



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Vance visiting to push state for changes

Vice president to make his pitch for mid-decade redistricting

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As President Donald Trump looks to increase the Republican majority in Congress, Indiana Gov. Mike Braun confirmed on Tuesday that Vice President JD Vance will come to Indianapolis — likely to make a personal redistricting appeal.

“Whatever we discuss there, and if that topic comes up, it’s exploratory,” Braun said. “There’s been no commitments made.”

The visit is part of a nationwide push to net more Republican seats in the historically narrow U.S. House of Representatives — most notably in Texas, where Trump has said the GOP is “entitled” to more seats.

Indiana redraws congressional boundaries every 10 years with new census numbers, and Hoosier leaders will have to determine if it’s legal to do so early.

Mentioning Texas, Braun said that redistricting outside of the traditional ten-year cycle is “not going to be a calm process,” adding that “we’ll see what happens.”

But Indiana Rep. Matt Pierce warned against redistricting explicitly to grow a partisan advantage, worrying that such an effort could “take us down a very bad path.”

“Because after that happens, our congressional institution is going to be illegitimate. People are going to ask themselves, ‘Does this really reflect the will of the people?’” asked Pierce, a Democrat from Bloomington. “... Once you lose legitimacy as a government, you don’t have a democracy anymore. This is no small thing that’s happening here — this is basically a knife fight for democracy and the Democrats better act like it.”

In retaliation, some Democrat-led states have floated the possibility of redrawing their maps to net more seats in Congress for their party, namely California and New York.

See Visiting page 2

A night at the park

Portland Police Department hosted its National Night Out event Tuesday at Hudson Family Park. At left, Finley Inman, 2, Portland, points at the pavilion during the event. Local emergency responders offered free hot dogs, popcorn and balloons at the park Tuesday, along with raffles, rides around the park and a bounce house. Above, Autumn Wittkamp, 9, Portland, pours purple sand into a heart-shaped container. Below, a boy waves while in the Jay County Sheriff’s Office bucket rides.



Putin meets with envoy from the U.S.

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Vladimir Putin exchanged “signals” with Donald Trump on the war in Ukraine at Kremlin talks with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff, a top Russian official said Wednesday.
“On our part, in particular, some signals were conveyed on the Ukrainian issue,” the Russian president’s foreign policy aide, Yuri Ushakov, told reporters, without elaborating. “Corresponding signals were also received from President Trump.”
The meeting took place just

Trump set Saturday deadline for Russia to reach a truce

two days before an Aug. 8 deadline Trump set for Russia to reach a truce in the war or face potential sanctions. While Putin has said he won’t abandon his campaign in Ukraine, people familiar with the situation said

the Kremlin might offer the U.S. concessions that could include halting airstrikes in a bid to avert new economic penalties.
Ushakov said the negotiations that lasted almost three hours

were “useful and constructive,” and also focused on prospects for developing U.S.-Russia relations. Moscow will wait for Witkoff to report back to Trump before commenting further, he said.
Witkoff’s fifth meeting with the Russian leader this year follows an apparent shift in Trump’s approach to the war, which initially saw him focus his pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy only to increasingly express frustration with Putin in recent weeks. The barrage of Russian drones that have rained down on

Ukrainian cities and the resulting images of destruction have made an impression on the U.S. president, according to people close to him.
Trump is now publicly betting that Putin’s growing economic woes will eventually force him to end an invasion that is in its fourth year. In a CNBC interview Tuesday, he said that “if energy goes down low enough, Putin’s going to stop killing people.”
“If you get energy down another \$10 a barrel, he’s going to have no choice, because his economy stinks,” Trump added.

Weather

The high temperature was 82 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 61.
The forecast calls for a low in the upper 60s tonight. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high in the mid 80s. Highs will be in the upper 80s this weekend.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The final concert in Arts Place’s Hudson Family Park Amphitheater series is a week away. Brother Believe Me, an Ohio-based cover band that puts its own twist on music from the 1980s through the present, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14. Food trucks and children’s activities will be available.

Coming up

Friday — Results from the FRHS girls golf team at the Gary Broering Invite.

Saturday — Details from Thursday’s Portland Board of Works meeting.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday’s Jay County Commissioners meeting.

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Capsule Reports

Stop missed
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after an Elkhart man drove into a Portland man's car at the intersection of Votaw and Williams streets in Portland about 4:51 p.m. Friday.

Anthony Suski, 79, was driving his 2013 Chevrolet Silverado west on Votaw Street. He told police he couldn't see the stop sign because it wasn't in clear view and proceeded into the intersection with Williams

Street. At the same time, 24-year-old Andrew Fluckiger was driving his 2015 Hyundai Sonata north on Williams Street and passing through the intersection. Suski crashed into Fluckiger's car.

Fluckiger's car was towed.

Intersection crash
A Muncie woman's vehicle was towed after she crashed into the back of a Dunkirk man's car at the intersection of county road 400 South and

Indiana 1 about 1:38 p.m. Friday.

Kassey K. Kendall, 44, was driving a 2018 Buick Encore east on county road 400 South near the highway. She told police she came to a complete stop at the intersection behind a 2019 Chevrolet Trax driven by 71-year-old David Duran. She also said Duran began to enter the intersection and stopped, leading Kendall to crash into the back of his car.

Duran told police he stopped

at the intersection and noticed Kendall in his rearview mirror approaching him and not slowing down. He told police he couldn't move because of traffic on the highway before Kendall's car crashed into the back of his.






Kendall complained of leg pain. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Passing accident
A Lynn resident struck a Bryant man's car with his trailer while passing him on U.S. 27

in Jay County about 3:40 p.m. Friday.

Jason A. Rolli, 40, was driving his 2013 Ford F-150 south on the highway near county road 400 North. He began to pass a 2023 Honda Accord driven by 23-year-old Seth C. Lemaster. As Rolli returned to the south-bound lane, Lemaster told police, Rolli's trailer struck the front driver's side of Lemaster's vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

CR almanac				
Friday 8/8	Saturday 8/9	Sunday 8/10	Monday 8/11	Tuesday 8/12
 86/69 <small>The high will be 86 degrees under sunny skies.</small>	 88/69 <small>Temperatures will climb into the upper 80s under sunny skies.</small>	 87/69 <small>Expect sunny skies again with a high of 87.</small>	 87/70 <small>The high will be in the upper 80s. There is a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms.</small>	 87/70 <small>There is a chance of showers. Otherwise, skies will be mostly sunny with a high in the upper 80s.</small>

Lotteries	
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$449 million	Daily Three: 0-7-4 Daily Four: 5-7-1-2 Quick Draw: 8-13-14-15-35-37-39-40-42-44-47-49-51-56-67-69-73-75-78-79
Mega Millions 12-2742-59-65 Mega Ball: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$166 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 6-6-1 Pick 4: 2-5-7-7 Pick 5: 6-7-3-5-9 Evening Pick 3: 0-0-4 Pick 4: 9-7-4-3 Pick 5: 6-7-2-4-3 Rolling Cash: 2-7-12-34-38 Estimated jackpot: \$222,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-3-8 Daily Four: 5-4-0-0 Quick Draw: 4-5-6-8-9-18-26-29-33-39-42-44-49-50-54-55-58-59-65-75 Evening	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.09 Sept. corn4.11 Oct. corn3.83	Sept. beans9.43 Wheat 5.04
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.06 Sept. corn3.96 Oct. corn3.86	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.86 Sept. corn3.76 Beans.....9.68 Sept. beans9.63 Wheat4.79
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.91 Oct. corn3.78 Beans.....9.78	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.11 Sept. corn4.06 Beans.....9.54 Sept. beans.....9.29 Wheat4.49

Today in history

In 1742, Nathanael Greene was born at Potowomut in Warwick, Rhode Island. An instrumental part of the Revolutionary War, Greene served as major general under George Washington and participated in battles at Trenton and Princeton and endured the winter of 1777 through 1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In January 1781, he forced British General Lord Cornwallis to split his troops and defend territory on two fronts at Cowpens, South Carolina, leading the British retreating to Charleston.

In 1932, the award was selected to be given to those who are wounded or killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces as a result of enemy action. August 7 is observed as Purple Heart Day in the United States.

In 1912, Teddy Roosevelt was nominated as a Bull Moose Party candidate for president.

In 1959, the unmanned United States spacecraft Explorer 6 was launched to orbit around the earth. Its mission — to transmit a photo of the earth from space. The satellite became the first United States device to snap a photograph of the planet.

In 1974, French high-wire artist Philippe Petit walked between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center on a high wire approximately 1,350 feet off the ground. The then 24-year-old walked across the wire eight times in 45 minutes.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar	
Today 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Local/Indiana

Courthouse exhibit

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Randolph County Courthouse was once saved by seven elderly women wearing nothing but porcelain replicas of the building they were trying to protect. In Rome, Indiana — which long ago lost its status as Perry County's seat — the original, early 19th-century courthouse still stands proudly near the Ohio River. And in Cass County, a local artist unknowingly contributed a decades-old painting to a now-complete, and eclectic, collection celebrating Indiana's county courthouses.

They're just a few of the stories brought to life in a new temporary exhibit highlighting the state's historic county courthouses, which opened Friday at Indiana Landmarks' Rapp Family Gallery in Indianapolis.

The exhibit features 92 original artworks — one from each of Indiana's counties — and represents the culmination of an 18-year project led by Noblesville attorney Doug Church.

"The paintings are all sizes, they're all different kinds of approaches to the art," Church said

Display brings seats of government to life

during a talk at the gallery Friday evening. "There are oils, pastels, pen and ink, there's a woodcut. It's really remarkable. ... It is eclectic to the max."

The exhibit is the result of a long-running collaboration between Indiana Landmarks, the Indiana State Bar Association and the Indiana Bar Foundation, with contributions from judges, lawyers, historians, artists and community members across the state.

Since 2007, Church has worked to collect an original artwork for each of Indiana's county courthouses — some current, some historic, and some "a little of both."

Church praised the buildings themselves as "secular cathedrals" that symbolize the rule of law and anchor communities across the state.

With no artistic restrictions on medium

or style, the collection now includes everything from juried contest winners to historic pieces long stored in basements or donated by local groups.

"Doug's courthouse project isn't just about creating beautiful artwork, though the 92 pieces are truly stunning," said Michael Jasaitis, president of the Indiana State Bar Association. "This project represents something far more profound. It's about understanding that courthouses are the beating heart of our communities, the physical manifestation of our commitment to the rule of law."

Statewide search
As Church recounted, the project began when he convinced his own Hamilton County Bar Association to commission a painting for his 2007 installation as president of the state bar.

See **Exhibit** page 6

Felony arrests

Drug possession
A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for drug possession.

Janeesa J. Hampshire, 37, 411 E. Walnut St., was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for possession of

cocaine or a narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine, as well as a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

She was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Visiting ...

Continued from page 1
Both of those states would have to reckon with state laws that put redistricting in the hands of non-partisan commissions, however.

States like Illinois and Texas already have an "F" from the Gerrymandering Project's report card for their redistricting process. Indiana, meanwhile, has an "A" grade for its congressional map.

The number of competitive seats in Congress has dwindled. Theoretically, any candidate could win in the U.S. House's 435 seats but, realistically, only 18 seats are considered to be a "toss up." Senate positions are selected by the entire state and, as such, will not

be impacted by redistricting.

"There are not a whole lot of seats in the House of Representatives that really could swing towards one party or the other," said Steven Webster, an associate professor of political science at Indiana University's Bloomington campus. "The reality is that most seats are pretty safe for one party; and so a lot of times you kind of have a pretty close balance of power in the House."

Tip O'Neill, a former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, once famously said "all politics is local," though he didn't originate the sentiment.

See **Visiting** page 6

Felony courts

Common nuisance
An Indianapolis man was sentenced to jail for maintaining a common nuisance.

Joshua A. Bennett, 47, 8833 Mangrove Way, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 6 felony.

He was sentenced to 900 days in Jay County Jail with all but 278 days suspended and given 278 days credit for time served. Bennett was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony for possession of a narcotic drug and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe were dismissed.

Cases dismissed
Indiana v. Preston R. Keen, Level 6 felony

SERVICES

Today

Brenner, Mitchell: 2 p.m., Tomlinson Cemetery, 5301 S. Old State Road 67, Muncie.

Aug. 30

Shilt, Donald: 11 a.m., Tribute Funeral Homes, 1000 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.

Service listings provided by

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MusicWorks registration underway

It's time to sign up for music classes.

Registration is open for fall MusicWorks classes at Arts Place's locations in Jay and Blackford counties.

Classes, which begin Sept. 2, are available for string, brass and band instruments, piano, harp, guitar, ukulele and bassoon. Voice lessons are also offered.

Class sessions will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To register, visit myartsplace.org. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25.

For assistance call (206) 726-4809 for the Jay County Campus or (765) 348-4154 for the Blackford County Arts Center.

Taking Note

Also, Brother Believe Me will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at Hudson Family Park, in the final concert of Arts Place's summer series.

Brother Believe Me reproduces a wide range of musical genres, including a mix of songs from the 1970s, '80s and today.

Exhibit underway

The exhibit Narwhal:

Revealing an Arctic Legend is now open at Minnetrista Museum and Gardens in Muncie.

The traveling exhibit from Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services features displays, hands-in interactives and visuals of the Narwhal. There is a life-sized, 16-foot fiberglass model of an adult male narwhal suspended from the ceiling.

Emens series set

Ball State University recently announced its Emens Auditorium 2025-26 series, including opening ticket sales for those who subscribe to the entire series.

The series lineup is as follows:

- The Addams Family on Sept. 23
- Mrs. Doubtfire on Oct. 30
- The Tina Turner Musical on Nov. 19
- Chicago on Jan. 22
- The Barricade Boys on Feb. 24

All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Those interested in subscribing can call the Emens box office at (765) 285-1539.

For more information, go online to emens.bsu.edu/events.

Applications open

Applications are open for the Indiana Career Scholarship Account program.

The program is open to sophomores through seniors in high school who are interested in internships, apprenticeships or work-based learning. They can provide a \$5,000 annual scholarship for students enrolled in an approved program.

Applications are available at in.gov/tos/csa. The deadline is Oct. 1.

Series announced

The Muncie Three Trails Music Series is hosting seven concerts this summer.

The series will continue with a performance by Blue Moon Marquee on Saturday, Aug. 16, at Canan Commons. The group is a Canadian swing blues duo from British Columbia.

Dates for other shows are as follows:

- Saturday, Aug. 23 — Vanessa Collier at Brown Family Amphitheater at Ball State University
- Saturday, Aug. 30 — Jennie Devoe at Canan Commons
- Saturday, Sept. 6 — Colby T. Helms & the Virginia Creepers at Brown Family Amphitheater
- Saturday, Sept. 20 — The Afro Peruvian Jazz Orchestra at Brown Family Amphitheater

All shows begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, go online to munciethreetrails.com.

Loneliness is common for moms and sons

DEAR ABBY: I was married for 20 years to a man who slowly isolated me from friends and family until I had no one but him to rely on. Now 49 and divorced, I am without close friends. For the last two years, I've been actively trying to build connections. I go to church and volunteer, rent a plot at the community garden to meet other gardeners, attend events at the local library, chat with vendors at the farmers market and know all my neighbors by name. People are friendly, and I'm well liked, but I am still alone every Friday night.

It seems like everyone I meet is either too busy or too wrapped up in their own lives to make room for a new friend. If this were just happening to

me, I'd chalk it up to my age or stage in life. But my sons, who are 18 and 20, are struggling to find meaningful friendships too. Is this just how the world is now? Where have all the friendships gone? — FRIENDLESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR FRIENDLESS: Bear in mind that friendships are usually built over time and common interest. Have you tried inviting any of these church or gardening acquaintances over on a weekend night? Have you discussed this with your religious adviser? If you haven't, that's what I would recommend.

As to your sons and their socialization problem, assuming they are continuing their education, suggest they become active in sports or special interest clubs on campus. If that fails, they should talk to a counselor and ask how they can better integrate themselves into the student body.

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DEAR ABBY: Whenever my partner and I share errands or tasks, he never fails to comment on how much time and effort each of us puts into the project. He says things like,

“You said it would only be an hour, but you took an hour and a half,” or, “You said you'd take a five-minute break and you took a half-hour.” When I respond, he replies, “I'm not complaining about it. I'm just TELLING you.” When I get upset, he accuses me of “getting defensive” or says he “doesn't like how I'm treating him because he doesn't treat me that way.”

Why do you think he feels it's OK to make seemingly negative comments about my efforts and then tell me “it is no big deal” or he is “just making an observation”? How should I respond to his evaluations of me? — DOING MY BEST IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DOING: My goodness. It almost seems like your partner never leaves the house without his stopwatch. The next time he does it, your response should be, “That's it. Now I'M making an observation. What you're doing IS a big deal. It is passive-aggressive. We need couples counseling NOW because it could ruin our relationship.” Then schedule an appointment and, if your partner refuses to go with you, go alone, because when you do, you will gain insight.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior; and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP —

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Tuesday

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

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



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Sudoku


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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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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U.S. should rethink its approach

The Columbian
(Vancouver, Washington)
Tribune News Service

An earthquake centered near Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula last week has been called a "wake-up call" for the Pacific Northwest. More important, it should revive thoughts about the threat of a major earthquake a little closer to home.

The 8.8 magnitude quake triggered tsunami warnings along the West Coast of the United States — some 3,400 miles from the epicenter. Fortunately, waves that arrived on our shores hours later proved to be minimal, giving us time for pondering the possibilities of a local earthquake rather than rebuilding from significant damage.

In 2015, in a Pulitzer Prize-winning article for The New Yorker, Kathryn Schultz detailed the realities that would accompany a major earthquake along

Guest Editorial

the Cascadia subduction zone, a 700-mile fault line that runs under the Pacific Ocean along the West Coast.

"The northwest edge of the continent, from California to Canada and the continental shelf to the Cascades, will drop by as much as 6 feet and rebound 30 to 100 feet to the west — losing, within minutes, all the elevation and compression it has gained over centuries," Schultz wrote. And Kenneth Murphy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency was quoted as saying, "Our operating assumption is

that everything west of Interstate 5 will be toast."

Federal estimates at the time were 13,000 fatalities, 27,000 injuries, 1 million people requiring shelter and 2.5 million needing food and water. FEMA estimated that 15 of Portland's 17 bridges would fail in a major earthquake.

According to the best available science, the Pacific Northwest has experienced 41 subduction zone earthquakes in the past 10,000 years — one every 243 years. Experts also say, based on oral histories from Native Americans and accounts of a tsunami in Japan on the other side of the Pacific Ocean, that such an earthquake occurred in January 1700. That puts us 325 years into a 243-year cycle.

Of course, there is no way to predict a major earthquake with pinpoint accuracy or to prevent one. But as Schultz wrote, the

people of the Northwest have been "lulled into nonchalance by their seemingly benign environment."

None of this is revisited as an attempt at fear-mongering. Instead, it provides an opportunity to examine how the United States' approach to disasters has been altered in just the past 10 years.

In the first 100 days of his second term, President Donald Trump denied half the requests for major disaster aid that crossed his desk. That included a request from Washington following a bomb-cyclone windstorm that caused an estimated \$34 million in damage late last year. It also included denials for relief in Arkansas, California, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Trump, meanwhile, has said the Federal Emergency Management Agency should be elimi-

nated. There are no firm plans to scuttle the agency, but funding for disaster preparation and relief has been withheld in multiple instances.

In Washington, the most likely disasters are severe wildfires or earthquakes and resulting tsunamis. The state has taken strong steps in recent years to improve wildfire reporting and suppression; it also has adopted an early warning system for earthquakes. But even the best-laid plans cannot prevent all damage from disasters. And that is why the federal government has a vital role to play.

In the past, Washington taxpayers have willfully paid when a tornado strikes Oklahoma or a hurricane batters Florida, with the understanding that help will be available for us when it is needed. Now, that social contract is being undermined; our nation is weaker for it.



Cuts will be needed in next federal budget

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The coming decade is almost certain to see Americans take more seriously our large national debt. I see this as a silver lining that will push states to think more deliberately about taxes and public services.

Poor states, including Indiana, will likely struggle far more than affluent states. Three federal programs illustrate how states are treated differently.

The first is Medicaid. Under the current plan, states each pay a different share of the total cost. Typically, poor states pay a lower share. Indiana ranks 32nd, paying under 25 cents on each dollar of Medicaid spending in the state. The richer, top 10 states pay between 36 and 41 cents out of every dollar spent on Medicaid.

Conceptually, it would seem easy to cut federal spending and simply have all states assume equal shares of Medicaid. The problem with this approach is that taxpayers in rich states, including New York, California and Illinois, pay much higher federal taxes

Michael J. Hicks



12 students participate in some type of federal education program that accounts for almost \$2,000 per student each year. There are good arguments for the federal government exiting the K-12 funding space. But, education funding is less characterized by funding moving from rich to poor states than Medicaid or other programs are, which will make ending this type of funding more politically fraught.

Agricultural subsidies are so enormous that the U.S. farming industry receives more in subsidies than it pays in taxes. Not all of this goes to relatively poor rural counties, but most of it does. Indiana ranks 15th in agriculture subsidies, receiving \$2,570 per resident last year. North Dakota got a whopping \$39,324 per resident, while Rhode Island received \$18.12 per resident. American consumers would be far better off ending agricultural subsidies. While some food prices might rise, there's no chance it would rise by the \$1,568 per resident we are spending on farm subsidies.

There's probably no federal program that is so clearly a

negative value transfer of money from affluent, largely urban taxpayers to rural, mostly wealthy, businesses. While these have been around since at least the Great Depression, the growing gap between rural and urban places makes their continuation far less likely. I cannot imagine any broad fiscal debate that would not also address farm subsidies.

The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration exemplifies smaller but questionable federal spending. With a \$325 million annual budget, the EDA funds infrastructure projects and "job creation" programs, primarily in rural counties and low-income municipalities.

The problem is that much of this economic development represents shuffling existing jobs and capital rather than creating new wealth. There's no reason the federal government should pick regional winners and losers with grants and subsidies. A tighter federal budget will challenge this spending.

As Americans wrestle with debt, we should acknowledge

several things. Our federal taxes as a share of GDP are at a 50-year low, while our spending as a share of GDP is at a 50-year high. Both taxes and spending will have to converge to reduce the debt.

We also have to acknowledge that the web of taxing and spending we've created in the federal government heavily taxes richer, mostly Democratic-leaning cities and states. At the same time, these programs mostly relocate funds to poorer, primarily Republican-leaning states and rural counties.

Good-faith compromise requires spending cuts and tax increases everywhere. However, the cuts will necessarily be concentrated in places represented by GOP members of the House and Senate. That will lead to some interesting politics and political rhetoric in the years ahead.

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

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To opt in or opt out?

Federal voucher program puts question to states

By ROBBIE SEQUEIRA
Stateline.org
Tribune News Service

When President Donald Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, he gave state leaders — not federal regulators — the power to decide whether and how to participate in the first-ever national tax credit scholarship program.

That decision now looms largest in blue states, where Democratic governors and lawmakers must weigh whether to reject the law outright on ideological grounds — or try to reshape it into something that reflects their own values.

“This isn’t the federal voucher program we were worried about five years ago,” said Jon Valant, a senior fellow in governance studies at the left-leaning Brookings Institution who testified before Congress on earlier versions of the bill. “It still has serious problems — but states now have tools to mold it into something they might actually support.”

The final law gives states wide discretion, he said. They can opt out entirely. They can opt in passively, leaving the program to operate as written. Or, as Valant suggests, they can try to redraw its footprint — focusing less on private school tuition and more on public school supports like tutoring, transportation and enrichment services in underserved districts.

“My hope is that blue states take a hard look and ask: Can this be used to address our own needs?”

For progressives and education advocates who are wary of school vouchers, the decision is fraught. Opting in could draw criticism for approving what many see as a vehicle for privatization of K-12 education. But opting out could mean turning down federal dollars — education money that states with budding or robust private school voucher infrastructures, such as Arizona and Florida, will gladly take.

“There’s money on the table, and it can be used for more than

just private school tuition,” Valant said. “If blue states want to keep that money from reinforcing inequality, they’ll have to get creative, and act fast.”

Since 2020, private school choice programs — once limited to low-income or special needs students — have rapidly expanded.

In 2023, \$6.3 billion was spent nationwide on private school choice programs — less than 1% of total public K-12 operational spending, according to EdChoice, a nonprofit that advocates for school choice measures. From 2023-24 to 2024-25, participation in universal private school choice programs surged nearly 40%, growing from roughly 584,000 to 805,000 students in just one school year.

By 2026-27, about half of all U.S. students will be eligible, according to estimates by FutureEd, an independent think tank at Georgetown University.

These trends, combined with new federal tax credit, could fundamentally reshape the education funding landscape across state governments, experts say.

“States will need to decide whether to encourage the redirection of funding to support private and religious schools — either by expanding existing voucher programs or, if they don’t have one, by introducing such a program for the first time,” said Sasha Pudelski, director of advocacy for AASA, The School Superintendents Association. The group opposes the national voucher plan.

State regulations

As of this May, 21 states operated tax credit scholarship programs with varying degrees of funding and oversight. According to the EdChoice Friedman Index, the states of Florida, Arkansas, Arizona and Alabama rank highest in private school access, with 100% of students eligible for school choice programs.

Some states, like Florida and Arizona, already have extensive tax credit scholarship systems.

Others, including Texas, are building new infrastructure such as statewide voucher programs and education savings accounts, known as ESAs.

States with no current programs face decisions about participation, regulation and equity, but without clear federal guardrails, education advocates told Stateline.

The federal policy builds on existing state-level tax credit scholarship programs — such as Alabama’s — but significantly expands eligibility, removes scholarship caps and broadens allowable uses to include not just tuition, but also tutoring, therapy, transportation and academic support services. Beginning in 2027, scholarships will be excluded from federal taxable income.

Valant, of Brookings, told Stateline that some of his initial concerns were addressed in the version of the bill signed into law.

“There was a very realistic scenario in the earlier version of the bill where a small number of very wealthy people could essentially make money off this,” Valant said. “That was mostly addressed.”

The enacted version eliminates stock donations and caps individual tax credits at \$1,700. And with states that opt in having the power to shape their own program, Valant said that gives them the chance to establish their own guardrails, such as income eligibility caps or nondiscrimination policies for participating schools.

The scholarship-granting organizations, known as SGOs, would then be subject to new state regulations about where the money can go.

“States could say SGOs can’t give money to schools that discriminate based on sexual orientation. ... There’s quite a lot of room here for state regulation,” he said.

Looking ahead, Valant said he’ll be watching how states interpret their regulatory powers — and how effective scholar-

ship-granting organizations are at fundraising under the new rules, which prohibit large stock gifts and rely instead on millions of smaller donations.

“Now it’s a strange pitch: ‘Can you front me \$300 to give to the SGO? I swear the IRS will give it back,’” he said. “It’s going to take time to figure out how to sell this to families.”

Concerns over transparency and equity remain. The program allows donors, scholarship-granting organizations and families to direct funds with little public accountability, critics say. And in states without robust oversight, Valant warns that funds could be misused — or channeled to institutions that exclude students based, for example, on identity or beliefs about sexual orientation.

He also emphasized that early participation is likely to skew toward families already in private schools, particularly in wealthier ZIP codes — mirroring patterns seen in programs in Arizona, Florida and Georgia.

“One big risk is that the funds will disproportionately flow to wealthier families — just like we’ve seen in many ESA programs,” Valant said.

What are programs like?

FutureEd studied eight states — Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma and West Virginia — where 569,000 students participated in school choice programs at a cost to taxpayers of \$4 billion in 2023-24.

The FutureEd analysis found significant differences among the states in design, funding and oversight.

Arizona’s ESA program was the first of its kind in 2011, and also the first to shift toward universal eligibility in 2022.

Florida operated the largest and most expensive program, with broad eligibility, no caps or accreditation requirements, and a major influx of higher-income families, though it mandated some university-led performance reviews. Iowa fully funded

ESAs and, like other states, saw mostly existing private school families benefit.

Arkansas had a cautious rollout due to legal delays and geographic clustering of participants, while West Virginia allowed spending across state lines with no performance reporting.

Newcomer North Carolina began with income-based prioritization but quickly expanded under political pressure or demand, while Alabama and Louisiana will launch ESA programs in 2025-26 using general state revenues.

Utah enacted a universal voucher program in 2023, providing up to \$8,000 per student for private school or homeschool expenses. A state teachers union sued, arguing that participating schools were not “free and open to all children” and that the program diverted public school funds. A state court this April ruled the program was unconstitutional.

As the new federal law opens the door for tax-credit-funded tuition support, Texas is building its first universal school voucher program, aided through ESAs to begin in the 2026-27 school year. The program is funded with \$1 billion over two years, with \$10,000-\$11,000 per student — up to \$30,000 for students with disabilities and \$2,000 for home-schoolers.

The Texas comptroller will oversee the program, and private schools must be open for at least two years to be eligible for funds.

Voucher programs can drain state budgets, and budget wonks predict the cost for Texas could rise to around \$4.8 billion by 2030, The Texas Tribune reported.

A spokesperson for the Texas comptroller’s office said that details are still being finalized; the state has issued a request for proposals due Aug. 4 to select eligible educational assistance organizations that would help funnel scholarship dollars to schools.

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"I think it's a little rich, in the sense that they're making that kind of case about it," he said.

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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
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.
fccfrecovery.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 Sharpsburg 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@therockjc.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 Kruchkow
(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.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.org

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

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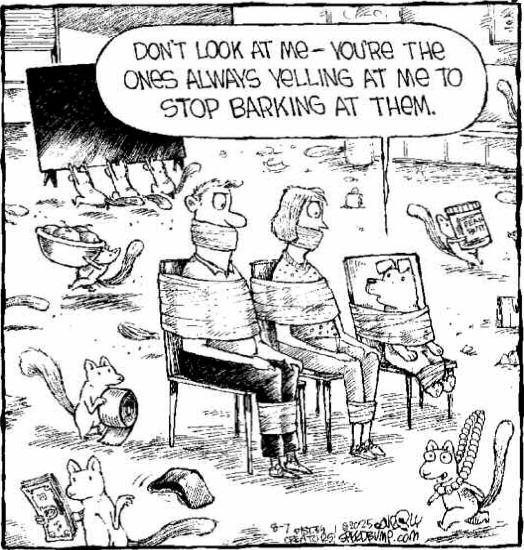

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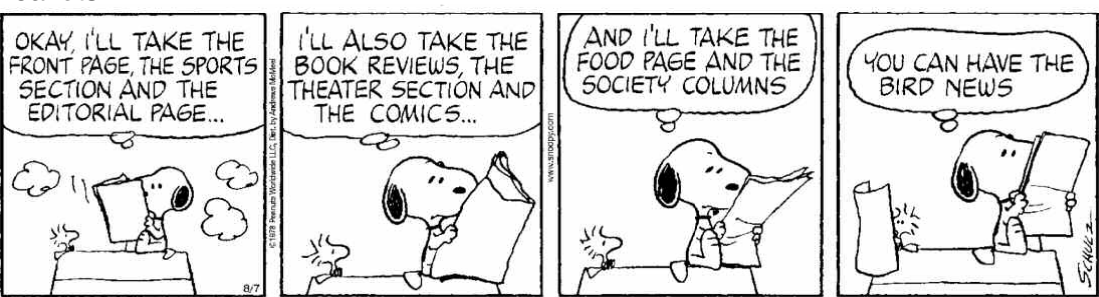
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



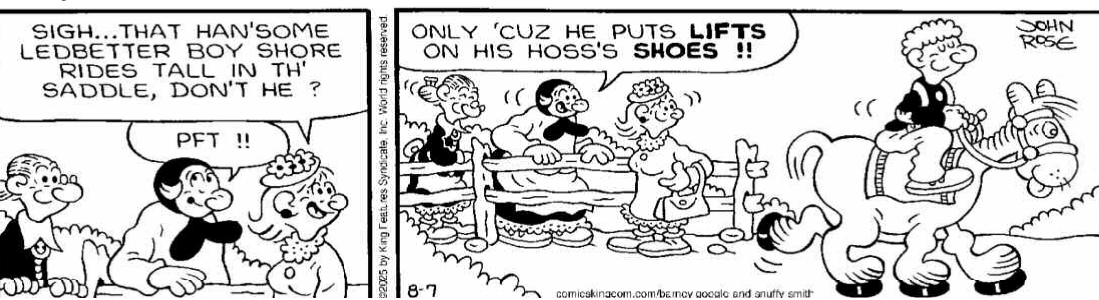
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Magic act

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 6
♥ K 7 5
♦ Q J 10 8 3
♣ Q 10 9

WEST
♦ 8 3
♥ A Q 10 9 4
♦ A
♣ K 8 7 6 2

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

SOUTH
♦ A K J 10 7 2
♥ J
♦ 9 6 5
♣ A J 4

The bidding:
South 1♣
West 2♥
North 2NT
East Pass

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.
Assume you're in four spades and West leads the ace of diamonds. East asks for a continuation of the suit by signaling with the seven, but West, unable to oblige, switches to the A-Q of hearts. How would you play the hand?
It seems that you must lose four tricks — two diamonds, a heart and a club — but if you're a good magician, you can make one of these losers disappear. Furthermore, you don't have to see the East-West

cards to accomplish that feat.
The key lies in your play from dummy's king at trick three. If you win West's queen of hearts with dummy's king, you go down one, assuming correct defense.
But if you trump the queen of hearts at trick three, preserving dummy's king for later use, you cannot be stopped from making the contract. You next draw three rounds of trump and lead a diamond to dummy's ten. What can East do?
If he takes the ten with the king, you can easily score the rest of the tricks, discarding the J-4 of clubs on two of dummy's red-suit winners. And if East ducks the ten instead, you are on equally firm ground. You simply discard your remaining diamond on the king of hearts and then take a club finesse. West wins the club with the king, but you lose only a heart, a diamond and a club.
It might seem odd that delaying your discard on the king of hearts makes any difference at all, but the inescapable fact is that preserving the king creates an impregnable seesaw position against East. You have him over a barrel regardless of what he does when you eventually lead a diamond to the ten.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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8-7

CRYPTOQUIP

OGG SML ZOVLBE NXBVLBA

TBXASLU UXHLPA XT UXWQMPWSA

LJLBE MXWB. KS NOA UBKJKPQ

LJLBEZXUE QGOHE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I WORKED ON MY DEMOGRAPHIC FORM FOR A LONG PERIOD, I EVENTUALLY TOOK LEAVE OF MY CENSUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Found-
dered
5 Govt.
health
org.
8 High-
lander
12 Ache
13 "Delight-
full"
14 Self-
referential
15 Intro
studio
class
16 MLB stat
17 Golden
Rule
word
18 Handles
20 Shopper's
aid
22 Coopers-
town
attraction
26 Word on a
bath-
room
door
29 Scrap
30 Italian
article
31 Stretches
(out)
32 Low isle
33 Warner
—
34 Historic
time
35 Bread
spread

36 Grating

37 Item in a
knitting
basket
40 Painter
Mondrian
41 "For
shame!"
45 Round
Table
titles
47 NYPD
alert
49 Slanted
type
(Abbr.)
50 Cham-
pagne
brand
51 PBS
funder
52 Wall St.
market
53 Dines
54 James
Bond, for
one

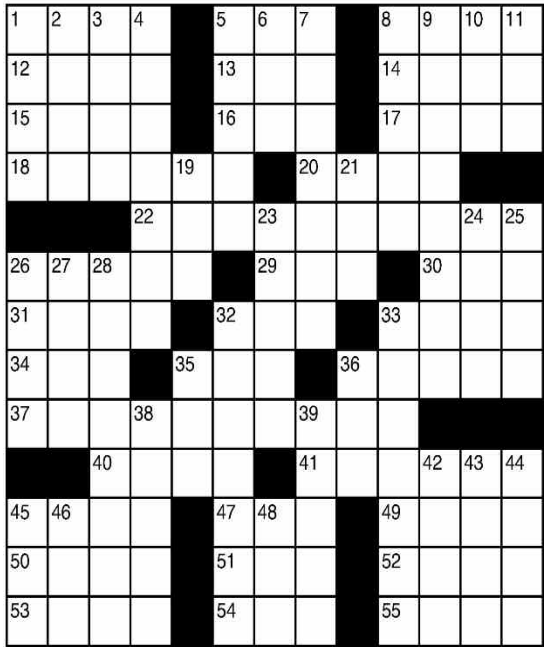
55 Jubilation

21 Astern
23 Like
fertile
soil
24 L-Q
bridge
25 Not
difficult
26 Coach
Ewbank
27 Gumbo
veggie
28 Making
lunches
for the
week,
say
32 Beach
robes
33 Capital
One's
busi-
ness
35 Average
guy
36 Train
lines
(Abbr.)
38 Rosters
39 In check
42 Texter's
sign-off
43 Postpaid
enc.
44 Swiss-
born
painter
Paul
45 Texting
letters
46 Chit
48 Vigor

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-7



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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Under cover in
the Industrial Building at
the Jay County Fair-
grounds, 806 W Votaw
St., Portland, IN
Friday Afternoon
AUGUST 8, 2025
4:30 P.M.
**OLD & COLLECTORS
ITEMS-MOBILITY
SCOOTER-HOUSE-
HOLD GOODS**
Daniel Dakota grandfa-
ther clock; Clark Jewel
Lorain Oven Heat Regu-
lator stove; Rally mobili-
ty scooter; Duncan
Phyfe table with 4 chairs
and extra leaves; Dun-
can Phyfe buffet; camel
back trunk with original
tray; vintage dry sink;
claw foot organ stool;
cedar chest; lightning
rods with balls; Roseville
vases; Hull Pottery;
primitives; Fenton bas-
ket; Ball blue canning
jars; tomato cages; min-
now buckets; Snowba-
bies; and other items not
listed.
TOOLS
Ryobi mitter saw; Black
& Decker 20V weed
eater; push mower; 10i
radial arm saw; Black &
Decker jig saw; 6v bat-
tery chargers; welding
helmet & jacket; bicycle
jacks;
and other items not list-
ed.
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Lead ...

Continued from page 10
“I know last year we shot a 223 the first time out. This time we shot 201 and 202, so I’m happy. We’ve just got to get that mix and get everybody in the 40s.”

Fort Recovery had three of the top five golfers in the field of 35, including Evers who carded the best score at 45 and Olivia Knapke, whose round of 47 claimed second place.

“I don’t think I ever would have imagined myself in this position, but it feels great,” Evers said. “My drives went really far and my putts were sinking today.”

Evers stayed consistent throughout the entire round, making three pars, four bogeys and two double-bogeys.

She got off to a hot start with a bogey on hole No. 1, a 485-yard par-6. After the grueling first hole, — along with its length, golfers had to hit over two creeks to reach the green — the FRHS senior made par on the 120-yard, par-3 second. Her first shot landed in the rough on the right of the green 30 yards from the hole. She hit a low chip to set up a 5-foot putt for par.

Evers made another bogey on the 280-yard, par-4 third hole. Her drive sailed over 215 yards to get over the hill and the creek to set herself up well. She got

under her second shot, leaving her 20 yards short of the green, but chipped on and two-putted for the score.

“I had some time to prepare since that first hole took forever,” said Evers referencing the wait time to finish the long first hole. “But I was ready to win today.”

Knapke had a rough start with three double-bogeys before rattling off three bogeys, a par and a birdie on hole No. 6 (240-yards, par-4) to earn her the second best score of the day.

The third-best score of the classic belonged to Tri-Village’s Lyla Brewer with a 50, while Adalyn Paul’s (Arcanum) 52 netted her fourth place.

Evvie Briner claimed the final spot in the top five with a 53. Her sole par came on the third hole — she drove the green and left her first putt a foot short before finishing it off — but the highlight of her round came on the sixth.

“It didn’t look too good to begin with,” Briner said. “My tee shot hit a tree and it bounced off and luckily it rolled down the hill. I had a good second shot that I hit directly behind the green. I was a little bit worried because the green was so sloped but luckily I chipped it in and that was really exciting.”

Georgia Wenning rounded out the team’s

Macy Kauffenberger of the Fort Recovery girls golf team chips onto the second hole at Union City Country Club on Tuesday afternoon. Kauffenberger shot a 65 in her varsity debut as the Tribe claimed first place at the Union City Classic with 202 strokes.

score with a 57. (She finished eighth overall.)

Cora Pearson carded a 60 and Macy Kauffenberger shot a 65, but neither score affected the final.

While the Indians put on the best performance



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Golf ...

Continued from page 10
Alexa Ridenour provided Jay County’s top score at 116 strokes. She had one of the team’s three pars on the par-3 seventh hole (the same hole that Elizabeth Brunswick made par on). She also carded three bogeys and six double-bogeys.

Crystal Swartzen-truber produced the same score as she did on Monday at 121. She finished four bogeys and three double-bogeys.

Brunswick shaved one stroke off her opener to finish with 124 by shooting one par, one bogey and five double-bogeys.

Sophia Reagan, who had the remaining par on hole No. 10, a par-4, rounded out the team score with a 127. The tournament was Reagan’s varsity debut as Erin Aker started during the South Adams Invitational

Reny Lingo lowered her score down to 128, but her round didn’t impact the final.

The Patriots will get five days off before their first 9-hole event of the season, a quad meet in which they host Heritage, Woodlan and South Adams at Portland Golf Club.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Boys golf vs. New Bremen – 3 p.m.; Volleyball scrimmage at Memorial – 5 p.m.

Friday
Fort Recovery — Football scrimmage at Sidney Lehman – 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
1 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN2)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates (FSDN Indiana)
7 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — Leagues Cup: Monterrey at Charlotte FC (FS1)
11:15 p.m. — Leagues Cup: Los Angeles Galaxy at Santos Laguna (FS1)

Friday
5:40 a.m. — AFL: Essendon Bombers at Geelong Cats (FS1)
12 p.m. — LIV Golf Chicago (FS1)
1 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)
2 p.m. — LIV Golf Chicago (FOX)
3 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of Portland (FS1)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: NCTS Race at Watkins Glen (FS1)
7 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)
8:05 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at

Texas Rangers (FOX)
8:15 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals (FSDN Indiana)
9 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: Carolina Chaos at Utah Archers (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — Horse racing: Dan Patch Stakes (FS1)
11 p.m. — Liga MX soccer: Tigres UANL at Puebla (FS1)

Local notes

Chamber to host
Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host its golf outing on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m.
Participation costs \$250 per team with lunch included. A \$20 team mulligan golf ball can be purchased as well.

Sponsorships can be purchased as well. A lunch sponsorship will cost \$500, while a gold sponsorship will go for \$450. Hole sponsorships cost \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.
The deadline to register is Sept. 12. For more info, call (260) 726-4481 or email amanda@jay-countychamber.com.

Tickets available
Jay County Junior-Senior High School is selling super and season tickets.
To purchase tickets, visit the high school’s office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Regular season tickets for individual varsity events will cost \$7, while admission to JV, freshman or junior high events will be \$6 for adults.
The Patriot Pass, which gets you into all high school and junior high events costs \$115. The Sen-

ior Patriot Pass for those 65 and older will be \$70.
Other deals are as follows:
• High School Adult Super tickets - \$90
• Senior Super Tickets - \$55
• Pre-Paid Sports Pass - \$60
• Basketball season pass - \$60
• Football season pass - \$25

Next race set
The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Adams Memorial/Kekiong Greenway Gallup at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 13.
The race begins at the Riverside Center in Decatur. Registration forms can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.
.....
To have an event listed in “Sports on tap”, email details to sports@theocr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: The corner of Main and Race Streets, Ridgeville Indiana (just west 1 block from Pak A Sak)
Saturday Morning
AUGUST 16, 2025
9:30 A.M.

ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Railroad crossing Cross-buck signs with post, lights and bell. Coca Cola Bat Wing store cooler; 1929 Easy Copper wash machine (electric with natural gas hook up); soap box derby car; 3 wheel bicycle with box on back (used in Richmond IN factory); Star Wars Millennium Falcon Spaceship; metal bolt bin; CAST IRON: 30 gallon pot with handle and stand, ; SIGNS: Heinekin Beer, Pepsi, Coca Cola, Stroh’s, Seagrams, Sinclair, Harley Davidson, Corvette, and Budweiser Select to name a few;

CROCKS & STONEWARE: Boy Scout items; ball cards; Match Box cars and case; Radio Flyer tricycle; CONCRETE: donkeys, frogs on bench, kissing dutchman, and Doberman to name a few; and many other items not listed.

TOOLS - MISCELLANEOUS
80 lbs psi air compressor (originally from phone company); Makita Driver drill; Makita charger; B & D jig saw; Power Pro 300 amp auto jumper; 1946 Ford flat head engine parts; fish cleaning table; wood burning stoves; 2 wheel cart; fishing poles; lawn chairs; and many other items not listed.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025
TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 506 N George St. Ridgeville, IN
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90 SALE CALENDAR

SHETLER BLACK-SMITH SHOP
Consignment Auction
Saturday, August 16, 2025
8:30 a.m.
Located: 8343 S. 150 E. Geneva, IN
To Consign call Steve 260-729-2835 L.M.
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA DOCKET NO. 38C01-2507-ES-000006
Notice is hereby given that SHERRY K. MURRAY was on the 23rd day of July, 2025, appointed personal representative of the estate of MICHAEL DEAN MILLS, deceased, who died on the 19th day of June 2025, and was authorized to administer his estate with Court supervision.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 24th day of July 2025.
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court
Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for
Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON ADLER HAYES & WASHBURN
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CR 8-7,14-2025-HSPAXLP

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AMENDED NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA DOCKET NO. 38C01-2506-EU-000018
Notice is hereby given that LOU ANN ZIMMERMAN was on the 10th day of June, 2025, appointed personal representative of the estate of ROBERT N. GORDON, deceased, who died on the 2nd day of June, 2025, and was authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 11th day of June, 2025.
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court
Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for
Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
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8-7,14-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT, SS:
CAUSE NO. 38C01-2505-MF-000011
Nationstar Mortgage LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
Lydia A. Riojas, et al., Defendants.
NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLIC NOTICE
TO: The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Clyde M Barger and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Clyde M Barger:
BE IT KNOWN, that Nationstar Mortgage LLC, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Nicholas M. Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Clyde M Barger and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Clyde M Barger, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Jay County, State of Indiana, to wit:
Lot Number 73 in Haynes Addition in the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana,
commonly known as 727 West Race Street, Portland, IN 47371.
NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
Dated
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court
Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)
Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06)
J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)
Chris Wiley (26936-10)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MDK LEGAL
P.O. Box 165028
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Reece LeFevre shot a 68 to lead all Mercer County, see roundup below

Sports

Fort Recovery boys golf hosts New Bremen today, see Sports on tap

Evers, Knapke lead FRHS to first

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review
UNION CITY, Ohio — The highest Mallory Evers ever finished on the Indians roster was second, when she posted a career-best 45 against Winchester and Jay County last season.
In the second contest of 2025, she matched her top score and posted the low of any golfer for the day for the first time.
Evers shot a career-best 45 to earn her first match medalist honors and help the Fort Recovery High School girls golf team place first at the Union City Classic, a nine-hole tournament at

Union City Country Club, on Tuesday afternoon.
The Tribe (1-0) posted the low score of 202, just one stroke worse than Monday's season opener at Tri-Village, to beat the other five teams. The closest team to the Indians was Arcanum, which trailed by 29 strokes. TVHS (236) posted the only other score under 255.
"It's good, it's good," FRHS coach Jeff Vaughn said about the hot start to the season. "Especially when you have some new girls that haven't played much that are coming through, so I'm happy where we're at right now."
See Lead page 9

Fort Recovery High School senior Olivia Knapke hits out of the bunker on the third hole at the Union City Golf Country Club on Tuesday afternoon. Knapke finished second in the field of 35 golfers with a round of 47, trailing only teammate Mallory Evers (45) to help the Tribe to the top spot in the Union City Classic.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

LeFevre's 68 powers Tribe

CELINA, Ohio — Reece LeFevre's season opening performance couldn't have been too much better as he shot an even par over nine holes.

Yet, he managed to outdo the performance just one day later.
LeFevre shot four-under-par to earn the county medalist honors and carry the Fort Recovery High School boys golf team to first place in the Mercer County Invitational at Celina Lynx on Tuesday.
As a team, the Tribe shot 335 to edge out Marion Local's 340. Parkway and St. Henry stayed within striking distance as well as they tied for third with 343 strokes. Rounding out the standings were Coldwater with 344 and Celina at 449.

LeFevre's round of 68 strokes made the difference in the tight race for the title. The FRHS senior played even on the front nine as a pair of bogeys and two birdies balanced out with the pars. On the back nine, he never shot worse than par while

Golf Roundup

adding two birdies and an eagle on the par-5 18th hole.
Supporting LeFevre's efforts were Caleb Smith with an 83 and Andrew Rehmert with an 85. Garrett Diller carded a 99 to round out the team score.
Carter Fortkamp and Luke Fortkamp also competed, but their scores of 111 and 115 didn't affect the final score.

Ridenour leads
DECATUR — Jay County's girls golf team fell to sixth place at the Bellmont Invitational on Tuesday at Cross Creek Golf Club.
The Patriots finished with 488 strokes with the closest team being host Bellmont at 411. Adams Central claimed first place with a 398.
See Golf page 9



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