

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Thankful grin

First grader Trinity Post giggles while talking to her classmates Tuesday during the Thanksgiving meal at Fort Recovery Elementary School. Students ate the snacks they helped make, including applesauce and biscuits.

Rate comes in at 3.9%

Number was above 4% during the summer

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Unemployment stayed below 4% for the second month in a row.

Estimates from Indiana Department of Workforce Development show Jay County had an unemployment rate of 3.9% in October, up just a tick from the previous month.

The local unemployment rate went up 0.1 percentage points from September and was up a full percentage point from October 2023.

The rate has rebounded from the summer, when it was above 4% in June, July and August. It had been 3.5% or lower throughout 2023. There has been a general upward trend this year, with July's rate of 4.7% the highest since the spike during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic shutdown.

Unemployment stayed about the same throughout the region, with some counties slightly up and some slightly down. Randolph County had the largest decrease in the area at 0.3 percentage points while Blackford County's rate went up 0.2 percentage points.

Statewide, unemployment dropped by 0.3 percentage points last month to 4%. That's up 0.9 percentage points from October 2023.

Howard County had by far the highest unemployment rate in the state for October as it came in at 8.7%.

See Rate page 2

Energy costs continue to increase

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In one year's time, the state's biggest utility companies disconnected 174,015 Hoosier households, turning off the lights and heat at a time when energy costs are growing faster than Hoosier paychecks.

The numbers come from a new report released by the Community Action Poverty Institute and Citizens Action Coalition earlier this month with a focus on electricity needs, a component of overall energy consumption, and investor-owned utilities.

The report's authors were highly critical of CEO compensation packages and "lucrative profit margins" at the state's five biggest utility providers, including: Indiana Michigan Power Company, AES

Report critical of CEO compensation packages

Indiana, Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Duke Energy Indiana and CenterPoint Energy Indiana.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported that the combined profits of these investor-owned companies was \$3.8 billion from residential electricity in 2022, while the average CEO compensation package was \$18 million, according to the report.

At the same time, low-income households dedicate 7% or more of their income toward electric costs, on average, and are six times more likely to have their utilities disconnected. In all, just over 13% of Hoosier households were disconnected at least once every year and nearly half, or 48%, of households earning less than \$20,000 annually forgo other household needs to pay for electricity.

Additionally, women-led or minority households are more likely to be electricity burdened, meaning they're more likely to spend a greater portion of their income on utilities.

"We all need a home for our families that can be a safe temperature in summers and winters, and where we can cook and refrigerate food as part of our daily routine. High electricity costs threaten these essential functions by forcing consumers to choose between food, health-care, and electricity in the midst of both a cost of living crisis and climate change," said Zia Saylor, a researcher at the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute.

See Increase page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Little Miss assist

Master of ceremonies Gage Sims (right) reviews a prompt with contestant Kenzlea Bentz during the impromptu question portion of the Little Miss Winterfest pageant at Fellowship Baptist Church in rural Portland. The event is part of Jay County Chamber of Commerce's Winterfest activities, which continue with Santa visiting the Santa House on Main Street on Dec. 6, home tours on Dec. 8 and Winterfest at the Fairgrounds on Dec. 15.

Ceasefire reached

By NABIH BULOS
and TRACY WILKINSON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

AMMAN, Jordan — Israel and Lebanon agreed Tuesday to a ceasefire aimed at ending a nearly 14-month conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah that has left more than 3,000 people dead and threatened to ignite a wider regional war.

President Joe Biden announced the agreement from the White House on Tuesday afternoon.

"Effective 4 a.m. tomorrow local time, the fighting across the Lebanese-Israeli border will end. Will end," Biden said. "This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities. I applaud the courageous decision made by the leaders of Lebanon and Israel to end the violence."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier Tuesday that his security Cabinet voted to approve the agreement, despite fierce opposition from some of the more radical members of his coalition.

Though the deal does not involve the separate conflict between Israel and Hamas mili-

tants in the Gaza Strip, Biden administration officials said they hoped it would lead to an agreement to end fighting there too, and see the release of hostages held by Hamas.

Even as the deal was finalized, Israeli warplanes launched a series of airstrikes across Lebanon, striking areas in the country's south and east, along with the suburbs of the capital — areas where Hezbollah militants hold sway.

Several airstrikes also hit the heart of Beirut, killing at least 10 people, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

"The length of the ceasefire will depend on what happens in Lebanon," Netanyahu said. He added that Israel would maintain the option to act against violations.

"If Hezbollah breaks the

agreement and seeks to arm itself, we will attack," he said.

In pushing his ministers to accept the agreement, Netanyahu argued it would allow Israel to focus its attention on the threat from Iran, give Israeli troops an opportunity to replenish their stocks and isolate Hamas.

The agreement will initiate a 60-day truce that would see both sides gradually withdraw: Israeli troops out of south Lebanon to Israeli territory, and Hezbollah to areas north of the Litani River, nearly 20 miles north of the Lebanese-Israeli border. During the truce, a monitoring mechanism would be established that would ensure Hezbollah is not able to reconstitute itself or wage attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon.

See Ceasefire page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Tuesday. The low was 32.

Tonight's forecast calls for the low to drop to near 10 degrees. Skies will be mostly sunny Saturday with a high in

the upper 20s. Highs are expected to remain in the upper 20s through Monday under mostly sunny skies. Lows will be in the teens.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

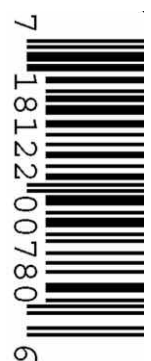
Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Junior-senior high students will begin using mobile unit Monday.

Tuesday — Jay County Civic Theatre prepares for next production.

Wednesday — Photos from Feel the Warmth of Christmas celebration in Dunkirk.



Capsule Reports

Disregarded stop

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 after a Muncie man disregarded a stop sign at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 600 South, causing a car accident about 8:41 p.m. Tuesday.

Tyrus J. Thompson, 53, was driving a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox west on county road 600 South as he approached the

intersection with Indiana 67. He disregarded the stop sign at the intersection, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, and drove across the highway. He collided with a northeast bound 2014 Ford Explorer driven by 16-year-old Kennedy N. Teegarden of Pennington.

Teegarden complained of chest pain, and she was transported to IU Health Jay for

evaluation. Thompson complained of lower body pain. Teegarden's passenger, Jocelyn Minch, also complained of chest pain.

Thompson was cited with an infraction for failing to stop at the intersection. Both vehicles were towed.

Distracted driving

Two Bryant residents were injured after a Portland man

drove into their buggy along county road 650 North about 6:20 p.m. Monday.

Adam R. Brenneman, 22, was driving a 2019 Honda Accord west on the road near county road 150 West. He told police as he drove over a hill, he looked at his phone. At the same time, Jerry and Mervin Wickey were riding in a horse and buggy east on the road. Brenneman crashed into their buggy.

Jerry Wickey, 12, was thrown from the buggy, and sustained a back injury. Mervin Wickey, 56, sustained an upper arm injury. They were both transported to the hospital for their injuries.

Brenneman was cited with an infraction for holding a telecommunications device while operating a vehicle. His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

CR almanac				
Saturday 11/30	Sunday 12/1	Monday 12/2	Tuesday 12/3	Wednesday 12/4
28/15	28/17	28/18	31/22	31/24
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.	Tuesday looks to be mostly sunny throughout the day.	Cloudy on Wednesday with temperatures in the 20s.

Lotteries

Powerball 5-35-45-60-63 Power Ball: 12 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$196 million	Daily Four: 2-2-8-9 Quick Draw: 2-8-9-12-13-14-16-39-41-47-49-51-53-65-66-68-72-74-75-78 Cash 5: 7-15-24-36-45 Estimated jackpot: \$329,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$514 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-1-3 Pick 4: 2-8-2-1 Pick 5: 3-9-2-6-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-0-2 Pick 4: 8-8-1-3 Pick 5: 4-2-7-0-9 Rolling Cash: 4-16-20-26-36 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 3-7-9 Daily Four: 1-0-2-9 Quick Draw: 2-4-8-12-22-23-25-26-36-37-47-52-53-55-57-59-63-72-74-76 Evening Daily Three: 8-1-0	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.36 Dec. corn.....4.30 Wheat.....4.26	Dec. beans.....9.79 Wheat.....5.04
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.38 Dec. corn.....4.38 Jan. corn.....4.40	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.21 Dec. corn.....4.21 Beans.....9.79 Dec. beans.....9.79 Wheat.....4.85
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.27 Dec. corn.....4.27 Beans.....9.79	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.22 Dec. corn.....4.22 Beans.....9.61 Dec. beans.....9.61 Wheat.....4.84

Today in history

In 1520, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan entered "The Sea of the South" after leading three ships to become the first sailing westward from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The ships passed through what later became known as the Strait of Magellan.

In 1820, Friedrich Engels, a German philosopher who co-authored "The Communist Manifesto" with Karl Marx, was born in Barmen, Rhine province, Prussia.

In 1872, Wilhelm Reiss became the first to climb to the top of the world's tallest active volcano — Cotopaxi in Ecuador.

In 2012, Dunkirk

Industrial Development Corporation proposed spending about \$100,000 to prepare the Stewart Brothers building as a new home for Dunkirk Public Library. The project never came to fruition.

In 2018, Brett Freeman became the winningest coach in the history of South Adams High School girls basketball when the Starfires defeated Canterbury 58-32. He surpassed Randy Minch with his 89th victory.

In 2020, the South Adams High School football team came up just short of the Class 1A state championship, falling 41-40 to Covenant Christian.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

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 Recovery Village council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	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.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community	Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1
No other county was above 6%, as Miami (5.9%) and Fayette (5.8%) posted the next highest rates. Blackford County was fifth highest at 5.3%. Gibson and Daviess counties recorded the

lowest unemployment rates in Indiana for October at 3%. Martin, Hamilton and Boone counties were next at 3.1%. Area unemployment rates are as follows: Adams County: 3.5%,

down 0.1 percentage point, tied for 21st-lowest Blackford County: 5.3%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for fifth-highest Delaware County: 4.5%, down 0.1 percentage points, 13th-highest Jay County: 3.9%, up 0.1

percentage points, tied for 38th-highest Randolph County: 4%, down 0.3 percentage points, tied for 30th-highest Wells County: 3.4%, down 0.1 percentage points, tied for 15th-lowest

Increase ...

Continued from page 1
"This publication highlights how high electricity costs exacerbate energy burden and draws attention to policy solutions including statewide affordability assistance and limitations on disconnections."

Such solutions include expanding energy assistance program funds as well as a state-implemented cap on energy bills at 6% of a household's net annual income.

Last week, lawmakers listed reducing energy costs as one of their key priorities ahead of the 2025 session, which is set to begin in January.

Senate Majority Leader Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, praised the work of his colleagues in previous sessions but identified ongoing frustrations in regards to energy policy.

"We've seen the cost of that power continue to creep up — which we need to keep a very, very close eye on — because we need to make sure Hoosiers can pay their gas bills and their electric bills," Bray told reporters.

Bray said legislators needed to also keep future power demands in mind.

In May, the U.S. Energy Informa-

tion Administration ranked Indiana 29th in the nation for its utility expenses, putting it below neighboring states like Ohio and Illinois. Overall, energy costs in the Hoosier State have grown by 33% between 2012 and 2022, compared to the national average of 19%.

Three of the investor-owned companies at the center of the report — CenterPoint, Duke and NIPSCO — have submitted petitions to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for rate increases in 2023 and 2024.

While utility companies are prohibited from disconnecting homes if temperatures dip below freezing, that protection doesn't apply to during excessive heat events, which can be deadly. Due to changing climate conditions, extreme weather is becoming more common.

Heating and cooling accounts for just under one-third, or 31%, of electricity consumption, according to the report.

While the federal government offers a program to offset energy costs, only an estimated 16% of eligible homes — or 109,750 households — receive support from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program due to funding restrictions. Some utilities may also

offer their own crisis funding to consumers, with varying qualifying criteria.

The burden of such expenses varies by county — an additional concern for lawmakers seeking to address costs, according to the executive director of the Citizens Action Coalition.

"Guaranteeing uninterrupted access to utility services for all Hoosiers, regardless of income or zip code, is a moral imperative for our State. We should strive to adopt policies that lift people up and afford everyone the opportunity to live a dignified life and participate in society in a meaningful way," said Kerwin Olson in a release. "As this report displays, Indiana has a long way to go. We are hopeful that policy makers will use this report as a roadmap to begin crafting public policy that ensures the most vulnerable amongst us are protected from loss of these essential services."

The report recommends expanding the federal energy assistance fund, including reforming the financial eligibility guidelines to capture more energy burdened Hoosiers. State intervention could come in the form of a payment cap at 6% of a household's net annual income.

Ceasefire ...

Continued from page 1
A U.S.-led committee would oversee implementation of the withdrawal, but Biden said U.S. troops would not deploy in southern Lebanon to do so.

Lebanese officials say about 5,000 soldiers from Lebanon's army — which has remained neutral during the conflict — would then enter south Lebanon, along with United Nations peacekeeping forces.

Lebanon's caretaker government is set to meet Wednesday to give final approval to the proposal. Biden said he spoke to the leaders of Israel and Lebanon and both communicated their countries' acceptance.

Despite the optimism, many elements of the ceasefire proposal — which came about after vigorous negotiations brokered by the U.S. and France — remain unclear.

One of the larger sticking points is whether Israel would be able to continue striking Hezbollah throughout Lebanon if the group attempts to reestablish a presence south of the Litani River, or if it continues to wage attacks

on Israel or smuggle weapons.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz told the U.N.'s Lebanon envoy Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert on Tuesday that Israel would act "forcefully" against any breach of the ceasefire agreement.

"If you do not act, we will do it, forcefully," Katz said in a statement. "Any house rebuilt in south Lebanon and used as a terrorist base will be destroyed, any rearming or terrorist organization will be attacked, any attempt at transferring arms will be foiled, and any threat against our forces or our citizens will be immediately eliminated."

Lebanese leaders have dismissed such terms as an unacceptable breach of Lebanon's sovereignty.

In the end, U.S. officials acknowledged that Israel retained the de facto ability to attack, but that the streamlined mechanism would be in place to evaluate any perceived violation with hopes of averting escalation.

The ceasefire would officially be an agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

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Dec 7 Covered Bridge Christmas Market
Dec 7 Rosedale Christmas Bazaar
Dec 7 Rockville Great Santa 5K Fun Run
Dec 7 Rockville Hometown Holidays
Dec 7 Hometown Holidays Parade of Lights

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Photo provided

Lions recognize

Portland Lions Club recognized Macy DeHoff and Kendall Schemenaur as its October students of the month. Pictured above is DeHoff accepting her award.

Kids called to elf training

Jay County Public Library is calling all kids for elf training.

Children are invited to visit the library from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 12 for a variety of activities to test their skills and become official elves. Participants will make gifts for Jay County Country Living residents, family and friends and teddy bears for local foster children. They'll also decorate wrapping paper, practice wrapping gifts and receive their own elf name.

Also at the library, Cookies and Canvas for Kids is slated for Monday, with sessions at 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Recommended for elementary students, the experience includes painting a cow picture, reading a story, hearing an agricultural lesson and eating cookies.

Mrs. Claus is also visiting the library from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Attendees will hear Christmas stories, make ornaments and a towel reindeer and special gifts for the local homeless shelter.

Senior learning

John Jay Center for

Taking Note

Learning has another senior learning event coming up.

Steve Bishop, a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps leader, and JROTC cadets will share a presentation Thursday, Dec. 5, on the JROTC program offered at Jay County High School. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. with the presentation to follow.

Tickets are \$5 and intended for anyone 55 years old and older.

Festival of trees

It's nearly time for another Fort Recovery tradition.

Fort Festival of the Trees, an annual holiday celebration in Fort Recovery, will be celebrated at Fort Recovery Public Library from Dec. 9 through Dec. 31 during normal business hours. Visitors to the library during that time may vote on

their favorite decorated tree.

To learn more call (419) 375-2869 or email levre@seolibraries.org.

Jayland party

Jayland Partners is hosting its annual Christmas party next month. The free event, slated for 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 14 at Bryant Wesleyan Church, is open to people with special needs, friends, families and caregivers. There will be music, snacks and drinks.

Shows scheduled

Charles W. Brown Planetarium has a variety of shows scheduled for December.

Upcoming offerings include:

One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure — Follow Sesame Street's Big Bird and Elmo as they explore the night sky — 3:30 p.m. Saturdays Dec. 7 and 14

The Christmas Star — Discussion of natural explanations for the Star of Bethlehem — 5 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14, and 6:30 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 6 and 13, and Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14

Visit with friend turns into chore

DEAR ABBY: I was recently invited for a long weekend at my friend's new home in South Carolina. She has wanted me to come there to visit ever since she purchased it. I offered to come down, but then I sprained my ankle, and it still has not healed.

My friend then told me her daughter and son-in-law will be there with their two young children. She said we can babysit her grandchildren while I'm there when her daughter and son-in-law go out. I told her I don't want to go down there to babysit. I have no children and do not enjoy babysitting. She used to do this to me before she moved. Now she's upset that I won't help her. What should I do? — NOT INTERESTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: What you do is this: Repeat to your manipulative friend that your ankle is still healing, it is difficult to get around and you are UNABLE to chase after young children. Tell her that when you are better you would

Dear Abby



love to see her place and visit one on one. Then stick to your guns.

DEAR ABBY: I am a male singer and guitarist who has been playing in small local venues most of my life. My new duo partner is a nice person and decent multi-instrumentalist. The problem is that he cannot — and should not — sing, though he believes he is a fine vocalist.

His new girlfriend recently confided to me that she feels he shouldn't sing because it is damaging to our joint reputation and to my own as a musician. She doesn't know how to tell him or whether she should. I don't know

how to tell him either without risking our partnership, although at this point, any gigs we acquire will be one-offs because of the poor vocal performance that will result.

Over the years, I have failed auditions and learned from constructive criticism. Should I tell him or try to dissolve our duo gently? — OLD CANADIAN ROCKER

DEAR ROCKER: Your relationship with this partner isn't social; it is BUSINESS. He is in denial about his limited abilities. Bursting his bubble by enlightening him that his singing is holding you back will not endear you to him. It would be best to dissolve the partnership as kindly as you can and find a replacement.

DEAR ABBY: My parents are starting to get older and have a number of health issues. I am one of three children now in our 40s. My parents got an attorney to write their will and have cut one

child out completely. They decided to give another child two-thirds of their estate while leaving me with only one-third. They claim the reason is that my sister will be responsible for their health when and if they get to that point. We aren't talking about lots of money, but I don't know what I should do. — NOT THE FAVORITE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR NOT THE FAVORITE: What you should do is accept your parents' reasoning, as well as their generosity, and not argue about it. Be grateful, because doing otherwise will get you nowhere.

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Mary Ann" is a hoarder. She refuses all offers of assistance to clear her home of the overwhelming amount of stuff that negatively impacts her life. Our extended family is thrilled that she has finally started to make an effort to sort through some of her "treasures." Unfortunately, we have now become recipients of birth-

day and Christmas gifts, some of which are opened, used, dusty and have animal fur on them. We do not want or need these "gifts."

I sense that unloading these items on us gives Mary Ann a feeling of comfort and keeps her from making difficult decisions that will lead to truly changing her thinking related to letting go of her junk. How do we politely (and firmly) express to Mary Ann that we have no desire to receive her hoard, bit by bit, without reversing the progress she has made in attempting to address her disorder? — UNHAPPY RECIPIENT IN MISSOURI

DEAR RECIPIENT: You are not going to "fix" Mary Ann. Be glad she is taking baby steps to help herself. I do NOT think it would be helpful to "politely express" that you have no desire to receive her hoard, bit by bit. Instead, accept the items and then quietly donate them or give them to someone who might use them.

Community Calendar

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

Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

(260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

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

Monday

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon

each Monday at Jay Community Center.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

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

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

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Breakup would remove economy

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Governing Magazine recently reported an effort in Illinois to divide the state into two separate states by expelling Cook County (Chicago).

The report goes on to say, "It's part of a burgeoning breakup movement gaining momentum across states where vast swaths of red, rural counties are dominated by a few blue cities."

It's revolutionary. It's a coup. It's probably unconstitutional, but does that matter anymore?

Yes, Texas and California were both admitted to the Union with the proviso they could break the bounds that bind them. But, I don't remember that provision of statehood applying to Indiana.

This effort at fragmentation is more than Red vs Blue, more than

Eye on the Pie



Urban vs Rural. The "New Illinois" would include Peoria, Springfield, Rockford, Decatur and other cities.

Behind this is a sentiment that is familiar to Hoosiers: intense hostility to the state's largest and extremely successful urban area. Where it is Chicago in Illinois, it is Indianapolis on our side of the border.

Such feelings are not new. They trace back to rural suspicion of

urban morals, to say nothing of disdain for urban cleanliness. But cities emerged as the economic and cultural engines of progress. As such, they attracted the energy of migrants, people from within and beyond the state.

Concerned that urban areas would replace traditional rural and small town dominance, gerrymandering and denial of self-government became the preferred defensive force now prevalent in many states.

It would not be a surprise if the Indiana General Assembly, which has a propensity for catching preposterous political maladies, now sought to attempt a similar disruptive rebellion.

The Indianapolis metro area has dominated the state for the past 20 years:

From 2003 through 2023, Marion County and the eight counties most closely tied to it by modern highways, have accounted for 65% of the state's population growth.

Those nine counties, over the same period, have experienced 83% of the state's employment growth, but just 48% of the increase in GDP. Why this discrepancy?

One answer might be that much of the employment growth in the Indianapolis metro area has been in labor-intensive, relatively low-paying service activities. Being a great place for conventions and high visibility sporting events may not be the route to adding much value to the economy or cash in the pocket of residents.

Folks in Indiana and Indianapolis may both want to consider that the earnings by residents of the metro area are 98.9% of the earnings generated there. The net "leakage" of earnings to outlying areas, although \$1.2 billion in 2023, was a trivial portion (1.1%) of a metropolitan economy yielding earnings of \$108.4 billion.

A two-state Indiana would open up new opportunities to intensify existing hostilities. Toll booths at every interstate entry to the Ind-metroplex? Where would the capital of Indiana-without-Indianapolis be located? Tipton or Seymour?

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

Health care is more than prescriptions

The Herald
(Sharon, Pennsylvania)
Tribune News Service

If it seems odd for a health care provider to focus on putting books in the hands of children, Dr. George Garrow begs to differ.

Garrow, CEO of Primary Health Network, takes a holistic view of health care.

"Health is much more than what happens in the doctor's office," he said last January in an interview with The Herald. "Health is what happens when you leave the doctor's office."

In Garrow's vision, "health care" includes encouraging children to read and learn. That was the impetus behind the education hub Primary Health Network unveiled Wednesday at its organization headquarters in Sharon.

In a prelude to Wednesday's grand opening, Primary Health Network Charitable Foundation, the organization's charity funding arm, solicited book donations. The foundation now has approximately 5,000 books that will be distributed to 18 of its centers.

The education hubs are the latest in a series of Primary Health Network initiatives that may not seem to directly involve health care. At the same time, those programs promote wellness.

In August, Primary Health, collaborated with Buhl Park to install a "Buddy Bench" along the shore of Lake Julia to encourage interaction and combat loneliness. Plaques emblazoned with unusual questions are mounted on rocks near the bench to encourage conversation.

The Buddy Bench's point is to promote emotional wellness, which is associated with physical wellness. U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued a call warning about loneliness as a public health crisis.

"Our epidemic of loneliness and isolation has been an underappreciated public health crisis that has harmed individual and societal health," Murthy wrote in 2023. "Given the significant health consequences of loneliness and isolation, we must prioritize building social connection the same way we have prioritized other critical public health issues such as tobacco, obesity, and substance use disorders."

In response to the opioid

Guest Editorial

The education hubs are ... initiatives that may not seem to directly involve health care. At the same time, those programs promote wellness.

crisis, Primary Health Network established a mobile clinic to provide drug and alcohol treatment throughout Mercer County.

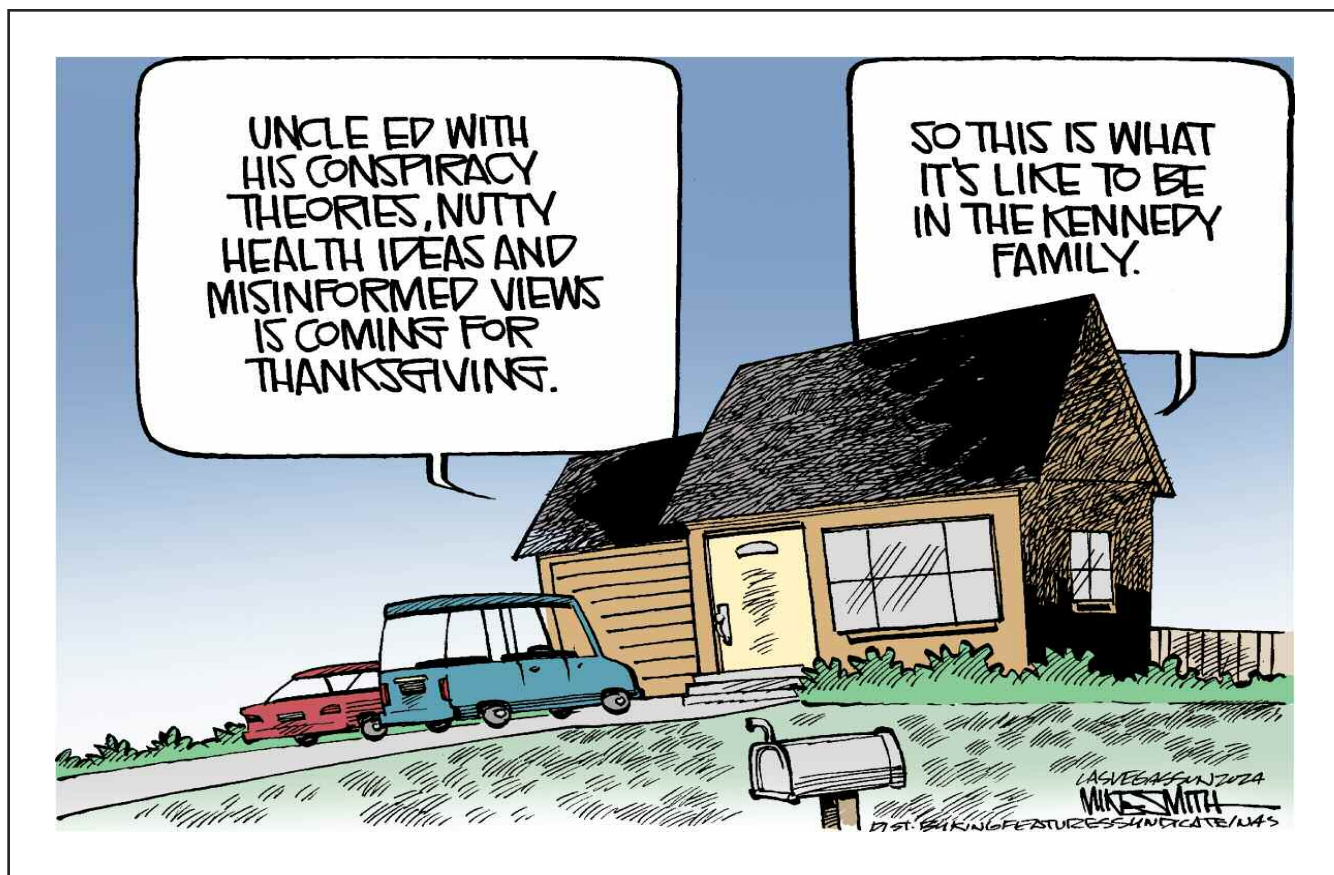
Primary Health Network is a Federally Qualified Health Center, which means it serves people who may not have health insurance, or the ability to pay for health care — the agency accepts payments on a sliding scale based on the clients' income.

The organization serves 16 Pennsylvania counties and Ashtabula County in Ohio.

Primary Health Network's clients often come from society's most vulnerable populations, the people most likely to be impacted by opioid addiction, loneliness, and birth and postnatal complications in what Garrow has called "the fourth trimester."

Under Garrow's leadership, Primary Health Network has focused on an expansive view of health care that involves more than writing prescriptions and giving shots.

While programs like the "Buddy Bench," the mobile drug treatment clinic and the educational hub program might not fall strictly under a traditional health care framework, they promote improved health-care outcomes, which makes the community more healthy.



Lack of action speaks volumes

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Explain it to me like I'm five. How do you reinstall a senator accused of sexual harassment against three different women to a leadership post?

Because that's exactly what some members of the Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus did on Monday, hours after the accusations went public.

And to make matters worse, the caucus followed it up with a confusing statement supporting women and promising to create an accountable environment. But members didn't even hold their own leader accountable.

It makes no sense. It all started Monday morning, when the Indianapolis Star broke the story of the allegations against Indianapolis Democrat Sen. Greg Taylor. Rumors were flying earlier, however, as word got out that Star reporters were calling other sources for comment. Many in the political sphere knew an article would be dropping soon.

So, it shouldn't have been a surprise. The bigger surprise to me was that Taylor didn't deny the charges.

His full statement says: "As an elected official, I am responsible for maintaining high professionalism and respecting the boundaries of all I engage with. While this has always been my goal, there have been times when I may have blurred the lines and behaved in a manner that potentially made my colleagues or those who witnessed my actions uncomfortable. While it was never my intent to cause harm, I acknowledge that I have fallen short, and for this, I apologize."

That, to me, makes a huge difference in what happened next.

He wasn't refuting the allegations and claiming innocence — at least not publicly. So why would six members of the 10-person caucus support him to continue leading the group?

The vote

We know who they are because the four members who voted against Tay-

Niki Kelly



lor came out and explained why they preferred a new leader: Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington; Sen. J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis; Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis; and Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton.

Despite that, Hunley and Pol won leadership positions under Taylor.

"We will help move our caucus towards a future where this type of abhorrent behavior is not minimized or condoned," they said, in a joint statement about why they joined.

You know who didn't put out a statement explaining their support? The six whose 'yes' votes were required to keep Taylor in charge: Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis; Sen. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend; Sen. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago; and two new members, Sen. La Keisha Jackson, D-Indianapolis, and Sen. Mark Spencer, D-Gary.

Taylor himself was the last vote, clinching the six votes needed to retain power.

I reached out to several of those senators to try to understand their reasoning but got no responses.

Even the Indiana Democratic Party distanced itself from the caucus election results in a statement.

"We have taken a number of steps to address sexual harassment at the Indiana Democratic Party during my time as chair and we will be sharing more of that information with our state central committee at our next meeting," Chair Mike Schmuhl said, in response to a letter from 40 Democrat women. "I think it's also important to note that IDP is a separate employer from a political campaign, city government, or state government. That being said, our values are vital and I will work with these leaders and all stakeholders to build

more trust within the party for the future."

The rise in reports

The number of similar stories has grown at an alarming pace in recent years as more women feel comfortable with coming forward.

Indeed, some of these allegations against Taylor are years old but that doesn't make them less important or serious.

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett's administration mishandled similar allegations involving a top aide, the Star and Mirror Indy reported. And in an opinion column, the Star revealed evidence that Sen. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend, harassed a young, female former employee: at the office, in voicemails, over texts, even showing up to her home. His company settled with the former employee for \$8,000, according to the Star.

Rumors abounded last year about a House Republican member too but the victim declined to speak.

GOP Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales in 2022 faced decade-old allegations of sexual assaults in interview transcripts published by political columnist Abdul-Hakim Shabazz.

The Indiana Supreme Court suspended former Republican Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill's law license for 30 days in 2020 after finding he committed criminal battery when he groped four women, including a legislator, during a party at an Indianapolis bar in 2018.

There is no excuse for what the caucus chose. And to follow the vote up with a statement calling for reform and supporting women is ridiculous.

Members showed there are no consequences for actions. And that speaks louder than a lame statement.

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

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

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VOLUME 151—NUMBER 155
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2024

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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AI can make farmers' jobs easier

By RICHARD BAGULEY
Fast Company

For those who work the earth, AI can be an invaluable tool for making that work more efficient, sustainable and productive.

AI helps farmers use the same tools they have been using for centuries, but with improved efficiency and focus. Here are 10 tips for farmers looking to use the new wave of AI-assisted farming.

Let robots work

It may look like a Mars rover, but the BoniRob system is much more down to earth: It's a robotic system that uses AI to analyze the soil, determine what is growing in it, and eliminate it if required. It's part of a concept called Spot Farming, with which each spot in a field is handled individually, rather than treating the entire field as a whole. The process is overseen by robots and AI that monitors each plant and feeds, waters, and harvests the crop. In the U.S., a company called Carbon Robotics is selling a similar device called the LaserWeeder that uses AI to detect weeds, then zaps them with a laser.

Identify pests

Not sure if that thing crawling on your crops is good or bad? InsectID from Iowa State University can help: Take a picture, upload it, and InsectID uses

AI to identify the insect, provide information on the role of the insect, and give pointers on how to handle it if you want it out of your crops.

Soil analysis

Farmspace Technologies is a Nigerian company that is developing a low-cost soil sensor called ActionLab that uses AI to help small farms understand how to use fertilizers more effectively and which crops to grow.

Work together

Farming is about more than just growing things: It's about getting those things to customers. The Indian government has created a project with the wonderful name Saagu Baggu that helps chili farmers in Khammam use AI to better understand their soil quality, the quality of their product, and to find better prices. It currently covers 7,000 small farms, but the Telangana state government is now expanding it to cover 20,000.

Predict the weather

Weather prediction is the latest area AI is being applied to, with Google applying its DeepMind system to weather forecasting and Nvidia doing the same thing with their FourCastNet system. Both systems use AI to generate short-term forecasts, predicting patterns up to 10 days in advance.

AI also has a role in longer-term predictions and the role of climate change, but this does underline one of the issues with AI: It is great at finding patterns in existing data, but it can't understand how things might change in the future.

Are your tomatoes ripe?

You know when your crop is ready by the way it looks, but you can't be everywhere at once. So, why not use AI to help? This study shows how a group of AI scientists developed a system that can decide when a tomato is ripe from an image. That might seem trivial, but imagine combining this with an automated system that trundles around your greenhouse and sends you a report that helps you decide when to harvest? This isn't the only example of this type: Similar work has been done for tea buds and many other crops.

Harvest

Fieldwork Robotics is a U.K. company that is building robots that can harvest things you might not expect, like soft fruits. Their Fieldworker 1 robot uses AI and robotics to detect ripe soft fruits, harvest them with a soft robotic picker, and place them in a tray. It's still an experimental project, but it is being tested by the largest soft fruits producer in Australia. They claim it will

allow a single human operator to oversee the harvest on several fields at the same time.

Do cows look happy?

Cows are noisy creatures, and the sounds they make often indicate how they are feeling. So, a group of researchers used open-source AI tools to analyze the noises cows make and determine how they are feeling. The results are, they claim, pretty accurate because cows make low-frequency noises when they are content and higher-frequency noises when they are distressed.

The researchers used Open AI's Whisper tool, which converts sound into text. By adapting this to determine frequency, the length of the noise and how often it was repeated, they claimed they could produce a real-time measure of the welfare of the cows. CattleEye is a system that uses a security camera and AI to monitor cows as they pass through a sort gate, or by analyzing drone footage of your pasture. The clever bit is that the system uses AI to analyze how each cow is moving and how healthy they look, producing a measure they call the Body Condition Score. If a cow has a poor BCS, they may be being overfed, be lame, or have other issues.

Put as much back in
Regenerative agriculture

focuses on long-term sustainability by prioritizing the health and vitality of the soil. RegenIQ offers a way to measure this process and provide advice on improving its effectiveness. By combining multiple data sources with AI, it helps track and measure progress over time.

Get involved

The wonderfully named Centre for the Study of Existential Risk at Cambridge University looked into the risks of using AI in farming in 2022, and found that there are plenty, ranging from reliability of AI models to the cost. One of the major risks that they identified was the problem of data transparency and ownership: Where does the data that AI uses come from, and who owns the technology?

The authors call for farmers to share this data openly, but without losing ownership by setting up data cooperatives. One example of this in use in Ethiopia and India is FarmStack, a project from Digital Green that lets a farmer share their data but to also set limits on who gets it and how they use it. In the AI world, this data is more precious than gold, and farmers the world over need to understand this, and work together to make sure it is used properly, ethically and for the good of all.

Ex-adviser tapped for agriculture chief

By TONY CZUCZKA
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump picked Brooke Rollins as U.S. secretary of agriculture, tapping a member of his first-term White House team and elevating another loyalist to his incoming administration.

Rollins' commitment to supporting farmers, food self-sufficiency and the restoration of agriculture-dependent American small towns "is second to none," Trump said Saturday in a statement.

Rollins heads the America First Policy Institute, which she founded in 2021 to help lay the groundwork for Trump's eventual return to the White House. Its tasks included creating how-to guides for incoming staffers and policy recommendations from people who served during the first Trump administration.

The conservative Texas lawyer was previously director of the Domestic Policy Council and assistant to the president for strategic initiatives during Trump's first administration, where she was involved in securing a bipartisan criminal justice reform law. She also served as former Gov. Rick Perry's policy director before heading the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Rollins' name emerged after CNN reported Friday that Trump was expected to select Kelly Loeffler, a former senator from Georgia and prominent donor.

His ultimate choice was a reminder that no nominee is final until announced by Trump — as evidenced by the contest for Treasury secretary, which spilled into public view and ended up with the president-elect picking hedge fund executive Scott Bessent, who beat out rivals in a dramatic competition after starting off as the front-runner.

If confirmed, Rollins will be a crucial adviser to lawmakers on shepherding a long-stalled farm bill through Congress after the 2018 reauthorization expired last year and received a short-term extension.

She'd also be likely to review the department's internal operations, given Trump's stated goal of making government cuts.

"I look forward to working with her to ensure that modern agriculture remains competitive and allows farm families to thrive so they can continue to supply an affordable and abundant supply of food and fiber," Sen. John

Boozman of Arkansas, the senior Republican on the chamber's Agriculture Committee, said on X.

Trump cited Rollins' experience, including her agriculture studies at Texas A&M University, her family's farming background and "guiding her four kids in their show cattle careers." She "will spearhead the effort to protect American Farmers," he said.

The Agriculture Department's role goes beyond farm policy — it also manages food stamps, school lunches and other nutrition programs, and it's responsible for forest conservation, food inspections and rural development.

Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's manifesto for conservative policy seen by many as a guidebook for the incoming administration, has called the department's mission "overly broad."

That blueprint calls for reducing farm subsidies, slashing environmental regulations and cutting spending on nutrition programs, which would move to the Department of Health and Human Services. Trump has distanced himself from Heritage's work, but hasn't put forward a detailed agriculture policy of his own.

Agriculture is likely to be swept up in other Trump priorities, including the threat of higher tariffs that could prompt foreign retaliation against U.S. farm exports. Trump papered over the issue in his last presidency by raiding billions in leftover funds from a crop insurance program.

Rollins' policy group has been seen as a sort of shadow government for the second Trump administration. Many top officials in it served in high-ranking positions in the first administration and have spent the last four years planning potential policies and drafting lists of personnel to help Trump transition back to the White House.

AFPI chair Linda McMahon headed the Small Business Administrations during Trump's first term, was named co-chair of Trump's transition and was chosen by the president-elect on Tuesday to lead the Department of Education.

House Agriculture Committee Chair Glenn Thompson, a Pennsylvania Republican who was among the names floated for secretary, said he looks forward to working with Rollins and Trump "to make agriculture great again!"

HEALTHCARE

Lesser known risk factors for diabetes

The International Diabetes Federation reports that roughly 10.5 percent of the adult population across the globe has diabetes. Given that prevalence, it stands to reason that millions more individuals are aware of the risk factors for the disease, particularly type 2 diabetes. The IDF notes more than 90 percent of people diagnosed with diabetes have type 2 diabetes, which can be attributable to lifestyle factors like poor diet, lack of physical activity and overweight or obesity.

The most common risk factors for diabetes are widely known, but lesser known variables also can increase the chances a person is diagnosed with the disease.

High uric acid levels: The buildup of uric acid in the blood is a hallmark of a type of arthritis known as gout. Though gout and diabetes are different, WebMD notes that a person's risk for one condition increases when they have the other. The medical term for high uric acid levels is hyperuricemia, which the Cleveland Clinic reports is a very common condition that affects roughly one in five people. Consuming foods and beverages that are high in purines can cause uric acid levels to increase over time. Such foods and beverages include red meat, or-



gan meats like liver, seafood (particularly salmon, shrimp, lobster, and sardines), and alcohol (especially beer and even included nonalcoholic beer).

Housing insecurity: A 2022 study published in the journal BMC Health Services Research found that 38 percent of adults with diabetes reported housing insecurity. Authors of the study defined housing insecurity as how often respondents reported being worried or stressed about having enough money to pay rent or a mortgage. The study noted that individuals who experience housing insecurity were less likely to visit a physician and have an A1C test, which the National Institutes of Health note offers information about blood glucose levels and can be used to diagnose type 2 diabetes

and prediabetes. Individuals with housing insecurity were also less likely to have an eye exam. The American Diabetes Association notes eye exams are important in relation to diabetes because the disease is the leading cause of vision loss in people between the ages of 18 and 64.

Mental health: A research team led by Professor Inga Prokopenko of the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom found that depression increases a person's risk for developing type 2 diabetes. The 2023 study traced the link to shared genes that play a role in insulin production and in inflammation in various areas of the body, including the brain. Researchers noted the link between depression and diabetes is indirect, but concluded that both depression and type 2 diabetes can be contributing factors to the development of each condition.

Physical activity levels and diet are widely recognized risk factors for diabetes. But individuals should know that additional variables also have been linked to an elevated risk for a disease that affects a considerable percentage of the adult population across the globe.

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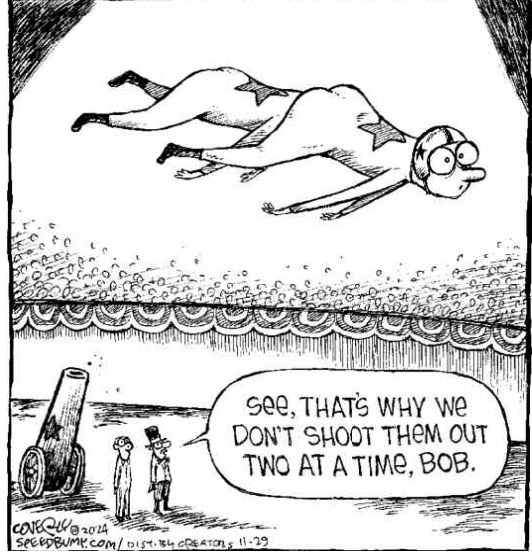
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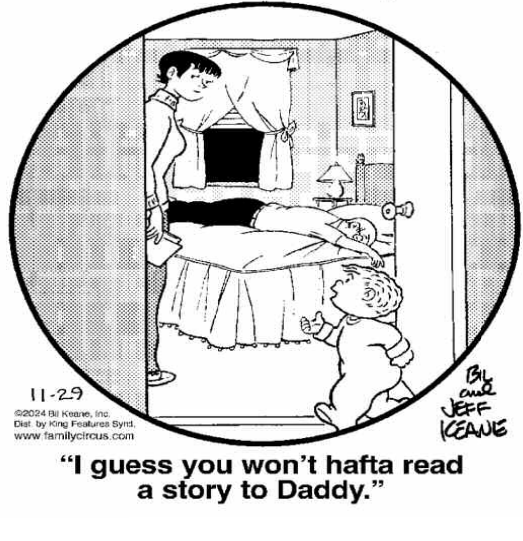
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♣	Pass

What would you now bid with each of the following four hands?
 1. ♠ 84 ♥ J7 ♦ A52 ♣ AQJ943
 2. ♠ Q10 ♥ AQ10 ♦ K7 ♣ KJ9652
 3. ♠ 106 ♥ KJ5 ♦ 94 ♣ AKJ763
 4. ♠ Q102 ♥ 84 ♦ AK ♣ KQ8654

1. **Three clubs.** Each new suit bid by the responder is forcing for one round. Since you are therefore obligated to bid over two diamonds, the only question is what to bid.

2. **Three clubs.** An important principle of bidding is that if you have underbid at one point, you should try to correct it later by making a strength-showing bid. In the same way, if you make an early overbid, you should bid weakly from then on to try to correct the previous impression.

3. **Two notrump.** Partner may be angling for game in notrump, and the reason for his failure to bid it himself might be that he lacks a heart stopper. In any case, regardless of what partner's purpose is in forcing you to bid again, there is no real choice but to say two notrump.

4. **Three spades.** Having previously denied spade support, you are now obligated to show three cards in that suit in case your partner has five spades. And since you bid only two clubs on the preceding round, you should jump to three spades to show that your hand is a maximum for your two previous bids.

Tomorrow: A grand slam.
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Peanuts



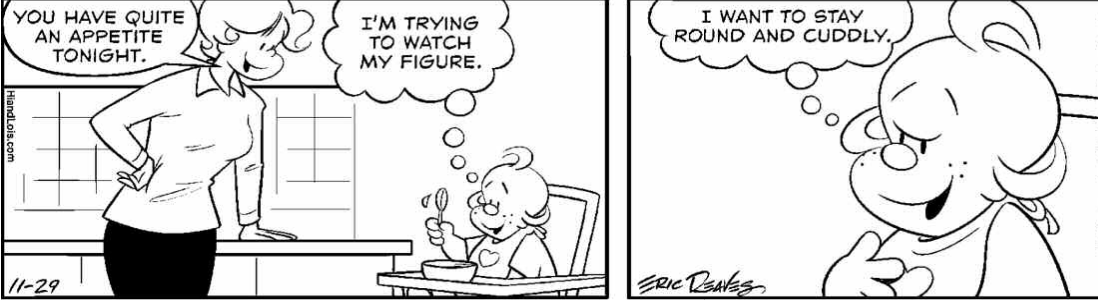
Rose is Rose



Agnes



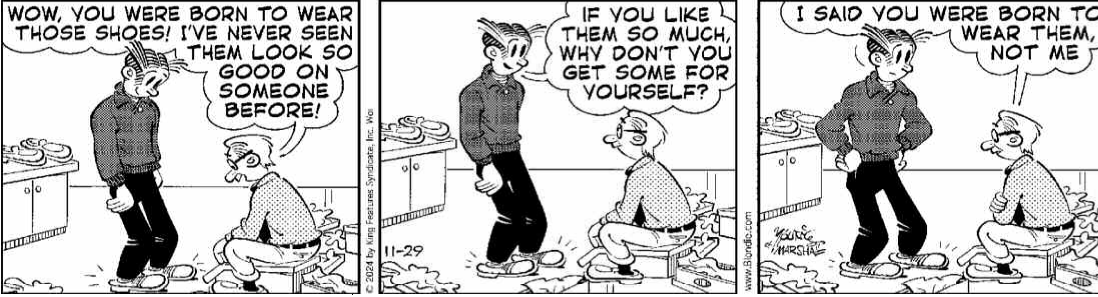
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

YDF IPPUHF MBRXXZ ORVF
 YDF VFIHJHPB YP WP WFY
 IDFIUFV PCY AZ R VPIYPG.
 HY MFX Y GFRXXZ IGCOAZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD THINK A SONGBIRD'S FAVORITE PART OF A THANKSGIVING MEAL MUST BE THE TWEET POTATOES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals C

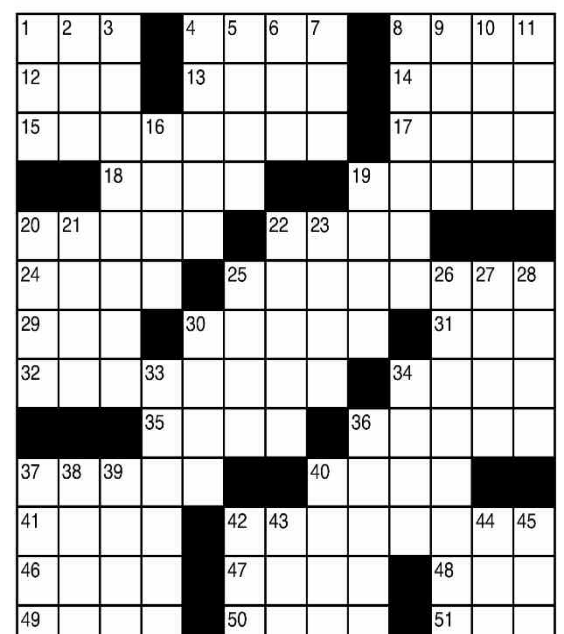
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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| ACROSS | 35 Has a bug prop. for short | 36 Secluded spots | 37 Disney deer | 40 Fly high | 41 United — Emirates | 42 Snack with leftover Thanks-giving turkey | 46 Playwright Simon | 47 Lawyer Clooney | 48 Time line period | 49 Big wind | 50 Lacking pep | 51 Heat source | 16 "Phooey!" | 19 Physique | 20 Droops | 21 Mater lead-in | 22 Rural buildings | 23 Concerning king | 25 Biblical dreams | 27 "So be it" | 28 Bits of wit | 30 1502, to Caesar | 33 Tinker | 34 Cabbage salad | 36 Pious | 37 Fire-cracker sound | 38 Bailiwick | 39 Postal delivery | 40 Hose woe | 42 Bando of baseball | 43 "I love," in Latin | 44 French vineyard | 45 Chinese dynasty |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

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Colts ...

Continued from page 8
“I think, right now, where we’re at in the season, with everything set ahead of us, still being in that picture, one game on the road against New England going into the bye, we’ve got a chance to catch our breath and regroup for the last, final run,” linebacker Zaire Franklin said. “I think we’re in a special, unique position to where — why not go on a run? Why not us? I’ve done it before.”

“To be honest with you, I hate that I’m always in this position, but I’ve been there before, and I think the reality of the situation is that it just takes one. It just takes one play. It just takes one game. It just takes one to get the ball rolling, to get this momen-

tum shifted, to get that energy back and get it rolling and get into the dance. Because I think, at the end of the day, as long as you get into the dance, that’s all that matters.”

Franklin was a rookie in 2018 when Indianapolis went 10-1 down the stretch to overcome a 1-5 start and sneak into the post-season with the final berth.

The 2021 Colts went 6-1 in November and December to get to 9-6 and position themselves for a playoff spot before losing their final two games in January.

And Indianapolis won four straight to end November and begin December last year, enabling itself to force a winner-takes-all battle against the

Houston Texans in the regular-season finale.

The Colts went 1-3 in November this year, but they have a chance to turn things around in the final full month of the regular season.

“Obviously, these last five games will be big,” Steichen said. “Right now we’ve got to take it one day at a time, one meeting at a time, one practice at a time, one game at a time to get to where we want to be at the end of the year. But we know this is a huge week for us coming up before the bye. So the fundamentals, the details, the attention to details, are going to be huge going into this week and then coming back after the bye. Get some guys back hopefully, be ready to roll for that four-game stretch.”

If Indianapolis’ fortunes are to turn around again, it will need to begin with the offense.

The Colts rank 21st in the 32-team NFL with an average of 20.2 points per game and are 17th in rushing offense and 24th in the passing game.

Center Tanor Bortolini (concussion) and wide receiver Josh Downs (shoulder) are among the players in danger of missing the trip to New England, increasing the degree of difficulty for a struggling unit.

But improvement in situational details could go a long way toward fixing what fails the offense.

Indianapolis ranks 23rd with a 36% conversion rate on third down, and it’s 24th with a 52.8%

touchdown rate in the red zone. Those numbers are the keys to finishing drives and putting more points on the scoreboard.

“We just need to take advantage of our scoring opportunities, and we need to come away with seven (points) instead of three because we got down there — we just couldn’t finish,” wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr. said, referring specifically to last week’s 24-6 loss against the Detroit Lions in which the Colts twice failed to reach the end zone from inside the visitors’ 20-yard line. “If we start putting up sevens instead of threes, then you don’t know what happens, right? The score is a lot closer and football is football and momentum is king, and who knows?”



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jayden Comer of Jay County dribbles against Elwood’s Brice Shuler during the third quarter of the Patriots’ season-opening win. JCHS will be on the road Saturday when it travels to Richmond to take on the Red Devils.

Win ...

Continued from page 8
“Much better on-ball pressure, much better defensive rebounding,” said Bomholt, whose team opened the 2023-24 season with a 56-19 shellacking of Elwood and then lost to Richmond by 41 four days later. “The times we got them blocked out, there was nobody around. And then when we broke down, we broke down by not getting the shooter covered. There were a lot of things that we went through that, my oh my.”

All of the nine Jay County players who saw

the floor scored, with Gradin Swoveland and Griffin leading the way at 10 points apiece. Phillips followed with seven points while pulling down a team-high seven rebounds.

Elwood turned the ball over seven times in the opening period and had difficulty against the Patriots’ 3-2 zone, especially with a starting lineup including the 6-foot-9-inch Forthofer and 6-foot-6-inch Swoveland. It managed just nine field-goal attempts inside the arc and shot 5-of-24 (21%) from long distance.

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Elwood Panthers				Def. rebound percentage: .750			
Boys varsity summary				Score by quarters:			
				Elwood 5 3 11 2 — 21			
				Jay Co. 13 15 4 10 — 42			
				3-point shooting: Elwood 5-29 (Mullins 2-4, Leavell 2-10, Shuler 1-9, Casas 0-4), Jay County 2-12 (Schemenaur 1-1, Griffin 1-4, Comer 0-4, Swoveland 0-2, Fugjett).			
				Rebounds: Elwood 23 (Mullins 8, Etchison 5, Leavell 4, Jones 2, team 2, Shuler, Casas), Jay County 29 (Phillips 7, Griffin 6, Comer 5, Swoveland 4, Sommers 4, Forthofer 3).			
				Assists: Elwood 4 (Shuler 2, Jones, Leavell), Jay County 9 (Swoveland 3, Comer 2, Griffin 2, Schemenaur, Sommers).			
				Blocks: Elwood 0. Jay County 2 (Dirksen, Swoveland).			
				Personal fouls: Elwood 12 (Etchison 5, Mullins 2, Shuler 2, Casas 2, Jones), Jay County 6 (Fugjett, Phillips, Swoveland).			
				Turnovers: Elwood 16. Jay County 11.			
Elwood (0-1)				Jay County (1-0)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Mullins	4-8	0-0	10	Comer	1-5	0-0	2
Shuler	1-12	0-0	3	Schemenaur	1-1	0-0	3
Casas	0-4	0-0	0	Fugjett	1-2	0-0	2
Etchison	0-1	0-0	0	Dirksen	1-1	0-0	2
Jones	2-2	0-0	4	Forthofer	1-4	2-4	4
Leavell	2-11	0-0	4	Phillips	3-6	1-1	7
Totals	9-38	0-0	23	Griffin	4-8	1-2	10
	.237	0-0		Swoveland	5-11	0-0	10
				Sommers	1-2	0-2	2
				Totals	18-40	4-9	42
					.450	.444	

Sports on tap

Local schedule

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

Saturday
Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshmen) at Richmond — 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at Mississinawa Valley — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling at St. Henry — 9:15 a.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Mississinawa Valley — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
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: Sam Houston 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)

Saturday

9 a.m. — Motorsports: Qatar Grand Prix (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Ipswich Town at Nottingham Forest (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Michigan at Ohio State (FOX); Tennessee at Vanderbilt (ABC); South Carolina at Clemson (ESPN); Illinois at Northwestern (BTN); Kansas at Baylor (ESPN2); West Virginia at Texas Tech (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal at West Ham United (USA)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Auburn at Alabama (ABC); Maryland at Penn State (BTN); Miami at Syracuse (ESPN); Notre Dame at USC (CBS); Rutgers at Michigan State (FS1); Fresno State at UCLA

(BTN); Cal at SMU (ESPN2); Arizona State at Arizona (FOX)
7 p.m. — College football: Oklahoma at LSU (ESPN); Purdue at Indiana (FS1); Florida at Florida State (ESPN2); Texas at Texas A&M (ABC)
7 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana); Ottawa Senators at Los Angeles Kings (CBS)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Washington at Oregon (NBC); Kansas State at Iowa State (FOX)
8 p.m. — NHL: Nashville Predators at Minnesota Wild (CBS)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Houston at BYU (ESPN); Tennessee State at Montana (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Air Force at San Diego State (FS1)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

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.

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110 HELP WANTED

TOWN OF REDKEY LOOKING FOR a full time Utility worker. Hours are 7-3:30 p.m. Duties will be to assist with water/sewer department. Pick up applications at the city building in Redkey.

90 SALE CALENDAR

saw, Porch Swing, 3 hole dog box for pickup truck, Garage and shop tools. Several items not to mention.

OWNER: Richard L. Manor
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

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Lic. #AU10500168
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF PORTLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Notice is hereby given that the City of Portland Redevelopment Commission (the “Commission”) will accept sealed proposals at the office of the Portland Clerk-Treasurer, located at 321 N. Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana, up to the hour of 4:00 p.m. (local time) on December 16, 2024. Notice is further given that a public meeting of the Commission will be held on December 20, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. (local time), at the Community Resource Center, located at 118 S. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371, at which time and place the Commission shall open and consider each proposal pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14-22, for the purchase of certain real property located at 309 W Main St, Portland, In 47371 (commonly known as the Hood Building), being made available for development purposes in the City of Portland Economic Development Area, said property including 0.91 acres, more or less.
The Offering Sheet, containing a detailed description of and the minimum offering price for the property described above and terms upon which the sale shall be awarded, as well as certain limitations on the use to be made of the property described above, is available for review at the office of the Commission, located at 321 N. Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana. Each proposal shall be executed in the manner provided for in the Offering Sheet and must be submitted in an envelope marked “Proposal for Hood Building.” Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14-22, any proposal submitted by a trust (as defined in Indiana Code 30-4-1-1(a)) must identify each (i) beneficiary of the trust and (ii) settlor empowered to revoke or modify the trust.
The Commission reserves the right to reject all proposals, or, in its sole discretion, to continue discussions with one or more persons or entities that have submitted a proposal or any other interested parties.
Dated this 26th day of November 2024.
CITY OF PORTLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CR 11-29-12-6-2024-HSPAXLP

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Sports

A win, but no celebration

Patriots unhappy with performance in victory over Elwood

BY RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Patriots scored the game's first nine points while Elwood struggled to keep possession.

They pushed to a 28-5 lead late in the first half.

An 8-0 run in the fourth quarter put the game away.

There was no level of celebration, though, especially as they look toward the next opponent on the schedule.

Jay County High School's boys basketball team was in control throughout its season-opening 42-21 win Tuesday over the Panthers, but walked away knowing it will have to play significantly better as it heads on the road Saturday to Richmond.

"The game was exactly how we practiced," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "We played exactly how we prepared, and that's not good."

"We didn't execute. How many times did we fumble a pass right to us? ... When that kind of thing happens on the floor, you know there wasn't attention to detail."

Jay County (1-0) got on the board first when Cole Forthofer split a pair of free throws at the 6:05 mark of the first quarter and proceeded to build a 9-0 lead. The Panthers (0-1), meanwhile, turned the ball over on their first five possessions and went scoreless for nearly five minutes.

Another 15-point run for the Patriots had them up by 23 before Brice hit a Shuler 3-pointer off of an assist from Blaise Jones seven seconds before halftime.

"We were talking," said Tucker Griffin, a senior team captain and transfer from New Castle. "We were playing the way that we want to play. We were playing precise."

A 28-8 advantage at halftime thanks to two big scoring runs had the game looking as if it was heading for a running clock in the second half. But Jay County's offense fizzled while EHS hit a trio of third-quarter 3-pointers and then got a hoop from Jayden Mullins for the opening points of the final period to close the gap to 11.

"I was so happy with our kids, that they fought and battled," said Elwood coach Ryan VanSkyock, a 2003 JCHS graduate. "For us, we kind of had the score where we wanted it to be to dictate the tempo. ..."

"I'm just proud of our kids effort on the defensive end and how they battled."

The Patriots were never truly in danger as they put the game away with an 8-0 run that included five points from Aiden Phillips. (He converted an offensive rebound into a three-point play and hit a layup on an outlet pass from Jayden Comer.) But with Richmond looming Saturday, players and coach agreed their level of play was not where it needs to be.

"We should've been cheering in the locker room, but instead we're having tough talks," said Griffin. "If we play like that Saturday, we're going to get ran out of the gym. So we need to play better, we need to practice harder. It starts with the little things."

What little things?
See **Win** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Tucker Griffin of Jay County High School goes to the basket in front of Elwood's Blaise Jones during the Patriots' 42-23 season-opening win Tuesday. Griffin, a senior transfer from New Castle, shared the team high of 10 points with junior Gradin Swoveland.

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Colts hope for late playoff push

By GEORGE BREMER
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — It's been four weeks since Indianapolis Colts head coach Shane Steichen announced the postseason was the franchise's top priority and veteran Joe Flacco would take over as the starting quarterback.

The Colts (5-7) have won just a single game since, and 22-year-old Anthony Richardson has been reinstated as the starter.

Indianapolis has lost plenty of ground in the playoff chase over the last month, but it's still got a chance to make a run.

The Colts enter the week in ninth place in the AFC, two games behind the Denver Broncos (7-5) for the seventh and final postseason berth.

That's not great math for Indianapolis, and there is little to no margin for error, but with the teeth of the schedule in the rearview mirror, there is hope.

The Colts play just one team with a winning record over their final five games. That's a Dec. 15 date against the Broncos that could ultimately seal the team's playoff fate.

The stretch run begins Sunday on the road against the New England Patriots (3-9) with the bye week to follow. The final three games are at home against the Tennessee Titans (3-8), at the New York Giants (2-9) and at home against the Jacksonville Jaguars (2-9).

See Colts page 7