

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Gobbling in the wind

An inflatable turkey in a yard at the intersection of county roads 200 South and 600 West blows in the wind Tuesday morning, a couple of days ahead of Thanksgiving. The forecast for Thursday calls for mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature around 40 degrees.

Plans for new recycling center advance

Commissioners approve purchase agreement for 9.18 acres

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District is planning to build a recycling center on the southwest side of Portland.

County officials OK'd another step in the process this week.

Jay County Commissioners approved a real estate purchase agreement Monday with Portland Economic Development Corporation for 9.18 acres of its 75-acre parcel along Tyson Road, west of Tyson Foods and Community Fiber Solutions.

The agreement serves as a formality — Portland Economic Development Corporation is donating the land to Jay County Solid Waste Management District for its proposed new office and recycling facility.

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals approved a special exception use request in September for the building, which is estimated at 60 feet by 140 feet with a 40-foot wide driveway. The facility is expected to sit approximately 100 feet away from Tyson Road. The western wooded portion of the property should remain untouched, allowing trees to cover the front of the building and avoiding wetlands on the property.

Hopes are to construct the new, larger building to replace the district's current structure at 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. (That building is leased from Waste Management, which operates Jay County Landfill.)

According to Jay County Solid Waste Management District director George McGinnis in September, the building will feature a drive-thru door for Jay County residents to unload their materials inside.

See **Recycling** page 2A

Dunkirk to buy cameras, radios

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Equipment has been purchased for the park, street and utility departments with remaining federal coronavirus relief funds.

Now it's the police department's turn.

Dunkirk City Council approved an additional \$68,624.24 Monday in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to be spent on new radios and a new camera system for police.

Mayor Jack Robbins shared two quotes with council Monday.

Motorola Solutions proposed a base radio station at the police department and six handheld, dual bandwidth radios complete with antennas and holsters for \$51,424.24. Also, Robbins added,

City allocates ARPA funds to purchase police equipment

Dunkirk Police Department asked for \$17,200 to install a new camera system at police headquarters.

"In their interview room, their microphones aren't working," said Robbins.

Hopes are to upgrade the department's camera system and microphones in the interview room and purchase additional hard drives for video storage space.

Council agreed to purchase

the radios and new camera system using coronavirus relief funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Answering a question from council, Robbins said after the purchases approved Monday, the city has about \$28,000 in American Rescue Plan funds remaining.

Also Monday, council heard a suggestion from council presi-

dent Jesse Bivens to look into updating the city's ordinances, specifically addressing a recent situation regarding unauthorized usage of 700 gallons of water from a city fire hydrant.

"This gentleman (came) up and paid this (\$935) bill, which was easily done, but for (the) future, we want to be able to have an ordinance that we can stand on," said Bivens.

City attorney Wes Schemenauer noted the city's current ordinance prohibits meter tampering but does not address using fire hydrants. He agreed to look into Biven's suggestions and present a draft of an updated ordinance to council at its next meeting.

See **Radios** page 2A

G-7 set to pressure China

By DONATO PAOLO MANCINI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Group of Seven allies are set to step up pressure on China while offering Kyiv "unwavering commitment" amid accusations that Beijing has increased support for Russia in its war against Ukraine.

The G-7 foreign ministers, who are meeting in Italy on Monday and Tuesday, are expected to vow "appropriate measures consistent with our legal systems, against actors in China and in other third countries" who are supporting Russia's "war machine" in Ukraine, according to an early draft of the communique seen by Bloomberg.

Ukraine's allies are seeking to crack down on countries aiding Moscow's war effort, particularly before Donald Trump takes office in January. During his campaign,

Accusations indicate Beijing has increased support for Russia

Trump expressed deep skepticism about U.S. support for Ukraine and has said he can end the war quickly.

The language on China, if adopted, would represent an escalation compared with the previous foreign ministerial meeting in April, when the club of nations called on China to "ensure" that it stops its support for Russia with dual-use weapons. North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies in July called China a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine.

The G-7 allies are also expected to "continue to apply significant pressure on Russian revenues from energy, metals and other commodities through the effective implementation of existing measures and further actions against the 'shadow fleet.'"

The new measures would seek to curb the use of a covert fleet of tankers Russia has assembled to get around a price cap and restrictions that target Russia's ability to get its oil to market.



Tribune News Service/The Flint Journal/Nico Mendoza

Community meals

Volunteers hand out meals to the community members as The Kyle Kuzma Foundation teams up with Mott Community College Culinary Arts serving free 600 Thanksgiving meals Monday in Flint, Michigan.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 59 degrees Monday. The low was 45.

Tonight's forecast calls for rain and a chance of snow showers with a low in the lower

30s. Expect a high around 40 Thursday before temperatures dip and stay in the 20s throughout the day Friday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

There will be no newspaper Thursday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We will resume our regular publishing schedule Friday.

Coming up

Friday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team's season opener.

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Commissioners special meeting.

Tuesday — Details from the Jay County boys basketball game at Richmond.



Capsule Reports

Intersection crash

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a vehicle crash at the intersection of Votaw and Wayne streets in Portland about 8:23 p.m. Monday.

Alicia L. Emerick, 42, Portland, was driving her 2019 GMC Acadia north on Wayne Street. At the same time, Kenneth C. Moeller, 63, Fort Recovery, Ohio, was driving a 2008 Toyota Corolla Matrix east on Votaw Street. Both drivers

told police the other driver disregarded a stop sign at the intersection of Wayne and Votaw streets, causing them to crash into each other.

Failed to yield

A Portland man failed to yield to oncoming traffic along Williams Street in Portland, causing a collision about 4:43 p.m. Sunday.

Meah J. Devoe, 18, Portland,

was driving a 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier north on Williams Street near an alley just south of North Street. At the same time, Jose Alfredo Perez Caal, 22, Portland, was driving a 2012 HMC Acadia west in an alley and turning onto Williams Street. Devoe told police Perez Caal failed to yield the right of way, causing Devoe to crash into his car.

Perez Caal was cited for leaving the scene of an accident and driv-

ing without a license. The vehicle he was driving — it's registered to Tomas Asig Rax LLC of Portland — was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Lost traction

A Hartford City man lost control of his vehicle and hit a Portland woman's car at the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 67 about 2:30 p.m. Friday.

David A. Littler, 77, was driving his 2019 Chevrolet Silverado northeast on Indiana 67 and attempted to turn onto Indiana 26. He told police the road was slick, causing him to slide into a 2012 Honda Odyssey — it was driven by 29-year-old Andrea Dugan — stopped on Indiana 26.

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Both vehicles were towed.

CR almanac

Thursday 11/28	Friday 11/29	Saturday 11/30	Sunday 12/1	Monday 12/2
41/24	28/14	27/17	27/16	26/13
Thanksgiving Day looks to be mostly cloudy with a chance of rain and snow all day.	Mostly sunny on Friday, when the low at night may dip into the low teens.	Saturday's weather looks like a slight chance of snow under mostly sunny skies.	Sunday will be mostly sunny with lows reaching the low teens at night.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday. The high will be in the 20s.

Lotteries

Powerball

Monday
5-35-45-60-63
Power Ball: 12
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot:
\$196 million

Daily Four: 7-6-5-2
Quick Draw: 3-5-6-9-13-14-16-19-24-25-33-40-45-57-60-61-67-72-73-74
Cash 5: 1-16-23-30-34
Estimated jackpot:
\$312,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot:
\$489 million

Ohio

Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 3-9-2
Pick 4: 6-3-7-8
Pick 5: 5-8-3-9-5
Evening
Pick 3: 2-5-7
Pick 4: 3-0-9-9
Pick 5: 5-9-5-8-5
Rolling Cash: 12-13-18-37-39
Estimated jackpot:
\$130,000

Hoosier

Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 5-4-3
Daily Four: 6-3-9-8
Quick Draw: 1-6-13-14-16-21-23-26-37-38-39-40-41-42-47-51-55-59-61-71
Evening
Daily Three: 8-1-3

Markets

Cooper Farms

Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.38
Dec. corn.....4.33
Wheat4.35

Dec. beans9.72
Wheat 5.06

POET Biorefining

Portland
Corn.....4.40
Dec. corn.....4.40
Jan. corn.....4.41

ADM Montpelier

Corn.....4.21
Dec. corn.....4.21
Beans.....9.69
Dec. beans9.69
Wheat4.85

The Andersons

Richland Township
Corn4.28
Dec. corn4.28
Beans.....9.72

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....4.23
Dec. corn4.23
Beans.....9.54
Dec. beans9.54
Wheat4.86

Today in history

In 1746, Robert R. Livingston was born in New York. Livingston served in the First and Second Continental Congresses, and he helped draft the Declaration of Independence. Among other accolades, he served as the first chancellor of New York as a state. He also served as secretary of foreign affairs — today it is known as secretary of state — until 1783.

In 1895, Alfred Bernhard Nobel's will established the Nobel Prizes. Nobel, a Swedish scientist and engineer, invented dynamite and other explosives. Each year, Nobel Prizes are

awarded in six categories: physics, medicine, peace, chemistry, literature and economic sciences.

In 1924, the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade kicked off in New York City. It became known as an annual tradition, complete with giant balloons added to the parade three years later.

In 1973, Gerald R. Ford was voted into vice presidency by the United States Senate. Ford later took office, serving as president after Richard Nixon's resignation following the Watergate scandal. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
2 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Recovery Village council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort

Tuesday
4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

Radios ...

Continued from page 1A
In other business, council members Christy Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt, Randy Murphy and Bivens: •OK'd clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe to look into applying for the state's Next Level Jobs employer training grant at no cost to the city. A representative of Alliance of Indiana Rural Water — it provides technical support for water and wastewater operators, and Dunkirk has been a member of it for years — presented a few other different initiatives for council to consider, including Alliance's apprenticeship program and Alliance's partnership with Indiana Finance Authority

intended to offer grants to train the next generation and create more licensed utility operators.

•Were reminded Dunkirk's Feel the Warmth of Christmas event is slated for 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2. Santa Claus will ride into the city on a firetruck and meet children at Glass Capital Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM.

•Heard from Lowe that deputy clerk Melissa Bantz turned in her resignation at the end of October. Lowe promoted clerical assistant Mary Eley to fill the role, and she said she probably won't look to hire a new clerical assistant until the end of the year.

•Approved the following: an ordi-

nance vacating an alley along High Street per a request from Jonathon and Natalie Cassel; paying \$216,568.44 in total claims; spending \$175 on 20 Christmas advertisements with WZBD/WPGW Radio; adjusting a bill \$112.36 for an underground water leak at 529 S. Meridian St.

•Heard Robbins — upon request from Bivens — agree to reappoint Kathy Nelson to a five-year term on the advisory committee created when The Dunkirk Foundation merged with The Portland Foundation.

•Learned the city gave 36 turkeys to families who stopped by the turkey drop Saturday in downtown Dunkirk.

Recycling ...

Continued from page 1A

Items will then be inserted into a chute that will funnel into a sealed compactor. Full compacted units will be hauled to Muncie's recycling center.

Commissioners agreed in April to pay for the land and wetlands surveys to figure out the building's placement on the property.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted plans to put out a request for proposals in January to seek potential designs and costs for the project.

Commissioners approved the agreement.

Relatedly, commissioners OK'd paying filing costs — \$25 with Jay County Recorder's Office and \$10 with Jay County Auditor's Office — for the donation.

Also Monday, commissioners approved an ordinance establishing stipulations for county contracts.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur explained the ordinance relates to Indiana House Enrolled Act 1158. The bill enacted in July lists procedures for county elected officials to approve contracts.

"The county executive (commissioners) may, by ordinance, require standard contractual language to be used in all contracts entered into by the county," according to the law. Among other changes, it also stipulates contracts must be executed or submitted for review to commissioners by a "county officer" — generally defined as elected officials — if the contracts are necessary for the county officer's duties and if funds

have been appropriated for it by the county fiscal body (county council). Under certain conditions, once a contract has been reviewed by commissioners or 20 days pass, the county officer could execute a contract without their approval.

"You can still reject it, but the elected official can still sign it over your objection as long as the money is (appropriated) in their budget and it is for a statutory or constitutional duty of their office," explained Schemenaur.

According to the new county ordinance, all county contracts shall be in the name of Jay County and set for a specific term with clear termination provisions. They must be interpreted using Indiana law and related lawsuits must be filed in Jay County.

Automatic renewal clauses are not acceptable in county contracts moving forward.

Other requirements include: providing notice of defaults, breaches or modifications to the commissioners, county auditor and county attorney; indemnifying Jay County for any liability arising out of the other party's performance of the contract; requiring the other party to the contract to submit claims or disputes arising out of the contract to mediation prior to filing a lawsuit for enforcement or breach; and adding provisions as required by state or federal law.

Commissioners also approved a rezoning request for Darrick Plum-

mer of rural Geneva.

Jay County Plan Commission approved the request, which involves rezoning two parcels (approximately 12 acres) in Pennville from a single family residential to a multi family residential property. Plummer plans to turn the lot west of South Street just south of Max Drive and the lot south of Daisy Lane into a mobile home park.

In other business, commissioners Rex Journay, Brian McGalliard and Chad Aker:

•Signed a letter of support for rehabilitating two bridges and fixing a problem on the road in between the bridges on the Blackford/Jay county line approximately 1.5 miles south of Indiana 18. Blackford County highway superintendent John Pluimer shared plans to apply for a 2030 federal grant to help pay for the work, which is estimated at \$4.2 million. (If the grant is received, Blackford County's portion would be \$848,960.) The work should help extend the bridges' lifetimes by at least 50 years.

•Approved the following: an engineering contract with construction engineering firm EGIS for replacing a bridge along county road 700 West between 200 and 300 South in 2026; a resolution establishing the county's contribution to Health Savings Accounts for employees in 2025, with county auditor Emily Franks explaining the county will be putting in an additional \$100 quar-

terly to single employees and \$200 quarterly to employees with other family members on their plan; a \$6,325 heater from Laux Plumbing & Heating of Portland for Jay County Highway Department barn; cleaning the arsenic removal system at Jay County Country Living as part of regular maintenance; paying a \$218,750 quarterly claim — Jay County serves as a pass-through organization for the service payment, which is covered by the state — from LifeStream Services; a \$12,000 claim from Ritter Strategic Services for its work in helping the county join the Integrated Public Safety Commission's 800 megahertz statewide radio system; granting up to five \$150 scholarships for Jay County groups or individuals participating in grant writing workshops hosted by Jay County Purdue Extension Office and Blackford County Purdue Extension Office on Jan. 16 and Jan. 30 at Innovation Connector in Muncie; paying \$2,484,360.18 in other claims; purchasing up to \$60 in refreshments for an employee health wellness event Tuesday, Dec. 3.

•Heard Jay Emergency Medical Services' financial breakdown for October from director Gary Barnett. The department had \$115,898.11 in expenses and \$100,172.65 in income.

•Reappointing Jerry Whetzel, Trent Paxson and Christina Schemenaur to four-year terms on Jay County Health Board.

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine

A Portland man was arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine and related charges.

Jason W. Hensley, 49, 114 W.

McNeil St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for the alleged crime, as well as a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony for main-

taining a common nuisance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

He was being held on a \$15,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES
Wednesday

Evers, Mary: 10:30 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.

Dec. 14

Compton, Gail: 2 p.m., Portland Elk's Lodge, 126 W. High St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Following through on choice can be tough

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

I recently surpassed the 20-year anniversary of joining Facebook. That means I've been on the social media platform for more than half my life.

I remember when a guy in my dorm told me about it. I was confused at first, but joined anyway.

Little did anyone know how much of an impact it would have on our lives two decades later.

Over the years, Facebook, and social media in general, have been great places for users to keep in touch with high school friends, see what's going on with out-of-state family or reconnect with those we met at different chapters in our lives.

It's a place to expand our knowledge; photography, writing, drone laws, motorcycles — there's groups or communities on Facebook for just about anything. It's a place to celebrate life's small, and big, victories, or to find comfort in times of need or to help others in distress.

It's even a place for a kid from Saginaw, Michigan, to build a brand as a journalist and photographer in East Central Indiana.

Unfortunately, there was also no telling back in 2004 how much of a cesspool it would become, either.

And that's the reason why Chrissy and I have made the decision to keep Baby Schanz off of our social media. If you remember way back in April, I wrote this: "To protect her privacy, we're keeping our daughter's name and photographs off of social media and out of the public realm, which will be a topic for a later column."

Parental Ponderings



Here's that column.

You can bet your bottom dollar I've wanted to share with the world every photo and every video capturing each of her milestones. Her smile. Her laugh. Her hair. Her outfits. Her crawling. Her first food(s).

I want to show it all.

I want to scream from the rooftops how proud I am at how big she's getting or how smart she's becoming, despite the fact at times I want it to slow way down.

But Chrissy and I went to great lengths to ensure our family is on board with our wishes to keep our daughter off social media, so we have to set the example by not renegeing on our promise.

And that's a tough thing to do as a photographer who likes to show off his work.

Not being too active on social media is probably the hardest thing about being a millennial parent in 2024. I "grew up" with Facebook and social media, and we're in an age of oversharing in the spirit of attempting to go viral or getting the hit of dopamine when someone likes our posts.

We're sticking to our guns, though.

My daughter turned 8 months old last week, and only 11 photos of her show up on my Facebook account. Five of them were from

the day she was born, and those are the only five that show her face. Two of those 11 were posted by others (one of them was my wife), and Baby Schanz's face was covered in each.

We're not giving up on our word.

Sure, I've posted to Facebook my thoughts about being a father — these columns get posted when they're published, after all — and talked about things my daughter has done, but it's never with photos or videos.

And let me tell you, I have a ton of them I'd like to share.

I like to say my daughter is the most photographed child no one will ever see.

The toxicity of social media, both with misinformation/disinformation and the addictive nature of it, aren't the main reasons why we've chosen to keep our child off the platforms.

It's because of potential situations she could encounter as she gets older.

Put yourself in her shoes, or any child's shoes, for a second.

You're between 8 and 10 years old. Maybe even a preteen.

You're out in public at the grocery store or post office with your parents. They run into one of their social media friends with whom you've never met.

The adults chat it up a bit, then the stranger looks to you and says, "Wow, you're getting so big!" or comments on something recently that's happened in your life that your parents shared to social media. Maybe it's something you're embarrassed about or didn't want others to know about.

This stranger knows so much

about your life — probably more than even you do.

How do you imagine you'd feel in that situation?

Confused? Awkward? Anxious? Unsafe? Scared?

I know I'd probably feel all of those emotions if I was in that situation.

Because of social media, I know more about the goings on of the children of my friends than I do my friends themselves. The youngsters are in dance. Or cheer. Or they're playing football for the first time. Or they went out on a limb, tried out for a travel soccer team and got selected to play!

But I don't know anything about my friends' lives.

Maybe that's my own fault for not communicating.

There are other dangers of living in the internet age, too. Hackers can compromise my social media accounts and then they could have a ton of information about my family.

AI is becoming more mainstream, and who's to say how it can be weaponized in the future? Celebrities are having their voices manipulated by AI and leading others to believe the sounds they hear are their idols. That means someone could potentially use my daughter's voice against us for their personal gain somehow.

And of course there are those vile humans who prey on the innocence of children.

I just don't want to put my daughter — or any other children if we decide to add to our family — in any of those situations if I'm able to avoid it.

And refraining to show her off on social media is the prime way to make sure it doesn't happen.

Please don't take this as a slam piece to the parents who overshare. This is not my intent, nor is it me passing judgment to those parents who wish to share what's happening in the lives of their offspring. They're free to do what they want with their own family and social media accounts.

That's just not how we're going to operate.

Chrissy and I choosing not to put her on social media is, in our eyes, protecting our daughter in one of the simplest ways possible; not sharing altogether.

There's no telling what social media will be like in five years, let alone six months from now. At this time, however, my wife and I just don't feel comfortable creating an online presence for our daughter until she's old enough to understand what that means.

We did, however, create an email address for her so we can send her messages or milestones and let her look back on them when she's older.

Close friends — those who we interact with outside of social media — and family get all the updates, photos and videos they need. Plus, they get to see Baby Schanz in person, which is the ultimate joy.

With regard to telling the world about our lives in the internet age, we're just choosing to keep it old school.

It's what's best for our family.

Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor who has lived his entire adult life using social media. Send tips for breaking the addiction to christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

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

Today
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 - BRIDGES ANNA'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.

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Meets 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

Thanksgiving Greetings

Here's wishing you a Thanksgiving holiday complete with all the trimmings — good food, good friends and good times



Warm Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving

Your trust and kindness fill us with gratitude, and we hope the spirit of the season fills you with joy!

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Todd & Rob Penrod, Owners

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving and a happy holiday season!

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Appreciate the Thanksgiving table

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Nov. 26, 2004. Many of us have experienced what Jack did, making the progression from the little kids' table all the way to the big table. Regardless of what table you sit at this weekend, be thankful for those with whom you get to share your holiday meal.

By JACK RONALD
The New and Sun

It was a typical Ronald family Thanksgiving, probably in the mid-1960s.

In those days, the clan — as many of my father's siblings, their spouses, their children, and grandchildren as possible — gathered together for a huge celebration.

At its peak, when my grand-

Back in the Saddle



mother was still alive, Thanksgiving was so big that a single house could barely contain it. More than once, it took over the fellowship hall of a Presbyterian church in Richmond.

Like any family gathering, this one had its traditions and its protocols. And one of those involved the seating arrangements.

There was an adults' table.

There was at least one little kids' table. There was a big kids' table. And some years there was a bigger kids' table.

To move from one to another was to mark a rite of passage. But that rite of passage was more important to some than to others.

I never really gave it much thought, because my cousin John Luginbill and I were close enough in age that we made the transitions together.

For others, it was a big deal indeed.

That was the case at one memorable Thanksgiving in the mid-1960s at that church fellowship hall in Richmond.

One of our out-of-state cousins arrived with some seri-

ous expectations about the seating arrangements.

He was ready, he had decided, to make the move up the ladder. It was time for him to be seated at the big kids' table instead of the little kids' table.

At least that's what he thought.

When the time came to enjoy the holiday meal, he found that the adults in charge had other ideas. His placemark was at the table for the little kids.

His reaction spoke volumes. His face reddened. He lost his temper, had a tantrum, made everyone else in the place uncomfortable, and wept. He also proved — once and for all — that he wasn't ready for the big kids' table just yet.

I don't recall what the upshot

of his tantrum was, whether he was squeezed in with the big kids, who were mortified by his behavior, or still relegated to be with the little kids where he could sullenly pout the afternoon away. What I do recall was learning a lesson about maturity and perspective, figuring out that some things were worth fussing about and others weren't.

That sort of perspective helps on a day like Thursday, when you're focusing on your blessings and your gratitude.

And it reminds me that any seat at the table with family is a good seat.

Enjoy the day. As for me, I'll try to find a spot with the little kids if they'll squeeze me in.

Senate must pass PRESS Act

The Seattle Times
Tribune News Service

The U.S. Senate has little time left in this tumultuous year but it must make sure to pass the PRESS Act.

Dubbed "Protect Reporters from Exploitative State Spying Act," the broadly supported bill would ensure federal protection for journalists. It would prevent authorities from abusing subpoena powers and protect reporters from being forced to reveal their sources.

Similar press protections already exist in 49 states, including Washington since 2007.

Yet at the federal level, reporters are protected by a loose patchwork of court decisions and limited, impermanent administrative decrees.

The case of Catherine Herridge illustrates why permanent, federal protections are urgently needed.

The former Fox News and CBS reporter is facing substantial fines and potentially jail because she is refusing to reveal sources.

At Fox, Herridge revealed a federal investigation into a Chinese American scientist. The scientist sued the government, alleging privacy violations, and the judge in that case ordered Herridge to reveal how she obtained the information.

There is a qualified reporter's privilege in D.C. federal courts "but its scope is unclear and it could be read in a way to make it pretty weak," said Gabe Rottman, policy director at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

If the PRESS Act were in place, the subpoenaing of Herridge wouldn't have been allowed, he said.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., deserves credit for sponsoring this bill and doggedly pursuing it for years.

His Washington state colleagues, Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, have been extraordinary supporters of the press and have leadership positions for the rest of 2024. They should use their influence to help get the PRESS Act done immediately.

This is not controversial. The PRESS Act is a commonsense bill, upholding widely held values of press freedom, with exceptions for

Guest Editorial

extreme situations such as terrorism.

An identical bill passed unanimously in the House in January, demonstrating that both Republicans and Democrats support the free press and value the work of investigative journalists.

The necessity was explained well by U.S. Rep. Kevin Kiley, R-Calif., the House co-sponsor, in a statement after the House vote.

"Liberty depends on the freedom of the press," Kiley said. "Journalists are often the first to expose government fraud, waste, abuse and encroachments on personal freedoms."

Kiley further made the case.

"A critical aspect of the freedom of the press is the pursuit of truth without government entanglements or intimidation," he stated. "Administrations from both political parties have unjustly targeted journalists and used compulsory process to obtain information from them about their sources. Most states have protected journalists from such interference, and it is past time for Congress to do so as well."

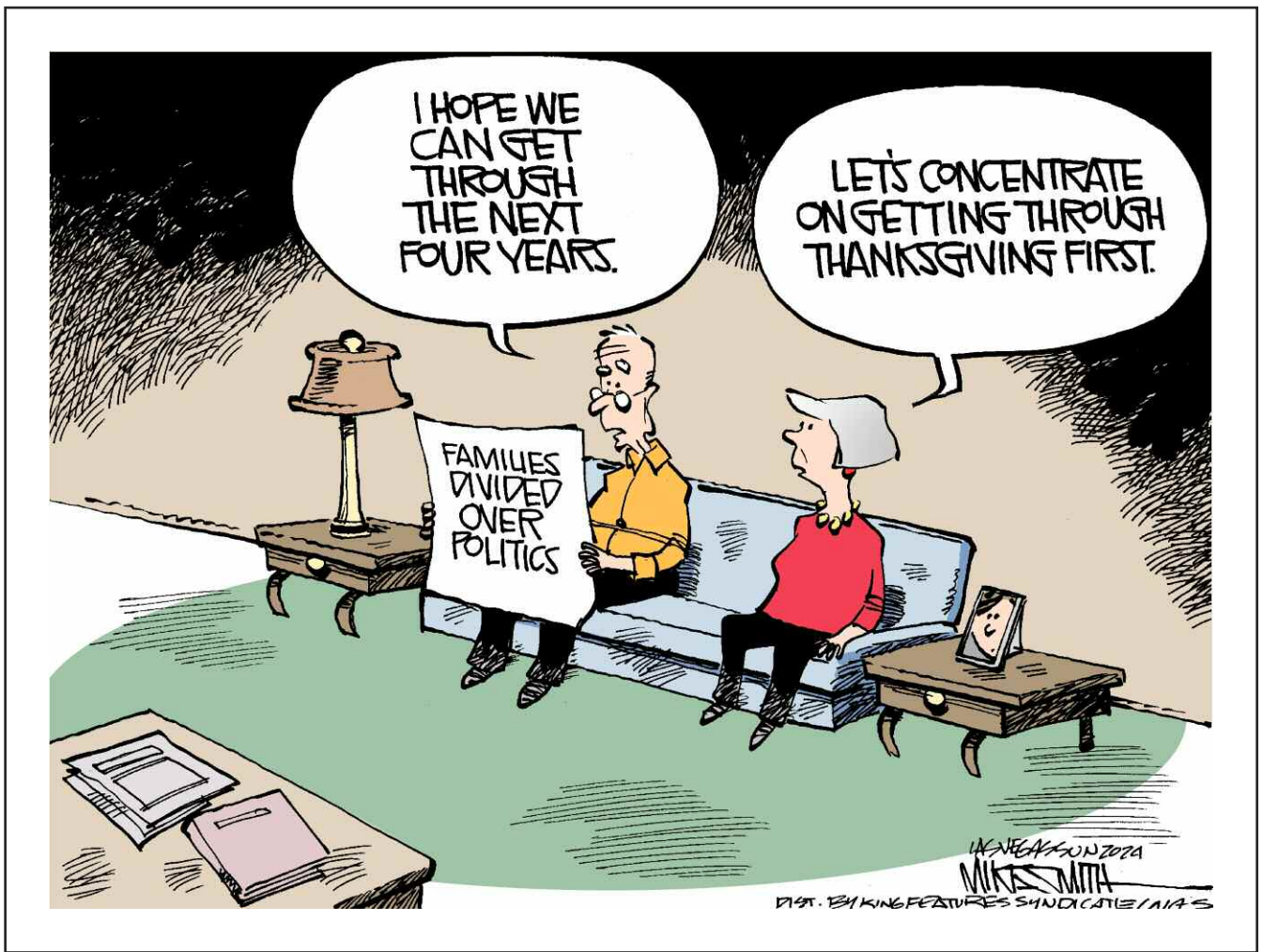
Indeed. This should be a priority for Republicans coming into power and focused on rooting out government waste, and for Democrats concerned about the resilience of democratic institutions and checks and balances.

In addition to making sure the press can do its job, Congress also has an obligation to ensure the press survives.

Also awaiting passage are bipartisan proposals to save newsroom jobs with tax credits (the Community News and Small Business Support Act) and give publishers a fighting chance against monopolistic tech companies (the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act).

Get the PRESS Act done now.

Then build on its consensus to pass the other journalism bills, to protect and ensure the survival of America's independent, free press system.



Choose to go back to living

By MICHAEL LEPPERT
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I went to see a movie on Friday night. It's one of my favorite things to do. I can walk to Living Room Theaters from my townhouse in ten minutes, and their popcorn is fantastic. There's nothing strange about going, except it had been months since I had been there. Now I have been twice in a week.

"A Real Pain" is a new film written and directed by Jesse Eisenberg, who stars in it with Kieran Culkin. They play a pair of mismatched cousins who go on a Holocaust tour through Poland to retrace the experience of their recently deceased grandmother. They are opposites but are united by their shared loss and the enormity of the history they are experiencing.

Life goes on. That was the message I left the film with, though admittedly, I was primarily at the movie for that very reason myself. I recommend my strategy to anyone struggling with the recent election's outcome.

On Sunday, I deactivated my Twitter/X account. No big deal, really. Except the app had become a habit and ditching it would mean a change in my daily routine. Oh no, not a change! I will admit that all of what I saw on that cesspool wasn't terrible. But I really didn't want to give up the Super 70's Sports feed or Rex Chapman's account.

I already had a good sized Threads following, but never really liked the clunky and algorithmic control of it. In the days that followed the election, I quickly became exhausted with the vibe there. Doomscrolling, or as my students refer to it, "rotting," was absolutely that, on my post-election-Threads feed. It was filled with people I agree with politically, but most of them seemed to

Michael Leppert



need a fatherly kick in the ass to encourage them to return to the land of the living.

Enter Bluesky, the most downloaded app in the App Store for the last week. It is a text-based social media app that looks remarkably like Twitter. Not X, but Twitter. That shouldn't be surprising since it was developed by Twitter under the leadership of its former CEO, Jack Dorsey.

When Elon Musk bought the platform, he severed ties with it. A reason the app was developed in the first place was to allow for users, and developers to have more control over their feeds, audiences and lists. Musk doesn't want anything to do with that kind of "freedom" of course, so Bluesky went off on its own.

But then a funny thing happened when the two operations separated. As reported by the New York Times on Sunday, Bluesky eventually became a public benefit corporation, a type of for-profit company that aims to have a positive impact on society rather than focus on maximizing shareholder value. That structure will likely differentiate it from Musk's X, and Mark Zuckerberg's Threads in a meaningful way for the foreseeable future. And if that doesn't, the B-Corp is also now being led by a woman, Jay Graber. Yes, change can sometimes be fantastic.

I'm loving Bluesky so far and am optimistic that my rotting problem

will keep improving. Even Rex Chapman is active there now, and while Super 70's has an account, it hasn't started posting yet. Stay tuned.

I turned cable news off. All of it. I have found that through the old school evening news, and the headlines from the multiple print media subscriptions I have, I know plenty. I know enough to know that the first two weeks of Trump 2, The Sequel, is certain to be what all sequels are: worse than the first. End of story.

And finally, I finished some narrative edits to my latest novel and delivered the latest version of it to a new publisher. I knew what I wanted to do to it in vivid detail but was slow at getting it done because of all the time I was wasting. The compulsion to know every sordid detail about the political world was getting in the way of important stuff for me. Not anymore.

The weekend before last, I went to my first movie in months. "We Live in Time," stars Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh. It's an unusual love story told with an unusual framework, bouncing from the present to the past of the relationship so often, it has the feel of multiple seasons of a streaming series.

That storytelling style had me asking myself the question, "how did we get here?" in real life. I have theories like everyone does, but I guess what's always been more important to me, is the question, "where are we going?"

Life goes on. I think I'll just keep going where I was already headed.

Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis.

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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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Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefontain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.umc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

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

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockkjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

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

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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Chef serves tradition and community

By DANIELLE CHARBONNEAU
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

ATLANTA — A few days after Thanksgiving, in his second year as executive chef at Meals on Wheels Atlanta, Chris Kelly received a thank you letter and phone call from a woman who had received one

of his carefully prepared turkey dinners. Meals on Wheels Atlanta is a nonprofit organization funded primarily by private, foundation and corporate donations that delivers prepared meals to low income Fulton County adults over the age of 60 who are homebound and struggle to

provide sustenance for themselves. The woman was a new recipient of Meals on Wheels services. After waiting more than a year, she had just come off the organization's 700-person waitlist to start receiving regularly delivered food. When she called Kelly, her adult children joined her.

"They called and told me this was the best Thanksgiving they had had in a long time," said Kelly. "And it was because they really felt someone cared, and someone was there, and they really, really felt as though they weren't alone for the first time in a long time. There was so much emotion on the phone. I

had to drink water a couple of times just to keep it together." After the call, the family came to visit the organization's northwest Midtown kitchen and thank Kelly in person. "This was the first time she was going to have food on a consistent basis," Kelly said. See Serves page 7A



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Tribune News Service/Philadelphia Inquirer/Tom Gralish

Sharing thanks

Hernandez family members (from left) Maria, Israel, Carmen, 17, and Genesis, 7, pass through the buffet line as HIAS Pennsylvania, a nonprofit that supports low-income immigrants, hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for new immigrants and refugees at the Old Pine Community Center in Philadelphia on Sunday.




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Addiction puts relationship at risk

DEAR ABBY: How do I handle an elderly aunt who has a gambling problem? I live in a town with casinos. She lives in another state four hours away. She calls me often to ask to stay with me, and if I am traveling, she asks to use my house, etc.

A year ago, she called me to help her get excluded from gambling in the state where she lives because she was out of control. She can no longer gamble where she lives, cannot afford a hotel to go to towns with a casino and sees me as her gambling getaway. I have explained that I have a roommate, and my place is small. I have no interest in someone who spends hours at a craps table coming into my home (I'm health conscious), and I flat out cannot accommodate her as a guest. She won't give up! Is my only option to end communication with her? — NOT BETTING ON HER

DEAR NOT BETTING: Screening her calls is one option. The other is to keep repeating your mantra that you cannot accommodate her because you have a roommate and your place is too small. Then encourage her to find another hobby. If you do, she may stop asking you and look for another enabler.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in middle school and part of a large friend group. I have one friend, "Kaleigh," who completely changed last year because of the influence of another girl. Kaleigh started saying inappropriate things and talking only about boys. She never did that before she became "best friends" with the other girl. It has ruined both of their reputations.

I can't decide if I should confront them and, if I did, what to say. I don't want either of them to be mad at me. We have had arguments before, and it ends up bad for the group when anyone gets into an argument with them. They also frequently get into arguments with each other, and somehow the whole group gets involved.

This has been going on for a year, and it has put a strain on the group. I don't know if I can handle more of this. I am not sure they will be easy to reason with if I confront them. What should I do? — MORE DRAMA IN TENNESSEE

DEAR MORE DRAMA: You stated that you are part of a large friend group. You can't "save" or change Kaleigh, and

Dear Abby



telling her she is ruining her reputation may come across as jealousy. Rather than confront them, start concentrating on friendships with other girls in the group. One thing I have realized over the years is you can never have enough friends.

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear late mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.

We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service.

That Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

Have a happy and safe celebration, everyone! — Love, ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My son's father, "Tony," and I dated for two years before our son was born. We split up seven years ago, and it's been on and off most of the time since then. This past year we have been growing closer again, and I asked him what he wants. Tony said he doesn't want a romantic relationship with anyone right now because he is working on his anger issues. He's a former combat Marine, and he's had these issues for years.

I have been honest about wanting a relationship when he is ready, but I'm really confused with the mixed messages he sends me. I asked about setting boundaries we both agree on, but Tony says he doesn't need any and that I should do what I feel is right for me. This leaves me feeling I'd be being used if the situation becomes intimate.

I have drawn the boundary at no sex unless we are in a relationship. Tony treats me like a friend and wants to hug or kiss me at times. I feel that because we don't currently want

the same relationship, I should move on. What is your advice? — ON HOLD IN OHIO

DEAR ON HOLD: I am sorry you didn't mention how Tony's anger issues manifest themselves. If they are so severe that he acts out, he does need professional help. You have wisely postponed having (more) sex with him without some kind of commitment, which he's unwilling to make.

From what you have written, your son's father isn't interested in more than a friendly relationship with you so he can have one with his son. While I admire that, I do NOT think you should plan on a future with him, or you could end up waiting forever.

DEAR ABBY: My spouse and I have been happily married for 31 years. However, we have a strained relationship with our daughter "Willia."

Although we don't like her pothead/never-held-a-job boyfriend of four years, we've tried to accept him. We even paid for a family vacation and included him.

I'll admit we were hard on Willa growing up, but we always said she could live at home while going to school. She's a hard worker, and we have told her how proud we are of her accomplishments. She's going to school, works two jobs and has never needed anything from us.

We see our daughter only on special occasions. We did family therapy to help our relationship, but she stopped going when the boyfriend came into the picture. My question is: How can I have a good relationship with my daughter? — MISSING IT IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR MISSING IT: You created a daughter who is self-reliant, hard-working and independent, and who likely distanced herself from you because you were so "hard" on her while she was growing up. I don't know whether I should congratulate you or commiserate with you, but as far as having a close relationship with your daughter, that ship may have sailed — unless you can convince Willa to get back into family therapy with you.

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

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Serves ...

Continued from page 6A
“They did not have to struggle. That was a moment I won’t forget. It is etched deeply into my heart.”

Before joining Meals on Wheels Atlanta in 2020, Kelly spent 11 years with Four Seasons resorts. He was mentored by renowned chefs and cooked in kitchens at first-class destinations in Vail, Colorado; San Francisco; Miami; and London. In March, just before the pandemic escalated, Kelly was reaching his culinary summit. He was in the running for the executive chef position at one of two Four Seasons restaurants.

“I had a couple interviews, and everything was going well,” Kelly remembered.

But something didn’t quite feel right. It was nagging at him. A fellow chef from the Four Seasons, Robert Gerstenecker, had been consulting for Meals on Wheels Atlanta and he planted the idea that Kelly might like to change tracks and come work for the nonprofit, which fills an important need.

According to 2023 statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 33% of Americans aged 65 and older have a disability, 28% live alone and 10% live below the poverty line. Older adults are at a higher risk of malnutrition due to decreased appetite and mobility issues. For 70% of Meals on Wheels Atlanta recipients, the nonprofit is their only source of food.

“I decided to listen to (Gerstenecker),” said Kelly. “Once I listened to him about what he was doing, I realized that I wanted something different.”

Kelly followed his gut, left the Four Seasons, took a pay cut and put on the Meals on Wheels Atlanta chef coat. At first, he was still a little uncertain.

“There was some trepidation,” he recalled. “Why am I here? Am I at the right place?” he asked himself.

“But then Thanksgiving solidified my choice. It solidified the fact that I’m here doing something for someone else and for people who really need it.”

The week before Thanksgiving, Kelly transforms the Meals on Wheels Atlanta kitchen into a turkey-cooking machine.

“We cook 150 birds,” he said.

Inside the cavernous stainless steel commercial kitchen, Kelly brines turkeys for two days, steams them, then roasts them to ensure they maintain their juicy tenderness. He boils the bird carcasses and turkey necks to create a rich stock, then reduces it to make a savory gravy. Traditional accompaniments, such as bread stuffing with sage and green bean casserole, are paired with the turkey before the meal is packaged, picked up and delivered by volunteers.

In addition to preparing 1,500 packaged turkey dinners for Meals

on Wheels Atlanta’s regular recipients, he also makes roughly 75 whole cooked turkeys and sides such as mac and cheese, stuffing, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie as a fundraiser for the general public who can preorder their Thanksgiving meals for takeaway. (The deadline to preorder has passed.)

Equally vital to the operation are the volunteers like Jason Tucker, who has been delivering meals for the organization for 15 years.

“For many, the volunteer is the only person (recipients) see during the week,” he said. “So that closeness becomes very real. I had one gentleman who, at first, was kind of cold and over time we became friendly. He was near the end of his life and one morning he was really not doing well. He came out of his apartment and he said, ‘I knew you would be here. You are a true friend’ ... he passed away not long after that.”

Operating from a 2,025-square-foot kitchen, which opened in July 2022 following a \$4 million capital campaign, Meals on Wheels Atlanta serves 1,500 meals daily, but it has the capacity to serve 3,500. With a waiting list of 700 people and a rapidly growing clientele caused by the aging boomer generation, Kelly said he hopes to expand the nonprofit’s reach. There’s only one thing stopping him.

“It’s just money. There’s nothing else,” he said.

“It’s disheartening because this country and this city has so much to offer. And I don’t think sometimes our story always gets out there. Everyone pays attention to children, pets and a lot of other things. What they don’t know is the people who are seniors, who have given us so much, who have laid the way, we’ve kind of forgotten about them.”

In Buckhead, another commercial kitchen will be humming with activity Thanksgiving Day as a pair of chefs prepare dinner for the residents of Lenbrook, a not-for-profit luxury retirement community.

Executive Chef Antonio Nazario and Todd Clements, general manager of dining services, will likely be found in the kitchen by 1 a.m. turning up the ovens in preparation to roast 27 enormous turkeys.

Lenbrook — with its swanky chandeliers, grand piano, valet parking and botanical plant-filled courtyard — may serve a different demographic than those served by chef Kelly at Meals on Wheels Atlanta, but Nazario and Clements have a similar, heartfelt mission: to create community through food.

The community’s banquet-style feast brings together about 350 to 400 residents, many of whom have made the community at Lenbrook their family-of-choice. For those residents who plan to gather off site with friends or relatives, Lenbrook also prepares what they call the Home for the Holidays menu, which allows

any of the roughly 550 residents to pick up full meals or à la carte items to bring to their celebrations.

“We turn through about 200 orders of just random side items and desserts,” said Clements.

Nazario grew up in Acapulco on the Pacific shore of Mexico eating dishes like paella with scallops and mussels for holidays. His American wife, of Irish heritage, first introduced him to turkey-day traditions. He was shocked when he first took a bite of yams, something he had known as a savory ingredient, to find the Americanized version was caramelized with marshmallows.

“They’re sweet,” he exclaimed.

Now Nazario, who has worked at Lenbrook since 2008, makes them almost the same way.

Being a chef is a dream realized for Nazario. When he came to the U.S. at age 19, he barely spoke English. He got a job washing dishes at a restaurant and idolized the chefs in their crisp white coats and tall chef toques.

“I just fell in love with those white hats,” he said. “I wasn’t allowed to touch one. And I kept asking the people, ‘Hey, how do I get to wear one of those?’ I swore to myself, ‘One day I will wear one.’”

Now he does. He has worked in several Atlanta-area restaurants, including Peasant Bistro, Fuego Spanish Grill and Rainwater Restaurant, and for the past 16 years has applied his passion for cooking to the retirement community.

Having lost his grandparents when he was just a child, Nazario said now he has many in the form of the residents at Lenbrook.

“They have adopted me as a grandson,” he said. “I didn’t get to have that experience growing up, but now I get to have it with them. It’s like one giant family.”

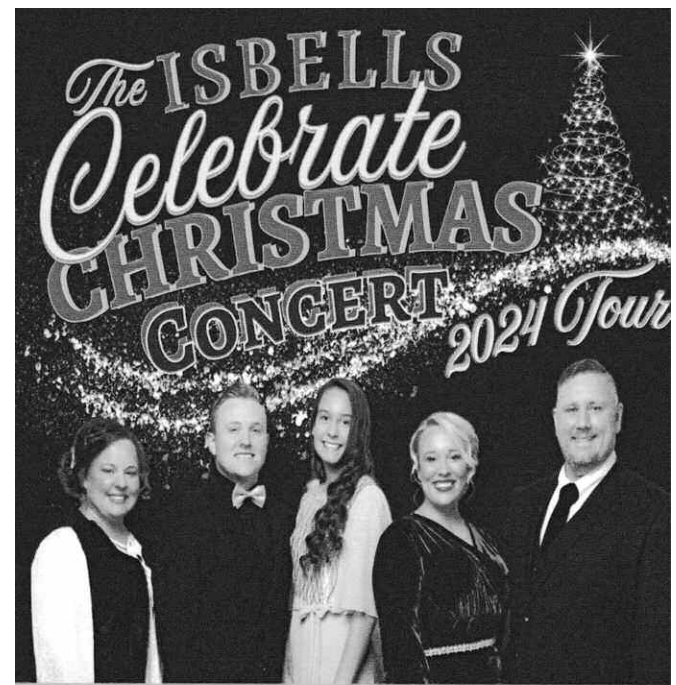
Clements’ career in health care centers and hospitals, combined with his experience as a country club chef, make him a natural fit at Lenbrook. Together he and Nazario tackle Thanksgiving service and help seniors connect over a luxe feast.

“The residents that live here, they’re extraordinary individuals,” said Clements. “They’ve done so many extraordinary things ... They still have so much to teach ... I get to really learn from them and they get to teach me what they’ve learned over their long, wonderful lives. I view it as an honor.”

It’s a sobering thought, but because of the age of their diners, all three chefs — Nazario, Clements and Kelly — recognize that in some cases they may be preparing someone’s last Thanksgiving meal.

“I don’t have to carry that burden on my shoulders,” Kelly said. “Because I realize that I’ve done everything I can to make this (Thanksgiving) as memorable as possible.”

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Prosecutions dropped

By **ZOE TILLMAN**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department ended its pursuit of criminal charges against Donald Trump, signaling a conclusion to the extraordinary federal prosecution of a former president whose reelection ensured he’d be shielded from charges in the White House.

Special counsel Jack Smith, who charged Trump with illegally conspiring to obstruct the 2020 election and with mishandling sensitive national security information after he left office, filed papers in court on Monday indicating the department would no longer move forward with either case against the president-elect.

The special counsel’s office sought to dismiss the election obstruction

Justice Department will not move forward with cases against president-elect

indictment against Trump in Washington. A few hours later, that motion was granted by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

In the classified records case, prosecutors said they won’t pursue an appeal to revive charges against Trump, but will press ahead with a challenge to a Florida federal judge’s dismissal of charges against his two co-defendants. The judge ruled earlier this year that Smith’s appointment was unconstitutional and tossed out the case.

Justice Department policy bars the prosecution of sitting presidents, forcing Smith’s hand to unwind the cases against Trump after he won the election. Trump, who denied wrongdoing, said he would fire Smith and order the department to close the special counsel’s work if he won a second term.

Smith wrote that his office “stands fully behind” the merits of the election obstruction case but the department’s prohibition on charging and prosecuting sitting presidents was “categorical.”

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Lingo signs

Lina Lingo signed her NLI to wrestle at Tiffin University on Nov. 15. Pictured from left are brother Drew, mother Sarah, Lina, father Matt and brother Freddie.

Patriot girls finish fourth at Ben Davis

Crawford, Winner take first in their brackets to lift Jay County

INDIANAPOLIS — Amara Crawford suffered her first career loss going toe-to-toe with the third-ranked wrestler on Thursday.

The freshman didn't let the hiccup bother her, as she upset the No. 8 wrestler en route to becoming the champion of her weight class.

Crawford bounced back from her first career loss to go 4-0 and win the 190-pound bracket on Saturday, helping the Jay County High School girls wrestling team to a fourth-place finish out of 25 teams at the Ben Davis Invitational.

Jay County finished with 141 points, trailing Franklin Central (183.5), Mooresville (178.5) and Whiteland Community (155.5).

Crawford provided one of the biggest lifts for the Patriots, securing four victories by fall and a decision to claim the 190 championship. She had to go through No. 8 Brylee Blackwell in the second round. The JCHS freshman got Blackwell on her back in 3 minutes, 11 seconds.

Crawford eventually claimed the championship match with an 8-3 decision over Jazel Guerror. She is now 10-1 with nine victories by fall on the season.

No. 1 Mallory Winner joined Crawford, dominating the 170 weight class. Winner pinned all three of her opponents for the victory.

No. 3 Lina Lingo — she's ranked in the 135 weight class — made it to the championship match in the 130-pound bracket, but came up just short. To get to the final match, Lingo had to pin No. 16 Dayonna Dyson. No. 7 June Wagner-Gilbert (also ranked in the 135-pound weight class) handed Lingo her first loss of the season with a 9-3 decision.

No. 4 Katie Rowles (100), Tatianna Willis (110) and Brenna Ruble (115) also suffered their first losses of the season. Rowles fell to No. 1 Ella Niebert 18-0 in the semifinal before coming back to claim third place. Ruble also fell to a ranked opponent as No. 6 Khloe Nedelsky by a pin in 5:26 before placing third. Willis dropped a pair of matches by fall to No. 10 Kaydie Epley and No. 11 Jaydis Sordelet, resulting in her not placing.

Emily Manor also placed third in the 140 bracket after being put on the mat by No. 2 Ava Allen (ranked in 145 weight class) in 1:06.

Also competing but not placing were:

- Sophie Thomas — 120 pound
- Allison Tipton — 125 pound
- Julianna Hernandez — 135 pound
- Maleah Parsons — 145 pound
- Madison Gage — 155 pound

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2024-25 Jay County boys swim preview



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pictured is the 2024-25 Jay County High School boys swim team. Front row from left are Lincoln Clamme, Matthew Fisher, Kamdyn Carter, Cooper Glentzer and Carson Westgerdes. Back row are David Keen, Bryden Carter, Max Klopfenstein, Grayson Swoveland and Peyton Yowell.

2023-24 season

While dealing with lower numbers at 14 athletes, the Patriots continued to decline in the sectional meet, placing 10th with 115 points. Only one tanker, Matthew Fisher, made the sectional final (outside of diving), while it had five swimmers represent in nine events. Jay County's struggles also showed up in dual meets as Jay County finished with a 3-10 record. In the Allen County Athletic Conference meet, the Patriots came up 15 points short of runner-up Adams Central, but were safe of the bottom spot, beating South Adams by 136. Joseph Dow's third-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle was the JCHS best.

Fast facts

- The Patriots last won the sectional meet in the 2001-02 season. Jay County has consistently declined in the postseason meet since the 2018-19 year when they finished fifth.

- The two Jay County freshmen, Carson Westgerdes and Cooper Glentzer, hold ACAC records at the junior high level. They both competed on the 300-yard freestyle team that set the standard, while Glentzer also set records in the 200 and 400 freestyles.

- JCHS returns its only swimmer to make the sectional finals last year in Matthew Fisher.

Projected events

Bryden Carter – Diving
Kamdyn Carter – Breaststroke/freestyle
Lincoln Clamme – Breaststroke
Matthew Fisher – Butterfly/Backstroke
Cooper Glentzer – Distance freestyle
David Keen – Butterfly
Max Klopfenstein – Freestyle
Grayson Swoveland– Sprint freestyle
Carson Westgerdes – IM/Butterfly/Breaststroke
Peyton Yowell – Sprint freestyle

Top returners

Matthew Fisher
Eighth in sectional backstroke

Peyton Yowell
13th in sectional 100-yard freestyle

David Keen
14th in sectional 200-yard freestyle

Lincoln Clamme
15th in sectional breaststroke

Top departures

Joseph Dow
10th in sectional 200-yard freestyle

Brason Glassford
Eighth in sectional diving

Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
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. 20-22	Sectional	5:30 p.m.

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.

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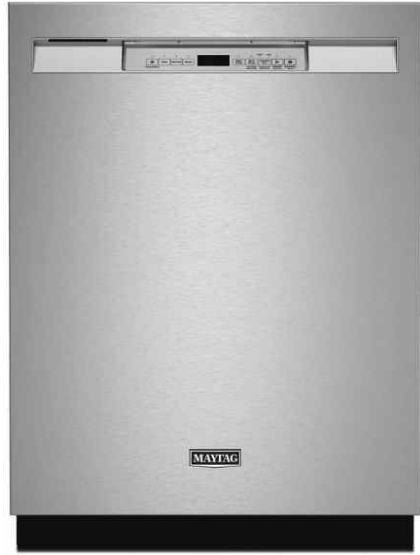
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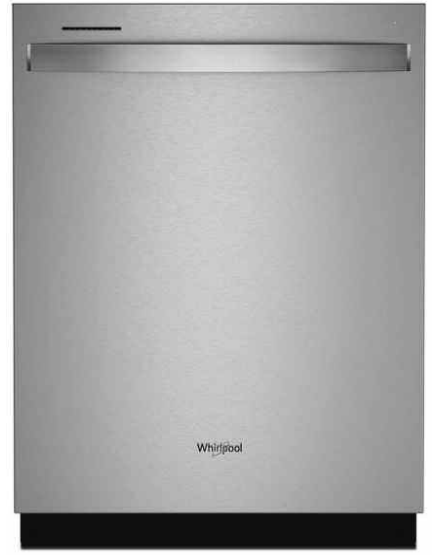
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2024-25 Fort Recovery swim preview



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured is the 2024-25 Fort Recovery High School boys and girls swim teams. Front row from left are Liza Knapke, Livy Timmerman, Nevaeh Lennartz and Aubrey Shuttleworth. Back row are assistant coaches Kylee Sutter, Abby Timmerman, Carson Fullenkamp, Joelle Kaup, Caleb Smith and coach Mindy Bulp.

Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Monday, Dec. 2	Tri-meet	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7	Celina Sprints	9 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 9	Delta	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12	Wayne Warrior Invite	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	Northwest Ohio Classic	9 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Holiday Swim Meet	10 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	South Adams	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10-11	JCHS Invite	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	St. Henry	6 p.m.
Jan. 18-19	Southwest Classic Invite	TBA
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Delta	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	MAC Invite	1 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 30	Tri-meet	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Boys Sectional	TBA
Saturday, Feb. 8	Girls Sectional	TBA
Friday, Feb. 14	District	TBA
Feb. 20-21	State	TBA

Matches to watch

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 10-11, vs. JCHS Invite
With thinned out teams, this will be the Indians first chance to get a feel for what events each swimmer would best fit into during larger meets.

Saturday, Jan. 25, in MAC Invite

The Midwest Athletic Conference meet will both serve as a final tune up for the Tribe tankers in a larger meet before they head off to the sectional, as well as it provides them an opportunity to claim some conference accolades.

Fast facts

•Fort Recovery has sent swimmers to the state meet in three of the past four seasons. Teigen Fortkamp made it as an individual in 2023 and 2024, while relay teams got through in 2021 and 2023.

•Caleb Smith broke the school record for the 100-yard breaststroke last season with a time of 1 minute, 10.83 seconds, on Jan. 22, when the Tribe picked up its only win against St. Henry.

•With a smaller lineup, the Indians plan on mixing their lineup around throughout the season to find the best way to maximize points, while matching swimmers to events they are strong in.

Boys projected events

Carson Fullenkamp – breaststroke/distance freestyle
Caleb Smith – breaststroke/backstroke

Girls projected events

Joelle Kaup – sprint freestyle/butterfly
Liza Knapke – butterfly/distance freestyle
Nevaeh Lennartz – distance freestyle/butterfly
Aubrey Shuttleworth – freestyle/backstroke
Livy Timmerman – breaststroke/sprint freestyle

Top Returners

Caleb Smith
Ninth in sectional breaststroke

Carson Fullenkamp
13th in sectional 100-yard freestyle

Joelle Kaup
14th in district 50-yard freestyle

Nevaeh Lennartz
24th in sectional 500-yard freestyle

Top Departures

Sage Wendel
13th in district 100-yard backstroke

Teigen Fortkamp
23rd in state 100-yard backstroke

Paige Guggenbiller
23rd in district 100-yard breaststroke

Allison Knapke
14th in sectional 200-yard IM

2023-24 season

Despite fighting a low number of athletes, the Indians found success in the sectional, getting four individual swimmers through in six events and two relay teams as well. Fort Recovery couldn't get the relay through to state, but Teigen Fortkamp made it in the 100-yard backstroke and the 50 freestyle. She earned 23rd and 29th-place finishes, respectively. With only three swimmers, the boys team only managed one victory on the year against St. Henry, for a 1-11 record. The girls took a majority of their meets to claim an 8-4 record. Fortkamp and Sage Wendel both earned a pair of MAC titles for the Tribe.

Coach Mindy Bulp says

"We lost several seniors, so I would consider this year and the next year to be kind of building years for us. Joelle (Kaup) is a returning district swimmer and I've got a couple of junior boys that are returning. Nevaeh Lennartz is also a returning senior. The rest of the group is fairly new. Right now we are going to go back to the basics. We're going to really focus on doing things right and then working on speed after we've mastered all the finer points on each stroke, our starts and our turns and just focusing on doing things well and then turn it into speed. This is a great group of kids. I think we're going to focus on having fun and personal bests and really improving through the season."



May your holiday overflow with
love, joy, friendship and fun!

With thanks aplenty for your support,





The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Big time block

Amelia Heath of the Jay County High School girls basketball team blocks a shot attempt from Winchester's Madyson Hummel during Saturday's 42-30 victory. JCHS blocked five shots in the game.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling at Richmond — 5 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls basketball (varsity only) vs. Woodlan — 6:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Indian Lake — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
12 p.m. — College basketball: Louisville vs. Indiana (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — College ESPN West Virginia at Gonzaga (ESPN)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon at San Diego State (TNT)
4:30 p.m. — College basketball: Bucknell at Maryland (BTN)
5 p.m. — College basketball: Oklahoma vs. Providence (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: South Dakota at Nebraska (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Portland Trail Blazers at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Davidson vs. Arizona (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Tampa Bay Lightning (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at Wisconsin (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Rutgers at Alabama (TBS)
10 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Colorado Avalanche (TNT); Anaheim Ducks at Seattle Kraken (NBC)

Thursday
12:30 a.m. — College basketball: Notre Dame vs. Houston (TBS)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Minnesota vs. Wichita State (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — NFL: Chicago Bears at Detroit Lions (CBS)
1:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at Iowa State (FOX)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Florida vs. Wake Forest (ESPN)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Purdue vs. N.C. State (FS1)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas vs. Illinois (CBS)
4:30 p.m. — NFL: New York Giants at Dallas Cowboys (FOX)
5:30 p.m. — College basketball: Utah State vs. St. Bonaventure (ESPN); BYU vs. Ole Miss (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Memphis at Tulane (ESPN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Miami Dolphins at Green Bay Packers (NBC)

Friday
12 p.m. — College football: Oklahoma State at Colorado (ABC); Minnesota at Wisconsin (CBS); Oregon State at Boise State (FOX); Navy at East Carolina (ESPN); Mississippi State at Ole Miss (ABC)
1:30 p.m. — College basketball: Valparaiso at DePaul (FS1)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Marquette at Rutgers (BTN)
3 p.m. — NFL: Las Vegas Raiders at Kansas City Chiefs (ABC)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Utah State at Colorado State (FS1)
4 p.m. — College football: Stanford at San Jose State (CBS)
4 p.m. — College basketball: San Jose State at UNC Wilmington (FOX)
6:30 p.m. — NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins at Boston Bruins (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Clippers at Minnesota Timberwolves (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Georgia Tech at Georgia (ABC); Nebraska at Iowa (NBC)
8 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — College football: Utah at UCF (FOX)
9 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Dallas Stars (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Planning the play

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing North and West hands with cards like J652, A7, 963, KJ76, etc.

Bidding table showing South, West, North, East bids and opening lead: jack of hearts.

A competent declarer always forms at least a tentative plan of action before playing a card from dummy.

Consider the present deal where West leads a heart against four spades.

if all goes well, he can eventually discard one of his diamond losers on dummy's fourth club.

South's only real problem, therefore, is to manage his trumps in such a way that East cannot gain the lead with the queen of trump if he happens to have that card.

Accordingly, South wins the heart lead with the king, cashes the ace of trump, leads a heart to dummy's ace and returns a low trump, finessing the ten after East follows low.

But let's say that the worst happens, and the finesse loses to West's doubleton queen.

Note that if declarer fails to take the trump finesse and cashes the A-K instead, he unnecessarily jeopardizes the contract.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A rare defensive maneuver

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing North and West hands with cards like J109, KQJ8, K4, J982, etc.

Bidding table showing South, West, North, East bids and opening lead: three of spades.

There is a certain amount of guesswork in bridge, but some of it can be successfully resolved by taking advantage of the information available in almost every deal.

For example, take this case where the defense must function perfectly to defeat five clubs.

But in practice, this is easier said than done. To begin with, West

must find the killing spade lead. And even if he does, East must find the right defense or South will romp home with 11 tricks.

Assume you're East and partner leads the three of spades following the auction shown. Partner should have the queen of spades, as he would have led "top of nothing" with three or four small spades.

Let's say you win with the king and cash the ace, declarer contributing the 6-4 on the first two tricks. At this point you have a difficult problem to solve.

Oddly enough, the problem can be resolved by winning the opening lead with the king and returning the deuce of spades.

If West started with the Q-7-5-3 of spades, he will know that declarer has no more spades and will shift to a heart to sink the contract.

CRYPTOQUIP H A M O N X I S H G Q D N I N K O X B J O K N Z Q Q O Q B I N J J M G E Y H Z X ' J T D F M Z H I K C D Z I Y E Z G M E Z J S B B P N J M U A M J N M T D I S D G Q J E H F H G E P K D N T O G C K P N O . G E N K N Y Z A T C S E

CRYPTOQUIP Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERYBODY REALLY LOVED WHAT I HAD COOKED INSIDE MY TURKEY. THERE WAS MUCH ADO ABOUT STUFFING. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS and DOWN words. Includes solution time: 22 mins and yesterday's answer grid.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS and DOWN words. Includes solution time: 21 mins and yesterday's answer grid.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday December 19th, 2024
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 1854 W SR 28
Ridgeville, IN.
OPEN HOUSE Sunday Dec. 8th & Sunday Dec. 15th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.
REAL ESTATE
37 Acres in Section 7, Ward Twp., Randolph County, IN. Offered in 1 parcel. Improvements to include 2 Bedroom brick ranch home with 1124 sq. ft. finished living area. Central air, and 12'x12' all seasons room. 45' x 30' and 50' x 16' and 40' x 36' and 22' x 12' pole buildings complete with cement floors. Stocked pond, some fencing. 18.5 acres tillable, 12.4 acres wood and pond, balance buildings and road frontage.
OWNER: Winningham Family
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

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

The Jay County Commissioners are taking bids to lease 293.8 acres of tillable land at the Jay County Retirement Center on county road 300 N. The term of the lease is for three years. A copy of this lease is available for review at the Jay County Auditor's Office on the second floor of the courthouse in Portland, IN. Interested parties should submit their sealed bid to the Jay County Auditor's Office by Friday, December 6, 2024 at 4:00 PM. The bids will be opened at 9:30AM on December 9th, 2024. The Commissioners reserve the right to reject all bids.
The property may not be leased to a person who is ineligible under I.C. 36-1-11-16.
Emily Franks,
Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 11-20,27-2024-HSPAXLP

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. 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 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. Manior
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
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Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
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Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL BIDS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the office of the Jay County Auditor, at the Courthouse in Portland, Indiana, 47371, Friday December 6, 2024 until the hour of 4:00 pm local time for Item 1 to be delivered to the county in the amounts and at such time as ordered by the head of the department. Bids are to be from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 with option escalator clause as an alternate. Specifications are available in the Jay County Auditor's Office, Portland, Indian 47371 for the following items:
Item #1 Crushed Stone 150,000 tons or less of crushed stone conforming to the 1995 Indiana Department of Highways Standard Specifications. All stone is to be loaded on County trucks.
The Board of Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to accept the one(s) which, in their judgment will be in the best interest of Jay County, being the best and/or lowest response and responsible bidder for each line or class of materials by the order of the Board of Commissioners of Jay County, Indiana.
Emily Franks
Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 11-20,27-2024-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38D01-2405-MF-000007, wherein Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC was Plaintiff, and James Bercau, was a Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 12th day of December, 2024 at 10:00 AM of said day, at 120 N. Court Street, Ste. 305, Portland, IN 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana:
PART AND PARCEL OF OUT LOT FIVE (5) IN BLOCK TWO (2) IN THE WEST ADDITION TO PORTLAND, INDIANA. DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT A POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID OUT LOT SIXTY SIX (66) FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER THEREOF, AND RUNNING THENCE NORTH ABOUT TEN (10) RODS TO A POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF CRANE ALLEY IN SAID ADDITION, THENCE WEST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF CRANE ALLEY, SIXTY-SIX (66) FEET TO THE TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND HERETOFORE DEEDED BY ONE CHRISTOPHER S. ARTHUR AND WIFE TO ONE OTIS H. AND JENNIE S. WALTERS (SEE DEED RECORD 47 PAGE 473, JAY COUNTY RECORDS); THENCE SOUTH ABOUT TEN (10) RODS TO A POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID OUT LOT, THENCE EAST ON SAID SOUTH LINE, SIXTY-SIX (66) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
38-07-20-103-110.000-034
and commonly known as: 710 W Main St, Portland, IN 47371.
Subject to all liens, encumbrances, rights of redemption, easements and restrictions of record not otherwise foreclosed and extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause # 38D01-2405-MF-000007 in the Superior Court of the County of Jay Indiana, and subject to all real estate taxes, and assessments currently due, delinquent or which are to become a lien.
Said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid.
The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney.
Larry R. Newton, Jr.
Jay County Sheriff
Doyle & Foutty, P.C.
41 E Washington St, STE 400
Indianapolis, IN 46204
CR 11-6,13,20-2024-HSPAXLP

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LEGAL NOTICE OF BIDS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the office of the Jay County Auditor, at the Courthouse in Portland, Indiana, 47371, December 6, 2024 until the hour of 4:00 PM with opening at 9:35 AM on December 9, 2024 for cash rental of approximately 68 acres of farm ground owned by Jay County located in Section 18, Wayne Township, Jay County, Indiana. The term of the lease agreement shall be for the 2025 crop year only. The Board of Jay County Commissioners shall select the highest and most responsive bid.
The Board of Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to accept the one which, in their judgment will be in the best interest of Jay County, being the best and/or lowest response and responsible bidder.
The property may not be leased to a person who is ineligible under I.C. 36-1-11-16.
Emily Franks, Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 11-20,27-2024-HSPAXLP

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

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PIEDMONT APARTMENTS, 778 W 7th Street, Portland, Indiana, accepting applications for 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments, no application fee. Rent base on 30% of your gross income. Call 260-726-2920, TDD 800-743-3333. This is an Equal Opportunity Housing Complex. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 11th day of December, 2024 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.
Amount Approved
COUNTY GENERAL
1000-380-20-0040 Jail-Medical & Hospital \$20,000.00
ARP-2021 CLFRF \$26,600.18
8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services- REA \$6,600.18
Total \$53,200.36
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action time.
Emily Franks
Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 11-27-2024-HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT
Jay County, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, has developed preliminary plans for a bridge replacement on County Road (CR) 1100 West (Des 2101728), approximately 0.4 mile south of SR 26, in Knox Township, Jay County, Indiana.
The project proposes replacing the existing bridge with a three-span continuous reinforced concrete slab. It is anticipated the new bridge will have a total length of 70 feet with a 28-foot clear roadway width and no weight or height restrictions. The new roadway design will be based on criteria for a rural local road and provide two 10-foot travel lanes bordered by 4-foot paved shoulders adjacent to guardrail and 2-foot aggregate shoulders in sections without guardrail. The posted speed limit will remain at 55 miles per hour (mph). It is anticipated the approach roadway reconstruction will extend 240 feet on the south side and 265 feet on the north side. No grade raise is anticipated, and full-depth pavement replacement will be necessary. The approach slabs will be replaced, and Midwest Guardrail System (MGS) guardrail and Type OS end treatments will be installed at each corner according to Indiana Design Manual requirements. In addition, backfilling will occur for the previous structure and the new steel piles. Approximately 1.5 feet of riprap will be placed for scour protection. Grading will occur, resulting in flat bottom ditches with 2:1 or 3:1 side slopes. The field driveway entrance at the northwest corner will be impacted by construction activities, and its reconstruction will occur as a part of the coordination with the property owner. The project limits are approximately 305 feet north and 280 feet south of the centerline of the bridge, and approximately 135 east and 135 feet west of the center of the bridge. The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will require a full road closure on CR 1100 West with a detour utilizing Division Road, SR 167, and SR 26. The detour will be two miles long and last approximately 6 months. Anticipated construction is in Fall 2026. The project is approximately 0.1 miles in length. Land use surrounding the project area is agricultural fields. Construction of the project will require approximately 0.8 acre of permanent right-of-way (ROW) and 0.3 acre of temporary ROW. Both federal and local funds are to be utilized for the construction of this project. The construction cost is \$1,841,000.
The Federal Highway Administration and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) have agreed that this project within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document with no significant impacts to wetlands. Initially, permanent impacts to Mud Creek were scoped as 260 linear feet and 0.025 acre, however, as the project design progressed, impacts were reduced to approximately 25 linear feet and 0.003 acre due to riprap placement and interior bent construction. This change will be reflected in the final environmental document. In addition, approximately 100 linear feet and 0.055 acre of Mud Creek will be temporarily impacted due to cofferdam placement. Approximately 264 linear feet and 0.040 acre of Unnamed Tributary (UNT) to Mud Creek will be permanently impacted due to channel grading and riprap placement. There will be no temporary impacts to UNT to Mud Creek. Lastly, approximately 0.04 acre of tree clearing will occur. Proposed impacts have been minimized to the extent practicable. Preliminary design plans, along with the CE document, are available for review at the following locations:
1. Egis BLN USA, Inc. (Egis), 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
2. Jay County Public Library, 315 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana 47371
3. Jay County Highway Department, 1035 E 200 N, Portland, Indiana 47371
4. Online at: <https://tinyurl.com/Des-No-2101728>
All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Grace Gjerde by email at grace.gjerde@egis-group.com, by phone at 317-806-3029, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250 on or before December 5, 2024. In addition, a hard copy of the project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed, please contact Grace Gjerde by email at grace.gjerde@egisgroup.com, by phone at 317-806-3029, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.
In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act," with advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodation for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process, including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight-impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids, including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required, please contact Grace Gjerde at 317-806-3029 or grace.gjerde@egis-group.com or Taylor Darrah at 317-467-3915 or tdarrah@indot.in.gov for information.
This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."; 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) stating, "Public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process, as necessary."; approved by the Federal Highway Administration U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.
CR 11-20,27-2024-HSPAXLP

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Restoring for weddings



Photo provided

This old barn northwest of Bryant has been deconstructed to create a new wedding venue. The new facility utilizes as many of the old barn's timbers as possible as well as some from two other old barns on the Runyon family property. Owned by Dawn and David Runyon, the new venue to be known as Sunflower Hills Historic Barn, is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Old barn will have new life as event venue

By LOUISE RONALD

The Commercial Review

Something new is growing at the Runyon farm northwest of Bryant — a wedding venue.

The idea came from an unexpected source said Dawn Runyon, who will

own and operate the venue as Sunflower Hills Historic Barn.

“One day my hairdresser said, ‘Hey, you’ve got some old barns, don’t you? ... Did you ever think about cleaning one of them out for a wedding?’” Runyon recalls.

She had never considered such a thing. The idea did not appeal.

“You’ve got to be kidding me,” she remembers saying.

The conversation, however, stayed with Dawn as she and her husband,

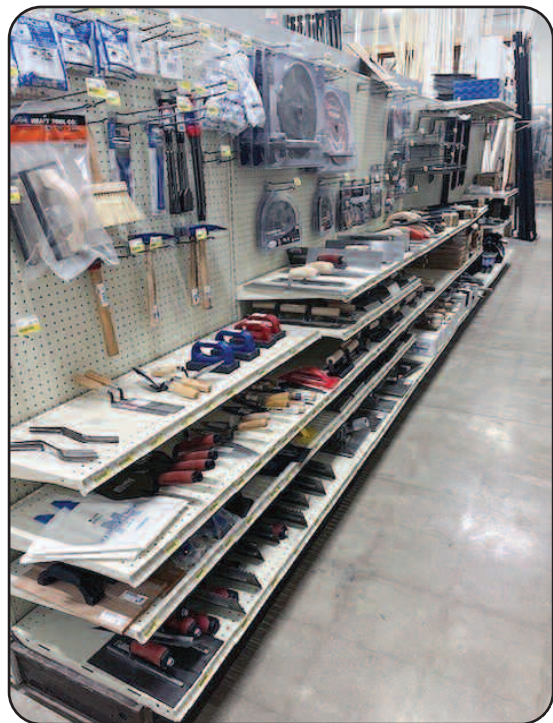
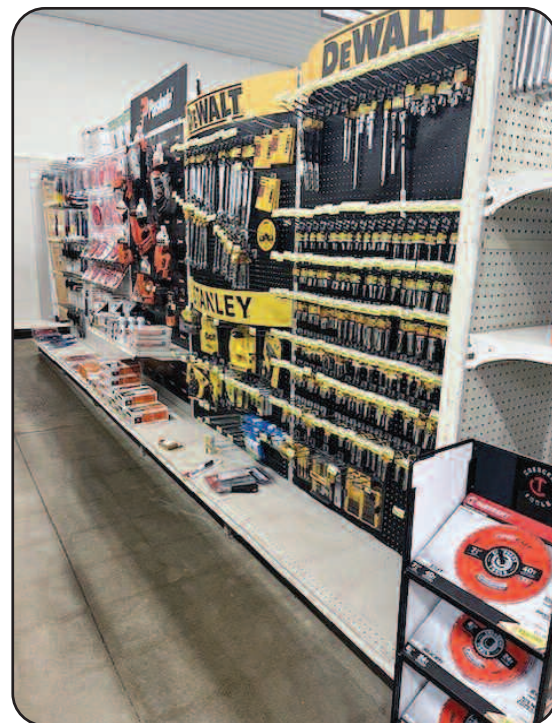
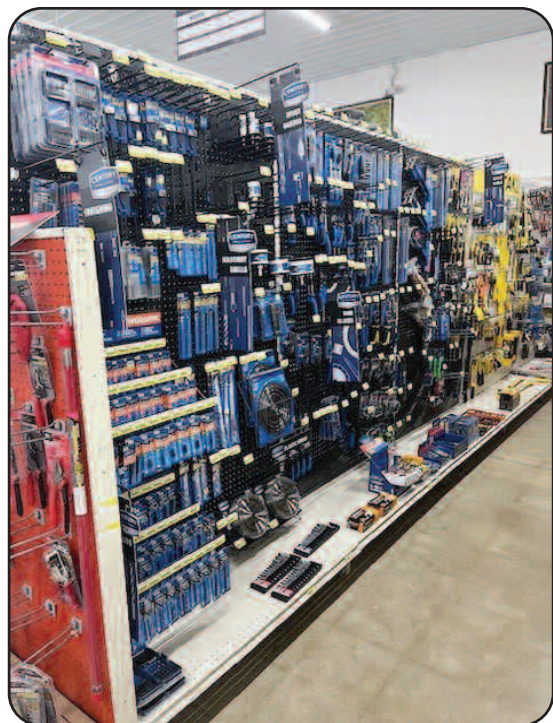
David, found themselves discussing ways to diversify their income in anticipation of retirement. Dawn’s husband and son, also named David, farm some 900 acres. The family has been in the area since 1937 and the

younger David, now 25, plans to continue the tradition.

In 1972, the family purchased a small farm that adjoined properties they already owned. They cultivated the fields, but the homestead area — house

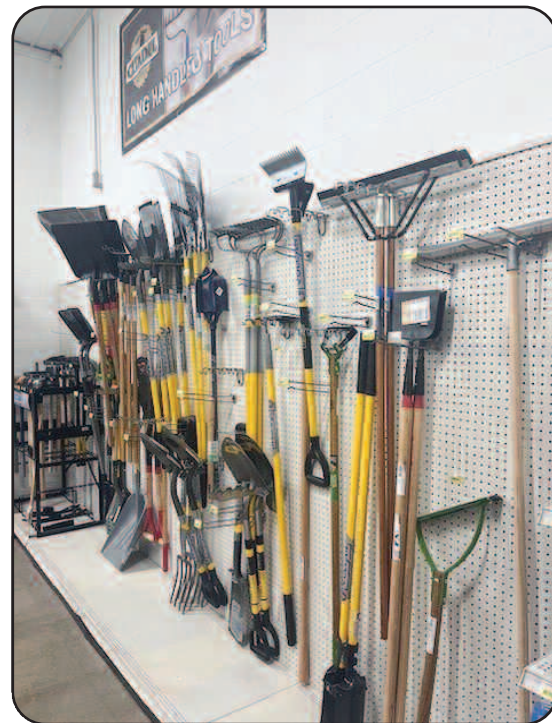
and barn and surrounding plot — gradually fell into ruin. The house was demolished some time ago. The barn needed serious attention.

Could that land somehow add to their income? See Restoring page XC



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Photo provided

Bank donates

First Bank of Berne recently donated \$3,000 to Pennville Community Park in support of its purse bingo fundraiser. Pictured are agribusiness banker Angela Paxson, mortgage lender Tanner McClain and the Pennville Community Park Board and Purse Bingo Committee.

Drive is underway

Pak-a-Sak has launched its five week Paper Kettle Drive at 31 locations in Indiana.

The campaign will benefit The Salvation Army's Christmas assistance and emergency assistance programs. Paper kettles can be purchased for \$1 at Pak-a-Sak stores.

"Pak-a-Sak has been a great supporter of The Salvation Army and we're excited that they're bringing back the Paper Kettle program this year," said Maj. Marc Johnson, divisional commander for The Salvation Army Indiana Division, in a press release. "As the cost of living continues to rise, we're seeing more and more Hoosiers turn to us to help put food on the table and keep the lights on. With partners like Pak-a-Sak, we know we can continue to answer those calls for help."

Open house set

Adams Woodcrest Assisted Living will host a Holiday Open House from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. The event will offer tours of the facility and a chance to meet with residents and staff. Refreshments will be available. The facility is located at 1300 Mercer Avenue, Decatur.

Hosting drive

Menards stores are serving as Toy Drive drop sites this year. Sites will be near the exits of each Menards store. Shoppers can donate unwrapped gifts for children in need through the end of November.

Menards stores in the region include sites in Muncie, Richmond, Anderson and Celina, Ohio.

Bank donates

First Financial Bank recently made donations to local food banks following a drive at its locations in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois.

In total, the bank collected more than 5,700 items during its drive in October.

"We are grateful for such an incredible response on this important collaboration to give a helping hand to our neighbors," said Roddell McCullough, chief corporate responsibility officer for First Financial Bank, in a press release.

Agreement reached

Indiana Michigan Power filed a joint settlement last week with the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, Google, the Data Center Coalition and the Citizens Action Coalition.

The settlement requires new "large load customers" such as data centers to make long-term financial commitments to cover the costs of their energy usage. In turn, Indiana Michigan Power is required to invest in additional energy generation and new transmission lines to such facilities.

"I&M looks forward to working with some of the leading technology companies in the world that have chosen to locate in northeast Indiana. It is an exciting time for our region and I&M is committed

Business roundup

to doing our part to support these customers as they bring investments and jobs to Indiana," said Steve Baker, I&M president and chief operating office, in a press release. "I&M has the responsibility to serve the new customers, while also protecting existing customers, including residential, small business and those within other industries, from impacts related to necessary infrastructure improvements required to serve these customers."

Flights added

Indianapolis International Airport will begin offering flights to Atlanta, Tampa, Florida, and Portland, Oregon.

Frontier Airlines will offer the flights to Atlanta and Tampa. Allegiant Air will fly to Portland. The new flights are slated to begin in the spring.

"Along with more flights and more options, this will be the first nonstop flight out of Indy to Portland," said Mario Rodriguez, Indianapolis Airport Authority executive director, in a press release. "These new flights enhance access to major cities on both coasts and into the Sun Belt — and brings our total nonstop count to 51."

Speakers announced

Brandon Schroeder and Chad Williams will be the keynote speakers for the 2025 Indiana Safety and Health Conference.

Schroeder is an electrician who speaks about safety. Williams is a former U.S. Navy SEAL who will discuss leadership and teamwork.

This year's conference will run from Feb. 24 through 26 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will also offer forklift safety training classes on Feb. 4, May 20 and Nov. 13 and Occupational Safety and Health Administration courses in January and August.

For more information, or to register, visit indianachamber.com.

McRib returns

The McRib sandwich will make its annual return to the McDonald's menu.

The sandwich, which has been a seasonal item for the chain, will be available beginning Dec. 3. McDonald's will also offer half-gallon jugs of its McRib sauce at wholelottamcribsausage.com.

Offering boxes

Indiana Grown is offering a 2024 Indiana Grown Holiday Box for purchase as a holiday gift.

The boxes feature items from Indiana Grown members. The initiative seeks to highlight local products.

This year's boxes include a variety of items including travel-sized

scented lotions from The Lotion Company of Muncie.

"We are honored to be highlighting these small businesses through the second annual Indiana Grown Holiday Box" said Caroline Patrick, director of Indiana Grown. "The opportunity to continue highlighting local products throughout Indiana especially during the holiday season is an honor."

For more information, visit indianagrown.org.

Added to board

Eli Lilly has elected Jon Moeller to its board of directors.

Moeller currently serves as chairman of the board, president and CEO of Procter & Gamble. He has also held positions in finance, business and strategy.

"I am honored to welcome Jon Moeller to our board of directors," said David A. Ricks, Lilly chair and CEO, in a press release. "As the CEO of an iconic American company with global reach, Jon brings deep expertise in driving strategic and operational excellence at scale. His long-standing success in leading a consumer-centric organization and providing expert counsel will offer valuable perspective to our board."

Also, Karen Walker will transition to a new role with the company, leaving the board of directors at the end of the year and collaborating with Lilly on digital commercial activities.

Spinning off

Comcast last week announced plans to create a new company involving its television networks.

The independent firm — SpinCo — will include USA Network, CNBC, MSNBC, Oxygen, E!, SYFY and the Golf Channel along with other assets. Combined the various channels will reach about 70 million households in the U.S.

"When you look at our assets, talented management team and balance sheet strength, we are able to set these businesses up for future growth," said Brian L. Roberts, chairman and CEO of Comcast, in a press release. "With significant financial resources from day one, SpinCo will be ideally positioned for success and highly attractive to investors, content creators, distributors and potential partners."

Appointments made

Dollar General last week announced the appointment of Tom Hutchins as senior vice president for technology and Kevin Pinchon as senior vice president for distribution.

Hutchins has 25 years of experience in information technology and retail, including with Office Depot and AutoZone, and most recently served as vice president of technology and strategy at Tractor Supply Company. Pinchon will join Dollar General after serving as vice president of HD Supply.

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Battling the bugs

Software testing lab was born out of technology struggles

By KALEA HALL
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

WARREN, Michigan — General Motors Co. has developed a software-testing lab inside its Global Technical Center that it's replicating elsewhere, including in GM's Silicon Valley office, to prevent bugs from entering new vehicles and affecting customers.

The lab was born out of GM's software struggles, which included a stop sale on the Chevrolet Blazer EV for intermittent issues with in-vehicle screens and DC fast charging at certain public stations. It's one of the new software testing "innovations" at GM "that's rapidly increased the efficiency and rigor of software testing, catching 10 times the number of defects in development, and doing it earlier in the process," Dave Richardson, GM's senior vice president of software and services engineering, told investors and analysts at the automaker's early October Investor Day event.

GM isn't alone in the battle to keep software glitches out of vehicles. Automakers from Tesla Inc. to GM's crosstown rival Stellantis NV and Volkswagen AG have all dealt with software woes, with some leading to recalls.

In fact, more than 41.6% of all vehicles recalled so far in 2024 involved software issues, up from 14.9% in 2023, according to Envorso, a Detroit-based software consulting firm that tracks software recalls. This year's software recalls were driven by two each from Tesla and Stellantis.

Automakers have historically handled software in ways that doesn't mesh with what's needed for today's vehicles, experts say.

"It's kind of the difference between (Apple co-founder) Steve Jobs and Henry Ford. Henry Ford thought about how



Tribune News Service/The Detroit News/Kalea Hall

Connor Allison, a senior systems engineer at General Motors Co.'s Warren Technical Center, explains how developers can access a new software lab the automaker developed over the last year.

you did an assembly line and how you put all the pieces together on the assembly line. Jobs would think about it from the experience and how the software integrates with the hardware and working that experience through before you do manufacturing," said Todd Warren, a senior adviser at Envorso who specializes in software strategy for the automotive industry.

Part of the issue is that legacy automakers assemble parts that they get from suppliers —

and those parts include software.

"Quite literally, they put all those pieces together on a table and wire them together and then wonder why the software doesn't work," Warren said. "You can't do it that way. ... The further you get from when the software developer types in the code to when you find the bug, the more expensive and slow it is to fix that bug."

That's why automakers like GM are rethinking their software strategies by shifting the

software testing "left," as Richardson talked about during Investor Day, because "if you're finding those bugs when you're driving the car, it's way too late. It's hard to track down, it's slow to fix."

Following its series of software woes with the Blazer and other new EV products, GM's software team is focused on that "shift to the left" and has moved software testing and validation "as early in the development process as possible before all software components are integrated into the final product," Richardson explained at the Investor Day event.

To facilitate the shift, GM integrated tech-industry standard tooling and processes for developers to write better code, tracked oversight of quality, introduced testing automation, began testing systems in the cloud and "built a global network of software quality labs, where we have hardware benches accessible by developers anywhere in the world running suites of automated tests," said Richardson, who joined GM in September 2023 and was promoted to his current position in June.

GM is replicating the Warren lab at its technical center in Canada and at its recently opened Mountain View Technical Center in California.

Some of the changes have led to difficult decisions. In August, GM said it had laid off more than 1,000 salaried employees in its software and services organization globally — including more than 600 employees working at the Global Technical Center in Warren — in an effort to streamline the division's operations under new leadership.

Richardson told investors the workforce reduction "was absolutely critical to GM's future in software, and we will continue to make bold choices to move faster, to pivot when

needed, and prioritize investing in what will have the greatest impact. We have simplified our team structures, to remove unnecessary layers, avoid duplication and enable speed."

Inside the lab

In GM's software quality lab, which opened one year ago, there are "benches" or cockpits for every vehicle the company produces. Software is tested on one module, then graduates to a bench before it's put into a full-vehicle integrated bench.

"You're checking the code at each section, which ensures better quality over the testing," said Amy Talerico, director of test infrastructure, software labs, vehicle fleets at GM. "Any software for these modules comes here to be tested, regardless of recall. Certainly, if there's a recall remedy in play, it'll come here to be checked to make sure it's confirmation of good quality before it ships out."

Before the lab, developers maintained their own benches, Talerico explained, but that could lead to confusion about who tested which software set.

"We did an organizational change because really, our organizations were too siloed, individuals working on individual things, including on benches, right?" Talerico said. "So software developers kind of working in their own little lane and not understanding how they interact with one another when they come into a vehicle platform."

At the lab, which can be accessed remotely, the team collects data on the assets there and in other labs to track progress.

The real evidence of the lab's effects is evident to Talerico in GM's recent launches of the Chevrolet Silverado EV, Chevrolet Equinox EV and GMC Sierra EV.

See **Bugs** page 5C

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The Commercial Review/Louise Ronald

Johnny Schwartz and his crew from Schwartz Timber Frames in Geneva prepare to put siding on a new wedding venue near Bryant. The firm travels the country reconstructing barns with old timbers.

Restoring ...

Continued from page 1C
Dawn described her family as “adamantly against” confined animal feeding operations. What else could the property be used for?

It has easy access to a road and space enough for a small parking lot. Could the barn — with timbers dated 1911 — somehow become a wedding venue like her hairdresser suggested?

Yes, it could.

Sunflower Hills Historic Barn will have the same footprint as the old barn and use as many of its timbers as possible. The ruins of two other old barns on family property have provided additional wood and timbers.

“It’s actually three barns that have been deconstructed and reconstructed in the original site (of the homestead barn),” said Dawn Runyon.

In addition to timber and land, the Runyons had another asset. They live just across the Adams County line from Schwartz Timber Frames in Geneva.

Johnny Schwartz and his team go all over the country reconstructing barns with old timbers.

They created the civic center in Winter Park, Colorado, from a barn from Chickasaw, Ohio.

“We took it down and moved it there,” Schwartz said.

If this sounds a lot like the TV show “Barnwood Builders,” that’s no accident. Schwartz appeared on some episodes and was asked by the producers to take over when the former host left the program. He declined.

“I didn’t want all the

publicity,” he said. “Besides, the cameras are right there in your face.”

The Runyons were familiar with Schwartz’s work and waited for him to be available before tackling the venue project.

“This is what he does,” Dawn said. “We wanted it done correctly and we wanted it done to our standards to keep the integrity of the historic properties of the building. We wanted the right person on the job.”

So far, they’re making good progress. The hope is to have the venue ready by the end of 2024 and a website up to take reservations beginning in January 2025.

The main room of the reconstructed barn, with its soaring timber ceiling, will provide space for wedding ceremonies, dining and entertainment. An addition to the back will have restrooms, bridal party dressing rooms and a kitchen area with warming ovens and a microwave. Cooking, however, won’t be allowed on the premises.

Despite the use of old wood, the venue is considered a new build and is subject to the approval of the Department of Homeland Security. That means a lot of regulations. Having a stove in the building would require a full fire suppression system with sprinklers. That would “ruin the ambience of that (timber) ceiling,” Runyon said.

She’s applied for a variance on the sprinklers, but there will be plenty of other safety measures, including nine exits, smoke detectors and extinguishers.

“We don’t want any of our guests hurt,” she said. “Safety first.”

Runyon uses the term “historic barn” to describe the venue, but stresses that the new venue is built to code with heating, air conditioning and ADA-compatible restrooms. At the same time, she is selecting furnishings and finishes that reinforce the historic feel of the place. For example, some old pieces of barn siding with the original red stain were salvaged and will be used as interior paneling.

Runyon has been collecting antique furniture for the dressing rooms and other areas. She purchased an old beamed porch that will provide an outdoor location for photos. And, of course, the Sunflower Hills Historic Barn eventually will be surrounded with rows and rows of sunflowers set to bloom throughout the summer months.

Parking for 150 cars is planned — “If somebody’s wanting something really big, this isn’t your venue,” Runyon said — and in the future, she hopes to include a turnaround so visitors can be dropped off at the barn. In consideration of the neighbors, events won’t go beyond 11:30 p.m.

Runyon says there’s a lot of interest in the venue. Folks keep asking her when it will be done.

Schwartz is confident the barn will be ready by the end of the year and that the endeavor will be successful.

“We’ve actually done quite a few of these (wedding venues),” he said. “I have never built one that didn’t stay busy.”



Photo provided

The reconstructed timber ceiling will be a highlight of the wedding room at Sunflower Hills Historic Barn. Construction on the new venue is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

That makes Runyon feel more confident about the future.

Income from the venue could “allow for us to continue farming at an updated level — update our

machinery and things like that,” she said. “Agriculture has gotten challenging. This is a way to diversify the farming operation yet keep it as agricultural as possible.”

Bugs ...

Continued from page 4C
“The feedback from the customers is really the proof point that what we’re doing here matters and is making a difference,” she said. “Especially with respect to the Blazer. That’s something we’re not proud of, but we really doubled down our efforts and got serious about our organization, about how we test software.”

The challenges?

Software in vehicles isn’t new, but the industry has faced challenges in developing software with modern methods.

In the past, the approach was to use “deeply embedded software,” so vehicle functions like anti-lock brakes or sequential turn signals had individual electronic control units, or ECUs, with software for each, explained Sam Abuelsamid, principal e-mobility analyst at market research firm Guidehouse Inc.

“All of those things had been traditionally developed independently of each other. They don’t talk to each other,” he said. “The software is tied, typically, directly to that hardware, that ECU, that it’s running on.”

“What we’re seeing now is a transition to a different kind of electronic architecture, away from having these distributed ECUs around the car, so where you’ve got 100 or more computers installed somewhere in the car, to getting down to a small handful of computers, usually with one or two large centralized computers,” Abuelsamid said. “... and then maybe some zone controllers, and then having a common software platform, and all of the software from all those individual ECUs is being brought into that central compute.”

Embedded software wasn’t designed to be updated. With the transition to software-defined vehicles, there’s an expectation that the software will be updated to provide new features and functions over time.

“You have to look at how you develop the software in a whole different way,” Abuelsamid said. “You need different kinds of processes. You need a different kind of organization to develop and test and maintain that software and update it over the life of the car.”

Now automakers have to transition from having small teams work on specific functions to a larger organization responsible for the software platform, which can be challenging, especially when adding new tech hires who aren’t used to some of the limitations in the auto industry, Abuelsamid said.

“One of the challenges is bringing in software developers from these other industries to the auto industry, in those other industries, developers have more freedom to make changes ... on a more frequent basis, without having to worry so much about the consequences if something broke,” Abuelsamid said. “But when that happens in a car, the consequences of that kind of failure are much more severe.”

The changes GM is making appear to be steps in the right direction for Abuelsamid, but “whether it actually is successful remains to be seen.”

Like GM, other automakers have made changes to address the software woes they’ve experienced. Volkswagen, for example, is partnering with EV startup Rivian Automotive Inc. In June, the companies announced a joint venture, which they launched Tuesday, to create next-generation software-defined vehicle platforms to be used in both automakers’ future EVs.

“Increasingly, automakers that were counting on doing this on their own are now recognizing, ‘OK, this is a lot harder than we thought,’” Abuelsamid said. “And they’re working with partners that have more expertise in that kind of software development.”

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Spruce on the move

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

There was no call of “timber” when two large evergreen trees were removed on Portland’s south side.

Instead, the sister spruces were secured before they were cut, hoisted into the air and placed on long trailers. They were headed to a new home.

Anyone in the vicinity of downtown Portland around noon Nov. 17 saw the

giants on the move, trucks turning from Water Street to Meridian Street past the post office, John Jay Center for Learning and city hall. They continued, branching off to Depot Street and then east on Votaw Street to Jay County Fairgrounds.

The idea for the tall project came from Rodney Miles when he was contacted

about removing the trees from a front yard on Western Avenue. He, in turn, called Jay County Fair Board member Katie Loy. Before their conversation ended, wheels were already in motion.

“While they were still talking I had already called Bubba Swoveland to get Barnett’s on board,” said Aaron Loy, Katie’s husband and the fair board pres-

ident. “After that, it kind of snowballed from there. Everyone immediately bought in. We said whatever it takes, we’re gonna make it happen.”

“It” was moving a pair of evergreen trees — both taller than 30 feet — to Jay County Fairgrounds to become part of the Cruis’n the HoliJay Lights at the Fairgrounds display.



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Spruce on the move

On page 1D, Jeff Upp (top) works to secure a blue spruce tree to a flatbed truck to be hauled from its Western Avenue home to Jay County Fairgrounds. Once the trees were down, they were hauled on long trailers along Western Avenue, Blaine Pike, Water Street, Meridian Street, Depot Street and Votaw Street through the main entrance of Jay County Fairgrounds (pictured, bottom of page 1D). "I kind of got goosebumps watching the trees go down the street," said Aaron Loy, "a police escort, people stopping in the middle of the road, out on the sidewalks, just taking pictures and videos. It's pretty amazing, not something you would expect to see in Portland."



Miles of Miles Mowing & Lawn Care uses a chainsaw to even out the bottom of a Fat Albert Blue Spruce Tree before it was lifted off of a trailer to be put into place at Jay County Fairgrounds. He had pitched the idea to make the trees part of the holiday lighting display at the fairgrounds. "It's just a beautiful tree and I hate to destroy it," he said. "With their lights going on, and that's a way for them to make money, I just thought that was the best opportunity that they could do something — the wow factor. Hopefully it brings a lot of people out to enjoy this tree."

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Dennis & Lynn
Boolman



The larger of the two trees — a Fat Albert Blue Spruce — that originally stood 44 feet tall was reset just west of the Horse Arena. A group of volunteers from the fair board, Miles Mowing & Lawn Care and Barnett's Wrecker Service and others spent about five hours preparing the trees for removal, cutting them down, hauling them and putting them in place at the fairgrounds. Cut and set in their new homes, the trees stood about 40 and 34 feet, respectively.



Brad Barnett of Barnett's Wrecker Service is surrounded by branches as he calls out instructions to his daughters, who operated the boom lift used to move the tree into place. "I've taken a lot of trees down," said Barnett. "I've never reset them before." He said avoiding utility lines on the drive through the city was the biggest challenge. "I'd do it again tomorrow," he said. "I enjoy something different."

Spruce on the move

Cami Barnett works the controls to move the second and smaller of the two evergreen trees into place near a curve in the drive on the east side of Jay County Fairgrounds. (Her sister Gracie had handled the operations for the larger tree.) The Barnetts and several of their employees volunteered their time for the project, as did various others. "It's my community. It's my fairgrounds," said Brad Barnett. "I love the fairgrounds and giving back to the community with ... things like this." Fair board president Aaron Loy thanked all those involved with the effort. "Without them, it couldn't happen," he said.



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Spruce on the move

A week after the trees were placed at Jay County Fairgrounds, fair board members returned Sunday morning armed with two giant stars and long strands of lights for decorating. Pictured, Dave Bricker works on fastening one of the stars to the top of the tree on the west side of the fairgrounds. In all, the trees were adorned with 20,000 lights. The strands stretch 1,440 feet, which is more than a quarter of a mile. Aaron Loy referred to the trees as “a little bit of New York City at the fairgrounds,” referencing the giant Christmas tree that is placed at Rockefeller Center each year. The larger of the two trees that are now on display at the fairgrounds is about half the height of the Rockefeller Center tree. Why take on such a project? “It’s just something different,” said Loy. “We keep trying to grow the Christmas lights.” Miles estimated that the trees will stay green until February.



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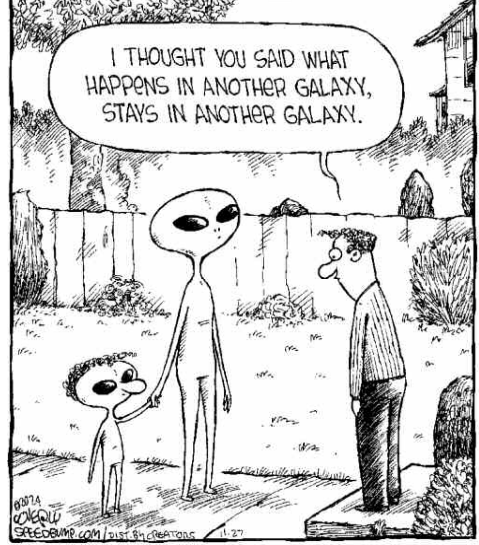
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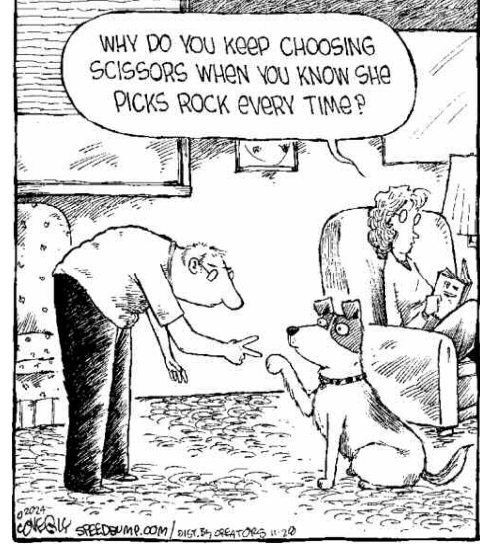
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



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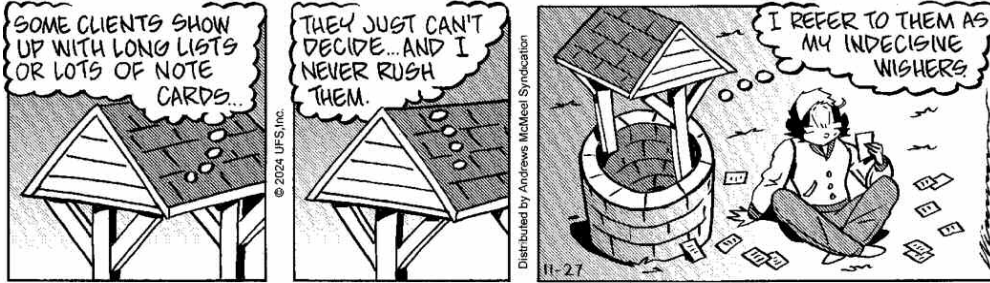
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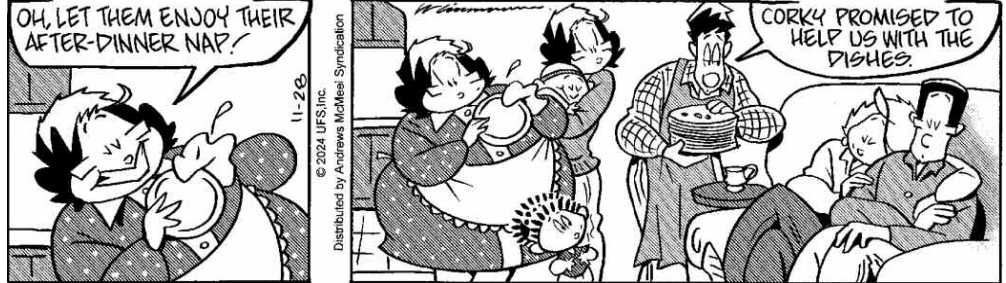
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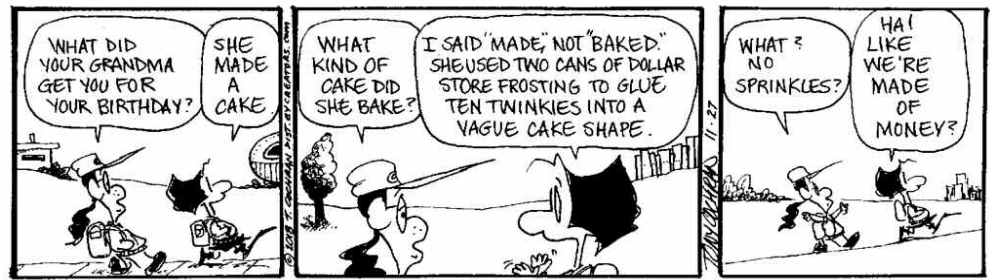
Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



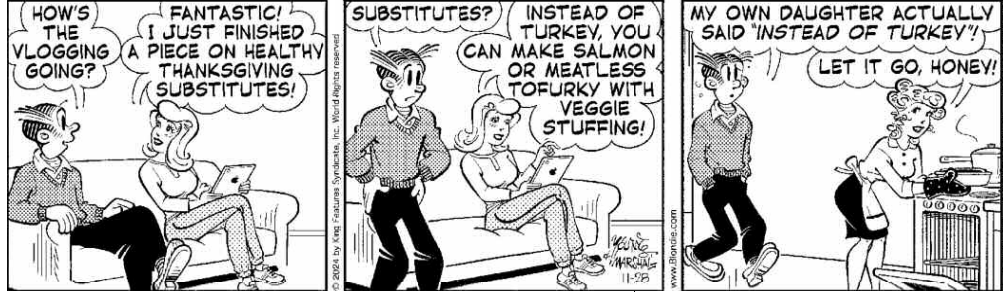
Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



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