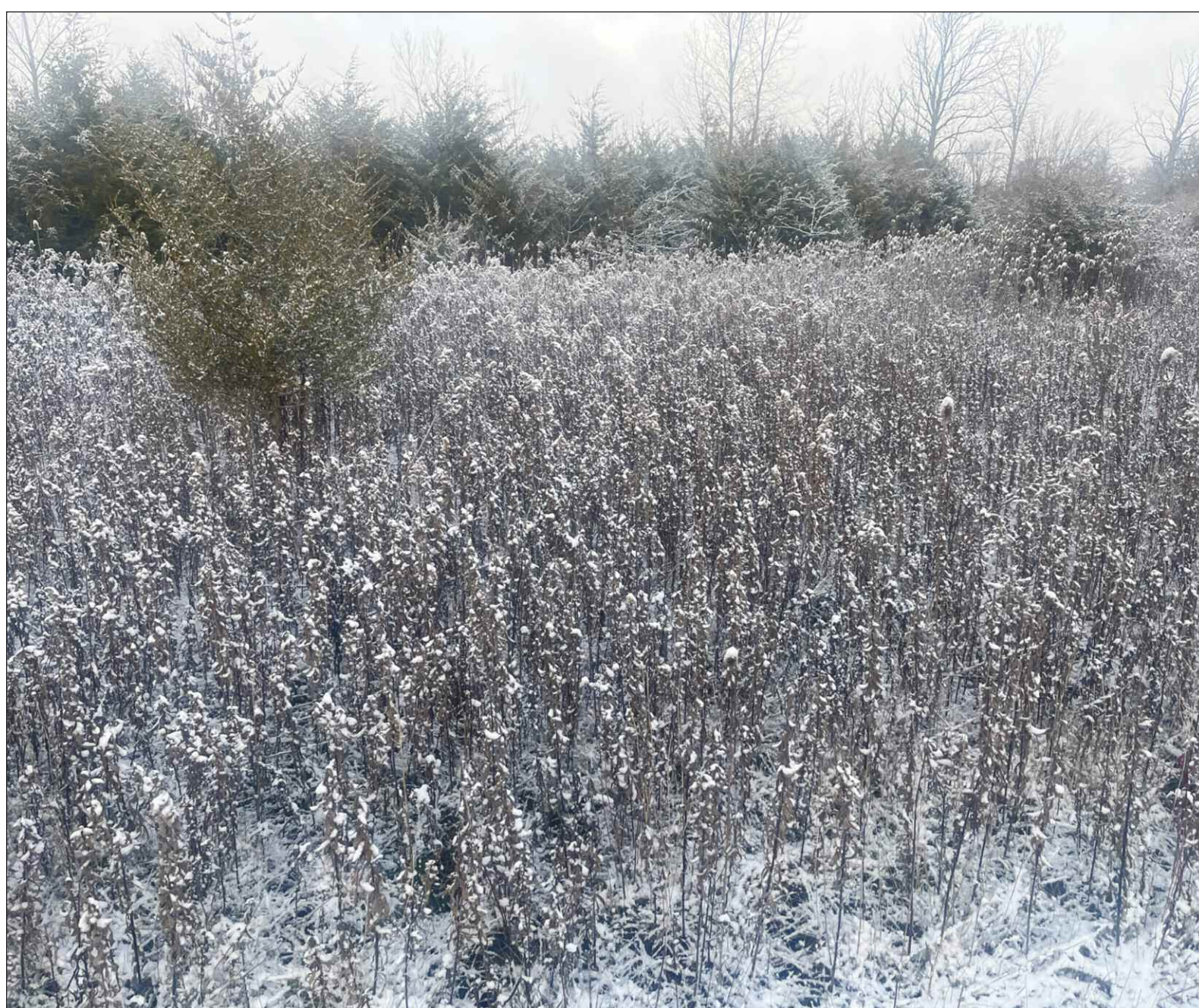


The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

First fall

Jay County had its first snowfall of the year overnight Wednesday, with residents waking up to a dusting of snow Thursday morning. Pictured, snow covers the vegetation in a field on the west side of the intersection of Mount Pleasant Road and county road 200 West. More snow was in the forecast for Thursday evening.

County OKs plan for ARPA

Bulk of remaining funds go to 68 acres

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The county has a plan for the remainder of its American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

After meetings lasting nearly three and a half hours Wednesday, plans are in motion for a few agreements to spend the county's nearly \$2.2 million remaining ARPA dollars.

The largest chunk of funding (approximately \$1.24 million) will be contributed toward developing the county's 68 acres on the west edge of Portland.

Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners agreed unanimously Wednesday to spend approximately \$960,000 on three projects. They include replacing the bridge on county road 600 West north of Indiana 26 with a culvert, upgrading Jay County Auditor's Office and Jay County Treasurer's Office financial software, and purchasing police vehicle cameras and officer body cameras for Jay County Sheriff's Office.

Also, council and commissioners agreed to enter into an inter-local agreement with Jay County Redevelopment Commission for the remaining approximately \$1.24 million funds, with the dollars to be used for the 68 acre project. Redevelopment commission, with member Ted Champ dissenting, agreed to accept the funds and use them toward the project for the 68 acres.

Redevelopment commission member Chuck Huffman questioned why the group is now faced with spending ARPA dollars.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted it was one option available to the county for the federal funding, which must be allocated by Dec. 31 — spent, under contract or committed via an inter-local agreement — and spent by the end of 2026. Schemenaur later reminded council and commissioners about a presentation he gave them in July about their options for spending the funds, which must fall under certain guidelines.

Schemenaur indicated Wednesday it's unlikely any of the ARPA projects that have been proposed will result in a contract before the end of the year. He asked council and commissioners for a decision Wednesday, noting if county officials chose to do an inter-local agreement, he would like to be able to send a draft to Indiana State Board of Accounts to make sure it meets the necessary requirements before the end of the year. See ARPA page 2

Board approves project plan

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The airport finalized its list of capital improvements for the next five years.

For at least the next two, the city's share of the cost of such projects will be cut in half.

Portland Board of Aviation approved its five-year capital improvement plan Wednesday and learned from its engineer that a change in federal funding levels will reduce the local financial commitment.

The capital improvement plan calls for expanding the apron and designing pavement improvements for 4,000 feet of Portland

FAA contribution on grants will increase to 95% of total

Municipal Airport's runway in 2026. Paving of the runway is planned for fiscal year 2026.

Other plans include designing and reconstructing the existing apron in 2027 and 2028, respectively. Designing and constructing a wildlife control and security fence

would follow in the next two years.

The aviation board also laid out plans for constructing additional T-hangars if additional state funding becomes available.

Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman &

Seufert also informed the board that the Federal Aviation Administration share for capital improvement projects has increased to 95%. (The change was established by Congress in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 that was passed in May. The 95% rate will be in effect for 2025 and '26.) Indiana Department of Transportation dropped its commitment to 2.5%, which will leave the city responsible for the other 2.5%.

Previously, projects were funded 90% by the FAA, with the other 10% split evenly between state and local sources.

See Plan page 2

Tax force releases recommendations

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A two-year task force on Wednesday released broad suggestions for property and income tax changes, but left the specifics to business tax recommendations.

Lawmakers created the State and Local Tax Review Task Force last year in hopes of ditching the state's individual income tax. That's now off the table.

"In 35 or 40 years, perhaps, but not in the foreseeable future," quipped Sen. Travis Holdman, the group's typically stern co-leader, in remarks to reporters.

Holdman heads the Senate's tax-focused committee during legislative sessions and authored the legislation creating the task force.

He still hopes to knock

the income tax rate lower. But he has repeatedly pushed observers to moderate their expectations.

"Since its inception ... my concerns were that the expectations for the results of our work would far exceed our product," he told the task force Wednesday.

Democrats assailed the recommendations as not providing enough relief to Hoosier taxpayers, and for giving "handouts" to businesses.

The final report was approved in a 9-1 vote, with two absences. It was edited slightly from the draft.

The group's draft recommendations began with a vague directive: "Enact more effective controls on property tax bills."

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said he saw "no focused relief" for homeowners.



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Indiana tax task force co-leaders Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton), left) and Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, talk to reporters after their group released legislative suggestions on Wednesday.

He argued that homeowners have gradually shouldered a higher share of the state's overall property tax burden even though it's the only prop-

erty type that doesn't produce income for owners — unlike apartments, farms or others.

The task force added more specific language to

the first recommendation during the meeting.

To read the full story, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Deaths

Gary McKibben, 77, Geneva

Marion Donathan, 90, Dunkirk

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Wednesday. The low was 34. There was a trace of snow.

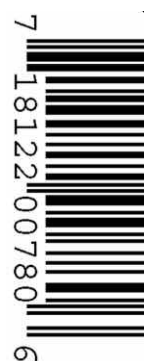
There is a chance of rain tonight with a low in the upper 30s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the mid 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School cheerleaders placed seventh and earned a bid to nationals Sunday at the Universal Cheerleader Association Hoosier Regional Game Day Competition at Hamilton Southeastern. Competing for the Patriots were seniors Coryn

Blalock and Adriene Denney, juniors Faith Faulkner, Paisley Fuggett, Emma Hatzel and Kayla Jetmore; sophomores Emmarie Barton, Dakota Blalock, Payton Carpenter, Trinity Glassford and Brenna Schmiesing; and freshman Kelsey Muhlenkamp.



Obituaries

Gary McKibben

March 16, 1947-Nov. 19, 2024
Gary McKibben, age 77, a resident of Geneva, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at his home in Geneva.

Gary was born March 16, 1947, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Robert and Evelyn (French) McKibben.

He owned several different auto dealerships in the area and owned and operated The Shop in Geneva. Gary enjoyed drag racing and was a member of NHRA and IHRA.



McKibben

Survivors include:

His children — Jennifer McKibben, North Carolina, Cory McKibben (wife: Gina), Coldwater, Ohio, Shane McKibben (wife: Julie), Loveland, Ohio, Austin McKibben, Linn Grove, Indiana, Lexie McKibben (fiancé: Jacob Myers), Linn Grove, Indiana

One brother — Duane McKibben, Portland, Indiana

Grandchildren — Dillon, Kyle, Katie, Zack, Nancy Taylor and Boston

Several great-grandchildren He was preceded in death by two children, Chris and Jolanda McKibben.

Visitation will be held on Saturday from 7 to 8 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Gary's life will follow at 8 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Marion Donathan

July 16, 1934-Nov. 19, 2024

Brother Marion J. Donathan, 90, of Dunkirk, Indiana, was called to glory on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, surrounded by loved ones who have faithfully been by his bedside at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana, following a tragic car

accident on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024.

Marion was born in Owingsville, Kentucky, on July 16, 1934, a son of the late Grace (McGlothlin) and Lewis Donathan.

He attended Owingsville School, retired from Indiana Glass Manufacturing in 1996 as a machine operator and in 1970 devoted his life to ministry and sharing the word of God.

Marion was the loving husband of Gladys Ann (Oakley) Donathan, who he happily married on Sept. 15, 1956. He was a faithful member of Freewill Baptist Church in Dunkirk, Indiana, and loved being a traveling evangelist, reading his Bible, sharing testimony and scripture on his radio show, supporting numerous families during times of trial and loss, listening to gospel and bluegrass music, camping, fishing, turtle



Donathan

hunting, collecting coins, old bottles and jars, gardening. He had a heart for all animals, especially cats, and loved watching University of Kentucky and Indiana University basketball.

Marion is survived by his wife Gladys Donathan; son Michael Donathan (Danielle); daughter Vicky Springer (Vern); one sister, Oddie Harris; four grandchildren, Dr. Brandon Donathan, Taylor Donathan (Austin), Stephanie Springer and Haley Berg (Chris); four great-grandchildren, Logan, Benjamin, Madi B. and Weston; and several nieces, nephews and community and church family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lewis and Grace Donathan; four brothers, Cecil, Bill, Lee and Fred Donathan; and two sisters, Pearl and Bertha.

Friends are invited to call Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, at Freewill Baptist Church in Dunkirk, Indiana, from 5 to 8 p.m. and again on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, from 1 to 2 p.m. Funeral services

will follow at 2 p.m. at Freewill Baptist Church in Dunkirk, Indiana, with Pastor Michael Donathan officiating. Burial will be held in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations go to help the Gladys with living expenses and medical bills due to the traumatic circumstances.

Please keep his wife Gladys in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to recover from injuries she also sustained in the accident.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries.

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

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

CR almanac

Saturday 11/23	Sunday 11/24	Monday 11/25	Tuesday 11/26	Wednesday 11/27
44/33	50/43	57/29	37/27	39/26
Mostly cloudy skies with a slight chance of rain. Wind gusts may reach up to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Sunday with a low in the 40s.	Monday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a 60% chance of rain.	Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Tuesday. Slight chance of rain.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday.

Lotteries

Powerball 16-30-60-62-64 Power Ball: 25 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$171 million	Daily Four: 9-4-6-5 Quick Draw: 8-9-10-18-30-35-40-43-44-46-52-56-58-60-63-65-69-73-76-77 Cash 5: 5-10-11-19-25 Estimated jackpot: \$138,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$453 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 9-5-3 Pick 4: 4-4-5-6 Pick 5: 0-8-6-1-2 Evening Pick 3: 7-6-4 Pick 4: 6-8-8-0 Pick 5: 6-9-3-0-7 Rolling Cash: 5-11-15-34-39 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 9-9-1 Daily Four: 4-8-5-3 Quick Draw: 1-8-9-10-16-18-24-30-32-38-39-54-55-61-64-66-68-69-73-80 Evening Daily Three: 4-1-6	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.44 Dec. corn.....4.39 Wheat.....4.53	Dec. beans.....9.72 Wheat.....5.03
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.46 Dec. corn.....4.46 Jan. corn.....4.49	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.28 Dec. corn.....4.29 Beans.....9.70 Dec. beans.....9.70 Wheat.....5.02
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.36 Dec. corn.....4.36 Beans.....9.72	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.31 Dec. corn.....4.31 Beans.....9.47 Dec. beans.....9.54 Wheat.....4.93

Today in history

In 1972, Portland City Council agreed to move forward with the process of seeking a \$120,000 bond for the purchase of a new firetruck and other improvements, including \$30,000 in upgrades to the fire station to house the new truck.

In 1995, Pixar released "Toy Story," the first feature-length animated film that was completely created by computer. It made \$365.3 million worldwide and spawned six sequels.

In 2021, Dunkirk City

Council approved a contract with Kenna Consulting of Greenwood for assistance with seeking a \$600,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant to create two detention basins on the east side of the city.

In 2022, a Safe Haven Baby Box was dedicated at Portland Fire Department. The installation of the box was made possible through donations from Tom Robbins of Portland and the IU Health Jay Foundation.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk	Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Tuesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	

ARPA ...

Continued from page 1

Answering a question from redevelopment commission president Carl Walker, Schemenaur talked about an unofficial announcement shared with county officials regarding Jay County's allocation of Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 funds.

Earlier this month, commissioner Rex Journey told JCDC's board of directors the county declined a \$1 million offer from the program for the 68-acre development, saying the dollars were not enough to launch the project.

On Wednesday, Schemenaur said East Central Indiana Regional Partnership has earmarked \$1.2 million in READI 2.0 funds as a potential award for Jay County. (Council member Cindy Bracy pointed out several times during the meeting that the money has yet to be formally approved by the state.)

Cecil Penland of Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates shared a brief overview Wednesday of the 68 acres project — a housing and mixed-use development of the county's land along Indiana 67. If completed, the \$25.5 million project would create 76 single-family homes, eight duplexes and 154 multi-family units. (County officials in favor of it refer to it as a "legacy project" to be worked on for the next several decades.)

Jay County Redevelopment Commission agreed in July to commit up to \$1.5 million in TIF dollars toward the development project. Commissioners also agreed at that time to commit \$1.3 million toward the project, subject to receiving the grant dollars. Penland noted the county included the first few phases of the project — a total cost of \$7 million — in its READI request.

Putting in connections for utilities alone is estimated at \$3.6 million. Commissioner Brian McGalliard suggested completing the project with the remaining ARPA dollars.

Penland estimated it would take six to nine months for engineering work and one month to seek bids, saying construction could begin in summer 2025 with the infrastructure completed by the end of 2026.

Jay County officials purchased the land for about \$1.1 million in February 2023. Commissioners and council also approved a \$395,000 contract with REA for planning development of the land more than a year ago.

Plan ...

Continued from page 1

Board members Faron Parr, John Ferguson and Caleb Lutes, absent Clyde Bray, approved applying for \$99,632.48 in FAA grant funding for the construction of the apron expansion that is planned for 2025. (The local share for the project would be \$2,490.91.)

They also approved submitting the airport's federal financial report for fiscal year 2024 and a pre-application for the design of the planned apron rehabilitation project.

The board also learned that its allocation for the fourth year of the 2021 federal infrastructure bill will be \$137,000.

Tim Homan of Celina, Ohio, visited the meeting to again discuss his goal of constructing a corporate hangar at the airport. He and board members talked about two potential sites for such a hangar; one at the west end of the airport near the fuel farm and the

Questions arose throughout discussion regarding Portland's commitment to the project. Currently, no formal decision or allocation has been made by city officials.

Later in the meeting, redevelopment commission member Ted Champ questioned why county officials hadn't met in a public meeting setting with city officials to discuss the project. He also asked why a formal decision hadn't been made by Portland on the matter.

Council and redevelopment commission member Faron Parr said he has had preliminary talks with city officials outside of meetings but pointed to a lack of hard costs to share.

"Why is it too early to bring a business partner onto a plan that's going to cost \$26 million?" asked Champ. "Again, I'm going to ask the question — why (haven't) they been in the same room as us making the decisions?"

Parr agreed with Champ's sentiment and said there will be public discussions before dollars are spent. He also said he won't approve spending funds on the project if Portland is not on board with it moving forward.

Bracy asked about how plans are developing with Ritter Strategic Services' work related to joining the Integrated Public Safety Commission's 800 megahertz statewide radio system. Jay Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel explained the company should receive initial pricing for necessary upgrades Dec. 4 and subsequently begin negotiations.

The estimate to put up one new radio tower in Bryant and related infrastructure are \$1.8 million. Discussion on Wednesday also highlighted the need to install a new tower in Portland and purchase new radios, which will be required for using the new system.

Bracy suggested spending ARPA funds on constructing one tower and purchasing new radios, pointing to the lack of reliable communications between emergency responders across the county. Schemenaur questioned if the money could be spent by 2026. Commissioner Chad Aker cautioned officials about rushing into the project.

Bracy asked for smaller potential projects that have been proposed to the county to be considered as well. Council and commissioners came up with the following: an estimated

waters said he does not see an issue with the tower.

•Learned the following from airport manager Hal Tavzel:

—A new electrical vault is likely to be installed late this year or early in 2025. The aviation board approved the purchase of a new vault last month after an electrical issue caused the airport's runway to be closed for several nights.

—Crack sealing for the runway was planned for late spring 2025.

•Heard from Tavzel that 6,713 gallons of fuel were sold at the airport in October for \$28,633.97. That's up from 6,185 gallons in October 2023.

•Was reminded by Parr that Portland City Council approved \$58,762 in economic development as matching funds for the apron expansion project at Portland Municipal Airport.

•Paid claims totaling \$3,612.07.

Homan continues with plans for hangar

other nearby other hangars.

Homan asked the board to consider the two site options and let him know which one they would prefer. He said he plans on moving forward with building at least an 80-foot by 80-foot hangar.

"I'm excited," he said. "You guys are doing some cool stuff. It's pretty neat."

In other business, the board:

•Voted to affirm that it does not object to APC Towers' plan to construct a communications tower about 7 miles south-southwest of the airport. Clear-

SERVICES

Friday

Huntsman, Elwood: 11 a.m., Collett Nazarene Church, 4525 S. 100 West, Portland.

Donathan, Marion: 2 p.m., Freewill Baptist Church, 12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk.

Saturday

Starr, Duane: 11 a.m., Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene, 401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery.

Wilkins, Rignia: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Martyne, David: 3 p.m., American Legion Post 211, 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

McKibben, Gary: 8 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. Lodge, 126 W. High St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Response shocks mom

DEAR ABBY: A month ago, my 7-year-old son was struck by a vehicle while riding his bike in a crosswalk. He's fine now. His injuries were minor, although it was frightening. Police and paramedics responded quickly, and I took my son to the hospital to have him fully checked.

Later that day, a police officer came by our house with a new bike for our son, purchased by the driver of the vehicle. He gave us a paper with the driver's insurance information and said something to the effect of, "Her address is on there too, if you want to thank her for the new bike. That was really nice of them." I was shocked he would say that.

I guess it was a nice gesture, but she hit my son with a car! The driver admitted to having been distracted. At the scene, she said she thought she had hit a dog. I could go on, but suffice it to say the driver was 100% at fault. I put the new bike away in the garage. My son saw it and wanted to ride it. I held out until our insurance claim was accepted, and we went for a ride today. The new bike is not as good as his old one, but

Dear Abby



he was excited about it because it is a different color. I'm so grateful that he is doing well and isn't afraid of biking again. My question is, do I have to write that thank-you note? If so, can you please give me the words? — BICYCLE MOMMY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MOMMY: I can think of a few choice words, but no rule of etiquette demands you thank the woman for the bicycle that was destroyed because of her inattentiveness.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I have a group of friends I've known for 40 years. As time has passed, we have grown apart politically. This wasn't a problem until recently. Whenever we get together now, they shout at me about my political choices. At first, I tried to defend my position, but I was

shouted down. Then I explained that I didn't want to talk politics, that I respect their right to have a different opinion and to please respect mine. That works only temporarily. The next time we meet, it's the same. It's like they think if they all talk at once, they can convince me. They can't, and I have no desire to convince them.

It has reached the point that I'm no longer comfortable in their company, and, evidently, they're not in mine, since they are now meeting without me. I can make new friends, but 40 years is a long time, and I miss them. Is there nothing more I can do short of pretending I agree with them, which I won't do? — ISSUES APART IN NEW YORK

DEAR ISSUES APART: Just as there is nothing more that your old friends can do to convince you, the reverse is also true. You have now reached a stalemate. Politics aside, these friends are shouting at you and disrespecting your wishes. For your own sake, it may be time to step back and cultivate friends who are more tolerant than these folks appear to be.

Minnetrista hosts event for donations

This weekend offers an opportunity to give back.

Minnetrista Museum & Gardens is hosting Minnetrista Gives Back from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

During the event, Minnetrista will collect donations to benefit The Excel Center, Muncie Firefighters Toys for Tots, Open Door Health Services and Whitely Community Food Pantry. Items of need include shelf-stable food, diapers, wipes, new and gently used toys and personal hygiene supplies.

Donors will receive a coupon for purchases at Minnetrista's The Orchard Shop.

"Minnetrista values our role as a place for the community to come together to inspire a better future for all," said Jennifer Parks-Strack, director of development at Minnetrista, in a press release. "We are happy to use our building to generate support for families in our community this holiday season."

Minnetrista is located at 1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway and donations can be dropped off at the Center Building.

Jayland party

Jayland Partners is hosting its annual Christmas party next month. The free event, slated for 2

Taking Note

to 4 p.m. Dec. 14 at Bryant Wesleyan Church, is open to people with special needs, friends, families and caregivers. There will be music, snacks and drinks.

Canning exhibit

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

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

Minnetrista will also host canning workshops on No. 7, 8 and 14, and Dec. 18. For more information, visit minnetrista.net or call (765) 282-4848.

Community Calendar

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

Today

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

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

EUCHRE — Will be

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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.

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'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 MORNING 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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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 — BRIANNA'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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

3	1	5	8	7	4	6	2	9
4	9	8	3	6	2	1	7	5
7	2	6	5	9	1	3	4	8
9	4	3	7	8	5	2	1	6
8	7	1	6	2	3	5	9	4
6	5	2	4	1	9	7	8	3
2	6	4	9	3	7	8	5	1
5	3	7	1	4	8	9	6	2
1	8	9	2	5	6	4	3	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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Foster youth for brighter holidays

By TRAVIS D. TESTER

As the holiday season approaches, like me, I bet you are looking forward to being with friends, family and your chosen family for gatherings filled with laughter, love and good food.

However, I can't help but think about the young people we support at Foster Success — those who often face the holidays with a sense of isolation and uncertainty.

For many, the holidays heighten feelings of loneliness and exclusion. While others are surrounded by family and friends, those who have aged out of Indiana's foster care system find

Travis D. Tester



themselves lacking what we take for granted such as love, connection, safety and support — absences that have a lifelong impact on their health, education and opportunities.

Foster Success is dedicated to helping teens and young adults navigate the transition out of

foster care by providing essential resources like education, basic needs assistance, financial literacy training, health and wellness services, and job skill development. We are the only statewide organization doing this work and supported more than 1,100 young people last year across Indiana.

According to our 2023-24 Impact Report, 70% of young people we support report being at or below the federal poverty level. For them, a simple holiday meal or presents may be out of reach.

We are currently in the midst of our annual FriendsGiving

campaign to raise awareness about the challenges young people leaving the system face, especially this time of year. Every dollar we raise throughout the campaign directly helps foster independence and self-sufficiency while removing barriers that have, for too long, been obstructing the paths of these young individuals.

Your support not only makes an immediate impact, but it builds a foundation for lifelong success. Together, we have the chance to provide our young people with a chosen family so they may not feel alone any time of the year.

As we gather with friends and family this holiday season, I invite you to reflect on the power of community and how awareness and simple actions can improve the lives of those within it immeasurably.

Join us in this mission — consider investing in these young people with your time or treasure today to help brighten the holidays for those who need it most.

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Tester is the chief development and communications officer at Foster Success. More information about Foster Success can be found at fostersuccess.org.

Beckwith must resist his urges

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

Tribune News Service

Talk about your false starts.

Micah Beckwith hasn't even taken his seat in the lieutenant governor's office and he's already threatening a revered state institution and assailing the First Amendment.

After the Indiana Daily Student published a Nov. 7 front page article quoting criticisms of Donald Trump by staffers from Trump's first presidential administration, Beckwith, who describes himself as a "Christian nationalist," lashed out on the social media platform X, showing his total disregard for freedom of the press.

"This is from the Indiana Daily Student, the student newspaper at Indiana University after Trump won. Your tax dollars at work," Beckwith wrote. "They called him (Trump) a 'moron,' a 'fascist,' and a 'threat to democracy' ... This is WOKE propaganda at its finest and why most of America looks at higher education indoctrination centers like IU as a complete joke and waste of money. This type of elitist leftist propaganda needs to stop or we will be happy to stop it for them."

Beckwith also chastised the Daily Student for mischaracterizing the American form of government as a democracy, demonstrating his lack of understanding of the term. While the United States is a republic, its principles are rooted in democracy.

He also misconstrues the relationship of the student newspaper to the university. The newspaper operates independently and generates its own funding. However, the university did pay off nearly \$1 million in debt for the newspaper this past summer, according to an article in the Daily Student. The newspaper office is located on IU's campus and pays a tax to the university, the article reported.

Regardless of the financial relationship between the Daily Student and the university, what kind of lieutenant governor would mislabel IU, a worldwide leader in research and several academic disciplines, as a "higher education indoctrination center" and "a complete joke and waste of money"?

Beckwith undermined one of the state's most important assets and alienated Hoosier alumni everywhere.

But worst of all, without batting an eye, he launched a full frontal assault on the

Guest Editorial

Beckwith undermined one of the state's most important assets and alienated Hoosier alumni everywhere.

First Amendment and its guarantee of freedom of the press. And then, in an interview published Thursday on the Daily Student's website, Beckwith doubled down on the assertions in his X post, explaining that he believes conservative political viewpoints are suppressed on the school's Bloomington campus.

Would Beckwith have the news media controlled by the government? Evidently so. That might fly in Russia or China, but not in the land of the free.

Gov.-elect Mike Braun has surely had a serious case of indigestion since the state Republican Party forced Beckwith, an ultra-right wing pastor from Noblesville, on him as a gubernatorial running mate.

Braun must do whatever he can to rein in Beckwith. In this specific case, he should publicly defend the Daily Student's rights and uphold the reputation of Indiana University. As of Friday, he had not commented publicly on Beckwith's X post.

It's sad when the governor-to-be must do such damage control, but Braun will have to get used to it with Beckwith.

Or perhaps Beckwith can be made to realize that effective leadership requires openness to criticism and to the diversity of viewpoints so critical to healthy public discourse.

Above all, to serve the state well as lieutenant governor, Beckwith must resist his primal urge to attack people and institutions that don't agree with his extremist views.



Session has heavy agenda

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As I head into covering my 26th regular legislative session, I have never seen such a behemoth load of major issues on the agenda.

The number of fiscal decisions to be made is staggering. Then add in major topics such as health care costs, child care needs and utility proposals and it could be one of the more momentous I have covered in my career.

With Organization Day on Tuesday — lawmakers will gather and be sworn for the official start of session — let's break down the big topics.

The budget

Every two years, the General Assembly crafts a biennial budget. The \$44.5 billion spending plan covers everything from public safety and education funding to Medicaid and public health.

A revenue forecast is set for Dec. 18, but Indiana's economy has cooled since its pandemic days. That means not a lot of new money will be available.

•The biggest budget discussion this year will likely be on Medicaid, which provides health care for the poor. Its explosive growth is eating up the rest of the state budget. In fact, education is no longer more than half of state spending because of the growth in that sector. Lawmakers are looking for ways to curb the increases.

•Education funding will likely hinge partially on the Medicaid issue, but if I were traditional Indiana public schools, I wouldn't expect more than a small increase each year. Lawmakers could also authorize universal private school vouchers, which sounds more expansive than it really is. That's because last year they increased the income guidelines so high that the program already reaches more than 95% of the population. The growing cost of the voucher program — expected to be about \$600 million in fiscal year 2025 — will likely continue its ascent.

•Lawmakers will also decide what happens to major public health investments from two years ago. All 92 counties signed on to the initiative,

Niki Kelly



which started with \$75 million and then rose to \$150 million in fiscal year 2025. Will they keep that number the same, reduce it or increase it?

•Two years ago, the Legislature gave an unprecedented amount of money to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. It went beyond its typical budget and incentive programs and received a \$500 million deal-closing fund, a \$500 million round of regional development grants and a \$150 million land acquisition fund. But there has been pushback against IEDC's focus on large corporations and wild spending on the Boone County innovation park, which still has only one tenant.

Tax discussions

Just outside the budget discussion, property taxes will be a point of focus.

Incoming Gov. Mike Braun made a major property tax cut a priority of his campaign. And while lawmakers have been considering possible tax changes they don't seem as excited for a massive overhaul.

Property taxes provide local government funding, and any large cuts will also mean reduced services. Two years ago, lawmakers seemed set on cutting state taxes but that talk has cooled. A two-year task force on tax reform is meeting next week to finalize recommendations.

Health care

Braun has also championed a bold agenda to control health care costs. But many of the items on his wish list have struggled in earlier sessions.

In the past, GOP lawmakers have been content with transparency efforts. But there isn't much left on that front and it remains to be seen if the General Assembly is willing to be

more aggressive with insurance companies, hospitals, pharmacy benefit managers and more.

Utilities

If you have been reading our content, you won't be surprised to know the issue of utility costs will also be addressed. Many Republicans — including Braun — believe the effort by companies to move away from coal and toward renewables has spiked costs for ratepayers. A recent attorney general opinion pressured the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to block these changes. And lawmakers are crafting bills behind the scenes to do so themselves.

Roads

Indiana's road funding plan instituted in 2018 has been hit by inflation and fuel mileage improvement, which means both the state and local governments have far more needs than revenue. A two-year study of road funding needs is expected to have recommendations soon.

Child care

Child care costs are hurting families and keeping workers out of the workforce. The state has a shortage of seats, and infant care in Indiana costs 40% more per year on average than in-state tuition for a four-year public college. Last year lawmakers tweaked some regulations to try to make it easier for centers to open up seats. But the cost is still prohibitively high and turnover in staff complicates the situation. Democrats have pushed a child care tax subsidy for years and it will likely come up again.

If reading all that tired you out, imagine how lawmakers are feeling coming into this session. And I didn't even include at least five other topics that will take time and effort. I guess we should sleep now, because the 2025 session will be one for the ages.

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

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

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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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Effort launched

Institute for Food Product Innovation and Commercialization created to assist ag producers with new value-added products

By STEVEN KOPPEL
Purdue University

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A newly formed institute at Purdue University is offering training and development support to agriculture producers with novel food and beverage product ideas. The new Institute for Food Product Innovation and Commercialization is funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

“This grant is focused on farmers who want to add value to their product,” said Dharmendra Mishra, institute director and associate professor of food science. Entrepreneurs face many steps and challenges in converting commodity crops into new products for retail sales. “We want to remove those hurdles for farmer-entrepreneurs,” he said.

A joint effort of Purdue’s departments of Food Science and Agricultural Economics, the institute is part of the USDA Agriculture Innovation Center Program.

“It’s bringing together the technical expertise on food manufacturing and food safety from food science, and the marketing, entrepreneurship and business management strengths of ag econ,” said Kenneth Foster, the institute’s assistant director and professor of agricultural economics.

Dairy farmers might want to produce ice cream or high-protein beverages. Growers of tomatoes and jalapenos might want to market a salsa. Or a beekeeper who sells honey may wish to develop a syrup as well.

Whatever the value-added product, the new institute can help train rural entrepreneurs in developing a recipe, making their product, educating them about the safety factors they need to con-



Purdue Agricultural Communications/Joshua Clark

Dharmendra Mishra, director of Purdue University’s Institute for Food Product Innovation and Commercialization, adjusts equipment in Purdue’s Pilot Plant. The Pilot Plant allows manufacturers to see how a process works before committing to full production.

control, and assessing their potential market.

“There’s only so much agricultural commodity you can produce,” said Foster, who runs a beekeeping and honey business as his grandfather and father did before him. And that commodity likewise has value limits.

“We put it on a truck, barge, train or plane and we ship it somewhere else and people add value to it,” Foster said. “What can we do to support value-adding at the local level so more of that stays in the local community where the product is produced?”

A key element of the new program is the Food Entrepreneurship and Manufacturing Institute (FEMI) established in 2021 while Foster served as interim head of the

food science department. Like the new institute, FEMI is a collaboration of Purdue’s food science and agricultural economics departments.

When Purdue established FEMI, “the idea was to drive economic growth in Indiana and help entrepreneurs struggling with commercializing their food products,” Foster said. Another idea was to reduce the region’s dependence on the national and global supply chain that caused so many problems during the COVID pandemic.

Purdue’s recent history in product development includes introducing Boiler Chips ice cream and Boilmaker Hot Sauce Black and Gold Editions. The students and faculty members

involved in these projects benefited from access to the food science department’s Skidmore Food Product Development Laboratory, as will the farmers who participate in the new USDA program at Purdue.

Also providing resources to the new institute is the food science department’s Pilot Plant. After entrepreneurs develop their recipe, they need a pilot test before they begin full-scale commercial production.

“That’s where our Pilot Plant is important,” Mishra said. “We can create or simulate a commercial process in our Pilot Plant to know how this is going to behave in a larger-scale manufacturing environment.”

Agricultural econo-

mists at the Purdue Institute for Family Business and the Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability will lend further expertise to the endeavor. They will help develop marketing and business plans, along with insights about consumer demand for food and related products.

The program has three phases. Phase 1 consists of six online training courses that introduce participants to the basics of food product design, food safety and business planning. Once participants pass the online training, they can proceed to Phase 2 for a one-day on-campus workshop on the food product life cycle. In Phase 3, program participants receive intensive on-campus, personalized feedback and

assessments of their ideas.

Serving on the institute’s board of directors are representatives from Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Grown, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Dairy Producers, Indiana Vegetable Growers Association, Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, and Indiana Soybean Alliance.

In addition to benefiting the economic well-being of the region, “we also want to create impact for the farmer participants and our students as well as the broader program of FEMI,” Mishra said. “At any given time, we have many undergraduate students and graduate students working on real-life projects.”

Team is working on affordability, sustainability

By LIANA WAIT
UC Davis

Rice is a staple food crop for more than half the world’s population, but most farmers don’t grow high-yielding varieties because the seeds are too expensive. Researchers from the University of California’s Davis and Berkeley campuses have identi-

fied a potential solution: activating two genes in rice egg cells that trigger their development into embryos without the need for fertilization, which would efficiently create high-yielding clonal strains of rice and other crops.

A team led by Venkatesan Sundaresan, a Distinguished Profes-

or in the departments of Plant Biology and Plant Sciences at UC Davis, previously showed that a gene called BBM1 in rice egg cells could switch on the ability of a fertilized egg to form an embryo. However, the method only worked about 30% of the time. Now, in collaboration with researchers from UC Berkeley’s

Innovative Genomics Institute, the team has shown that simultaneously activating a second gene, WOX9A, increases the success rate to around 90%.

The finding was published Nov. 12 in Nature Plants.

“It’s remarkable that after 20 years of unsuccessful efforts in clonal hybrids, there has been so

much recent progress — from showing that it is actually possible back in 2019, to showing now that it can work efficiently in 2024,” said Sundaresan. “I’m very optimistic now that hybrids will no longer be the barrier to achieving sustainable agriculture with high yields all over the world.”

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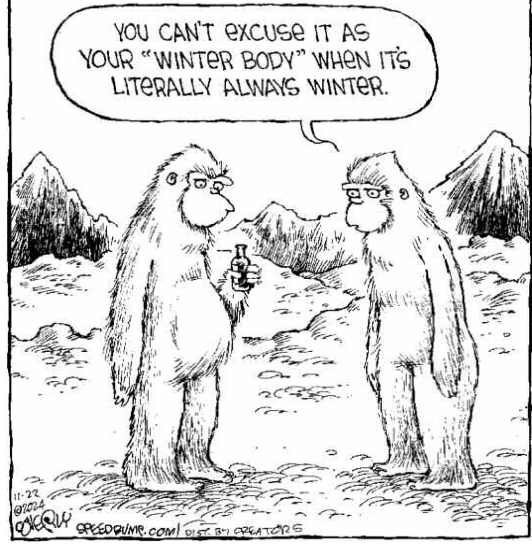
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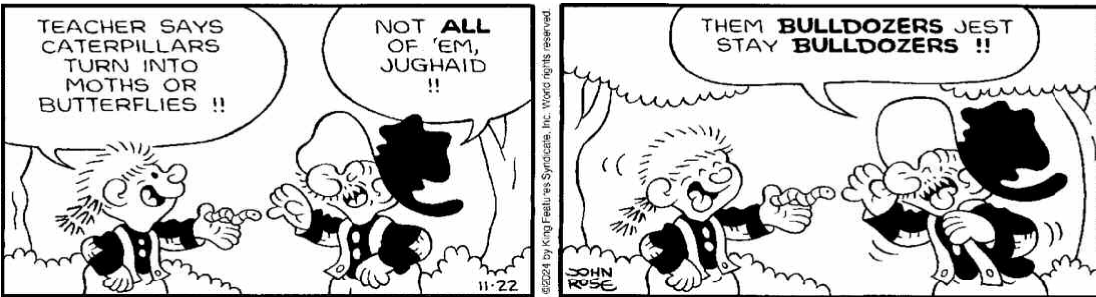
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone: East 1♠ South West North 1♠ Dble Pass 1♥ Pass ?

What would you now bid with each of the following five hands? 1. ♠AK96♥J6♦KQ84♣AJ5 2. ♠AJ6♥KQ852♦AQ3♣74 3. ♠KJ4♥KQ63♦AK952♣8 4. ♠KQ95♥Q72♦AQ83♣J6 5. ♠AK♥QJ94♦KQJ862♣3

1. One notrump. You have to be careful when partner makes a minimum response to your takeout double, because he does not promise any high-card strength for his bid and may have a very poor hand.

The one-notrump bid in this sequence shows a hand that was too strong to overcall with one notrump at your first turn — i.e., about 18 or 19, possibly 20 points. It would be wrong to bid one spade, which would promise at least a five-card suit and imply greater distributional values.

2. Two hearts. There is no obligation on the part of the doubler to bid again after his partner makes a minimum response. Hence, your raise to two hearts indicates extra values — usually 16 to 18 points. The raise tells partner that there is a possibility of game despite his discouraging response.

While the one-heart response improves your hand, it should not

stimulate more than a simple raise to two. You have too many losers to warrant undertaking a higher contract opposite a partner who was forced to bid.

3. Three hearts. This hand is far more promising for game than the previous one. Both have 16 high-card points, but this one has better distribution plus a strong side suit. Partner would not need much more than five hearts to the J-10 to have a good play for 10 tricks, so if he accepts your invitation to game, it is most unlikely he would lose more than three tricks.

4. Pass. You have no values beyond those already represented by the double. A further bid at this point would denote additional strength and might lead to an unmakeable contract. Your side cannot have a game, since partner failed to jump or make any other strength-showing bid in response to the double.

5. Four hearts. Even though four tricks might be lost, it is best to go directly to game. The danger of jumping to only three hearts is that partner might have nothing more than four hearts to the king, or a similar holding, and pass a three-heart bid.

Note that the high-card point count, only 16 in this case, is not the deciding factor. What really counts is the tremendous potential of this hand to produce 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: A sure-to-win position. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

11-22 CRYPTOQUIP

H X M U G V H N X A G J Q P G U Z E C D K P L V N C X G B B P K V G I U P U P W P U J V A P J P L G Z J . I C V V A G V ' J

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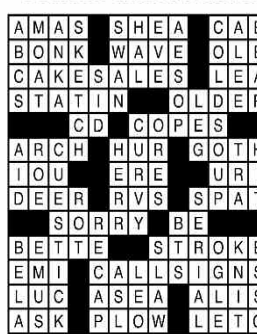
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THAT LARGE PET SHOP, ALL THE RABBITS THEY STOCKED WERE SOLD WITH A BUNNY-BACK GUARANTEE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 36 Winning 20 Tummy 23 Slurpee 24 The Mets' old home 25 See to 26 Dutch export 27 Baja boy 28 Oodles 29 "Shoo!" 32 "Abbey" 33 Base before home 35 Bathroom, to a Brit 36 Warnings 38 Rowing teams 39 Sailor's cry 42 "Gee whiz!" 43 Barnyard females 44 Tizzy 45 Bit of moisturizer 46 "— had it!" 47 Silent assent 49 — de cologne

Solution time: 25 mins.



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2024-25 Jay County girls swim preview



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pictured is the 2024-25 Jay County High School girls swim team. Front row from left are Kali Newell, Brooklynn Byrum, Kaylynn Clark, Eleonora Sanna and Kaitlyn Fisher. Middle row are Ariel Eiswanger, Dunja Jusufovic, Sophia Hoevel, Lauren Fisher, Aubrey Millspaugh and Emma Ransom. Back row are Avery Wentz, Kenzie Huey, Maddy Snow, Maisey Keller and Alyvia Muhlenkamp.

Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Saturday, Nov. 23	Westfield	10 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 3	Bluffton	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 5	Anderson	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7	Celina Sprints	11 a.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12	Norwell	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16	South Adams	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Delta	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 23	Adams Central	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Bellmont	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Celina/Coldwater	6 p.m.
Jan. 10-11	JCHS Invite	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Yorktown	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Muncie Central	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	ACAC Invite	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Blckfrd/Mun. Burr.	6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 30	Marion	6 p.m.
Feb. 6-8	Sectional	5:30 p.m.
Home matches in bold		

Matches to watch

Tuesday, Dec. 17, vs. Delta

Delta claimed the top spot in the sectional last year, beating Norwell by 70 points and the Patriot by 203. This regular season matchup can give JCHS an idea of where they can place swimmers to try and steal points.

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 10-11, in JCHS Invite

The Jay County High School Invitational provides the Patriots with an opportunity to compete against a group of talent and see how they would fare in a bigger field.

2023-24 season

After losing Mara Bader, a state contender in the 2022-23 season, the Patriots worked a 9-4 record in dual meets and their third consecutive season where they finished third in the sectional. While they didn't have a girl who dominated in the pool, they found a way to claim the Allen County Athletic Conference title by over 100 points. The only victory in the ACAC meet came from Maddy Snow in the diving, while multiple second, third and fourth-place finishes carried them to the victory. JCHS had seven competitors in each of the sectional finals and consolation races from last season to help fuel the third-place finish.

Fast facts

- The Patriots have been dominant in the sectional meet, finishing third or higher every year since the 2009-2010 season. Their most recent sectional title came in the 2020-21 season, which was the final of four straight titles.

- Jay County returns every swimmer that made the final last year other than Zion Beiswanger, who competed in the 100-yard breaststroke, 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay and Morgan DeHoff, who swam in the 100 breaststroke, 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay.

Projected events

- Ariel Beiswanger – Distance freestyle
- Brooklynn Byrum – Freestyle/butterfly
- Kaylynn Clark – freestyle
- Kaitlyn Fisher – breaststroke/butterfly
- Lauren Fisher – breaststroke/butterfly
- Sophia Hoevel – Sprint freestyle
- Kenzie Huey – Backstroke
- Maisey Keller – Freestyle
- Aubrey Millspaugh – Distance freestyle
- Alyvia Muhlenkamp – Freestyle
- Kali Newell – Freestyle
- Emma Ransom – Distance freestyle
- Maddy Snow – Diving
- Avery Wentz – Backstroke

Top returners

- Maddy Snow**
14th at diving regional
- Lauren Fisher**
Fifth in sectional 100-yard butterfly
- Kenzie Huey**
Fifth in sectional 100-yard backstroke
- Avery Wentz**
Sixth in sectional 100-yard backstroke
- Sophia Hoevel**
Eighth in sectional 100-yard and 200 freestyle
- Aubrey Millspaugh**
Eighth in sectional 500-yard freestyle

Top departures

- Zion Beiswanger**
Fourth in sectional 100-yard breaststroke
- Morgan DeHoff**
Sixth in sectional 100-yard breaststroke

Coach Matt Slavik says

"I think that our No. 1 goal is to come together as a team to find out where everyone can fit, whether it be in particular events, whether it be the hype person, whatever it is, everybody's got a spot on this team to help provide us success. What success looks like for us is to have everybody on the team contributing, scoring points, dropping enough time to earn letters. This year, we've got some young kids that are going to come in that are going to provide some support for us along with a very large junior class. The seniors are strong and down through the whole rank, we're looking pretty strong. We're just trying to find out where everybody fits on the team to provide us a winning season and do well at the end of the year."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Belmont — 6:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Crestview — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Ben Davis — 8 a.m.; Girls swim at Westfield — 10 a.m.; Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Winchester — 6:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Mississinawa Valley — 9 a.m.; Boys basketball scrimmage vs. Bath — 10 a.m.; Girls basketball at Arcanum — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1 a.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College football: Temple at UTSA (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at New Orleans Pelicans (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Nebraska at

Creighton (FS1); Utah State at Iowa (BTN)
8 p.m. — College football: Purdue at Michigan State (FOX)
10 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Denver Nuggets (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College basketball: CSU Fullerton at UCLA (BTN)
10 p.m. — College football: UNLV at San Jose State (FS1)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Arizona (ESPN2)

Saturday
12:30 a.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Hawai'i (ESPN2)
1 a.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Chelsea at Leicester City (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brighton & Hove Albion at AFC Bournemouth (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Ole Miss at Florida (ABC); Indiana at Ohio State (FOX); Wake Forest at Miami (ESPN); Iowa at Maryland (BTN); SMU at Virginia (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — USL Championship soccer:

Rhode Island at Colorado Springs (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Tottenham Hotspur at Manchester City (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Kentucky at Texas (ABC); Penn State at Minnesota (CBS); Northwestern at Michigan (FS1); BYU at Arizona State (ESPN); Wisconsin at Nebraska (BTN); Colorado at Kansas (FOX)
4 p.m. — College football: Pitt at Louisville (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College football: Army at Notre Dame (NBC); Baylor at Houston (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at New York Islanders (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Alabama at Oklahoma (ABC); Iowa State at Utah (FOX); Texas A&M (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College football: Cincinnati at Kansas State (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College volleyball: Wisconsin at Nebraska (BTN)
8 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Washington Spirit at Orlando Pride (CBS)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Air Force at Nevada (FS1)

Sunday
1 a.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN)
9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool at Southampton (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester United at Ipswich Town (USA)
12:30 p.m. — La Liga soccer: Real Madrid at Leganes (ABC)
1 p.m. — NFL: Kansas City Chiefs at Carolina Panthers (CBS); Detroit Lions at Indianapolis Colts (FOX)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Villanova at Maryland (ESPN); Myrtle Beach Invitational (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Charleston Classic (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Florida State at UMass Amherst (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre Dame at USC (NBC); Washington State at Iowa (BTN)
4:25 p.m. — NFL: San Francisco 49ers at Green Bay Packers (FOX)
5:30 p.m. — College basketball: Myrtle Beach Invitational (ESPN)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Charleston Classic (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Myrtle Beach Invitational (ESPN2)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Philadelphia Eagles at Los Angeles Rams (NBC)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Charleston Classic (ESPN)

Local notes

Final race
The final race in the Adams County 5K Challenge is the Rainbow Lake 5K Run/Walk, will take place on Nov. 26.

Registration and check-in will begin at 8 a.m., with the race starting at the Limerlost Cabin in downtown Geneva at 10 a.m.

The race will cost \$20 if registered prior to the race, or \$25 with registration on the day of the race.

For more information or to preregister, visit adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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. Black-top 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 location.
ANTIQUES-HOUSE-HOLD-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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

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-HOUSE-HOLD-MISC

90 SALE CALENDAR

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
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
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HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND is seeking a motivated individual for a part-time Code Enforcement Officer position. Responsibilities include inspecting properties for compliance with city codes, investigating complaints, issuing notices or citations, and working with property owners to resolve violations. Strong communication and organizational skills are essential. Pay: \$16.00/hour; Hours: Up to 30 hours per week. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland IN 47371, 8:00am to 4:30pm Thru Monday, December 30, 2024. Application deadline is December 30, 2024 at 4:00pm. No application will be accepted after this time. Applications may also be picked up at the Police Department or download the application at: <https://thecityofportland.net/police-department>. For more information, contact the Portland Police Department 260-726-7161. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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26+ ACRES of tillable land for sale. Jefferson Township, Jay County. Call 765-749-9107

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
The Jay County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will modify the date of the meeting scheduled for December 5, 2024. The LEPC will hold the meeting on December 12, 2024, at 2:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Jay County Security Center, Training Room, 224 West Water Street, Portland, IN 47371. The Jay County Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials incidents may be reviewed during regular business hours at the office of the Jay County Emergency Management Agency, Jay County Security Center, 224 West Water Street, Portland, IN 47371. Copies of documents may be obtained at the office, and the Committee may charge a fee for copying. For further information on these matters, please contact Jay County Emergency Management Agency, Jay County Security Center at 260-726-6908 during regular business hours.
CR 11-22-2024-HSPXLP

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Sports

Davante Adams doesn't regret trade

By PETER SBLENDORIO

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Davante Adams' short tenure with the Jets hasn't gone the way the involved parties had hoped.

Sunday's 28-27 loss to the Indianapolis Colts dropped the Jets' record to 1-4 since they acquired Adams in a long-anticipated trade with the Las Vegas Raiders.

That loss proved to be the final straw for general manager Joe Douglas, whom the Jets fired Tuesday after falling to 3-8 overall.

But Adams says he has no regrets about being traded to the Jets amid their disappointing season.

"I don't live my life like that," Adams said Wednesday on FanDuel TV's "Up & Adams."

"Hindsight's always 20/20, so you can sit here and look at it now and say, 'Oh, I could have maybe stayed there. I would've been more comfortable. I wouldn't have had to move,' and all this stuff, but for me, it's about going with my gut in my life. That's how I make my decisions. I live with them."

The Jets were 2-4 when they traded for Adams, a six-time Pro Bowl wide receiver who spent eight seasons with quarterback Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay.

Speculation that the star wideout would be traded to the Jets began last year, shortly after they acquired Rodgers from the Packers. But Adams remained with

Jets wide receiver isn't thinking about future with the team

Vegas in 2023, recording 103 receptions and 1,144 yards despite a revolving door of Raiders quarterbacks.

"I don't regret not going [to the Jets] earlier, because I really felt like I wanted to be a Raider and I wanted to really give it everything that I could to stay there and rock it out with my teammates while I was there," Adams told host Kay Adams.

"And then there came a point where I realized that wasn't where my heart was, and something needed to change, and this was the change that I wanted, and the change that I have to live with and make the most of," he said.

Rodgers, 40, and Adams, 31, have yet to replicate the consistency of their prior partnership in this second act. Adams has one touchdown through five games with the Jets and has not recorded a 100-yard performance.

His arrival came a week after the Jets fired head coach Robert Saleh. Douglas' firing, meanwhile, led to speculation about whether Rodgers and Adams will be back with the team next season.

"Whether or not I'm here next year, I can't determine that," Adams said. "I'm not really thinking about next year. I'm thinking about trying to get a few more wins before we get out of here. If you'd bet me a million dollars, I would have taken the bet we would not have only had one victory right now."

Adams described Douglas' firing as "surprising, but it's not," stating that coaches and management are often held accountable when teams are winning.

"It's not for me to say whether or not it's the right thing to do or not," Adams said. "I'm just getting here and I'm still learning the way things work in this building and the way things have been in this building."

The Jets traded a 2025 conditional third-round pick to acquire Adams, who said being part of a Rodgers-led offense gives him more hope for success than he felt with the Raiders.

"We're talking about playing with Aaron Rodgers here," Adams said. "This isn't like taking some crazy gamble."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Elizabeth elevates

Jay County High School's Elizabeth Brunswick powers up for a layup during the Patriots home opener against Hamilton Heights on Saturday. Catch the Patriots host Belmont today at 6:30 p.m.

Psi Iota Xi sorority presents

Jay County Civic Theatre's Production of

The SOUND of MUSIC

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE

Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp
Music and Lyrics for "Something Good" by Richard Rodgers

THE SOUND OF MUSIC is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Shows are 7 p.m. December 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14, and 2 p.m. December 15 at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland

Advance tickets: \$10 for students and \$12 for adult
Available by visiting bit.ly/JCCTTSOM, by calling (260) 726-4809, or at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Vinatieri up for Hall of Fame

By ANDREW CALLAHAN

Boston Herald
Tribune News Service

Former Indianapolis Colts and New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri was announced Wednesday as semifinalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2025 modern-era class.

Vinatieri is a first-time nominee. The Hall of Fame selection committee will trim the list of 25 semifinalists to 15 finalists later this year. The modern-era class of 2025 will consist of four to eight members and be announced at NFL Honors show in New Orleans, La., in mid-February.

Vinatieri is among six first-year nominees to reach the semifinal round, along with Luke Kuechly, Eli Manning, Terrell Suggs, Earl Thomas and Marshal Yanda. He is best known for delivering game-winning kicks in the final seconds of the Patriots' victories in Super Bowl XXXVI and XXXVIII, as well as their Snow Bowl divisional-round playoff win over the Raiders in Jan. 2002. Vinatieri also holds NFL records for most career points, field goal attempts and field goal makes.

A 24-year NFL veteran, Vinatieri spent the first 10 seasons of his career in New England. With the Patriots, he won three Super Bowls, made two Pro Bowls and a couple All-Pro teams. He left the franchise for Indianapolis in 2006, and won another Super Bowl with the Colts that season, before making another Pro Bowl and All-Pro team in 2014.

The other 2025 modern-era nominees are Fred Taylor, Ricky Watters, Anquan Boldin, Torry Holt, Steve Smith Sr., Hines Ward, Antonio Gates, Willie Anderson, Jahri Evans, Richmond Webb, Steve Wisniewski, Eric Allen, Darren Woodson, James Harrison, Jaren Allen and Robert Mathis.