men in the state. The other was a lone demagogue who pushed antisemitic, and ultimately pro-Nazi rhetoric, on a newfangled technology — radio.

The broad movement was the Ku Klux Klan, and the demagogue was the populist antisemitic Catholic priest, Father Charles Coughlin. The modern heirs to both movements are alive and well in Indiana.

Today they come to us in a more polished, smiling form than the KKK, but seek the same goals—the end of religious freedom of choice, restrictions on speech and the establishment of a quasi-national religion. We must reject both of these ideologies.

Patrick Deneen is the intellectual leader of Catholic Integralism. This idea, which he spells out in "Regime Change; towards a post-liberal future," is a rejection of the American Constitutional separation of church and

Michael J. Hicks



state. Deneen, a professor at Notre Dame, discards religious liberty and argues for a nation guided by (his) theocratic vision.

His views are not popular in Catholic leadership, and he is at odds with the Second Vatican Council and a half-century of official Catholic religious and political thought. Still, bad ideas rarely die of their own accord, and we should actively oppose them, even if they come from quiet, well-dressed academics.

Deneen is likely to prove only a small footnote to American religious intolerance. In contrast, Micah Beckwith is a rising leader of an anti-American movement that call themselves Christian nationalists. They are a profound danger to our republic.

To the casual Hoosier voter, Christian nationalism likely seems nothing to worry about. After all, most of us are Christians and love our country. That seems a common and healthy viewpoint. But, like many authoritarian movements, the name is intended to mask a deeper, darker agenda.

There can be no doubt the U.S. was founded in a Judeo-Christian culture. Our Declaration of Independence detailed the role of the Creator in establishing unalienable rights. That reference was clearly intended for the

eyes of King George, his Parliament and fellow Americans as the God of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

If Christian nationalism was simply a recognition of divine inspiration of our founders, or to wish blessing upon our nation's continuing experiment in liberty, I'd be happy with it. I am a Christian and patriot. But, that is not at all what Christian nationalism is or wishes to be.

Christian nationalism is an extreme ideology that rejects the First Amendment's establishment clause prohibiting a state-sponsored religion. It rejects the central idea that makes our great nation a place of universal freedom. It makes an explicit claim that "Christians are entitled to primacy of place in the public square because they are heirs of the true or essential heritage of American culture," per Christianity Today.

The Christian nationalist movement, including Beckwith, deny to the mainstream press that it wants a state-sponsored religion, but then states to more sympathetic media that it is ready to limit government offices to people who share an "alignment with Christian, Constitutional, and Conservative principles," as Micah Beckwith has proposed to do with his advisors as lieutenant governor, according to the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

Again, I'll say to my fellow Christians, this is dangerous and un-American. We might naturally all wish that our elected leaders shared our values, but where does it end? Should our department of agriculture or tourism

officials be staffed only by Christians? Does denomination matter, or should it only be Pentecostals or Methodists?

The founders knew that once the veil of church and state was pierced there would be no end to it, no safety valve, no limit. They knew it would end in ruin for the Republic.

Indeed, before taking office as president, George Washington penned a letter replying to a Hebrew congregation in Rhode Island. This community expressed concern that, even after supporting the Revolution, they may someday lose their freedom as a religious minority. Washington replied boldly, "...happily the Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

Christian nationalism exists solely to promote bigotry and assist persecution. Washington knew tyranny when he saw it and flatly rejected the zealots of a young Republic.

When Beckwith proudly proclaims himself a Christian nationalist, we must take his word for it.

Some of the best insight to what that Christian nationalism means comes directly through his words about Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jennifer McCormick. Beckwith claims McCormick was "filled with the Jezebel spirit." Since he made that claim, the Christian nationalist movement has said the same thing about Kamala Harris.

Like many of you, I got the gist of that. I did teach Sunday School, but we didn't cover that with the first-graders, so I had to

leaf through my Good Book to find precisely what Beckwith meant.

My King James Version answered me in Revelations 2:20: "Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication" In other words, Beckwith is making a pastoral and political claim that Jennifer McCormick is a slut, prostitute and enemy of God.

He said that about McCormick because he disagrees with her politically. He said that because he thought he could get away with saying it on an obscure Christian nationalist podcast. He said that because he has no scruples, no judgment and no sense of decency.

Equally worrisome, Sen. Mike Braun could not reject his running mate's slurs because he lacks the courage to oppose the growing force of Christian nationalism.

It's not so much that Hoosiers should expect better. We cannot do worse than this. But, there is one deliciously ironic silver lining to all this. Neither Patrick Deneen nor Micah Beckwith views one another as actual Christians. We'd be better off to let them hash out that difference as a couple of private citizens, far away from the Statehouse or political influence.

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

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

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Merchant trick-or-treat is Thursday

Jay County Chamber of Commerce's annual Merchant Trick-or-Treat has changed locations.

Because of the ongoing construction on Meridian Street (U.S. 27), the event will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the parking lot east of Freedom Park. The following chamber members will still hand out candy at their own locations: Youth Service Bureau, Crown-Pointe, Flatline Ink, Elite Eye Care, Jay County Public Library, CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union, Bob & Son's Insurance Agency, Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center, Portland Eagles, Trinity Archbridge Church, Family Dollar and First Presbyterian Church.

The chamber is also accepting entries for the 2024 Winterfest Parade of Lights scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. Registration forms, which are available at the chamber office, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland, must be turned in by Monday, Nov. 18.

Local businesses and organizations are also invited to participate in the Winterfest Festival of Trees. Those participating can bring trees to the courthouse between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. beginning Monday. Entry forms, available at the chamber office, are due by Friday, Nov. 14, and trees must be decorated by Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Hosting session

Mercer Health and Coldwater Public Library are partnering to hold an education event on MyChart at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at the library, 305 W. Main St.

MyChart is an online service that allows patients to access and

Business roundup

manage their health information. Attendees will learn about how to use the services.

Via MyChart, patients can message providers, schedule appointments, review test results, look at visit summaries and appointment notes, schedule medication refills, get preventative care reminders, and review and pay bills.

For more information, contact Mercer Health by email at myhealth@merc-health.com or call (419) 678-5247.

Screenings offered

Bluffton Regional Medical Center will extend its imaging hours Nov. 9 for National Lung Cancer Screening Day.

The facility that is part of Lutheran Health network will offer lung cancer screenings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9. To schedule an appointment, call (833) 546-4968.

"National Lung Cancer Screening Day is a great opportunity to raise screening awareness and encourage eligible individuals to get screened," said Dr. Harish Ardeshta, Bluffton Medical Center's chief of staff, in a press release. "Many people must work during the week, which makes it difficult for them to get screened. That's why National Lung Cancer Screening Day is on a Saturday — to make it easier for people to take more

control of their health by getting screened when it's convenient. Get screened so we can help reduce disparities, promote equity, and save more lives."

Added to team

Rural 1st has added Ashlee Smith as a loan officer based in Bluffton.

Smith, a Decatur native, has worked for 11 years at a credit union. She will join Rural 1st, the consumer lending division of Farm Credit Mid-America.

"Ashlee's experience in the financial industry, combined with her commitment to serving Rural communities, makes her a valuable asset to the Rural 1st team," said Tom Sloma, regional vice president for Rural 1st in a press release. "Her passion for helping customers achieve their dreams, whether it's building their family home or securing a piece of land, reflects our dedication to supporting rural lifestyles."

Smith will serve Jay, Adams, Wells and Allen counties.

Name changed

Bowen Center has changed its name to Bowen Health.

The organization focuses on helping the underserved with healthcare in northern Indiana.

"We changed our name to Bowen Health because we wanted our name to reflect all the services we provide," said Shannon Hannon, Bowen Health's chief operating officer, in a press release. "We offer convenient, high quality, compassionate healthcare for your mind and body. When you and your

family need healthcare, we invite you to make an appointment and get the care you need."

Bowen Health has locations and programs in more than two dozen counties and also offers online services.

Ardagh implements

Ardagh Glass Packaging - Europe has implemented an automated fire detection system it developed with Fire Camera.

The IS Protect Plus System has been put into use at Ardagh's facility in Knottingley, England. It uses multiple cameras to detect fire and other incidents by monitoring all areas of the facility.

"This system is the first system of its kind to use both thermal image and HD camera vision to detect a precise trigger and act accordingly," said Knottingley plant manager Robert Fisher. "It can automatically divert the glass to the basement, activate IS machine safe mode and automatically initiate the fire suppression system depending on the severity level of the trigger. This is the biggest advance in Health & Safety risk reduction I have witnessed in my 20 years working in the industry. I have no doubt that it will contribute greatly to keeping people safe and protecting our assets for years to come."

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Hospital honored

Healthgrades recently awarded Reid Health as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Pulmonary Care.

Reid received the honor

for the second year in a row. It also was recognized with Excellence Awards for stroke care and critical care, and ranked second in Indiana for critical care and pulmonary care.

The hospital was rated five stars for treatment of heart failure, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, gastrointestinal bleeding and sepsis.

"Each of these awards is a reflection of our commitment to delivering exceptional care year after year to those we serve," said Reid Health president and CEO Craig Kinyon in a press release. "These achievements are the result of many hours of hard work and dedication from each member of the Reid team to fulfill our mission to lead our communities to well-being, one person at a time."

For additional details, visit healthgrades.com.

Awards scheduled

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce annual awards dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The dinner will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis. NBC chief political analyst Chuck Todd will be the guest speaker.

To register, visit indianachamber.com.

Also, the chamber's 2025 Indiana Safety and Health Conference has been scheduled for Feb. 24 through 26 at the Indiana Convention Center. The event will feature the Indiana forklift rodeo, various speakers, educational breakout sessions and an innovation show-

case featuring safety tools and products. Continuing education credits will be available for wastewater operators.

To reserve a spot, visit insafetyconf.com/registration.

Cookie introduced

Subway restaurants will begin offering its Double Chocolate Peppermint Footlong Cookie on Friday.

The cookie, which is topped with candy cane pieces, is being rolled out for the holiday season.

"Since their debut earlier this year, millions of Footlong Cookies have delighted our fans — now we can't wait for them to experience how we've reimagined another classic cookie flavor into even more footlong indulgence," said Paul Fabre, senior vice president of culinary and innovation at Subway, in a press release. "The holiday season is synonymous with cookies, making it the perfect time to introduce this new warm, flavor-packed footlong cookie to our snack menu."

Drug approved

Eli Lilly has received approval to sell weight loss drug Mounjaro in Hong Kong.

The Indianapolis pharmaceuticals firm received approval from the Hong Kong government to sell Mounjaro, Reuters reported. It had received approval from Chinese regulators in July.

Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

UAW holding authorization vote for GM Indiana plant

By BREANA NOBLE

The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

United Auto Workers Local 2209 is holding a vote on Wednesday on whether to strike General Motors Co.'s Fort Wayne Assembly Plant in Indiana that produces full-size trucks, according to a letter from the local's leadership.

The union and Detroit-based automaker have been in a tussle over the use of temporary workers to help build the profit-rich Chevrolet Silverados and GMC Sierras there. Unable to reach an agreement for extending the part-time temporary employees, the company said it was laying off about 250 of them at the end of September. Since last December, the union has sought to make

Union has taken exception to use of temporary workers

the workers full-time temps, if not permanent employees.

UAW Local 2209 President Rich LeTourneau, who confirmed the Wednesday vote to The Detroit News, wrote in the update to members dated Friday that he had submitted a request for a strike authorization vote to Region 2B Director Dave Green on Oct. 7. A vote has been scheduled for 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday at the local's union

hall. Approval by members doesn't necessarily mean the plant will go on strike.

"The violations with this new GM continue to grow, a yes vote only gives us the power to fix it, that doesn't mean we strike," LeTourneau wrote. "Think long and hard where you want to be 10 years from now. They are eliminating all indirect labor jobs every chance they get, and the company is doing the work.

Those are the jobs you want to retire on some day. We have the chance to fix it now with a yes vote.

"You can vote no if you think it's all good, but 20 years from now when I'm dead and gone and you're still on that assembly line left wondering why? Remember, this is because I (explicit) out on October 30th, 2024, and voted no."

Kevin Kelly, spokesperson for the automaker, said in a statement: "GM is abiding by the provisions in our National and Local agreement with the UAW and there is not any practical or legal basis for a strike at Fort Wayne Assembly, home of the award-winning Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup trucks."

LeTourneau late Friday afternoon declined to speak further

on the issue, stating he still was answering member questions. He said the international UAW directed him to hold the vote.

The News left a request for comment with a representative for the UAW's international communications team and Green.

The Detroit-based union also is threatening to strike Stellantis NV over its delays reopening an Illinois assembly plant. At least three locals in California, Colorado and Illinois have granted strike authorization, but Stellantis has filed nine federal lawsuits, stating it believes a strike would be illegal under the terms of the parties' 2023 collective bargaining agreement, and that the court should intervene to prevent one. The union has called the objections "frivolous."



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Japan's LDP coalition loses majority

By ALASTAIR GALE,
YUKI HAGIWARA
and YOSHIKI NOHARA

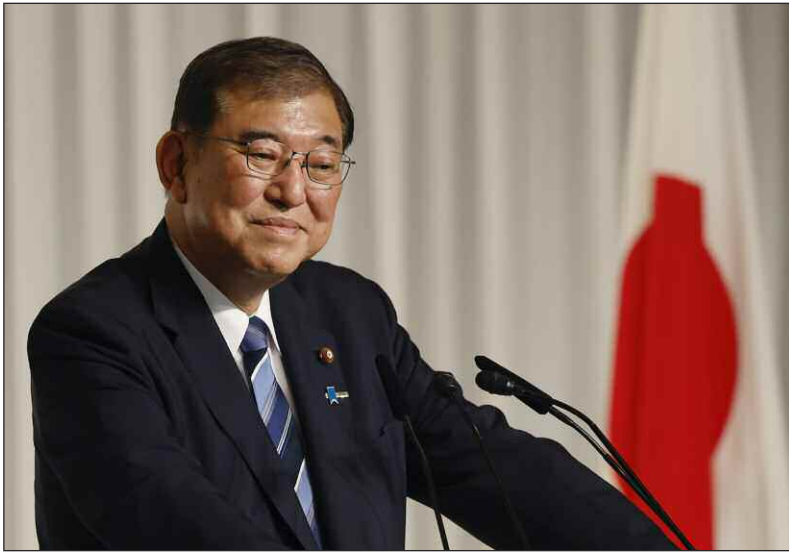
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Japan faces political instability after a gamble by Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to call a snap election backfired with the ruling coalition failing to win a majority in parliament for the first time since 2009.

Voter discontent over a slush-fund scandal has pummeled support for Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party, causing it and its ruling partner Komeito to fall short of the 233 seats needed for a majority in the lower house, according to a tally by public broadcaster NHK. Surveys by other media pointed to similar results.

Public support for the LDP has nosedived after revelations last year that party members were secretly enriching themselves with funds from supporters. With uncertainty growing after the coalition failed to retain its majority, the yen was indicated lower in early Sydney trading and Japanese stocks were set to come under pressure. The results also raise questions about Ishiba's own future.

"We couldn't dispel public anger over the political funds issue," Ishiba said Sunday before the latest result. When asked if he would consider forming a coalition with other



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Kim Kyung-Hoon

Newly elected leader and sitting chairperson of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shigeru Ishiba speaks during a press conference last month following his election in the party leadership elections in Tokyo, Japan.

parties, he said no decisions had been made, but added that he was willing to cooperate with others if policies align.

The vote count shows the LDP and Komeito with a combined 210 seats, and the rest with 240 seats, according to NHK. The main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan has secured 145 seats, the broadcaster said.

The outcome may also compli-

cate the outlook for the Bank of Japan, which is trying to seek the right timing for another rate hike. The central bank is due to meet on Oct. 31 and is widely expected to leave rates unchanged for now.

The biggest risk for the BOJ is that pressure may mount within the LDP to replace Ishiba with another candidate who favors fiscal expansion, said Nobuyasu Atago, chief economist

at Rakuten Securities Economic Research Institute. "If that happens, it will become difficult for the BOJ to keep raising interest rates."

So far, no other parties have indicated they would be willing to join the coalition and help the LDP stay in power. The leaders of the third- and fourth-largest opposition parties said they had no intention of negotiating with the ruling coalition, but might cooperate on specific policy issues.

The biggest winner in the election is the CDP, which has significantly boosted its seat count from 98 before the vote. CDP leader Yoshihiko Noda said he would seek to take over the government if the coalition loses its majority.

The LDP is still set to remain the largest party in parliament, but the challenge now will be for Ishiba to find a route to a stable government. Talks over cooperation between parties might take as long as weeks, without any guarantee of a stable government emerging.

"This could create a quagmire regarding the legislative process—a scenario which may not bode well for the yen and the Nikkei, at least in the short term," said Tim Waterer, the Sydney-based chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

Ishiba took over the party leadership just last month as

the LDP looked to make a clean break from the scandal that had eroded the popularity of former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

He barred some lawmakers involved in the scandal from running as LDP candidates in the election, aiming to assert his authority and regain public trust. That left 10 of them running as independents, with two more expelled from the party also standing.

He may now need their support to remain in power, although several of them lost their election bids.

"If we lose the majority, we'll seek the cooperation of as many people as possible," said Shinjiro Koizumi, the LDP's election point man after the NHK exit poll. "The LDP must change more radically, reflecting on this harsh judgment."

Ishiba's bid to win a mandate has also been made more challenging by flip-flops on policy stances, including his views on the BOJ's rate normalization path.

"The fact that the LDP appears to have lost its majority for first time since 2009 is an indication of how badly the Ishiba administration has rolled out its policies, in addition to the impact of the slush-fund scandal," said Rintaro Nishimura, a Japan associate at The Asia Group, an advisory firm.

Israel quietly boasts gains

By GALIT ALSTEIN
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

After sending more than 100 fighter planes to attack Iran, the Israeli government is seeking to walk a fine line: Officials there believe the attack did significant strategic damage but want to allow Iran to continue dismissing it as unworthy of response.

Orders went out to Israeli officials to stay mum on the details. Yet at a ceremony to mourn the losses from Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, invasion, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lauded the mission to Iran for "severely harming its defense capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that would be launched at us."

The strike, he said, "was precise and powerful" and "achieved all its objectives."

A readout of Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's overnight phone call with U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin said they discussed "initial assessments regarding the success of the strikes against missile manufacturing facilities, surface-to-air missile arrays and Iranian aerial capabilities," shedding more official light on targets.

Israeli officials, who spoke to Bloomberg on condition of anonymity to describe sensitive matters, gave more detail: They said some of the targets were anti-aircraft systems, including Russian-made S-300 batteries and some missile caches and missile-launch sites.

Analysts say that the Saturday mission may set the stage for another attack, possibly after the U.S. election, which could be aimed at Iran's nuclear program or its oil infrastructure.

"The fact that the military was able to take down Iran's anti-aircraft radar systems is a strategic change. By doing so, Israel has unlocked the door for future attacks. That means that Iran's nuclear program and its energy infrastructure are more vulnerable to a future decision by Israel or the United States to attack them," said Meir Javedanfar, an Iran lecturer at Reichman University in Herzliya.

At the same time, CIA Director William Burns is in Qatar with Mossad Chief David Barnea, leading the Israeli delegation, for new discussions over a cease-fire with Hamas in Gaza.

A former official in Israel's intelligence services told Bloomberg that Iran is thought to have some 20 to 30 S-300 batteries. Even if only some were

taken down — media reports circulated estimates of between four and eight batteries — it was a clear message that more could be damaged in future attacks. The S-300 system will be hard to replenish given Russia's need to prioritize its own defenses in its war with Ukraine.

Eyal Pinko, a former Navy intelligence officer and missile expert, said that China has made its own version of the S-300 and is likely to provide it to Iran fairly soon.

Javedanfar said that even if Russia does have the capability to replace these systems, perhaps with even more advanced S-400 batteries, it will have to consider repercussions like a surge in U.S. and Israeli weapons to Ukraine.

This feeds into the larger idea that Israel's attack on Saturday, despite not displaying its full capabilities, could have far-reaching implications.

That includes the hit to Iran's ballistic missile manufacturing capabilities, including a factory for mixing the elements of solid fuel for missile engines. The ex-intelligence official said that this is thought to be a major bottleneck in the production of missiles. The machinery can be replaced, mainly via China, but that would require time as it is an off-the-shelf product.

"It's not clear what percentage of Iran's capabilities have been hit in terms of producing missiles," Javedanfar said. "But the fact that they have been hit sends a very important message to Iran about how the nerve center of its military production facilities are within the reach of Israel. If they had been taken out of action for one or two years it clearly says — we can hurt you."

Alongside actual damage, analysts say that the scope of the operation was a strong signal in itself.

It included a combination of more than 100 airplanes that were able to strike at a large distance from the Israeli border and come home safely, clear intelligence gathered by Israel and its allies and tight cooperation between Israel and the U.S., which was manifest in Israel's ability to fly over Iraq, among other things.

This will also play a role in Iran's decision how to respond, the ex intelligence official said.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that Israel's attack shouldn't be exaggerated or underestimated.

HEALTHCARE

7 ways to enjoy a healthy holiday



Certain words are synonymous with the holiday season, and "festive," "family," "friends," and "food" are certainly among them. Celebrants focus on being a little more indulgent with their time and habits as the year comes to a close, and health and fitness may be set to simmer on the back burner.

According to a research review published in the journal *Obesity*, the average person gains between 0.8 and 2 pounds during the holiday season. Food represents more than just nutrition this time of year, as family gatherings around the dinner table are about tradition and fellowship. While no one wants to feel deprived when holiday celebrations arrive, it is important to make smart choices and continue to prioritize health as much as possible. These seven tips can help.

1. Plan your daily eating. Scale back meals accordingly if a large family feast is on the docket at dinnertime. While you shouldn't skip meals altogether, a light breakfast or lunch may enable you to save more calories for dinner and treats to come later in the evening.

2. Aim for mostly healthy foods.

Buttery rolls, fatty roasts, candied yams, and pies come out in full force during the holidays. Try to make the majority of your plate full of lean protein, low-fat dairy and plenty of vegetables and whole grains. Then you can splurge on one or two foods like pumpkin pie.

3. Remain physically active. It may be tempting to hibernate inside watching heartfelt holiday movies on television, but resist the urge to be sedentary. Keep up normal fitness routines, aiming for the recommended 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity exercise. Take the stairs at malls and park further away from stores when shopping for the holidays to add a little extra movement to your day.

4. Get enough sleep. It may seem your schedule is packed with everything from parties to holiday preparation, but it is important to get adequate rest. Without enough sleep, you may feel sluggish and your immune system may not be as strong.

5. Lay off the alcohol. Holiday toasts are replete with delicious cocktails. However, moderation is

key whenever alcohol is being served. Popular drinks often are calorie-dense, and health experts warn that consuming too much alcohol is linked to a higher risk of developing certain conditions, like liver issues, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, says WebMD. Opt for non-alcoholic beverages. Water and unsweetened drinks are healthy options.

6. Position yourself away from the buffet. When you are close to food, you might engage in mindless nibbling. Find a seat away from the dinner table or buffet during holiday gatherings.

7. Slow down and be aware. The holiday season is a busy time of year, and that means people may be racing around distracted or in a rush. Take special care to be alert while driving to avoid accidents that can lead to injuries or even fatalities.

Although nutrition often isn't top of mind during the holiday season, healthy behaviors shouldn't be completely forgotten during this festive time of year.

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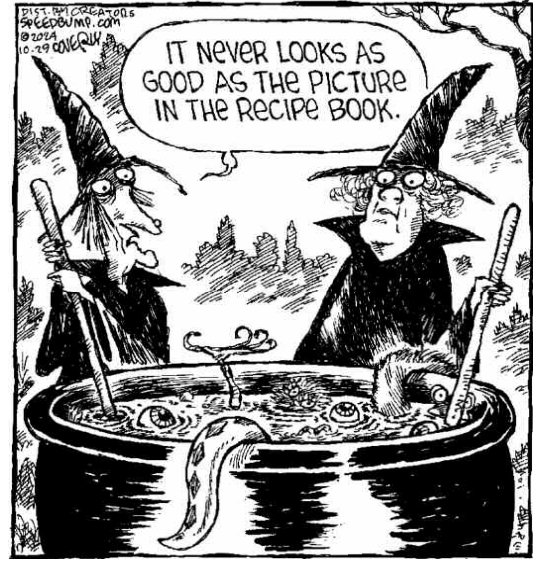
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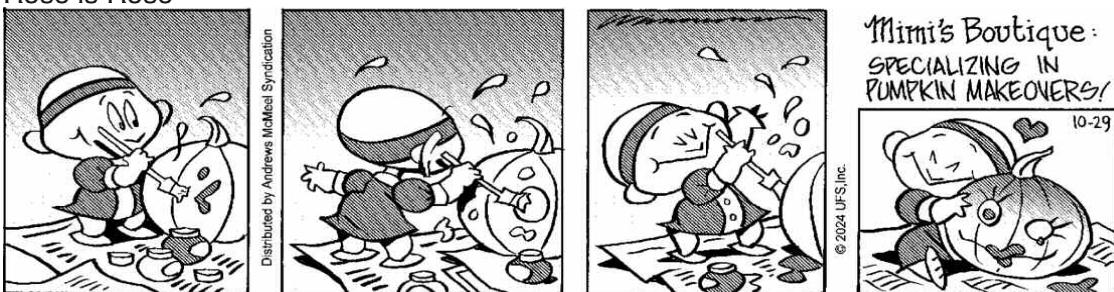
By Bil Keane



Peanuts



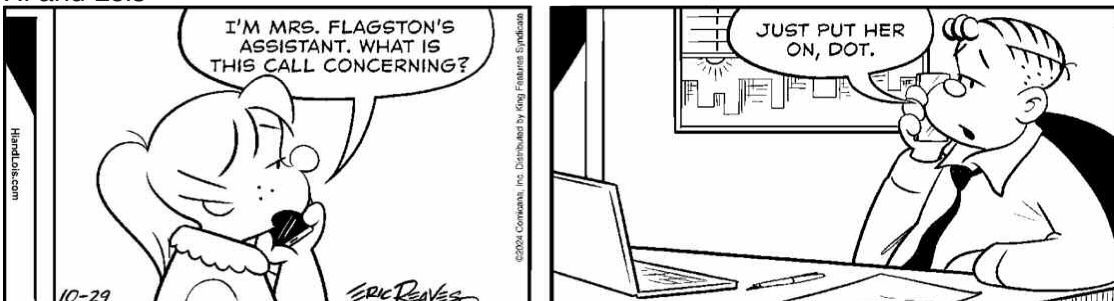
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A delectable concoction

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 5 2
♥ Q 6 4
♦ A K 3
♣ Q 9

WEST
♠ 7
♥ A K J 10 5
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ K 10 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 3
♥ 9 2
♦ 9 4
♣ J 8 7 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 9 4
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 7 5 2
♣ A 6

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 1♥ Dble Pass
2♠ Pass 4♣

Opening lead—king of hearts.

Some plays that can significantly increase declarer's chances of making a contract are very easy to miss. For example, consider this deal where West leads the K-A and another heart after East plays high-low.

East ruffs and returns a club. Since both the bidding and the club return strongly indicate that West has the king, South goes up with the ace.

Declarer must now take the rest of the tricks to make the contract. Obviously, this can't be done unless South finds a way to avoid losing a club trick.

One possibility is to draw the missing trumps and cash the A-K-Q of diamonds. If the opposing diamonds are divided 3-3, South's seven becomes a trick on which dummy's remaining club can be discarded.

As the cards lie, declarer goes down if he adopts this line of play. The diamonds turn out to be divided 4-2, and he eventually loses a club to West to finish down one.

But another, less obvious line of play allows South to make the contract. Instead of banking everything on a 3-3 diamond division, declarer should first cash all of dummy's trumps, discarding his six of clubs on the last trump. This reduces his hand to the Q-7-5-2 of diamonds while dummy has the A-K-3 of diamonds and queen of clubs.

But note what happens to West while the spades are being cashed. On the last trump lead from dummy, he must discard from his J-10-8-6 of diamonds and king of clubs. Whatever he chooses, declarer takes the rest of the tricks.

The indisputable advantage of this line of play is that declarer preserves his chances of making the contract if the diamonds are divided 3-3, while at the same time he improves his chances if West started with four or more diamonds.

Tomorrow: A double-barreled endplay.
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10-29 CRYPTOQUIP

EPFK DLNPK QS F ULKKLON
VSGJMLWKLIO IU F JIGKCDVS
PFTTISSO QFGP? F JIDS-FG-BIC-
FMSO'K WFMKB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE STUDENT CHEF MOISTENED THE MUTTON IN A COMPLETELY AWFUL WAY, HE WAS LAMB-BASTED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals A

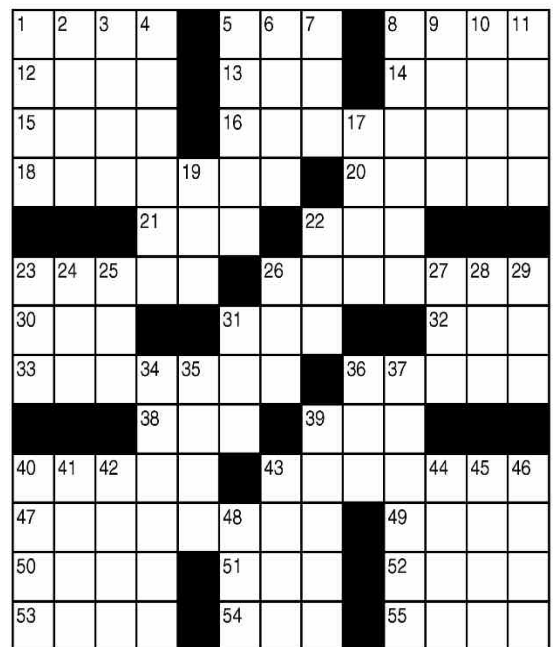
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Guitarist Atkins
 - 5 Wine selection
 - 8 "Phooey!"
 - 12 Uncivil
 - 13 Past
 - 14 New Age singer
 - 15 Others (Lat.)
 - 16 Seductive spy
 - 18 Corresponded
 - 20 Permitted
 - 21 Ornate vase
 - 22 Madre's sibling
 - 23 Muffles
 - 26 Makes a difference
 - 30 Pig-poke link
 - 31 Goal
 - 32 — chi
 - 33 Roald Dahl heroine
 - 36 Meager
 - 38 Josh
 - 39 Chinese chairman
 - 40 Popular typeface
- DOWN**
- 3 Work on proofs
 - 4 Poodle variety
 - 5 Asian noodles
 - 6 "Zounds!"
 - 7 Speck
 - 8 Prepare left-overs
 - 9 Scrambled wd.
 - 10 Model Banks
 - 11 Go yachting
 - 17 Landed
 - 19 Day fractions (Abbr.)
 - 22 Highland hat
 - 23 Badly lit
 - 24 Santa — winds
 - 25 Wrestling surface
 - 26 Soccer's Hamm
 - 27 JFK info
 - 28 Scooted
 - 29 Commanc to Fido
 - 31 Do sums
 - 34 Greek island in the Aegean
 - 35 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
 - 36 Used a chair
 - 37 Hues
 - 39 Brick worker
 - 40 Latin I word
 - 41 Indy event
 - 42 Slanted type (Abbr.)
 - 43 Diner's card
 - 44 Skip
 - 45 Sherlock's assignment
 - 46 Recognized
 - 48 Corn throw-away

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-29



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Potential ...

Continued from page 10
Garringer took off at the gun of the boys race, treating the first 100 meters as a sprint. That put him in a solid position in the massive field, and by the mile mark he was sitting 26th.

With a mid-20s finish expected to be needed to advance — Hunter Smith was the final qualifier from the 2023 race in 23rd place — he had put himself in the mix.

Most of his race was smooth, though he stepped on a pinecone on a downhill near the halfway point and then stumbled on the next climb. Other than that, he said he felt good throughout.

By the home stretch, Garringer had slipped back into the mid 30s and out of state contention but was still part of the top 18% of the field that broke the 17-minute mark. His time of 16:48.1 was just nine seconds slower than the previous week on a much more difficult course than the relatively flat layout for the sectional at Taylor University.

His time was more than a minute faster than the 17:52.3 he put up while finishing 126th as a freshman.

“My hopes are definitely to make it to state next year,” said Garringer, who was seventh among underclassmen. (Eighteen of the 35 runners who finished ahead of him were seniors.) “I really hope to continually get better every race.”

“I’ve just got to keep doing what I’m doing and get better, run faster.”

Thacker stayed close to Garringer, just as he had in the sectional meet where they finished sixth and seventh. He ended up 38th in 16:51 in his first regional experience and was 20th among runners on non-qualifying teams.

He was the fifth-fastest freshman in the field.

“They didn’t qualify, but at the same time, hopefully that leaves them hungry

JCHS is set to return all 14 regional runners

for what it takes to get there next year,” said Wood. “And being so close and knowing it’s within reach, I think it’s good for them and it’s good for our program going forward to know that we have guys running at the level.”

Ava May had the top finish for the Patriot girls for the second week in a row, running a similar race to the sectional as she tailed a group of her teammates in the first part of the race before taking the lead role late in the race. She was just three seconds off the career-best time she set in that sectional race, placing 62nd in the regional at 20:45.5.

As a whole, Jay County’s girls got stuck near the back of the field in the grueling opening stretch and had to fight back through the rest of the race. They were successful in doing so as they finished one spot ahead of their 14th-place projection.

Fellow freshmen Abby Fifer and Jessie Homan joined May in the top 100, the former finishing 77th in 21:07.5 and the latter 88th at 21:21.6. The final two Patriots came across the line within four tenths of a second of each other, with freshman Brooklyn Byrum 117th in 21:49.7 and junior Alexis Sibray 118th in 21:50.1.

“It’s hard telling what those girls are all capable of because they kept getting faster,” said Wood. “Ramping up training just a little bit more going forward ... they can still make a lot of improvements.”

“Hopefully we’ll have a few of them, or maybe all



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Caleb Garringer competes during the IHSAA Regional cross country meet at Huntington University on Saturday. Garringer’s time of 16 minutes, 48.1 seconds left him 10 places and 13 seconds short of a state berth.

of them, get to that level where they’re looking at individually possibly state qualifying. If we do that, that teams going to be

really, really, really good.” Junior Joseph Boggs gave the JCHS boys a third runner in the top 100. He posted a time of 17:50.1 for

92nd place, improving on his 116th-place finish from 2023. Also running for the Patriot girls Saturday but

not factoring into the team score were junior Paityn Wendel (177th – 22:54.9) and Lizzy Brunswick (187th – 23:15.3).

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 7758 E SR 67, Bryant, IN
Saturday Morning
November 2nd, 2024
10:00 A. M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD ITEMS
GE upright freezer; (2) Lazy Boy recliners; 1950’s china cabinet; patio table with chairs; storage trunks; wine chiller old sideboard; wagon wheel table; cedar chest; small table with glass feet; printer table; Budweiser mirrors; Wagner & Griswold cast iron skillet; Landman collapsible camper; and many other items not listed.

MULE-TRAILER-TOOLS
Kawasaki 550 gas mule with dump bed; 12’ x 6’ trailer with ramp; JD aireator; (3) 20” old barn beams; electric power washer; metal racks; yard roller; 10 pieces OSB; pegboard; hitch with sway bar; and other items not listed.

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PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday December 7th, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2119 S US 27

PORTLAND, IN. OPEN HOUSE Sunday Nov. 17th & Sunday Nov. 24th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.

REAL ESTATE
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch home containing 1390 sq. ft. finished living area. Blacktop driveway. GFA with Central air. 19’ x 25’ attached garage, and an 18’ x 24’ detached garage. Nicely situated on two lots containing 1.65 acres in a prime

90 SALE CALENDAR

location.
ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD-LAWN AND GARDEN
12’ x 10’ portable storage building. Oak pie safe, Kitchen cabinet, (2) Childs rockers, Parlor table, Garden plow, Parry Buggies thermometer, (2) 3 cushion sofas, Kenmore upright freezer, Whee horse 520-H riding mower with 48” cut and snowblower, Craftsman 10” table saw, Porch Swing, 3 hole dog box for pickup truck, Garage and shop tools. Several items not to mention.
OWNER: Richard L. Manor

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168
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Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040
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PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday November 16th, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 5691 S 600 E (Gas City), Marion, IN

LOADER-TRACTORS-TRUCKS-COMBINES
Case W14 wheel loader with material bucket, Bobcat MT 52 with Kubota diesel and material bucket, Kubota L35 tractor with loader and backhoe, International 1256 tractor with cab, weights, and duals, 1960 Reo Gold Comet Grain truck with 16’ bed, International 6 row corn head with cart.
FARM EQUIPMENT-MISC.
Steiger 9 shank disc chisel, JD 7000 12 row planter, Great Plains folding drill, International 1190 haybine, New Holland hayliner 68 sq. baler, News idea single axle PTO manure spreader, Cross double

90 SALE CALENDAR

chain elevator, Bench with Ammco 1000 break lathe and grinder, Electric golf cart, Large auction, several items not mentioned.
OWNER; Max Kirkwood Estate, by Steve Kirkwood

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

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PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday November 23rd, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 6160 E 100 N
Portland, IN

OPEN HOUSE Sunday Nov. 10th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.

REAL ESTATE
3 bedroom home containing 1150 sq. ft. finished living area. GFA with Central air. 30 x 40 pole barn. Several recent updates. Nicely situated on 2 acres.
ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD-MISC
Knock down wardrobe, Wall, mantle, & came back clocks, Christmas blow molds, GE Washer & dryer, Frigidaire upright freezer, Howard Miller grandfather clock, Barcalounger lift chair (new), Leather loveseat with matching chair (new), Electric guitar, Line amp., 3pt post hole auger, Roll-away tool box, Portable air compressor.

OWNER; Linda Arnold Estate, Michael Slusser PR

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
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90 SALE CALENDAR

AUCTIONEERS
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PUBLIC AUCTION
Wednesday, November 6th, 2024
6:00 pm
Location: 3233 E 1000 S Geneva, IN

This charming ranch home sits on 1.5 acres with over 1400 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, & 2 baths. Open concept kitchen, dining, & living area. It has a 2 year old central air and furnace. 40x80 pole barn with electric and an insulated room with loft storage above it. Appliances are staying.
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For complete sale bill see auctionzip.com or mizlehman.com
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STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY OF JAY, SS: In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of Susan Kae Quinn, Deceased N THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2024 TERM
No. 38C01-2410-EU-000028
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Jessica Quinn and Rick Stewart were on the 17th day of October, 2024, appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the estate of Susan Kae Quinn who died on October 9, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 17th day of October, 2024.
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
CR 10-22,29-2024-HSPAXLP

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STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY OF JAY, SS: CAUSE NUMBER: 38C01-2408-JC-000067
IN THE MATTER OF: AC - DOB 4/25/2022
A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES AND
HAILEY CURTS (BIOLOGICAL MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS
SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING
TO: Any Unknown Alleged Father
Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court. YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jay Circuit Court, 120 N. Court Street, Portland, IN 47371 - 260-726-4044 for a(n) Review Hearing on 4/4/2025 at 8:30 AM. At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support. YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.
Jon Eads, Clerk
Yvonne Spillers, 3014-02
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services
1314 N. Meridian Street
Suite 100
Portland, IN 47371
CR 10-29,11-5,12-2024 - HSPAXLP

Finishes ...

Continued from page 10
Bennett Lehman of Ansonia and Caroline Hamilton of Legacy Christian claimed the individual district championships and clinched spots at state with times of 15 minutes, 52.93 seconds and 18:10.41, respectively. Miami Valley School's Lochlan Dwyer secured the final individual spot with a time of 17:13.94, leaving Reese Diller 1:00.91 short. Taylee Woodbury earned the final spot for the girls, also with a 21st-place finish in 20:24.07, leaving Joelle Kaup 42.07 seconds short.

The meet marked the final race for three Indians; Kaup, Anna Roessner and Nicole Braun. Kaup has ran in all four district meets and the previous three state championships, Roessner competed in the meets as a sophomore and junior and served as an alternate her freshman year and Braun filled in during the 2023 district meet before serving as an alternate to regional and state.

"I'm happy to be at regionals at all," Roessner said. "I know a lot of teams would love to make it out of district and they couldn't, so I'm just happy to be here and that all my family and friends came out to see me."

Kaup and Roessner both started out strong sitting in 22nd and 29th after the first kilometer. By the one-mile mark, Kaup fell back



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School senior Joelle Kaup keeps pace with West Liberty-Salem's Isla Leichty while running up a steep hill at the two-mile mark of the OHSAA Division III Southwest Regional 12 cross country meet at Troy on Saturday. Kaup's time of 21 minutes, 6.73 seconds, left her 42.07 seconds short of a state berth.

to 26th, while Roessner got caught up in the pack.

Kaup slipped back to 34th at the beginning of the third mile, and only lost three more places before finishing 37th with a time of 21:06.37. Roessner ended in 65th at

22:39.17 for the fourth FRHS score.

"I did not run my best," Kaup said. "I didn't even run close to it, but honestly at the end of the day, I was just glad to get here as a team and my friends came out to see me."

In her first regional competition, freshman Riley Heitkamp held a steady pace to claim 58th in 21:57.72. Sophomore Makenna Huelskamp fluctuated between sitting equally with Heitkamp and trailing her. With only

¾ kilometers remaining, she sat 10 behind the freshman, but managed to shift up a gear for a strong finish, putting her one spot ahead of Heitkamp at 37th in 21:56.96.

"This is only her fourth race this year, so to come

out and race like that and not be tentative, especially coming back from an injury, is huge," Diller said. "So I thought she attacked really well. She was smart about how she ran and had a great finish. All of our girls finished well."

Rounding out the Indians score was Maddie Heitkamp, crossing the line in 23:27 flat for 73rd. Not scoring were Kendall Ranly (25:16.72) in 81st and Braun (25:45.90) in 83rd.

Reese Diller got swallowed up and boxed in early, falling back to 45th by the first kilometer, without much opportunity to make a move up in his first regional appearance.

While the sophomore knew his odds of making it through were slim coming into the meet, he started to see the writing on the wall and by the second mile and not being able to make up much ground.

He wound up in 57th place with a time of 18:14.85. Despite not moving on, Diller still relished in the learning experience and opportunity to compete at the regional.

"I think it's good that now I've ran this course, so I have more experience on how hilly it is for next year," Reese Diller said. "I probably could have ran a faster time, but I'm happy that I even got to be here today, so I can't be sad."

Rolls ...

Continued from page 10
Twenty minutes later, the building was cleared and after a short warm up, the teams got back to the court.

The Indians got right back to work.

The first point following the delay went to FRHS after Willmann reached over the net for a kill. Homan then served up back-to-back aces by picking on MVCAHS' Vera Bell and Aralyn Schulte. Willmann secured her second kill, and Kennedy Muhlenkamp's swing went right into a Lions blocker for another point to push the Tribe's lead to 16-7.

"One of the things coach has us do is visualize," said Willmann who helped power the run with Homan. "So every time I visualized what I was going to do in my head, I did it. You've just got to lock in mentally."

Miami Valley Christian Academy finally got another point, but only when Homan sent a serve into the net.

The Indians quickly got three more kills after Kennedy Muhlenkamp sent a ball to the back right corner, Cameron Muhlenkamp's attack redirected off the tape to find the floor and Willmann scored a slide kill before a hitting error capped off four consecutive points.

The Lions scored again on a block, but a service error, a hitting error and a Karlie Niekamp kill gave the Indians a 23-9 advantage after a 12-2 run following the delay.

Fort Recovery got another big lift from a middle hitter in the second set, as Niekamp scored the first three points. The Tribe was nothing short of dominant to start the set as

Niekamp's run evolved into a 14-1 run - Niekamp had two more kills in the stretch to lead to six of her match-high 11 in the set - with the only Lions point coming off a Heitkamp service error.

The Lions (20-6) never found a groove in the set, as the Indians found ways to switch up their offense between tips and hard swings to keep the defense guessing.

"They have a really great offense," said MVCAHS coach Marianne Gibbs. "They've got some big swingers and can run some good plays that we haven't seen a whole lot of in our season. We practiced all week leading up to it, but tips have been killing us all season."

Coming off of the high-energy second set, the Indians cooled down in the third as the

teams traded points. After holding a 13-12 advantage, FRHS finally took control as a pair of Niekamp kills and a Sydney Gilbert hitting error snowballed into a 11-3 Tribe run.

Over the final nine points for Fort Recovery, Kennedy Muhlenkamp came alive, putting down four kills and getting an assisted block with Willmann.

Niekamp led all attackers with 11 kills in the match, while Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Cameron Muhlenkamp and Willmann followed with nine, eight and seven successful attacks, respectively.

The Miami Valley Christian Academy offense couldn't keep up with Fort Recovery's 39 kills, as it only managed 13. Bell, Gilbert and Schulte all tied for a team-high three kills. Now, the Anna Rockets are

all that stand between the Tribe and its first appearance in the regional finals for the first time since 1991.

"I'm just proud of these girls," said FRHS coach Travis Guggenbiller. "We've had a rollercoaster of a year, but our schedule gets us prepared for this. These girls came out ready to play today and I'm excited about it. ..."

"At the beginning of the year, we set the goal of being top four in the (Midwest Athletic Conference). And then we set the goal of winning 75% of our games and then our third goal was making it to regionals. We didn't make the first two, so it was a lot of uphill battles. Learning and growth is not linear and it takes time. ... They really got their mojo towards the end of the season and look where we are."

Tribe accepts playoff berth

After a 49-7 defeat at the hands of Minster, the Indians thought their season was over.

Injuries to other teams and some other teams declining opened the door for the Tribe.

The Fort Recovery High School football team accepted a spot as the No. 16 seed in the OHSAA Division VI Regional 28 tournament on Sunday.

The Indians will travel to Maria Stein face off against top-seeded, No. 1 Marion Local on Friday at 7 p.m.

After going 2-8 during the regular season, the Tribe football team finished 18th in the comput-

er rankings at 2.6 points. (Lockland had 4.0517 points but was placed at the bottom of the list due to previously stating they would not compete in the playoffs due to the lack of healthy players according to a report by WCPO 9 Cincinnati.)

Fort Recovery was able to accept the spot after Cedarville and New Miami declined to take the 16 seed.

During the regular season, the Flyers beat FRHS 62-0. Should the Indians pull off the upset, they would get the winner of the Nov. 8 game in which eighth-seeded Waynesfield-Goshen faces off against No. 9 seed Tri-Village.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Fort Recovery — Volleyball regional opener vs. Anna at Northmont — 7 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Football sectional semifinal vs. Bishop Luers — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football regional opener at Marion Local — 7 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6 p.m. — College soccer: Michigan State at Ohio State (BTN)
6:45 p.m. — MLS: New York Red Bulls at Columbus Crew (FS1)
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Ottawa Senators (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Louisiana at Texas State (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Washington Capitals (ESPN)

8:08 p.m. — MLB World Series: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees (FOX)

9 p.m. — MLS: Minnesota United at Real Salt Lake (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Golden State Warriors (TNT)
10 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at San Jose Sharks (ESPN)

Wednesday
7 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Indiana Pacers (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — College football: Kenosaw State at Western Kentucky (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — U17 Women's World Cup: Korea DPR vs. United States (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Michigan at Penn State (BTN)
8:08 p.m. — MLB World Series: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees (FOX)

9:30 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Oklahoma City Thunder (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Los Angeles Kings (TNT)

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The Commercial Review

Tribe rolls to regional

Fort Recovery sweeps Lions to claim first regional berth since 2020

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

VANDALIA, Ohio — The Lions took the first point after a serve from Hailey Farmer bounced off of Kennedy Muhlenkamp's arms.

A trio of Lion errors, a Kayla Heitkamp ace and a Cameron Muhlenkamp kill gave the Tribe a lead before points bounced back and forth.

With a two-point lead, middle blocker Brynn Willmann dove on the floor for a save, leading to a block by Bridget Homan.

After a kill by Heitkamp, the fire alarm halted play for nearly 25 minutes. Following the delay, Willmann and Homan dominated the Lions to take control of the set and the Indians never looked back.

After taking the first, the third seeded Fort Recovery High School volleyball team dominated the second before Kennedy Muhlenkamp gave it the lift it needed to complete the 25-15, 25-8, 25-15 sweep of the No. 1 seed Miami Valley Christian Academy Lions in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District championship on Saturday.

The victory marked the first time Fort Recovery won a district title since 2020, when it beat Marion Local prior to



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Brynn Willmann (9) and Kennedy Muhlenkamp of the Fort Recovery High School volleyball team get a block on an attack from Miami Valley Christian Academy's Emily Merling during the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District final at Butler on Saturday. Willmann sparked a run in the first set, while Muhlenkamp powered the third for the 25-15, 25-8, 25-15 triumph.

falling to Calvert in the regional opener. Over the past three seasons, FRHS fell in the 2021 district final, the 2022 sectional opener and in the 2023 district opener.

Fort Recovery will move on to play Anna in the regional opener at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Northmont.

"It's great, so great," said senior Kennedy Muhlenkamp. "We

were ready for it last year, then when we didn't get it, we were just extra hungry for it this year."

The early run in the first set started to give the Indians (13-

13) some footing, but the fire alarm went off around 8:30 p.m., forcing the teams and fans to evacuate and threatening the Tribe's momentum.

See **Rolls** page 9

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Potential aplenty

Young Patriots fare well despite falling short of state berths at regional meet

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

A pair of Patriot boys knew after their sectional performances that they had a chance to contend for a state berth.

For most of the race, Caleb Garringer had himself in position. He just couldn't hold on down the stretch.

Garringer, a Jay County High School sophomore, came up 10 places and 13 seconds short in the regional meet hosted by New Haven at Huntington University on Saturday, finishing in 36th place out of 243 runners.

Freshman Dash Thacker was just two places and three seconds behind him.

"It was a good race overall for sure," said Garringer. "I went against a

lot of good people and I did pretty good. I was happy with my placement overall."

The top five teams and top 15 individuals not on qualifying teams advance to the state finals. Garringer was 19th among non-qualifying runners and Thacker was 20th.

The JCHS girls scored 370 points to place 13th in the out of 25, placing one spot ahead of the Norwell squad (399) that beat them for the sectional championship a week earlier. Second-ranked Concordia took the title with 39 points, with Homestead (70), Columbia City (123), Warsaw (190) and Carroll (200) claiming the other state-qualifying positions.

Those teams advance to the IHSAA Cross Country

State Finals at noon Saturday at LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in Terre Haute.

"What we looked at to try to keep them competitive and in a good mindset for the race was, 'Hey, let's beat some teams that we haven't beat,'" said JCHS coach Bruce Wood. His team was able to accomplish that, not only finishing ahead of Norwell but another sectional champion — Yorktown — as well. "That's what we did before the race to stay in it mentally and during the race. I think that kept everybody running real competitively. ...

"It was a good performance by them, great season for girls."

See **Potential** page 9

FR finishes in regional

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

TROY, Ohio — This Tribe's roster is a mix of seasoned veterans and young talent.

A pair of runners have been to this stage three or four times. A handful of underclassmen are making their first or second appearance.

Joining a district that let less teams through to the state meet, the experienced of the group knew it would be a tall task to get the Indians back to Fortress Obetz. Yet, they were able to celebrate having their curtain call past the first round of the playoffs.

The younger Indians will be able to walk away with a new experience and the knowledge of what it takes to compete at the higher levels.

The Fort Recovery High School girls cross country team, along with Reese Diller, ran in the OHSAA Division III Southwest District 12 meet hosted by Troy on Saturday morning, but fell short of making a fifth consecutive appearance at state.

"It was a solid day," said FRHS coach Christy Diller, who's team previously competed in the Northwest regional meet at Troy. "This was kind of an information gathering day. This was our first

Seniors' stories end, young runners learn from regional meet

time at this course (at regional). ... Our goal really for today was to race well and I think they did that all across the board. ... Let's learn the course, figure it out and then hopefully next year we'll have a better grasp of it."

To move on to the state championship held at Fortress Obetz in Columbus, the girls team would have needed to place in the top three teams. The top-12 times from athletes not already on advancing teams also qualified for the state championship.

The Indians finished ninth out of 11 teams with 239 points. No.7 Madeira finished as regional champions with 72 points, edging out No. 2 Summit Country Day by one. No. 5 West Liberty Salem's 77 points edged No. 4 Fort Loramie's 90 for the final state berth.

See **Finishes** page 9