

Sonny chef



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Sonny Champ looks up from grilling on Thursday morning in the Lions Club stand at Jay County Fairgrounds. A 90-year-old Redkey resident, Champ has been cooking the stand’s “Lion Burgers” during events such as the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Show for decades.

At 90, Champ still going strong as the first-shift grill man for Lion Burgers at the Tri-State show

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Ninety-year-old Royce “Sonny” Champ has been flipping hamburgers for the Lions Club stand at Jay County Fairgrounds for decades. He cooked approximately 700 “Lion Burgers” in the span of less than four hours around lunchtime on Wednesday during the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Show. He also worked the grill over lunch

on Thursday and Friday, with plans to also work another 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. shift today. Champ, a member of Redkey Lions Club, started volunteering with the concession stand some 20 years ago. “Our secretary passed away, and they asked me if I’ll try it, and I said, ‘I’ll do it for a year or two,’” he recalled. “Well, I’m still doing it, for some 20 years even.” Over the course of a four-hour shift, he stands in front of a grill,

laying down row after row of ground beef patties. Champ waits for the perfect moment before beginning to flip them. Once the burgers are cooked on both sides, he scoops them into a tray and hands them to the next station. Amid the sizzling and popping from the grill Thursday morning, Champ seemed hesitant to step away from his craft for a chat. A fellow Redkey Lions Club member quickly offered his

assistance, and after a few laughs shared between club members, he began recalling details of his past. Champ graduated in 1953 from Governor I.P. Gray High School, where he coined his nickname, “Sonny.” He served in the United States Army for two years, working in South Korea as a secretary under Col. Arnold Armfelt and later at Fort Jay in New York City.

See Sonny page 2

Fifer, board agree to a release

Loan was paid back to allow for planned property sale

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
The former Sheller-Globe south property is again in the process of being sold. Portland Board of Works and Chad Fifer agreed to a mutual release from their five-year development agreement and waived its option to buy the property back from Fifer. City attorney Wes Schemenaur explained that Fifer plans to sell the property at 510 S. Bridge St., Portland. In order to do so, Fifer and the board of works needed to take several steps. In October 2024, the board of works approved a development agreement with Fifer for an economic development income tax (EDIT) loan to help with improvements at the property. It worked in conjunction with a \$309,372 partially forgivable EDIT loan that was approved by Portland City Council. The loan would be 75% forgiven if Fifer met certain criteria, including completing construction and hiring at least one new employee within one year and being fully operational within three years. The loan had a payback period of eight years, with no payments or interest for the first three years. At the time, Fifer planned for his company, Fifer Services, to install a sawmill in the north building on the property, using loan funds to install new walls, doors and insulation.

See Agree page 2

Report confirms famine in Gaza

More than 100,000 children expected to suffer acute malnutrition

In a report released on Friday, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) said it has “reasonable evidence” that famine has been occurring in Gaza Governorate, an administrative region which includes Gaza City, since Aug. 15. “After 22 months of relentless conflict, over half a million people in the Gaza Strip are facing catastrophic conditions characterised by starvation, destitution and death,” the authority said. Some 132,000 children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition through June 2026 — double the IPC estimate from May — with 41,000 of them considered particularly vulnerable. The IPC also projected that famine will expand to two other central governorates, Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, by the end of September.

See Famine page 2

By CHRISTIANE OELRICH and ELENA RADWAN
dpa
Tribune News Service
GENEVA — Famine has been confirmed for the first time in an area of the embattled Gaza Strip, according to the international authority responsible for monitoring food security.

Bubbly tailgate

Jay County High School football fans had some fun Friday night with a pre-game tailgate party that included music from John Beatrice Band, food, games and other activities. Pictured, 1-year-old Frank Hess plays in the midst of a bunch of bubbles blown by his aunt Gabby Williams. The Patriots gave the fans plenty to be bubbly about as they scored the game’s first 23 points on the way to a 56-6 win over the visiting Blackford Bruins.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Weather

The temperature peaked at 78 degrees Friday in Jay County. The low was 57. Expect a high of 80 today under partly cloudy skies. There is a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms tonight.

Skies will be mostly sunny Sunday with a high in the mid 70s. Highs will be in the mid 60s. Monday and Tuesday under mostly sunny skies. Lows will dip into the 40s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Win on the Wabash raffle and festival wraps up today at Ambassador Park in Fort Recovery. Gates open at 11 a.m., with The Official TwoDads Podcast live at noon followed by music throughout the day, including Shannon Clark and the Sugar at 6 p.m., Saw Crush at 8 p.m. and Craig Morgan at 10 p.m.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from the JCHS cross country team at the Celina Rotary Invitational.
Wednesday — Coverage of next week’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.
Thursday — Details from the Jay County volleyball match against Winchester.

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Police looking for driver following chase

Police are looking for a person who allegedly fled from law enforcement from the west side of Portland into rural Jay County this month.

A Portland police officer attempted to stop the driver of an early 2000s red Chevrolet Impala with black rims in the 600 block of Meridian Street about 10:46 p.m. Aug. 8 after the driver allegedly committed multiple traffic infractions, including failing to stop at the intersection of Race and Middle streets. The driver didn't stop for police, continuing to disregard stop signs and drive at high speeds headed generally west through Portland, driving south

Capsule Reports

on Middle Street before turning onto Western Avenue and then turning west onto Arch Street.

The chase continued west on Arch Street to its intersection with Charles Street, when the driver turned north. They turned west on Votaw Street (Indiana 26/67) and continued southwest for a few miles on Indiana 67 before turning west

onto county road 200 South. The driver began driving in the east-bound lane while driving west and allegedly threw items out of the vehicle. (Police searched the area later but couldn't locate the items.)

The driver turned north onto county road 600 West, with police pursuing for several miles. Officers ended the pursuit when they lost sight of the vehicle between county road 200 North and Walnut Corner Road because of dust from the road.

Portland police and Jay County Sheriff's Office conducted a search but weren't able locate the suspect.

The suspect is accused of

resisting law enforcement with a vehicle and obstruction of justice. Those with additional information on the case may contact Portland Police Department at (260) 726-7161.

Lost control

A woman was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated after crashing her car into the van a Montpelier man was driving along Indiana 1 about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.






Corina A. Oliver, 51, was driving her 2007 Chevrolet Impala south on the highway when she fell asleep at the wheel, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office crash report. Her vehicle

went off the west side of the road and into a ditch. She overcorrected, according to the report, got back onto the highway and crossed into the lane for oncoming traffic. She struck the front passenger side of a northbound 2016 Chevrolet Express van driven by 39-year-old Clinton M. Roberts.

Oliver was preliminarily charged with a Class A misdemeanor. She was being held on a \$1,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The van was registered to Coca Cola Plaza of Charlotte, North Carolina.

CR almanac

Sunday 8/24	Monday 8/25	Tuesday 8/26	Wednesday 8/27	Thursday 8/28
 75/52 Mostly sunny skies on Sunday when the high will be in the mid 70s.	 71/47 Monday's forecast looks like mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 60s.	 70/44 Another day of mostly sunny skies on Tuesday. The low at night may hit the mid 40s.	 72/49 Sunny, with the high temperature in the lower 70s.	 75/53 Thursday's weather looks to be mostly sunny with highs in the mid 70s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-8-7 Daily Four: 1-5-0-4 Quick Draw: 1-2-19-25-26-30-31-33-38-42-43-47-48-49-61-63-65-72-77	Pick 4: 3-7-1-7 Pick 5: 6-5-5-2-0
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 6-0-0	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$700 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$234 million

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Sept. beans10.34 Wheat4.82
Corn.....4.03 Sept. corn.....4.08 Oct. corn3.97	ADM Montpelier
POET Biorefining Portland	Corn.....3.88 Sept. corn3.88 Beans10.30 Sept. beans10.28 Wheat4.79
Corn.....4.18 Sept. corn4.18 Oct. corn4.08	Heartland St. Anthony
The Andersons Richland Township	Corn.....4.03 Sept. corn4.03 Beans10.09 Sept. beans9.99 Wheat4.50
Corn3.93 Sept. corn3.93 Beans10.34	

Today in history

In 1923, Finland's Paavo Nurmi broke the world record for running 1 mile with a time of 4:10.4, in Stockholm, Sweden. He was the first man to hold the 1,500 meter and 5,000 meter run world records at the same time.

In 1972, 100 visitors attended Farm Power Day at Haynes Park in Portland. Sponsored by the Jay County Co-op petroleum department, it featured the presentation of new tractors by local equipment vendors.

In 2005, a tropical depression — later known as Hurricane Katrina — formed over the southeastern Bahamas. The storm continued west and gained traction, hitting the southeast Florida coast two days later and, several more days later, struck southern Louisiana and Mississippi. Hurricane Kat-

rina, known as one of the deadliest hurricanes to strike the United States, resulted in 1,833 deaths and \$108 billion in damage, according to the National Weather Service.

In 2021, Jay School Board approved a resolution stating that any local public health orders “should originate” from Jay County Health Board, but that the board reserved the right to vote on any such orders before they were implemented in schools. (The Commercial Review reviewed Indiana Code and found no indication that the school board would have the authority to override or ignore any such orders.) The resolution was in reference to any future mask, contact tracing or quarantine orders related to the coronavirus pandemic.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar	
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Advisory Board of Directors executive session, Jay County Community Center senior area, 115 E.	Water St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. Tuesday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, Morgan park, 50 Mooney St. Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building 131 S. Main St.

Sonny ...

Continued from page 1

(Like Jay County, Fort Jay is named after John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.)

He joined the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers in 1956. Champ started his venture with glass furnaces at Corning Glass Works, known today as Corning Incorporated, in Corning, New York. (The company is known for developing cookware such as PYREX glass and glass ceramics CorningWare.)

He served his bricklaying apprenticeship at Ball State University, working on residence halls includ-

ing the Wagoner Complex. Champ also worked on glass furnaces in Dunkirk as well as bricklaying projects for Jay County High School and IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Champ's work took him across the country and overseas, including Israel, Venezuela and Mexico.

He married Karen Stigleman in 1994, spending 25 years together before her death in 2019. Champ retired about 15 years ago, settling into his home on Grandview Avenue in Redkey. When folks ask where he's headed next, he flips the question and asks them to tell him where he hasn't been.

“I've been inside all the airplanes I want to be in,” said Champ, who has one daughter and four grandchildren in Jay County.

He finds there's a simple way to keep himself active at his age — stay involved in the community, and never stop moving.

Champ followed through on that motto this week with his volunteer work at the Tri-State show as well as plans to attend his next door neighbor's football game Friday night.

“I come up here to help these people out,” he said. “Go to basketball games, baseball games, football games. Just keep moving around.”

Famine ...

Continued from page 1

Famine is formally declared when three criteria are met: At least 20% of households face extreme food shortages, at least 30% of children suffer from acute malnutrition, and at least two adults or four children per 10,000 inhabitants die every day from hunger or from a combination of malnutrition and disease.

“To prevent further loss of life and famine from spreading further, an immediate ceasefire and putting an end to the conflict is critical,” the IPC said.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry rejected the IPC's assessment, saying: “There is no famine in Gaza.”

The Israeli authority responsible for affairs in the Palestinian Territo-

ries, COGAT, also categorically rejected the report, writing on X: “Previous reports and assessments by the IPC have repeatedly been proven inaccurate and do not reflect the reality on the ground.”

COGAT accused the IPC of “deliberately” failing to take into account in the report “data that was provided to its authors in a meeting held prior to its publication,” though it did not specify the exact nature of the data.

Head of COGAT, Ghasan Allian, said: “The IPC report is based on partial and unreliable sources, many of them affiliated with Hamas, and blatantly ignores the facts and the extensive humanitarian efforts led by the State of Israel and its international partners.”

Agree ...

Continued from page 1

He hoped to rent the remainder of the property to other businesses and to eventually manufacture furniture at the site.

In order to sell the building, Fifer paid back the \$53,932 he had drawn down from the EDIT loan so far. Board of works members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Mayor Jeff Westlake approved releasing Fifer from the development agreement and waiving the city's buyback option. Both city officials and Fifer signed the agreement during the meeting.

Fifer said he plans to sell the property to Patriot Dumpsters LLC, which has already been using part of the property. He hopes to have an agreement with the company to allow Fifer Services to continue to use part of the property for his tree business. Fifer said plans for the sawmill are on hold.

The City of Portland had owned the former industrial site since 2014 and had attempted to sell it multiple times, with previous sales falling through. In September 2022, the city's board of works approved the sale to Fifer.

A negotiation process followed — the sale stipulated that the city would retain responsibility for any existing environmental issues, but that any new issues that might surface would be the responsibility of the property owner — with the sale completed in early 2024.

SERVICES

Today

Parker, Janet: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Leggett, Rita: noon, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday

Reynolds, Jerry: 10:30 a.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 1532 N. Main St., Bluffton.

Sunday

Johnson, Velma: 2:30 p.m., West Lawn Cemetery, Geneva.

Aug. 30

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

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Photo provided

New officers

Pictured from left to right are new officers for Eta Chi Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority. In the front row from left are organizer Marsha Eglan, vice president Renee Blumenhorst, editor Kathleen Inman and installing officer Julie Adkins. In the back row are historian Stephanie Faulkner, president Kris Cook, service secretary Connie Retter, social secretary Rose Morgan and treasurer Shari Van Nuland. Adkins was awarded her 50-year Life Membership gift, Cook was awarded the Hidden Treasurer award and Eglan was awarded a gift for being the outgoing president. The organization's next meeting will be Sept. 2.

Messages are not coming through

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been amicably married for 16 years. We enjoy each other's company and are home together a lot. However, over the last year or so, I have had an increasingly hard time hearing what he's saying. He sits in his chair and mumbles to the point where I can't tell if he's talking to me or to himself. He also tries to talk to me from the next room with his back to me, or when I have the sink running. No matter how many times or different ways I ask him to speak up, he doesn't do it. He says he doesn't like "shouting" at me and that other people can hear him.

I had my hearing checked by an audiologist, and it's fine — no change from when I was younger. But he still won't speak up! I'm so annoyed most of the time that I ignore him unless we're in the same room and facing each other. Then he gets grumpy with me for not responding or not knowing things he said he told me. How can I get him to understand that it doesn't matter how loud he thinks he should talk, if I

Dear Abby



can't hear him, I can't hear him? — OUT OF RANGE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR OUT: You have told your husband that unless he gets out of his easy chair and talks directly to you, that you can't understand what he's saying. Perhaps if he tried what you are suggesting it would be less frustrating for HIM. That he would refuse to cooperate without trying is inconsiderate. (Could he be losing it, or is HE having trouble hearing when you talk to him?) Whatever the cause of your communication problem, you may need your hearing rechecked. If you are told again that it's fine, consult a mediator to get the message across to him.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets

at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Meets at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at Jay County Historical Society. Elwanda Hanson will be speaking on Women Veterans. Any questions, please call Regent Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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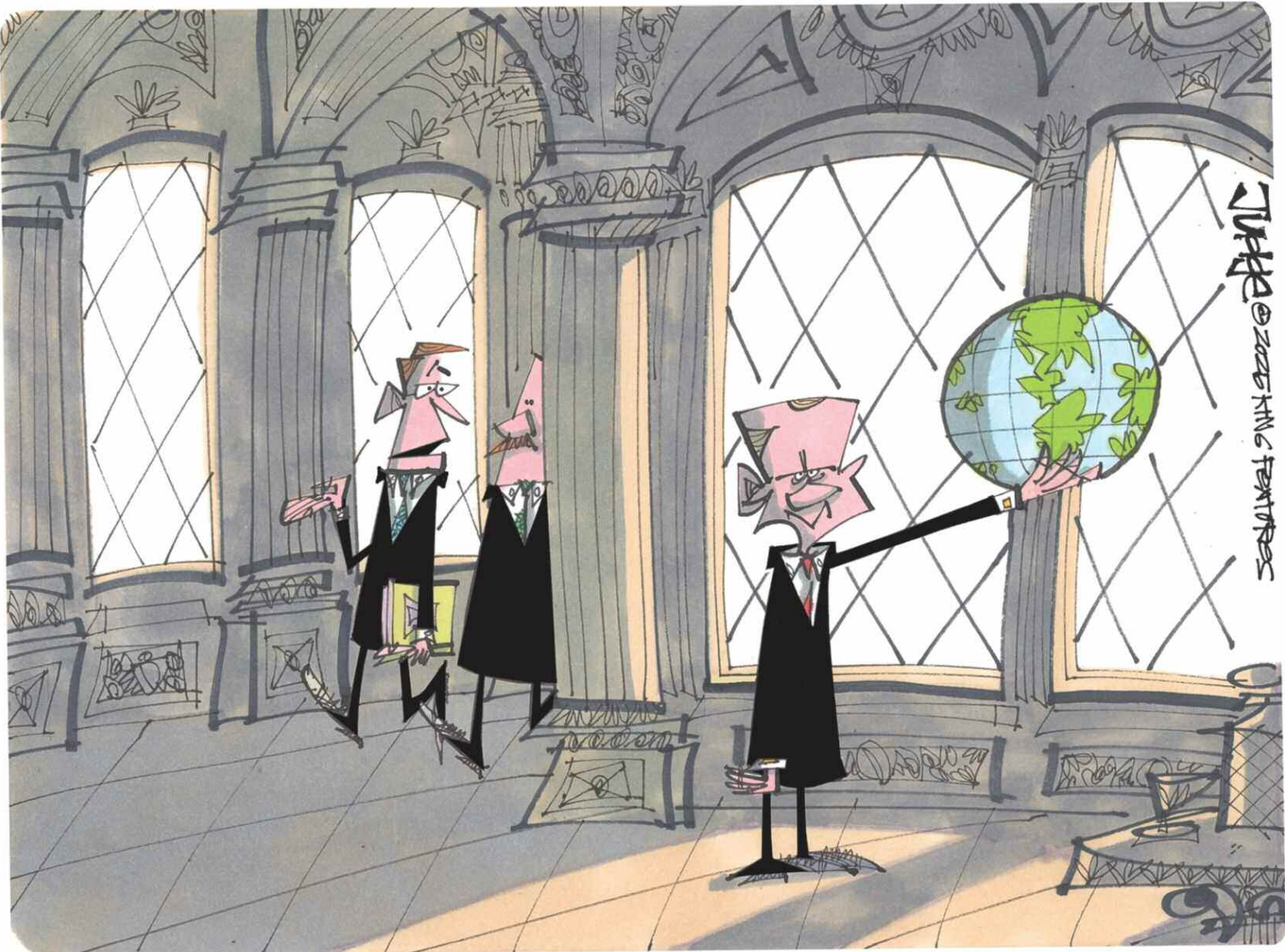
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Jinny's is step back in time

To the editor:
Recently, a truck accidentally drove into the south wall of Jinny's Cafe in Bryant. Employees and patrons quickly came to the aid of those who were injured. Emergency responders were prompt in their response. Customers who frequent Jinny's Cafe are as genuine as there is. There is nothing fake about them. They have one another's back. Employees go the extra mile to make sure everyone is satisfied. After the accident, I talked with the former longtime owner of the cafe, Miss Jinny herself. She said patrons are loyal. Even if a nearby event, such as a fish fry or chili cook-off, is held, regulars continue to dine at the cafe. Yes, Jinny's is like a step back in time. Everyone is treated the same; no one is seeking elite status.
Jerry Sullivan
Portland

Letters to the Editor



"ZELENSKY WANTS A CEASEFIRE, WHAT'S PUTIN WANT?"

Trusted data is a vital economic asset

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Without access to data that's both objective and seen to be objective, financial markets and government policy are dangerously compromised. So alarm over the recent firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Erika McEntarfer and the nomination of EJ Antoni, chief economist of the conservative Heritage Foundation, to succeed her is entirely warranted. In its own interests, as well as for the sake of the economy, the White House needs to contain the damage these decisions have caused. The purported reason for removing McEntarfer was that the bureau's latest release on hirings — a first estimate for July and updated numbers for May and June — had been rigged to make the administration look bad.

Guest Editorial

The downward revisions to the earlier months were unusually big, to be sure, highlighting legitimate questions about the bureau's methods and how to improve them. But these are difficult and long-standing technical challenges. There is no reason whatsoever to suspect the integrity of its chief, who is widely respected, or her staff. Worse, Antoni's nomination cements the idea that this position should be a partisan appointment, changed with each new administration — and that a thumb on the scale

is appropriate so long as it pushes the right way. In so many words, this tells financial markets that official statistics are no longer to be trusted. Regardless of which party is in control, they should expect employment to be nudged higher and inflation lower. The result will be opacity, uncertainty, greater financial risk and (especially) a persistent suspicion that inflation is being understated — all of which will push long-term bond yields higher and add to the cost of borrowing for consumers and producers alike. Presumably, that's the opposite of what the administration wants. Yet here we are. More accurate data on jobs and inflation — meaning smaller revisions as new data arrives — is eminently desirable. Generating it will require

more resources and better statistical methods. Neither, to put it mildly, has been a priority. Recent cuts in BLS staffing, partly as a result of the administration's efforts to slash costs, have hampered the timely collection of data. And earlier this year, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick disbanded the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee, a panel of unpaid technical experts tasked with improving data collection and analysis. Producing accurate measures of jobs and inflation is more complicated than one might think, and it's especially demanding when the economy is in flux as it is now. Bearing this in mind, the scale of July's revisions shouldn't perhaps have come as a surprise. Don't expect the picture to grow any clearer soon: The economy is still in the early stages of adapting to

the shocks that the administration is dispensing with its tariffs and other policies. The BLS' job is getting harder, not easier. It's a pity the White House didn't just apologize to McEntarfer and ask her to stay on, promising the bureau the resources it needs to do better, and letting FESAC get back to work. If Antoni's appointment is confirmed, he should understand that his arrival has caused real concern and do what he can to allay it by being scrupulously objective in the handling and publication of data. While that's unlikely to happen, it's still essential to restore the presumption that the BLS is not political and to refrain from further undermining its credibility. Failing to do so will hurt a lot more than one bad jobs report does.

Beckwith is all about self-promotion

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com
Where do we Hoosiers find these people? I know I've asked that question before — and I suspect I will ask it again often. I don't understand why the good people — and they are good people — vote again and again for political leaders who show contempt for the voters, for the constitutions of both the United States and Indiana and for the truth. Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith is but the most recent example of this trend. Beckwith has been in the news a lot lately. His management of his office has turned into the political equivalent of a dumpster fire. He's had staff members — including ones from the church where he still serves as pastor — depart either in anger or disgrace because he either fired

John Krull



them or they were caught up in a scandal that has enraged much of the Indiana General Assembly. The office carnage began when Beckwith fired his senior advisor, Erin Sheridan, without explanation. Sheridan, for the most part, has stayed silent about her dismissal but has hinted in her responses to social media posts that she does have a story to tell and that she will tell it soon. Rumors abound in the hothouse environment that is the Statehouse that she was canned because she was about to blow the whistle regarding goings-on in the lieutenant governor's office. Sheridan is a respected fixture in the Indiana Republican Party firmament, a political professional who has many friends and allies in the GOP power structure. If the dispute between Beckwith and Sheridan turns into a he-said-she-said confrontation, my bet is that more Republicans will believe and line up with her than with a latter-day Elmer Gantry who has yet to demonstrate that he's out for anyone but himself. If the strange Sheridan firing was the only problem Beckwith had, he might be all right. But it's not. His staff has been further roiled by reports that key aides of his watched and chortled over an AI deepfake video of the wife of a state legislator dancing topless. An aside: What kind of strange mind decides that

creating an invasive and deliberately hurtful representation of a woman who likely has never done anything to harm him or her is morally justifiable, much less funny? And what kind of supposed Christians — Beckwith and his minions love to loudly and publicly proclaim their faith — would laugh at such cruelty? The revelation of the deepfake video prompted still more staff departures from Beckwith's office, outrage on the part of the lawmaker and his friends in the legislature, reports of yet another such video floating around and an investigation into the whole incident by the Marion County prosecutor's office. Amid all that turmoil, Beckwith showed up at a town hall in Merrillville and told the crowd that he supported President Donald Trump's plan to gerrymander the GOP to victory in the 2026 off-year elections. Trump's vice president, JD Vance, came to Indiana recently to pressure Gov. Mike Braun and state legislators into joining the effort. Braun and the Indiana lawmakers have been slow to get behind the idea, in part because Indiana's constitution prohibits such activity and costly lawsuits are likely to result from any attempt to get around that prohibition. Such considerations seem not to trouble Beckwith at all. But that's not surprising. He is, after all, the same guy who not long ago offered an interpretation of the notorious three-fifths slavery compromise in the U.S. Constitution that was every bit as grounded in fact and reality as a Harry Potter novel.

But that's Beckwith for you. When he's in front of a crowd, any crowd, and his rear end is on the line, truth, decency and basic sense are optional. That's why we're now being treated to the edifying spectacle of a lieutenant governor whose house is on fire telling the governor, state legislators and the good folks of Merrillville that it's really, really fun to play with matches and cigarette lighters. Micah Beckwith in all his self-aggrandizing, self-promoting glory. Again, where do we Hoosiers find these people?

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulitzer School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

The Commercial Review



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

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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8-23 CRYPTOQUIP

HEQI SYSY YDLWGL XQYI’G STB
BTL QMFWLYAKQ YIS XVCRQS
YDTVIS, HEYL SWS WL QMFKYWC?
“YDR, YDR!”
Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: THAT PANDA DOESN’T
SPEND MONEY BUYING NON-CRUCIAL ITEMS.
IT ONLY GETS THE BEAR NECESSITIES.
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: S equals D

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to farmers markets.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 10 = R)

A. 11 4 2 13 15 10
Clue: Merchant

B. 1 17 10 4 8
Clue: Products

C. 20 10 15 13 6 18 4
Clue: Fruits and vegetables

D. 18 10 17 14 22 8
Clue: Handmade items

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to farmers markets.

WLF S R E O

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born on August 19, 1963 in California. I earned my first role on a popular soap opera set in a hospital despite not reading for a specific part during my audition. I’m best known as a TV uncle with great hair and for having impressive skills behind a drum kit.

kids' corner

Nature FACT!

This outdoor activity involves climbing rocky terrain using hands and feet.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Wooded areas
3. Water area in desert
5. Conjunction to connect words
7. A well-lit sky

DOWN

1. Sweet-smelling blooms
2. Granular material at the shore
4. Enjoy completely
6. Body of water
8. “The Ocean State” (abbr.)

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

21

1660: Pueblo Indians capture Sante Fe from the Spanish.

1911: The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia, a Louvre employee.

1959: U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower signs an executive order proclaiming Hawaii the 50th state.

FARMERS MARKET WORD SEARCH

WORDS

APPLES
BASKET
BREAD
CHEESE
CIDER
CORN
EGGS
FARMER
HERBS
JAM
OIL
ORGANIC
PEACHES
PICKLES
PLANTS
PUMPKIN
SAMPLES
SCALE
SEASONAL
SIGN
STRAWBERRIES
SYRUP
TOMATOES
TOTE

How they say that in...

English: Adventure
Spanish: Aventura
Italian: Avventura
French: Aventure
German: Abenteuer

Did You Know?

Recreational vehicles can be great ways to travel and see the countryside. People can stop and go as they please along the way.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 After-school groups
6 Lin and Angelou
11 Play-ground fixture
12 Reps
14 Actress Anderson
15 Music for seven
16 Buckeyes' sch.
17 Bridge call
19 Before
20 Laura of "Big Little Lies"
22 Away from NNW
23 Melody
24 '50s Ford
26 ABBA's music
28 Zee preceder
30 Hogwash
31 French bacteriologist
35 Deep gorge

DOWN

1 Stopped
2 Mada-gascar
3 Work with
4 Indo-nesian
5 Trades
6 Spa
7 Ice and Bronze
8 "You betchal"
9 Pay to play
10 Buffet-table
11 Fine china brand
13 Pricey
18 Enzyme suffix
21 Sala-manders
23 "Joy — World"
25 Caustic cleaner
27 Sinbad's bird
29 Turkey is part of it
31 Hilton heiress
32 Nike rival
33 Mogadi-shu
34 Gym unit
36 Apollo 11 astronaut
37 Icy down-pours
38 Pinochle
41 Impera-tive
44 The Eternal City
45 Queen of Carthage
48 Owned
50 Comic Philips

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-23

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13

14 15

16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52

53 54

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A matter of priorities

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

10 9 4
J 6
K 8 2
Q 9 5 4 3

WEST EAST

Q 6 5
A K 9 8
J 10 4
10 8 7

3
10 5 2
9 7 6 3
A K J 6 2

SOUTH

A K J 8 7 2
Q 7 4 3
A Q 5

The bidding:

South 1 ♠
West Pass
North 2 ♠
East Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Many deals come with a built-in set of priorities — concerns that must be addressed and resolved if declarer is to make his contract. In these cases, declarer must first identify the priorities and then determine the proper order in which to take care of them. Failure to follow this procedure can lead to many an unhappy outcome.

Consider this deal where South was in four spades. West led the king of hearts and, upon seeing East's discouraging deuce, shifted

to the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace and decided that his top priority was to draw the opposing trumps by cashing the A-K, the normal play when missing the Q-x-x-x of a suit.

After the queen failed to appear, South turned his attention to the heart suit, leading a low heart toward the jack. West took the ace, cashed the queen of spades and continued with the ten of diamonds. Declarer won with the queen but had to lose his remaining small heart at the end and so finished down one.

The outcome was a classic case of misplaced priorities. South should have identified his top priority as getting rid of his fourth heart. He could afford to lose a trump trick and two heart tricks, but he could not afford a third heart loser.

Accordingly, after winning the diamond at trick two, he should have cashed only one top spade and then led a heart to the jack. West could win and lead a second diamond (or a club), but declarer would win, play a second top spade and then ruff the seven of hearts with dummy's remaining trump. All he could lose on this line of play, regardless of how West chose to defend, was two hearts and a spade.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

A K 9 8 5
10 9 8 5 4
A 4

WEST EAST

10 7 6 2
J
K Q 9 8 3
6 5 3

—
7 3
J 10 7 5 2
K Q J 10 9 8

SOUTH

Q J 4 3
A K Q 6 2
6
A 7 2

The bidding:

East 1 ♥
South Pass
West 4 ♥
North Pass
East 5 ♥
South Pass
West 6 ♥
North Pass

Opening lead — six of spades.

There's no doubt that duplicate bridge reduces the luck factor of the game to a great extent, but it certainly doesn't eliminate it altogether. Today's hand aptly demonstrates that point. The deal occurred in a playoff match to determine which of two teams would represent the United States in the 1973 world championship.

It was the first deal of a 128-board match, and it was a harbinger of things to come. At one table, North-South got to seven hearts as

shown and unluckily went down one when Jeff Rubens, partnered by B. Jay Becker, led a spade, which Becker ruffed.

Rubens reasoned that, based on the bidding, there was a good chance that North-South held nine spades, so he chose the spade lead as the best shot to stop the grand slam.

At the second table, where Rubens' teammates Andy Bernstein and Becker's son Mike held the North-South cards, the bidding went more quickly:

East 3 ♣
South 5 ♣
West 4 ♣
North 7 ♣

Bernstein, North, naturally started to think in terms of a slam after his partner doubled East's preemptive bid for takeout, and he backed his appraisal with a cuebid of four clubs. When Mike showed more than a fair-to-middling double by cuebidding in return, Bernstein jumped to seven spades.

Strictly speaking, seven spades was not as good a contract as seven hearts — mathematically, there was a greater chance of a heart ruff with spades as trump than a spade ruff with hearts as trump — but seven spades was the winner, while seven hearts was the loser.

Sometimes luck, rather than skill, can be the key component in the outcome of a deal.

Tomorrow: Playing according to the odds.

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8-25 CRYPTOQUIP

OGDGUECEJF ZAMVMZOGV IAJ
DERGC OJ XECSVJUG SGJSDG'C
IEDX, YFLJYFXGX HGDEGLC:
MVZAEG XG-HYFRGV.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN DADA ARTIST
JEAN'S DOG GOT EXCITABLE AND JUMPED
AROUND, WHAT DID IT EXCLAIM? "ARP, ARP!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals P

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

IT WASN'T A COMPLIMENT. BOB- HE ASKS EVERYONE IF THEY WANT TO SELL THEIR SOUL..

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

8-23

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"I didn't know they made tricycles for grown-ups!"

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

IMPRESSIVE, YOU LICKED EVERY SPECK OF FOOD OUT OF YOUR BOWL..

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANS BY "DOING A CLEANSE."

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

8-25

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"If I'd known about all these hills, I would have brought my skateboard."

Peanuts

WHY HE NEEDS AN AUTOMATIC DOOR-OPENER IS BEYOND ME

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Peanuts

I CAN'T GET THAT LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL OUT OF MY MIND..

WHY DON'T YOU CALL HER UP CHARLIE BROWN?

I'M AFRAID SHE'D HANG UP IN MY FACE!

THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF CALLING HER ON THE PHONE

ONE EAR ISN'T A WHOLE FACE!

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Rose is Rose

DO YOU HAVE ANY WISH SUGGESTIONS?

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Rose is Rose

SMOOCH RECONCILIATION.

8-25

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Agnes

I AM GOING TO BE A CONTEMPORARY FAMOUS FOLK SINGER..

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S SOMETHING FROM THE OLD DAYS... A NEW VERSION OF ANCIENT PEOPLE LIKE PETER POLLENMARRIE AND THE NEW CRISPY MENSTRUALS.

UH... WHO?

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO... CLEVER NAMES STUCK IN THE MIND.

WHOSE FOLKS DID THEY SING ABOUT?

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Agnes

WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU HAVE ON?

CONTEMPORARY FOLK SINGER GARB... YOU LIKE IT?

YOU LOOK SORT OF LIKE A SISSY HOBBO.

THEN I'VE NAILED IT. I LOOK ROAD WEARY YET SENSITIVE.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE BANJO?

GRANDMA HAS MANY THINGS IN HER TRUNK OF BROKEN DREAMS.

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Hi and Lois

NOTHING LIKE A COLD BEER ON A HOT SUMMER DAY.

YOU SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT GIN AND TONICS.

THAT'S WHAT I'M HAVING NEXT.

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Hi and Lois

ARE DOT AND DITTO ALL TUCKED IN?

YES.

AND I'M ALL TUCKERED OUT.

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Between Friends

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY EXCITED ABOUT BEING OFFERED THE SUPERVISOR'S JOB

WELL-I FEEL VINDICATED MORE THAN "EXCITED"

BUT YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH SAVREEN AND MAKING MORE MONEY

I KNOW... IT'S JUST THAT I'M A NOBODY AT THIS COMPANY

BUT A WELL-PAID NOBODY

UH... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN

YEAH... I DO...

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Between Friends

I WAS EXCITED ABOUT THE DISTILLERY JOB... BUT THE SUPERVISOR JOB PAYS A LOT MORE

WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO, HARRY?

WHATEVER YOU THINK IS BEST

BEST FOR OUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS, YOU MEAN

I DIDN'T SAY THAT

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Blondie

THANKS FOR LETTING ME JOIN YOU TODAY, BOYS!

YOU BET, BOSS!

NOW LET THIS OLD DOG SHOW YOU SOME TRICKS HE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE!

WOW, HE DROPS IT IN THE WATER HAZARD EVERY TIME

YOU REALLY CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS!

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Blondie

WHEN! IT SEEMS EXTRA HOT! OH YEAH! HOTTER THAN A BLOW DRYER ON A HOT-WAXED SCALP IN THE SAHARA!!

IT'S HOTTER THAN A STEAMY SHAVE IN A SALINA IN FLORIDA!

WOW, YOU'RE REALLY GETTING OVERHEATED ABOUT IT

YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULD PROBABLY JUST TURN THE AC ON!

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Snuffy Smith

GRANMAW AN' GRANPAW ARE COMIN' FER SUNDAY DINNER, SO I WARNED TH' BOYS T'B' ON THAR BEST BEHAVIOR !!

WELL... THAT IS THAR BEST BEHAVIOR-- WHEN THAR SLEEPIN' IS TH' ONLY TIME THEY AIN'T UP TO SOME KINDA SHENANIGANS !!

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Snuffy Smith

WELL, YO'RE DEEP IN THOUGHT TODAY, SNUFFY !!

I SAID YO'RE DEEP IN THOUGHT TODAY !!

NOPE !!

I FIGGERED OUT HOW T'SLEEP WIF MY EYES OPEN !!

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Beetle Bailey

TRICK OR TREAT!

IT ISN'T HALLOWEEN!

YOU AREN'T EVEN IN A COSTUME

I STILL WANT YOUR CANDY

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Beetle Bailey

INCOMING !!

HEY! THAT BIRD JUST BOMBED MY HEAD!

I TRIED TO WARN YOU

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We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

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Win slips away

Patriots unable to hold on in five-set loss to Delta

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

It's one thing for a team to feel it could have won. Should have is a different story.

The Patriots walked away Thursday feeling they let one get away.

Jay County High School's volleyball team was up two sets to one, having controlled the third throughout. It had an 8-2 lead in the fourth. It just could not hold in a 22-25, 25-15, 18-25, 25-22, 15-10 loss to the visiting Delta Eagles.

Some key mistakes kept the Patriots (1-1) from coming through in the fifth set.

But they feel the match never should have gotten that far.

"We should have won it in game four," said JCHS coach Amy Dillon, whose team has lost five in a row to the Eagles. "It was what, 11-6?"

"And then we just let them creep back in.

"I told the girls in that time-out that at that point I felt like we were trying to play safe and play not to lose instead of playing to win. And we started tipping and slowing down our offense a little bit, and it just that killed us."

The Patriots were still up 14-10 in the fourth set before a Kate Manor service run pushed Delta (2-0) ahead. They pushed back ahead twice, but fell behind for good — in both the set and the match — on a kill from Eagle freshman Amira Wilson. Consecutive aces from Paislee Terry followed, and Kyra Murry eventually ended the set with a tip to the short left corner.

Jay County fell behind 4-1 in the fifth set and led just once — 7-6 — as the Eagles recorded their second five-set win in as many matches. (They opened the season with a 26-24, 20-25, 20-25, 25-22, 15-13 victory at Wapahani.) It got a brief reprieve when Terry smacked an attack into the net, but the visitors put the match away on a Murry tip followed by a final Terry kill.

"We are learning a lot about the flow of the game, and so when we run in the middle, run the middle, run the middle and we swing hard, learning to change up the pace," said Johnson, who got 23 kills from Murry to go along with 21 from Terry. "Defenders make changes, and then we need to throw in a tip or we need to throw in a throw. ... Just learning how those defenders are going to adjust, that's super important because we're not giants."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Elizabeth Barnett gets in position to pass a serve during the Patriots' 26-24, 20-25, 20-25, 25-22, 15-13 loss Thursday to the Delta Eagles. JCHS was up a set and had an 8-2 advantage in the fourth but was unable to secure the victory. It marked the Patriots' sixth consecutive loss to Delta.

A more varied attack was effective for the Patriots, especially in the first and third sets.

The opener was tight throughout, with Maria Hemmelgarn forging a tie at 22 when she rolled a kill over the Delta block. The visitors didn't score again, recording a pair of attack errors before Carly Trinidad delivered an ace off the arms of Murry to end the set.

A 10-1 deficit in the second set buried Jay County, but it flipped the script in the third as it ran out to leads of 8-2 and 15-7. The Eagles were never able to even the score and the home team closed on a 5-0 run that included two DHS errors, kills from Hallie Schwieterman and Brenna Schmiesing and a Lani Muhlenkamp ace.

Three aces — two from Kayla Jetmore and one from Schmiesing — helped stake the Patriots to their early lead in the fourth set before the match got away from them.

"I think that we need to work on being a little bit more mentally tough, and staying in a game and playing to win, not worrying about calls," said Dillon. "You know, we talked about that Tuesday night. We're beating (Madison-Grant) 25-6 and they're worried about a call. You control what you can control. You can control your attitude. You can control your

serves and you can control communication. Don't worry about everything else. ... So I think sometimes they let that get to them."

She added that the Patriots are still in the process of figuring out how to use all of their weapons.

Schwieterman's 10 kills were the team high Thursday, while Maria Hemmelgarn and Mya Kunkler added nine apiece. Brenna Schmiesing added five kills. And Elizabeth Barnett came through at some key moments, including a kill and a block back to back late in the opening set.

"We've played a lot of different rotations," said Dillon, who also got 27 assists from Paisley Fugiett, 19 digs from Muhlenkamp and 12 points from Trinidad. "We talked about that in practice last night — do we pick one and build on it or do we have a lot in our arsenal?"

Junior varsity

Jay County stayed with the Eagles but was unable to take a set in a 25-21, 25-20 defeat.

Emery Forthofer paced the Patriot offense with four kills. She also matched teammate Emmalyn Homan for the team bests of five points and two aces.

Gabby Petro came up with six digs. Homan was next with four digs.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Hallie Schwieterman of Jay County swings Thursday night against Kate Manor of Delta, which rallied for its second five-set victory in as many matches this year. Schwieterman's 10 kills were the team-high for the Patriots while Maria Hemmelgarn and Mya Kunkler followed with nine apiece.

FRHS spikers beat National Trail in three

NEW PARIS, Ohio — The Tribe has found the win column.

Fort Recovery High School's volleyball team picked up its first win of the season on Thursday by sweeping the National Trail Blazers 25-12, 25-10, 25-11.

Cameron Muhlenkamp led the offensive attack with 12 kills, while Bridget Homan followed with 11. Muhlenkamp also had a team-high 2 aces on a perfect 10-of-10 from the service line, while digging eight balls and blocking one attack. Homan dug the ball out five times.

Kayden Ranly had another strong match for the Indians (1-1) in the back row. She had 27 assists and 11 digs while earning two kills and one ace.

Brynn Willmann led at the net with two blocks while adding six kills and one dig as well.

Tribe falls

MINSTER, Ohio — The Fort Recovery boys golf

FRHS Roundup

team took a 162-186 loss to the Minster Wildcats on Thursday at Arrowhead Golf Course.

Reece LeFevre finished as the Tribe's leading golfer with a 42. He made par three times, while shooting bogey on the other six holes.

Minster's Bryce Prenger earned match medalist honors with a 39. The next two lowest scores also came from the Wildcats.

Caleb Smith followed LeFevre with a 44 for the Indians (5-3, 2-2 Midwest Athletic Conference). Smith had three pars, four bogeys and two double-bogeys.

Luke Fortkamp provided the third score with a round of 48 strokes, while Andrew Rehmert and Garrett Diller both carded 52s to round out the team's

final. Carson Fullenkamp shot a 53 that didn't affect the outcome.

Wildcats top

The Fort Recovery girls golf team suffered its first loss of the season to the Minster Wildcats at Portland Golf Club on Tuesday 184-204.

Olivia Knapke and Georgia Wenning shot the low for Fort Recovery (4-1, 2-1 MAC) with 50 strokes apiece. (Lauren Heitkamp of Minster was the match medalist at 42.)

Mallory Evers and Evvie Briner each carded 52s to round out the team score.

Out of the fifth and sixth positions, Cora Pearson carded a 54, while Macy Kaffenberger had a 58.

The Tribe beat the Wildcats last season to help secure a perfect record in the MAC and the first conference title. The Indians can still share the conference title by winning out and taking the top spot in the MAC Championships.

Jay sweeps Knights

The Patriots have never beat the Knights under Donald Gillespie's tenure. That changed Thursday afternoon.

The Jay County High School boys tennis team beat the Norwell Knights for the first time since Gillespie took over the program in 2021 with a 5-0 sweep on Thursday.

Paul Dirksen nearly lost the first set of the No. 1 singles match to Braylon Troutt, but pulled it out for a 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 win.

Henry Dirksen had a closer second set but also came out on top of Rylan Heyerly in the No. 2 singles match 6-2, 7-5.

Clark Wellman had little trouble claiming the point from the No. 3 singles position as he rolled through Dylan Randol for a 6-1, 6-1 win.

Kadyn Carpenter and Alex Miller forced a supertie breaker at the No. 1 doubles position, eventually claiming the point at 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 10-6.

Gabe Overton and Brock Wasson also won the No. 2 doubles match

Jay County Roundup

over Brady Watkins and Christian Werling 6-2, 6-2.

Lopez leads

MONROEVILLE — Jay County's girls soccer team picked up its first Allen County Athletic Conference victory of the year, beating the Heritage Patriots 2-1.

Both goals came from Aixa Lopez. The first came with 28 minutes, 48 seconds remaining in the first half as freshman Charlee Peters notched her first career assist.

London Lloyd later assisted Lopez to put Jay County (2-0, 1-0 ACAC) up 2-0 on Heritage (0-1-1, 0-1 ACAC) with 5:29 remaining in the first half.

Maleah Parsons just

gave up one goal to Heritage — it came midway through the second half — but otherwise quieted the HHS to secure the victory.

JCHS will take a 2-0 record into its home match against Coldwater on Aug. 28.

Jackson scores

MONROEVILLE — The Jay County junior varsity girls soccer team found the net once in its 1-0 win over the Heritage Patriots on Thursday.

Jay County (2-0) controlled the midfield and the defensive line of Araitz Lekue Margo, Kali Newell, Milee Rickard and Gabby Raines kept the ball from getting near the goal throughout the game.

When shots did sneak through, a combined effort from Avery Snow and Raylin Hummer in the goal prevented Heritage from scoring.

Ayla Jackson scored the lone goal for JCHS with 9:32 remaining in the game.

Rolls ...

Continued from page 10
(The Indians had just 30 completions for 314 yards in all of 2024.) He covered 24 yards on his four rushing attempts. Isaac Roessner caught three passes for 37 yards.

Bright ...

Continued from page 10
Despite holding a 36-6 lead at halftime, they weren't done yet. Coming out of the intermission, Brown broke through the line and brought the ball to the house for a 54-yard score. "With Jay County, in the second half it's been the game is typically over," said Brown, who lead the Patriots with 118 rushing yards. "It's either we're throwing in our JV guys because we're down or we're throwing our JV guys in because we're up by a lot. "Coach told us in the locker room, 'We're setting our identity right now and what we're going to be this year.' That was the way to do it on the first play."

With the running clock activated, Fields managed to move some guys around to get all of his players some time on the field and give some guys different looks. Freddie Lingo was one of them.

Normally, Lingo is in the trenches to protect Laux and pave the way for Brown to come out of the backfield. For one play late in the third quarter, he got his number called to carry the ball.

The offensive lineman managed to avoid getting taken down by Stratahn Sargent before meeting Benjamin Rosenauer at the goal line. He plowed through the defensive back for the score.

In true lineman fashion, he had praise for the rest of his crew clearing the way for him.

"It was fun," Lingo said. "I couldn't have done it without my linemen. Garrett Dillon, he made a chip off that wedge and I saw the hole and I took it."

The final score of the game came for Jay County with 11:40 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Wendel finished with 39 yards, and Braylon Dilworth ran five times for 32 yards.

With the clock running after the intermission, Ponitz (0-1), which has won just once in its last 21 games, still failed to find

any traction as it fumbled the ball three more times. It managed just 34 yards on 38 rushing attempts — Cardair'e Johnson was responsible for the bulk of them — and never put the ball in the air. Jake Meyer led the dominant

defensive effort with seven tackles, while Brodie Hart and Josh Evers notched six apiece. Gaerke, Roessner, Brady Evers and Josh Evers each had a fumble recovery. Fort Recovery put the final points of the game on the board

on a 5-yard Brady Evers run with less than two minutes to play.

The Indians will go on the road Friday to Harrod to take on Allen East (1-0), which opened with a 29-26 victory over Newark Catholic.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Freddie Lingo, an offensive lineman for the Jay County Patriots football team, rushes towards the end zone during Friday's 56-6 victory over Blackford. Lingo got the opportunity to take a snap at running back and made the most of it, punching in a 14-yard touchdown.

Brown rushed in his third touchdown of the game from the 36-yard line.

Blackford's sole score came in the second quarter when Brady Bannister — he was the BHS leading rusher with 117 yards on 17 attempts — ripped off a 65-yard touchdown run.

The Bruins were without a key piece in sophomore Kamari Taylor, who averaged 73.3 rushing yards per game last year, and lost several more as four players had

to leave the game because of injuries.

"We started getting a couple kids banged up and then after that it's just a chain reaction," said BHS coach Steve Boozier, who is a JCHS graduate and served as the Patriots' coach from 2010 to 2012 and athletics director from 2013 to 2024. "We threw some kids out there and trial by fire and they had to learn on the fly. It's one thing going to practice and there's no pressure

on and then you're out there on a field on Friday night under the lights and you've got to execute that play that suddenly you haven't got as many reps in as a starter."

Fields opened his tenure at Jay County with a victory and will have eight days to prepare before traveling south to New Castle. In that time, he will look to clean up his team's play, as its sole sore spot was giving up 60 yards on nine penalties.

Box score

Blackford Bruins (0-1)
at Jay County Patriots (1-0)

Blackford 0 6 0 0 — 6
Jay County 3 33 13 7 — 56

First Quarter

JC — Jacoby Penrod field goal, 2:14.

Second Quarter

JC — Leighton Brown 46 pass from Nick Laux (Penrod kick), 11:37.

JC — Laux 3 run (Penrod kick), 9:45.

JC — Carter Fugliett 3 run (kick fail), 7:08.

B — Brady Bannister 65 run (kick fail), 6:58.

JC — Brady Jetmore 52 pass from Laux (kick fail), 6:44.

JC — Jetmore 39 pass from Laux (Penrod kick), 0:00.

Third Quarter

JC — Brown 54 run (Penrod kick), 11:41.

JC — Freddie Lingo run (kick fail), 2:14.

Fourth Quarter

JC — Brown 36 run (Penrod kick), 11:40.

Team Statistics

	B	JC
Rushes - yds	35-122	16-179
Comp-Att-Int	0-2-0	10-13-0
Passing yds	0	236
Total Plays	37	29
Total Offense	122	382
Punt ret - yds	0-0	1-9
Kickoff ret - yds	5-46	2-34
Sacks - yds lost	0-0	1-8
Ints - yds	0-0	0-0
Fumbles - lost	6-2	3-1
Penalties - yds	4-30	9-60

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Blackford — Brady Bannister 17-117, Gage Dow 6-10, Corbin Batten 3-6, Dallas Richardson 2-4, Hunter Cale 5(-15). Jay County — Leighton Brown 5-118, Nick Laux 6-30, Freddie Lingo 1-14, Brady Millsapugh 2-12, Carter Fugliett 1-3, Max McClain III 1-2.

Passing — Blackford — Hunter Cale 0-2-0 0. Jay County — Nick Laux 2-19-0 203, Carter Fugliett 1-1-0 33.

Receiving — Jay County — Brady Jetmore 6-165, Leighton Brown 1-46, Grant Wendel 3-25.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Cross Country at Celina Rotary Invitational — 9 a.m.; Boys soccer vs. Peru — 12 p.m.; Junior high football at Union City — 10 a.m.; Junior high tennis vs. Driver — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Cross country at Bob Schul Invite at Milton Union — 8:15 a.m.; JV boys golf MAC Tournament — 9 a.m.; JV football at Versailles — 10 a.m.; Middle school volleyball tournament at Anna — 10 a.m.

Monday
Jay County — Girls golf vs. Bluffton — 4:30 p.m.; Boys tennis vs. Union City — 5 p.m.; JV football vs. Blackford — 6 p.m.; Junior high volleyball at Blackford — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf vs. Coldwater — 4:30 p.m.; Girls golf at Coldwater — 4:30 p.m.; Freshman football vs. St. Henry — 5 p.m.; Freshman volleyball vs. St. Henry — 6 p.m.; Middle school volleyball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Volleyball at Winchester — 6 p.m.; Boys soccer at New Castle — 7 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Delta/Wes-Del — 5 p.m.; Junior high football vs. Blackford — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school volleyball at Marion Local — 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester City at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)

10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brentford at Aston Villa (USA)
11 a.m. — IndyCar: Snap-on Milwaukee Mile 250 (FS1)
12 p.m. — College football: Kansas State at Iowa State (ESPN)
12 p.m. — PGA Tour: Tour Championship (NBC)
12 p.m. — LIV Golf Team Championship (FOX)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal FC at Leeds United (NBC)
1 p.m. — College football: Incarnate Word at Nicholls (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Atlanta Dream (CBS)
4 p.m. — College volleyball: Kansas at Vanderbilt (FS1)
4 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Bay at Washington Spirit (CBS)
4:30 p.m. — College football: Tarleton state at Portland State (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — Little League World Series (ABC)
4:30 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FOX)
5 p.m. — College volleyball: Penn State at Creighton (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — College football: Fresno State at Kansas (FOX)
7 p.m. — College football: UC Davis at Mercer (ESPN)
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Lexington at Oakland Roots (CBS)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Stanford at Hawai'i (CBS); North Carolina Central at Southern (ABC)
7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Coke Zero Sugar 400 (NBC)

8:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Arizona Diamondbacks (FSDN Indiana)
8:40 p.m. — MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego Padres (FS1)

Sunday

9 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)
11 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN2)
11:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Manchester United (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Indy NXT Series: INDY NXT by Firestone at the Milwaukee Mile (FS1)
12 p.m. — PGA Tour: Tour Championship (NBC)
12:10 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Tampa Bay Rays (FSDN Indiana)
1 p.m. — College volleyball: Florida at Pitt (ESPN)
1 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ABC)
1 p.m. — LIV Golf Team Championship (FS1)
2 p.m. — IndyCar: Snap-on Milwaukee Mile 250 (FOX)
2 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Michelin GT Challenge At VIR (USA)
2 p.m. — BIG3 basketball: BIG3 All-Star Game (CBS)
3 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — BIG3 basketball: Miami 305 at Triplets (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Stanford at Nebraska (ESPN)
4 p.m. — LPGA Tour: Canadian Women's Open (CBS)
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Arizona Diamondbacks (FSDN Indiana)
4:30 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live

(FS1)
4:30 p.m. — LIV Golf Team Championship (FOX)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN2)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees (ESPN)
9:15 p.m. — MLS: Seattle Sounders at Sporting Kansas City (FS1)

Monday

11:30 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Liverpool FC (USA)
6:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Penn State at Kansas (BTN)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Tampa Bay Rays at Cleveland Guardians (FS1)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Minnesota at Texas A&M (BTN)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers (FSDN Indiana)

Tuesday

11:30 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
7 p.m. — WNBA: Seattle Storm at Indiana Fever (ABC)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at New York Mets (TBS)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers (FSDN Indiana)

Local notes

Outing announced
The Adams Health Network Foundation will

host the 12th Annual Golf Classic on Sept. 12 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

There will be two shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and beverages will be provided, as well as a lunch in between flights.

The event raises funds for healthcare scholarships and local health initiatives in Adams County.

The deadline to register is Aug. 22. To register visit adamshospital.org/foundation. For more information, email kim.tormbley@adamshhealthnetwork.org.

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.

Next race set

The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallup at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 23.

The race begins at the Riverside Center in Decatur. Registration forms can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

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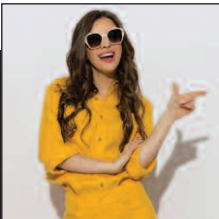
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Bright beginning

Laux, Brown lead JC in 1st game under Fields

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Three of the first four passes didn't go as planned for the Patriots in their first game under Eddie Fields.

In the second quarter, a Nick Laux shovel pass to Leighton Brown resulted in the first touchdown of the season. Once the dam broke, the Bruins couldn't contain the Patriots' offense.

The Jay County High School football team exploded for 33 points in the second quarter to take down the Blackford Bruins 56-6 in the season opener on Friday.

"I'm really pumped for the kids," said Fields, who coached his first game for Jay County. "We're trying to build something they want to be a part of. When I took the job, I told our coaches, if we'd just love our kids and make our kids love football, kids will start coming out and we got the roster over 60."

"We had fun. I just sent a text to all my buddies and said, 'We won, no kids were injured and every kid got to play, so it doesn't get better than that. Just a really cool night for Jay County football.'"

It took the Patriots (1-0) awhile to get their aerial game going. The first pass that Laux threw fell for an incompleteness, despite Grant Wendel having an open shot at the end zone.

The next three passes were intended for Brady Jetmore, but low throws resulted in a loss of three yards, a gain of 14 and an end zone incompleteness. (JCHS still scored on the drive as freshman Jacoby Penrod nailed the 22-yard field goal.)

Things changed after a quick stop.

Jay County's second drive started at Blackford's 46-yard line. Laux had to scramble a short distance before finding Brown just beyond the line of scrimmage. The JCHS junior beat Gage Dow in a foot race and scampered the rest of the 36 yards to score the first touchdown of the game.

The flood gates completely opened for the Patriots after that as they found the end zone on the following four drives of the second quarter.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School quarterback Nick Laux slings a pass toward Brady Jetmore while receiving pressure from Blackford's Clayton Heflin on Friday night. After a slow start, Laux ended up completing 9-of-12 passes for 203 yards and threw for three touchdowns in the 56-6 win over the Bruins.

- Scores came in on:
- A 3-yard keep by Laux to cap a five-play drive after the Bruins (0-1) gave up the football on an onside kick
 - A 3-yard rush by Carter Fugiett following a bad snap on a punt attempt that gave the Patriots the ball in the red zone
 - A 52-yard pass from Laux to Jetmore to score on a single play
 - A 39-yard pass from Laux to Jetmore that was set up by a trick play that saw Laux lateral the ball to Fugiett, who then proceeded to launch it 33 yards downfield to Jetmore
- "I think the nerves wore off," said Laux, who finished 9-of-12 for 203 yards. "Our reps over the summer and over the beginning of the season so far paid off. We found ourselves and quit letting the nerves get to us and went to work."
- See **Bright** page 9

Tribe rolls in season opener

Wenning starts his tenure with 44-point shutout win

FORT RECOVERY — Stifling defense. Four forced turnovers. Spectacular field position. Efficient offense.

Fort Recovery High School dominated its season opener Friday night, smacking the visiting Ponitz Tech Golden Panthers 44-0 in a game in which the clock was running throughout the second half.

The first possession for each team set the tone for how the rest of the game would play out. The Golden Panthers lost one yard on three plays and punted. Fort Recovery, in its first game under new head coach Wes Wenning, responded with a one-play drive — a 59-yard Reece Wendel touchdown run.

Ponitz proceeded to finish the first half with negative-7 total yards, while giving up the ball on downs twice, punting once and then coughing up the ball leading to a touchdown return for Alex Gaerke.

The Indians (1-0) scored on all but one of their first-half drives, with Wendel adding a 6-yard scoring run and Gaerke reaching paydirt on carries of 1 and 7 yards for a 36-0 halftime lead.

Gaerke provided a facet that Fort Recovery mostly missed last year, completing all seven of his passing attempts for 55 yards.

See **Rolls** page 9



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