



# YEAR IN DECEMBER 30, 2021 2021 REVIEW



# JANUARY



**Clockwise from top left:** Jon Ryan Schaffer faces federal charges for his alleged involvement in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection. // Former Vice President and Columbus native Mike Pence, with his son Michael, from left, his daughter Audrey, his wife, former Second Lady Karen Pence, and daughter Charlotte Pence Bond by his side, addresses supporters Jan. 20 during a welcome home ceremony at Columbus Municipal Airport. // Columbus Fire Department Deputy Chief Mark Zeigler receives the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

**ESTABLISHED 1821**

**First United Methodist Church**

8th & Lafayette, Columbus  
812-372-2851

IN-35092971

**ESTABLISHED 1824**

**SHARNACK BIGLEY STROH & WASHBURN LLP**

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

321 Washington Street, Columbus  
812-372-1553  
sbsw@sbswlaw.com

IN-35093803

**ESTABLISHED 1841**

**St. Bartholomew Catholic Church**

National Road (US 31) & Home Ave.  
812-379-9353

IN-35092805

**ESTABLISHED 1855**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

531 Fifth Street, Columbus  
812-379-4491  
www.fccoc.org

IN-35094020

**ESTABLISHED 1857**

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812-372-2858

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IN-35094057

- 1** Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress leaders laid out their 2021 goals, which included a potential inpatient medically supervised detox program in Bartholomew County, more recovery housing for women and the possibility of additional ASAP-run recovery homes.
- 2** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. plans to start school on Tuesday, with in-person instruction five days a week for elementary schools and a new hybrid schedule for secondary schools.
- 3** Jayce Alexander was the first baby born in Bartholomew County for 2021, arriving at 2:16 a.m. on New Year's Day at Columbus Regional Hospital.
- 4** Some Columbus Fire Department first responders are part of the first phase of local COVID-19 vaccinations.
- 5** Columbus man Dennis Deffenbaugh, 73, was killed in a three-vehicle accident at 10th Street and Whitfield Drive at 9:03 a.m. Monday.
- 6** Heritage Fund-The Community Foundation of Bartholomew County received a five-year Large-Scale Community Leadership Grant of \$3,498,824 through the seventh phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow initiative to support the Landmark Columbus Foundation.
- 7** A violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.
- 8** With 13 days left in his term, President Donald Trump finally bent to reality amid growing talk of trying to force him out early, acknowledging he'll peacefully leave office after Congress affirmed his defeat.
- 9** A new organization called the Columbus Area Bicentennial Commission launched a yearlong celebration aimed at connecting the community's past, present, and future with the unifying theme of "Common Ground."
- 10** A Brown County special judge dismissed a residency lawsuit filed by Bartholomew County Democrats against Republican county councilman Matt Miller, but plaintiffs say the issue may not be over.
- 11** Zoey White, at 16-year-old Columbus North High School junior, received a heart transplant on New Year's Day at Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health.
- 12** Bartholomew County health officials expressed concern that a more contagious coronavirus strain detected in Indiana could lead to an increase in local hospitalizations.
- 13** Following an investigation by Indiana State Police, Columbus Police Officer John Velten — a 14-year veteran of CPD — was arrested on battery and official misconduct charges in regards to an incident that occurred June 16 in which he allegedly struck a handcuffed suspect.
- 14** President Donald Trump became the first president in U.S. history to be impeached for a second time after a 232-197 vote in the House.
- 15** An organizer of a Trump caravan from Indiana said about 30 people from Bartholomew County traveled to Washington, D.C. last week and were on the U.S. Capitol grounds during the Jan. 6 insurrection, but they did not enter the building nor were they involved in any of the violence.
- 16** The Columbus Redevelopment Commission approved a motion Jan. 13 for redevelopment officials to begin discussions to terminate or amend Subway's lease in The Commons.
- 17** Columbus Regional Health notified state health officials that it had the capacity to vaccinate more people than it was doing, but the state responded that it was waiting on shipments from the federal government before allocating more doses.
- 18** Bartholomew County E911 officials report there was a record 2.7 million emergency radio transmissions made in the county in 2020, as well as a 12% increase in text-to-911 transactions at 4,732 throughout the year.
- 19** Edinburgh native and Iced Earth heavy metal band front man Jon Ryan Schaffer was arrested on six federal charges, including engaging in an act of physical violence in a Capitol building, in connection to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.
- 20** Three people were seriously injured and two died in two separate accidents, at East 25th Street near the Clifty Creek bridge and on U.S. 31 near the Old Indianapolis Road overpass, on Sunday.
- 21** Following the presidential inauguration of Joe Biden in Washington D.C., former vice president Mike Pence flew to Columbus Municipal Airport and was greeted by friends, family and media Jan. 20.
- 22** Bartholomew County's Republican Party chair, Barb Hackman, 64 announced she is stepping down after eight years in her position.
- 23** Bartholomew County reached another heartbreaking milestone during the pandemic: 100 deaths from COVID-19.
- 24** Republican leaders in Bartholomew County said there were some "differences of opinion" on former President Donald Trump since the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, particularly related to Trump's "rhetoric" toward Columbus native and former Vice President Mike Pence.
- 25** Local politicians and pundits speculated as to what the future holds for former Vice President Mike Pence, who had revealed that he and his wife, Karen, plan to move back to Indiana in the summer.
- 26** Two local legislators, Sen. Greg Walker, R-Columbus, and Rep. Ryan Lauer, R-Columbus, visited with constituents online for a virtual Third House Monday, to talk about pending legislation being considered this session.
- 27** Local nonprofit CivicLab announced that it was chosen by Lumina Foundation to assume responsibility for the foundation's national Talent Hub network and its Community Network.
- 28** The Hope Town Council voted 3-2 Tuesday to begin the process necessary to hire a chief administrative officer for the northeast Bartholomew County town of 2,200 residents.
- 29** Bartholomew County Sheriff detectives believed a confrontation over loud music from a vehicle near apartments on Main Street in Taylorsville led to a shooting, which left Justin Black with a bullet wound to the stomach, there early Jan. 27.
- 30** Local health officials increase outreach to the Black community to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations as data from some states — including Indiana — show they are not getting vaccinated in proportion to their share of the population.
- 31** The Indiana Oath Keepers, a group that shares the name of a national organization branded as a loosely organized network of right-wing, anti-government extremists, confirms that it has a group organized in Bartholomew County.

**ON THE COVER**

**Clockwise from top left:** The C-119 'Flying Boxcar' is being restored at the Columbus Municipal Airport. // Afghan refugees arrive at Camp Atterbury, some of more than 7,000 who would stay at the camp before resettling elsewhere in the United States. // A group of people protest mask mandates and vaccinations for COVID-19 outside Columbus City Hall in Columbus on Aug. 20. // Andrew Doig, 6, plays on a mound of snow by his Columbus home on Feb. 16 after a snowstorm dropped 8-10 inches of snow in the area. // A nurse administers a dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to a patient at a mass vaccination clinic in the pavilion at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds. // Jon Ryan Schaffer faces federal charges for his alleged involvement in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

# FEBRUARY



**Pictured from left:** Andrew Doig, 6, plays on a mound of snow by his Columbus home on Feb. 16 after a snowstorm dropped 8-10 inches of snow in the area. // Hope the woodchuck predicted more winter weather on Groundhog Day in Hope.

THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

**1** Students, staff, and the administration at Columbus Signature Academy New Tech collaborated to create the school's first mascot — The Dragons.

**2** The Indiana State Department of Health expanded eligibility Monday for COVID-19 vaccinations to Hoosiers age 65 and up, with 96,000 Hoosiers signing up by 5 p.m. after hearing the news.

**3** In her first starring role on a groundhog's biggest day of the year, understudy Hope predicted six more weeks of winter during the annual Groundhog Day festival in Hope.

**4** The Mark and Wendy Elwood Foundation has pledged \$100,000 in multi-year funding for the Council for Youth Development Bartholomew County to support local children, teens, and young adults.

**5** Main Street of Hope Executive Director Susan Thayer Fye announced she was stepping down from the post after four years in her role.

**6** Public health officials across the country, including in Bartholomew County, are urged people to avoid traditional gatherings for the upcoming weekend so that Super Bowl parties wouldn't turn into super spreader events.

**7** Former President Donald Trump collected \$48,410 in contributions from Columbus-area residents in the weeks immediately after the Nov. 3 presidential election as he supported unfounded claims of widespread voter fraud and sought to overturn the results of an election he lost.

**8** The Bicentennial Commission and City of Columbus announced that the seminal project for the Columbus Area Bicentennial will be the 1821 Trail extension along First Street, from the Haw Creek Trail, which ends at Lafayette Street, to Water Street.

**9** Local Democrats reached out by mail to shore up the party's base and court moderate Republicans they thought may be dismayed by the divisions among the national GOP over former President Donald Trump and conspiracy theories about QAnon.

**10** One in 10 Bartholomew County residents had received at least one COVID-19 shot, mirroring similar vaccination rates seen across the state and country.

**11** The Indiana Democratic Party said Rep. Greg Pence, R-Indiana, tweeted false information in which he appears to take credit for legislation (the National Defense Authorization Act) that he voted against multiple times.

**12** Rep. Greg Pence, R-Indiana, acknowledged that he voted multiple times against a military spending bill that would have benefited Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex, saying he could not support it due to "liberal wish-list items."

**13** Leaders from the African American Pastors Alliance, the Columbus/ Bartholomew County Area chapter of the NAACP, the African American Fund and the local chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice organized a mix of virtual programs and events for February during Black History Month.

**14** A growing list of companies, including some operating in Bartholomew County, offer financial and other incentives to encourage their workers to get COVID-19 vaccinations when they are eligible and the vaccine is available.

**15** Leaders of local food pantries said they were fairly well stocked thanks to a dip in demand attributed to residents receiving federal stimulus checks.

**16** The area received between 8 and 10 inches of snow in less than 24 hours, shutting down Columbus and Bartholomew County.

**17** Three months after 57 body cameras and 54 car cameras were ordered, the AXON equipment arrived in Columbus from Arizona last October for deputies in the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department.

**18** The Bartholomew County Commissioner's Office was placed under quarantine after two county commissioners, Larry Kleinhenz and Tony London, tested positive for COVID-19 earlier in the week.

**19** An embroidery business in Columbus closed for quarantine after a worker came into contact with Bartholomew County Commissioner Tony London and his employees before he tested positive for COVID-19.

**20** Tempers flared among state

legislators during a debate Thursday morning at the Statehouse when Black lawmakers were shouted down and booed by some Republicans, and some lawmakers left the session including Rep. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, and Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville.

**21** Local health officials said they are concerned about pandemic fatigue and a "false sense of security" among residents as hospitalizations and infection rates started to fall from the sky-high levels seen during the winter surge because more cases of the U.K. variant of the virus are being detected in Indiana.

**22** With the exception of the Flat Rock-Hawcreek area, officials said property owners will pay an increase of between 16 to 17-cents per \$100 of assessed valuation in taxes.

**23** Two local legislators, Reps. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, and Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville involved in a Statehouse confrontation over racial matters did not attend Monday's Third House session, resulting in the focus of the online session turning to COVID-19 liability and education funding.

**24** The Bartholomew County Board of Zoning Appeals denied a farm couple permission to breed dogs in a converted semi trailer northwest of Hope for the second time in three years.

**25** City officials questioned whether the cost of the new riverfront development project, which was continuing to rise, was getting too high as bureaucratic issues continued with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

**26** Bartholomew County Sheriff deputies announced they will begin training with new body cameras and car cameras in late March and early April after months of waiting.

**27** Per a recent order from Bartholomew County Health Officer Brian Niedbalski and the COVID-19 Community Task Force, events were allowed to host up to 100 people with a safety plan and restaurants were moved from capacity limits to social distancing compliance.

**28** The city of Columbus announced late Friday, Feb. 26, that City Utilities Executive Director Scott Dompke was no longer an employee of the utilities department.

**ESTABLISHED 1880**

604 Main Street, Hope  
812-546-4770  
www.normanfuneralhome.net

IN-3509451

**ESTABLISHED 1900**

2915 State Street,  
Columbus IN  
812-372-8203  
krootcorp.com

IN-3509752

**ESTABLISHED 1911**

**THOMAS ELECTRIC, INC.**

1236 Jackson Street  
812-376-9947

IN-3509457

**ESTABLISHED 1916**

**Dell Brothers**

416 Washington Street  
Downtown Columbus  
812-372-4486

IN-3509463

**ESTABLISHED 1926**

**Nichols Body Company, Inc.**

3081 N. National Road, Columbus  
812-372-2557

IN-3509462

**ESTABLISHED 1929**

**Bush's Market**

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with Fresh  
**Pork**

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Mon-Fri 8-5:30, Sat 8-2

IN-3509726

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Columbus, IN 47203  
812-379-9547  
www.tbcci.com

IN-3509287

# MARCH



**Clockwise from top left:** Jennings County Sheriff Kenny Freeman, left, arrests Michael Hubbard on March 2. // The Exhibit Columbus installation "To Middle Species With Love" is shown at Mill Race Park. // The Columbus Icemen pose for a group photo after winning the Indiana State High School Hockey Association Class 2A state championship in Hammond. // People gather on the steps of Columbus City Hall for a March 26 rally to support Asian-Americans in Columbus. SUBMITTED PHOTOS; THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO



**ESTABLISHED 1933**

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY BCB BEVERAGE CO., INC.**  
840 Depot Street, Columbus  
812-376-9253

**ESTABLISHED 1933**

**Eskew-Eaton FUNERAL HOME**  
Owner/Director: Francis Stotts  
302 E. Main Cross, Edinburgh, IN  
812-526-5353

**ESTABLISHED 1935**

**Barkes, Weaver & Glick Funeral Homes**  
Family Owned  
1029 Washington St. • 812-372-2515  
4205 Jonathan Moore Pike • 812-342-4467  
www.barkesweaverglick.com

**ESTABLISHED 1938**

**HSG HOOSIER SPORTING GOODS**  
611 Washington St,  
Columbus, IN 47201  
(812) 376-3418

**ESTABLISHED 1945**

**LOVELACE ELECTRIC CO., INC**  
Serving the Bartholomew County area for over 63 years  
1414 Lafayette  
812-379-2111

**ESTABLISHED 1945**

**Boyer MACHINE & TOOL**  
www.boyermachine.com  
1080 S. Gladstone Ave. • Columbus, IN 47201  
(812) 379-9581

**ESTABLISHED 1945**

**KENNY GLASS**  
812-372-8834  
5240 N. US 31  
www.kennyglass.com

**1** Vouchers, collective bargaining and COVID-19 were just a few of the topics State Sen. Greg Walker, R-Columbus, and State Rep. Ryan Lauer, R-Columbus, were questioned about in a virtual town hall moderated by the Columbus Educators Association and the Bartholomew County Retired Teachers Association on Saturday morning.

**2** Plans for the 63rd annual Bartholomew County 4-H Fair, scheduled to be June 25 to July 3, continued moving forward.

**3** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. board members approved a resolution opposing state legislation that would expand school choice scholarships and create Education Savings Accounts.

**4** After a two-year investigation, Michael Wayne Hubbard, 36, of Butler, was arrested by the Jennings County Sheriff's Department for the murder of 47-year-old Robert L. Head Jr. in Country Squire Lakes in North Vernon.

**5** State officials lowered the vaccine age threshold twice within the last week while a new federal program put teachers in line no matter how old they were for the vaccine.

**6** Former Columbus utilities executive director Keith Reeves was named interim director to head the department a week after the city announced that Scott Dompke was no longer an employee of the utilities department after two-and-a-half years.

**7** The Columbus Icemen are state champions for the second time in four years after they won the Indiana State High School Hockey Association Class 2A championship on Saturday.

**8** Columbus added Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, to the list of dates on which consumer fireworks can be used by residents.

**9** According to long-awaited guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vaccinated Bartholomew County residents could gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing.

**10** Columbus police said the recent string of drunken-driving arrests at local restaurant drive-thrus is unusual but "just a coincidence," after four arrests were made in a two-week period.

**11** The NAACP Columbus/Bartholomew branch, in collaboration with Cummins,

Inc., First Financial Bank and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, introduced Bartholomew County Targeted Investment in Minority Entrepreneurs (TIME) program, designed to support Black-owned businesses.

**12** Nineveh man Martin Louis Douglas Jr., 30, who was a suspect in a multi-agency pursuit, was shot and killed Wednesday afternoon near State Road 58 in southern Bartholomew County after fleeing and firing on officers with an assault rifle during the pursuit.

**13** Mill Race Marathon organizers said they are planning to have this year's race event in-person on Sept. 25.

**14** The city of Columbus was set to receive almost \$7.8 million from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. However, local officials have yet to decide how the funds will be spent.

**15** Columbus is extending an agreement and increasing the contract amount for a local company's work on the FairOaks Mall project.

**16** Columbus considered on first reading a city ordinance that would halt the sale of cats, dogs and rabbits at pet shops in the community.

**17** One full year had passed since the first positive case of COVID-19 was recorded in Bartholomew County.

**18** In Columbus, a total of 177 catalytic converter thefts were reported to police last year, up from 45 thefts in 2019, according to the Columbus Police Department.

**19** Rep. Greg Pence, R-Indiana, voted against renewing a landmark bill that aims to reduce domestic and sexual violence and improve the response to it through grants to state and local government and nonprofits, including Turning Point Domestic Violence Services in Columbus

**20** Exhibit Columbus highlighted 13 different exhibits, with the five Miller Prize installations as the centerpiece to the theme "New Middles," which were set to be installed through Nov. 28.

**21** The number of Bartholomew County residents getting vaccinated against COVID-19 each week had risen during the first half of March, while the county's pandemic death toll reached 150 and county health officials now developing plans for a mass vaccination site.

**22** Nine months after the Hope Town Square was closed for an extensive \$437,500 renovation, the town council said it was still not ready to select a date when the town square — one of the community's most popular tourism attractions — would reopen.

**23** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. high school students resumed traditional in-person learning on Monday, the first chance many had to see their friends face-to-face, although a few feet apart, in months.

**24** Cummins Chairman and CEO Tom Linebarger spoke out against anti-Asian xenophobia due the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide increase in hate incidents targeting people of Asian descent over the past year, including Cummins employees in Columbus.

**25** A wide mix of ethnic, cultural and faith groups in Bartholomew County made plans to meet to host a rally in support of area Asian-Americans.

**26** The Columbus Redevelopment Commission selected Hitchcock Design Group and American Structurepoint to complete the preliminary design phase for the Bicentennial 1821 Trail with a not-to-exceed amount of \$81,700.

**27** Bartholomew County Health Officer Dr. Brian Niedbalski urged the Columbus community to continue wearing masks in public places and stores but will not require them after April 6, when Indiana's statewide mask mandate expires.

**28** Local and state officials, as well as Columbus' congressional delegation, urged the federal government to reject recommendations to change the definition of a metropolitan statistical area, which would result in 144 cities — including Columbus — losing the designation and putting key federal funding at risk.

**29** Nonprofit United Way of Bartholomew County's annual fundraising campaign hit its \$4 million mark — and did so days before its end-of-March deadline.

**30** The state authorized Columbus City Utilities to enact an overall water rate increase of almost 75% over the next three years.

**31** The Indiana Department of Health said more than 79,000 Hoosiers ages 30 to 39 signed up for their free COVID-19 vaccination on Monday, the first day of their eligibility.

# APRIL



**Clockwise from top left:** The C-119 'Flying Boxcar' is being restored at the Columbus Municipal Airport. // Acting U.S. Attorney John E. Childress addresses members of the media about how members of the Bartholomew County Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team and an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force dismantled a large drug trafficking organization in Bartholomew county March 31 during a press conference at the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office in Columbus. // Columbus Signature Academy New Tech senior Jose Trinidad Noriega's promposal asks for a very special singer, Taylor Swift, to be his date to the BCSC PROM. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

**1** A multi-agency drug investigation, "Operation Columbus Day," believed to be the largest in Bartholomew County history, concluded with multiple arrests and hundreds of pounds of drugs confiscated since 2018.

**2** Indiana Senator Todd Young spoke with some of the 40 employees at Precise Tooling Solutions, a specialty manufacturer that builds and repairs injection tooling.

**3** Cummins Chairman and CEO Tom Linebarger criticized efforts to restrict voting access across the country, acknowledging concerns of civil rights activists who say the measures target non-white voters and threaten the democratic process.

**4** Various areas and buildings in downtown Columbus, including a church and the Cummins Inc. Corporate Office Building, were defaced with a stenciled logo and web address promoting a Texas-based white supremacy group.

**5** Eighteen students were set to graduate from the Indiana University J. Irwin Miller Architecture Program in Columbus — the first graduating class in the program's history.

**6** Lucabe Coffee Co. announced plans to open a new location in an iconic building on the near east side of Columbus that was originally designed as an Irwin Union Bank branch.

**7** Indiana's mask mandate became a state advisory, but many businesses in Columbus and Bartholomew County opted to retain their face covering requirements.

**8** Cummins Inc. had vaccinated "several hundred" employees and eligible dependents against COVID-19 over roughly the past week as the company prepares to hold a mobile vaccination clinic at its manufacturing plant in Walesboro.

**9** Local veterans were concerned after a bill that sparked strong debate about who should be eligible for emergency services to help former military personnel has passed both houses of the General Assembly, and was expected to be sent to Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb for his signature.

**10** The city of Columbus proposed to demolish a fire-damaged residence at 1320 Pearl St. and replace it with affordable housing.

**11** The Bartholomew County Health Department had 1,300 COVID-19 Moderna vaccine doses available

Saturday in a mass vaccination clinic at the fairgrounds.

**12** With less than two months left in the school year, local high schools were deliberating on whether commencement ceremonies could be held in person again after going virtual in 2020.

**13** Ninth Avenue Foods, a California-based beverage production company, announced plans to locate its new Midwest headquarters and production facility in Columbus, its first facility outside of its home state.

**14** Criminal charges against a Johnson County man were dismissed after the Bartholomew County Prosecutor's office confirmed a relative had stolen his identity and used the information when arrested by sheriff deputies.

**15** The Bartholomew County Council created a county economic development commission as it continues to work with officials hoping to market available land for development in northern German Township.

**16** New transformers were installed to power the vertical display outside the historic Crump Theatre, and volunteers announced the signage would light up downtown on Friday and Saturday nights moving forward.

**17** Jon R. Schaffer, 53, Edinburgh, pleaded guilty April 16 to two federal charges for his involvement during the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, making him the first of more than 400 defendants to do so.

**18** Even with coronavirus vaccine shots now in the arms of more than 1 in 3 Bartholomew County residents, local health officials anticipated a difficult time reaching herd immunity — the threshold experts believe is needed to stop uncontrolled spread of COVID-19.

**19** Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum volunteers continued to make progress on a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" aircraft the museum purchased in 2019, hoping to move it to a display site near the Columbus Municipal Airport in time for Memorial Day.

**20** A vacant lot at the corner of Central Avenue and National Road that used to house a Kroger supermarket was sold to an Indianapolis-based company that plans to convert the grocery store building into a self-storage facility.

**21** Local Black leaders said the across-the-board guilty verdict in the murder trial of Derek Chauvin, a former

Minneapolis police officer accused of killing George Floyd last year, is a sign of "some justice" for Blacks everywhere.

**22** Columbus City Council voted in favor of offering relocation payments of up to \$10,000 to candidates for high-level city positions.

**23** The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic's annual, free, outdoor SALUTE! concert honoring military veterans is on for May 28 as an adjusted, in-person event on the lawn of the Bartholomew County Memorial for Veterans at Second and Jackson streets in downtown Columbus.

**24** Bartholomew County health officials grew concerned that the local supply of COVID-19 vaccines would soon outpace demand, mirroring trends in much of the U.S.

**25** The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) announced planning allocations for public schools under the third round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, with Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. receiving \$13,845,308.94 and Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corp. getting \$737,448.46.

**26** Local police were concerned about ammo shortages, as prices for a box of 9mm handgun ammunition rose from \$14 to \$50 per box.

**27** Columbus Signature Academy New Tech senior Jose Trinidad Noriega, 17, created a promposal video for the one and only Taylor Swift in the hopes of landing the prom date of his wildest dreams.

**28** With \$16.2 million coming to Bartholomew County government through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), local officials decided to hire Baker Tilly US, LLP — a Chicago-based public accounting and consulting firm with an office in Indianapolis — to make sure they spend it the right way.

**29** The Bartholomew County Health Department planned to hold two mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics with the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Columbus on May 25 and 26, with more than 1,000 doses available over the two days.

**30** In his first public address since the end of the Trump administration, former Vice President Mike Pence of Columbus on Thursday put down a marker for a potential return to elected office, telling an audience in early-voting South Carolina that he will use the coming months "pushing back on the liberal agenda" he says is wrong for the country.

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Columbus, IN  
(812) 372-3791

IN-35094518

**ESTABLISHED 1949**

Columbus Silgas  
FARM SERVICES

1864 West 550 North  
812-372-4469

IN-35095820

**ESTABLISHED 1950**

Kokomo Grain Co.

6672 E 650 S  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
1-800-284-2676  
812-526-5574

IN-35095293

**ESTABLISHED 1951**

QUALITY MACHINE

QMTW & TOOL WORKS, INC.

1201 Michigan Avenue  
Columbus, IN 47203  
(812) 379-2660

**ESTABLISHED 1953**

TEMPSTA<sup>3</sup> Heating and Cooling Products  
South Central Company

3055 State Street • 812-376-3343  
www.southcentralco.com  
Like us on Facebook @SouthCentralCo!

IN-35095821

**ESTABLISHED 1963**

CENTRAL SHEET METAL

925 S. Marr Road, Columbus  
812-372-9976  
centralsheetmetalco.com

IN-35092286

MAY



**Clockwise from top left:** Jeremy Sweet is escorted to a patrol car by a SWAT team member following his arrest May 7 in a drug investigation. // A sign in the door of Papa's Deli thanks customers for 35 years of business in Columbus on May 14. // A nurse administers a dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to a patient at a mass vaccination clinic in the pavilion at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

ESTABLISHED  
1964

## Rabbit's Hair Care Center

2370 N. National Road  
Columbus, IN 47201  
812-379-2112

IN-35092825

ESTABLISHED  
1965

1142 N. Marr Rd., Columbus, IN  
812-372-8776  
www.barcons.org

IN-35092294

ESTABLISHED  
1967

## Four Seasons A BHI Senior Living Community

1901 Taylor Road  
Columbus, IN 47203  
812-372-8481

IN-35092281

ESTABLISHED  
1969

## ABC - Stewart School

Educating children ages 2  
through 6th grade  
6691 W. S.R. 46  
812-342-3029  
www.abc-stewart.org

IN-35092417

ESTABLISHED  
1971

## MARVIN JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Specializing in Trucking Insurance  
305 Washington, Columbus  
(812) 457-5255  
(812) 372-0841

IN-35092828

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**1** In the Conference Indiana meet, Columbus North junior Tucker Smith set a new state record in the shot put by throwing 69 feet, 4½ inches.

**2** Columbus East and Indiana University grad Harry Crider signed a free agent deal with the Philadelphia Eagles shortly after the conclusion of the 2021 NFL Draft.

**3** Clerical errors on bid documents to supply the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department with six new trucks and one new car led to lower bids being rejected by county officials and fewer vehicles being purchased.

**4** Julie Goodspeed-Chadwick, Ph.D., was named an IUPUI Chancellor's Professor, the first professor from IUPUC to receive this honor in its 50-year history as a regional center of IUPUI.

**5** Cummins Inc. reported higher-than-expected quarterly revenue aided by strong demand in international markets and raised its outlook for the year as the global economy continued to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**6** Bartholomew County Sheriff deputies and the local SWAT team took David Bevis, 59, Columbus into custody after a standoff at his home in the 4000 block of County Road 550W.

**7** Columbus City Council passed an ordinance creating the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to prepare to receive the first half of its funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

**8** In a continuation of Operation Columbus Day, believed to be the largest drug trafficking investigation in Bartholomew County, which unfolded over the course of three years, six people were arrested on the morning of May 7.

**9** Births at Columbus Regional Hospital in January and February — nine months or more after the pandemic took root in Indiana — were down 29.5% and 32.4% respectively compared to the same months the year before.

**10** Columbus North senior Maria Cena Zavala planned out a four-week swimming clinic for autistic children.

**11** Organizers estimated that more than 400 people attended the opening of the Columbus Farmers Market — the largest crowd since 2019.

**12** The number of Bartholomew County residents who received a first dose of

a COVID-19 vaccine last week declined for the fifth consecutive week, reaching the lowest level since early January.

**13** William Steven "Billy" Smith, 45, North Vernon, was arrested on a preliminary charge of murder after a five-hour search by police in Jennings County on Tuesday.

**14** Deputies at the security scanning station at the entrance to the Bartholomew County Courthouse found items including a knife, a razor blade and a loaded magazine all in the first three days of operation.

**15** Columbus police said they had seized more than 100 counterfeit Xanax pills in drug dealing investigations in Bartholomew County so far this year and warned the public that some of the counterfeit pills being sold on the street contain fentanyl and methamphetamine.

**16** Local recycling officials learned they would receive a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Community Recycling program to support recycling at all four weekends of Ethnic Expo 2021 in Columbus for the first time.

**17** Like many businesses struggling in the service industry, short-staffed local restaurant managers considered incentives to attract workers back to their kitchens and dining rooms.

**18** The number of people filing for divorce in Bartholomew County plummeted last year, down 21.3% compared to the previous year.

**19** The Columbus Redevelopment Commission passed a confirmatory resolution Monday amending the Central Allocation Area for the mixed-use development downtown to create a new Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for the project.

**20** Volunteers at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, along with the help of the Kentucky Air National Guard, Force Construction and others, moved a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" aircraft the museum purchased in 2019 to a display site near the Columbus Municipal Airport.

**21** Rep. Greg Pence, R-Indiana, voted against a proposal to create a bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, when a pro-Trump mob smashed into the complex, brutally beat police officers and chanted that they wanted to hang his brother, then-Vice President Mike Pence.

**22** Beginning with the fall 2021 semester, the COVID-19 vaccine was to be

required for all Indiana University students, faculty and staff, including those attending IUPUC, according to university officials.

**23** Bartholomew County health officials make a push to get as many people as possible vaccinated against COVID-19 as the number of vaccines administered to local residents continued to decline.

**24** Designs from two Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. students, CSA Lincoln third-grader Hazel Kelly, and Columbus North freshman Jianing Wang, were selected as the winners for the Mill Race Marathon Art Contest, with their artwork to be used for the official marathon poster and the Kids Fun Run T-shirt.

**25** Toyota Material Handling North America offered to provide drivers for the county-owned 12-passenger van purchased specifically for trips for veterans to the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis for medical appointments.

**26** Local and state officials awaited guidance from Native American authorities about human bones found by workers excavating ground looking for a sewer line near the future home of the Bartholomew County Court Services Center.

**27** Nineteen Republican state lawmakers — including Reps. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, and Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville — sent a letter to Gov. Eric Holcomb to use his executive powers to prohibit any public university in the state from requiring vaccines that have not been fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, calling such mandates "unconscionable."

**28** On Tuesday and Wednesday, just 277 people received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine despite the health department having enough for 1,000.

**29** Just under 1,000 attended the SALUTE! concert in downtown Columbus despite rainy conditions.

**30** Bartholomew County closed Bridge 188 over the East Fork White River east of Ogilville after an inspection determined it had deteriorated to the point where it was no longer safe to carry heavy traffic.

**31** Bartholomew County reached a milestone in the effort to quell the COVID-19 pandemic, with two out of five residents now fully vaccinated against a virus that has killed 156 people in the county, sent more than 1,500 to the emergency room and resulted in hundreds of hospitalizations since spring of 2020.

# JUNE



**Clockwise from top left:** Bartholomew County Sheriff's Deputy Ryland Fluhr supervises as a group of kids try to catch fish during the Hook a Kid on Fishing event at CERAland in Columbus. // A former one-room schoolhouse north of Petersville was destroyed by fire June 14. // The basketball court in the main gymnasium at Columbus East High School was pulled up on July 20 after flood damage. // The Columbus City Council gave initial approval in early June to appropriate preconstruction costs in the project to transform Fair Oaks Mall into a wellness and recreation center called NexusPark. // Columbus North's Tucker Smith smiles as he leaves the shot put area during a home track meet against Columbus East on April 22. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

**1** Memorial Day services returned in Columbus after they were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2** Columbus police arrested 19-year-old Daniel J. Denny in the stabbing death of his roommate Eric Cavanaugh after an early-morning altercation Tuesday at Quail Run Apartments.

**3** The Columbus City Council voted 6-1 Tuesday to approve the first reading of appropriations for preconstruction costs in the project to transform FairOaks Mall into a wellness and recreation center called NexusPark, with Council President Pro Tem Elaine Hilber voting against the action.

**4** Cummins Inc. unveiled a six-week pilot program to bring a group of downtown Columbus employees back to the workplace after offices remained vacant for almost a year.

**5** Columbus North junior Tucker Smith won the shot put at the state track and field meet while also breaking the meet record with a toss of 67 feet, 11 1/4 inches.

**6** Housing market woes could be felt in the area, as the number of homes for sale per month in Bartholomew County plummeted to 57 this past April, the lowest among data going back to January 2012 and down from 169 in April 2020.

**7** The first of two mobile COVID-19 clinics in Bartholomew County got off to a very modest start, with a total of 24 people turning out for a mobile clinic Thursday at Hauser Jr.-Sr. High School.

**8** Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum volunteers finished installing the outer wings on a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" aircraft that had been moved to a display site near Columbus Municipal Airport.

**9** Indiana State Police started investigating the death of inmate Gregory A. Leonard at the Bartholomew County Jail reported June 5.

**10** Bartholomew Consolidated School

Corp. created a new initiative aimed at helping train, educate and license new teachers so that they can join the school district called the "Pathway to Teacher Licensure Program."

**11** A milestone was reached in local efforts to bring COVID-19 under control, as over half of all eligible Bartholomew County residents 12 and over had been vaccinated against the virus

**12** Local police and sheriff deputies embarked on a four-hour fishing expedition with local youngsters Friday, an event designed for building communication and trust.

**13** Columbus Regional Health's Treatment and Support Center (TASC) is starting to regain a sense of normalcy after months of coronavirus-related restrictions.

**14** Several of the nation's top juniors from around the country were entered in this year's American Junior Golf Association event, set to take place June 29 to July 1 at Otter Creek.

**15** A 129-year-old one-room schoolhouse in Petersville was destroyed by a fire overnight.

**16** This year's Bartholomew County Substance Abuse Comprehensive Community Plan calls for dividing a total of \$44,815 into three goals or categories without naming any organization.

**17** It was announced that Yacht Rock Revue would again headline this year's Our Hospice of South Central Indiana concert, but this time in person.

**18** Columbus firefighters rescued a disabled woman trapped in the back bedroom of a home in the 200 block of South Hinman Street after fire engulfed the residence.

**19** A worldwide shortage of a certain type of computer chips put in vehicles led to local a depletion of inventories of new cars at dealerships in Columbus.

**20** Columbus native Michael Brinegar clinched the second of two events he

would compete in for Team USA at the Tokyo Olympics.

**21** The Bartholomew County Coroner's office and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources opened an investigation in the death of Tyrell D. Bowers, 17, Columbus, whose body was found in 12 feet of water at the Tipton Lakes swimming area Saturday night.

**22** The fundraising campaign for the First Christian Church tower restoration landed its second half-million-dollar grant in 10 months.

**23** Flash flooding from an estimated 4 inches of rain on June 19 caused an estimated \$1 million in damages to Columbus East High School, including damaging gym flooring.

**24** It was announced that a vaccine clinic would be set up during the annual QMIX Radio Musical Fireworks show on July 2.

**25** The Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress named Sherri Jewett as its new executive director in Columbus.

**26** The loss of major financial support resulted in the cancellation of the 29th Columbus Scottish Festival normally held in September every year at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds.

**27** A 15-year-old Columbus teen was killed after being hit by a semi in an early-morning accident in the southbound lanes of I-65 near Columbus Saturday.

**28** A suspect involved in "suspicious activity" near a home in the 3300 block of Grove Parkway was shot and critically injured in a CPD-involved shooting early Sunday morning.

**29** Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corp. signed a memorandum of understanding to retain its school resource officer for Hauser Jr.-Sr. High School and Hope Elementary.

**30** With the hall-of-fame driver in attendance, Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds racetrack was renamed the "Tony Stewart Speedway."

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# JULY



**Clockwise from top left:** Columbus native Michael Brinegar competes in the 800-meter freestyle Tuesday on July 27 during the Olympic Games in Tokyo. // Betsy Hoene works with her grand champion dairy steer during the Bartholomew County 4-H Fair livestock auction July 17 at the fairgrounds in Columbus. // Tony Stewart gets ready to compete in a three-quarter midget race to benefit the Tony Stewart Foundation at the Tony Stewart Speedway on the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, whose speedway was named after the NASCAR Hall of Fame driver and Columbus native. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

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**1** On the night in which it was renamed "Tony Stewart Speedway," the track's namesake sent home happy the 200 or so fans who stuck around after a long rain delay for the A-Main feature.

**2** Columbus Regional Health prepared for the final week that it would offer first doses of COVID-19 vaccines at its standalone clinic near the hospital campus.

**3** A local health official has confirmed that the fast-spreading COVID-19 delta variant has been detected in Bartholomew County, raising concerns about the highly contagious strain spreading among the unvaccinated during the holiday weekend.

**4** Columbus was lit with a thunderstorm of patriotism Friday evening for "QMIX Musical Fireworks 31: Back With a Bang! Vaccinate. Celebrate!" at Columbus Municipal Airport.

**5** Columbus Indiana Philharmonic's Cabaret at The Commons concert series, which averaged more than 350 people per show before the COVID-19 pandemic, announced it would return Aug. 19.

**6** A new study said Indiana's 2011 redistricting favored one party over the other, creating an unequal representation of its citizens also known as "gerrymandering."

**7** James Kevin Butler, of Columbus, a highly respected choral conductor and performer, passed away a day after finding out he had Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

**8** While the lobby was open at The Commons, officials said it would be several more weeks before the newly renovated playground could be used due to delays caused by material shortages.

**9** The new school year could see students and staff in the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. no longer required to wear masks in most situations.

**10** Sherri Jewett was named the new executive director of the Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress (ASAP).

**11** Columbus small businesses that received low-interest loans from a city-funded program designed to help keep companies afloat during the pandemic have started paying back what they borrowed.

**12** To help bridge gaps in getting vaccines to underserved communities, Trafalgar-based WindRose Health Network takes vaccines and translators to Central Indiana residents via a mobile clinic.

**13** Columbus Regional Health administered what officials expect to be among the last first doses of COVID-19 vaccines given at an emergency standalone clinic set up in a matter of weeks this past winter during the height of the pandemic.

**14** Daniel Joel Denny, a 19-year-old accused of murder in the stabbing death of his roommate at a Columbus apartment complex in June, planned to plead insanity in his case.

**15** Cummins Inc. unveiled a new community program to address the global water crisis through partnerships with experts and investments in projects around the world to bring fresh water to 20 million people who currently lack access.

**16** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. scored slightly over the statewide averages for ILEARN, with 42.2% of students proficient in English, 38.4% in math and 30.8% in both.

**17** With just three weeks to go until the first day of school, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. planned to stick with most of the reopening guidelines released on July 8, which included making masks optional, with only some small adjustments.

**18** COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Bartholomew County markedly declined over the first six months of the year, though about 1 in 4 residents still say they are on the fence or definitely won't get vaccinated, a new data tool shows.

**19** The Bartholomew County Humane Society was saving more than \$300 a month during the summer thanks to the installation of 64 solar panels.

**20** This year's annual Bartholomew County 4-H Fair was declared a success by organizers based on attendance and how much fairgoers spent while on their visit.

**21** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. board members unanimously approved the COVID-19 reopening plan presented at Monday night's meeting.

**22** State officials say the spike in initial unemployment claims in Bartholomew County earlier this month was related to Indiana restarting federal unemployment payments to workers affected by the pandemic after a court ordered the state to do so.

**23** The Columbus Board of Aviation Commissioners approved a lease agreement Tuesday with Columbus Propeller, Inc. for a makerspace that will be located on airport property.

**24** Bartholomew County Prosecutor Bill Nash filed charges July 23 in Bartholomew Circuit Court against Jacob D. Rice, 38, of 709 Reed St., accusing him of attempted murder, theft, unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, criminal recklessness and theft of a firearm.

**25** Fatal drug overdoses in Bartholomew County had declined so far this year compared to 2020, when overdose deaths reached their highest level since at least 2015.

**26** There still wasn't a definitive price tag on estimated damages to Columbus East High School from last month's flash flooding, but officials estimated it would be a little under \$400,000.

**27** Several individuals and organizations started working to initiate a proposed pilot project called "Youth and Family Community Connections" intended to provide a brighter future for at-risk children and their families.

**28** Columbus Regional Health didn't plan to shift gears and require employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 after a who's-who of medical groups this week called for health care employers to mandate vaccinations among staff.

**29** Michael Brinegar, 21, a Columbus native and Indiana University redshirt junior, finished 17th in the preliminaries of the 800-meter freestyle on Tuesday morning in Tokyo.

**30** About 2,000 homes and businesses in northeast Bartholomew County lost electricity Thursday morning after strong storm rolled through the region overnight.

**31** A narcotics investigation lasting several months ended after a Lafayette man was stopped by CPD Intelligence Led Policing Unit officers, followed by CPD K-9 Argo alerting to the odor of 4 pounds of meth in the man's vehicle.



# AUGUST



**Clockwise from left:** A group of people protest mask mandates and vaccinations for COVID-19 outside Columbus City Hall in Columbus on Aug. 20. // Students with the local high school design team work on their Exhibit Columbus installation "Tunnel Vision" at Central Middle School. // Members of the Indianapolis Chinese Community Center perform the Dragon Dance at the Chinese Expo on Aug. 28. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

**1** Thanks to a new partnership, students at Ivy Tech Community College now have the ability to complete a bachelor's degree at Franklin College in three years through a new program that accelerates the degree path.

**2** Columbus Regional Hospital's police department, which had been in place for about seven months, continued to phase out contracted officers as it expanded its force to 15 officers.

**3** Gov. Eric J. Holcomb announced an extended submission deadline for the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), providing regions an additional 30 days to submit proposals — now due on or before Sept. 30.

**4** Cummins Inc. said its second quarter revenue was \$6.1 billion — a 59% increase from the April-June quarter last year — and reported earnings per share of \$4.10. Sales in North America rose 74%, while international revenue increased 42% driven by strong demand across global markets compared to the same quarter in 2020.

**5** The Columbus City Council approved a resolution Tuesday granting a 10-year personal property tax abatement to Thormax Enterprises, LLC, a steel supplier from Seymour, for new manufacturing equipment.

**6** Bartholomew County moved into the highest category of COVID-19 community transmission as a resurgence of the coronavirus fueled by the ultra-contagious delta variant sweeps across much of the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**7** Stoney Lonesome Motorcycle Club recently donated a complete Learn-To-Ride Program, including Strider Learn-To-Ride Bikes, helmets, and curriculum to Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp.

**8** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp.'s first ever "Teacher of the Year" is one of 25 finalists for the same award at the state level. Central Middle School teacher and 2020 district winner Mindy Summers has made it to the top 25 for the 2022 Indiana Teacher of the Year award.

**9** The Columbus Board of Works approved a special use of right-of-way request from the arts council for the implementation of an asphalt mural as part of the Sixth Street Arts Alley project.

**10** Immediate intervention by two Columbus East High School students likely helped save the life of a fellow

classmate on the first day of school on Friday.

**11** COVID-19 hospitalizations at Columbus Regional Hospital have soared over the past two weeks — including the number of patients requiring intensive care — reaching their highest levels since this past winter driven by the highly transmissible delta variant.

**12** During the upcoming Exhibit Columbus exhibition, local residents and visitors will be able to see art and design pieces collectively called "Alternative Instruments." Artist and designer Sam Jacob says the installation symbolizes many different layers of utopian visions developed over the past five centuries.

**13** Bartholomew County's population growth outpaced the statewide rate over the past decade and grew more diverse, with a considerable drop in the percentage of residents identifying as white, according to data from the 2020 Census.

**14** A team of Columbus high school designers were working to complete their Exhibit Columbus installation, "Tunnel Vision."

**15** Talk about steps through history. A clustered crowd of maybe 300 people gathered around the stage at Saturday's bicentennial blowout called Celebration on the River and watched the local Dancers Studio Inc. dancers move and groove their way through Dancing Through the Decades.

**16** For the Exhibit Columbus architectural exhibition opening to the general public Saturday, the Nigerian-born Jeyifous is giving archives their day in the literal sun.

**17** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. has hired more than 100 new teachers since March, when the school corporation began a push for teacher recruitment.

**18** A Columbus Department of Public Works employee was recently honored for helping an injured Columbus resident he encountered while on the job.

**19** The Columbus City Council voted Tuesday to allocate federal COVID-19 relief funds, but council members differed on whether to include hazard pay to city employees who have been working in-person amid the pandemic.

**20** The Indiana Department of Health said that 3,713 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories.

**21** Parents, community residents and some students protested with signs outside of Columbus City Hall Friday morning, calling for personal and parental choice in masking and vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**22** Janice L. "Jan" Hexamer-Gardner, who became the first female co-owner of one of Bartholomew County's largest real estate firms, Breeden Realtors-Developers Inc., died after a long battle with cancer.

**23** With more than 200 years of history as a state, Indiana has dozens of historical buildings that need help to avoid demolition.

**24** SCORE South Central Indiana 419 was honored with a national award and regional recognition for highest volunteer engagement.

**25** Bartholomew County's unemployment rate ticked down last month to its lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic forced businesses in spring 2020 to temporarily close and lay off workers at levels not seen in generations.

**26** The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic's search for a new conductor to replace longtime artistic director David Bowden after his last concert in May 2022 will involve perhaps four or more candidates who will lead the ensemble through the 2022-23 concert season as part of an audition.

**27** Columbus Regional Health is seeing an increase in demand for a COVID-19 treatment that has been prescribed to prominent public officials during the pandemic, including former President Donald Trump and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

**28** Creative minds from around the country have been attracted to the city of Columbus — and visited recently to consider the future of the FairOaks Mall.

**29** Columbus and Bartholomew County will use some of their federal COVID-19 relief funding to help local not-for-profits.

**30** Just when it seemed like things hardly could get any hotter than the scorching 93 degrees at Saturday's Chinese Expo, a proverbial and possibly fire-breathing dragon snaked its colorful way down Fourth Street in downtown Columbus.

**31** An ordinance regulating the keeping of dogs or cats for breeding purposes, as well as providing violation penalties, has been unanimously approved by the Bartholomew County commissioners.

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# SEPTEMBER



**Clockwise from left:** Runners cross the Robert Stewart Bridge on Sept. 25 during the Mill Race Half Marathon in Columbus. // The stop arms on a school bus are extended on a bus in the bus lot at Columbus East High School for a Sept. 2 remembrance ceremony for Columbus East student Lily Streeval, who was struck and killed by a motorist in a hit-and-run while boarding her school bus on Aug. 31. // Afghan refugees arrive at Camp Atterbury, some of more than 7,000 who would stay at the camp before resettling elsewhere in the United States.

THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

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In her 34th year in the field, Stacy Doub has been named 2021 Teacher of the Year for the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp.

When a suspect in the Monday hit-and-run death of Columbus East High School junior Lily J. Streeval fled the scene, a local resident stopped behind the school bus made an instant decision to follow the car that struck and killed her.

A Columbus firefighter is among Indiana first responders helping in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

The first Afghan refugees arrived late Thursday in southern Johnson County as part of Operation Allies Welcome.

When the coronavirus hit Bartholomew County, health care workers felt like they were swimming in the dark — and a year and a half later, some still say they are barely treading water.

An Elizabethtown farm family has received two Hoosier Homestead Awards from the state, one for the 1871 Sesquicentennial of the Anthers farm, and another for the 1820 Bicentennial for the Anthers-Blair farm.

Over the course of his 95 years, World War II veteran Gene Gurthet has been on safari, traveled to Europe multiple times, enjoyed whitewater rafting and even traveled by donkey to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. But when Gurthet, from Columbus, was transported into the sky above Columbus in an open air biplane, he described the Aug. 22 flight as a “magnificent experience.”

COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased in recent days at Columbus Regional Hospital as a growing surge in coronavirus hospitalizations prompts more nearby hospitals to stop non-emergency surgeries.

The Commons has seen some drops in revenue since last year, but city officials are optimistic about the facility’s future.

Columbus is looking to join a program that environmentalists think is the bee’s knees. The Columbus City Council has approved a resolution designating Columbus as a Bee City USA affiliate.

Trapped deep in the wreckage of the World Trade Center, Will Jimeno lived through the unthinkable. Twenty years later, he’s still living with it.

A solemn sense of reverence was maintained by nearly 175 spectators who attended Saturday’s 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Columbus City Hall. Attendance was significantly higher than the 65 residents who were there two years ago.

The Ganesh Festival of India overflowed so excessively with cultural energy and exuberance that Fourth Street in downtown Columbus morphed into a brick dance floor.

A family farm with a long-standing reputation of being good stewards of the land in eastern Bartholomew County has received the Centennial Award from the Hoosier Homestead program.

Indiana House Republicans have released their proposal to redraw the state’s Congressional district lines, including changes for Bartholomew County.

Even without the annual Labor Day weekend classic rock concert, the beat goes on — and in a big way — for Our Hospice of South Central Indiana.

Columbus Township Fire and Rescue has become the latest among the first responders in Bartholomew County to acquire a potentially life-saving drone.

A local nonprofit is expanding its mission of helping children in traumatic situations into an effort to help the thousands of Afghan refugee children who have arrived at Camp Atterbury.

More than 70 people honored and remembered the POW/MIAs held against their will — or those who didn’t return home.

Columbus resident Bren Thomas looked out over a crowd of people at the annual Columbus Pride Festival Saturday afternoon at Mill Race Park downtown and smiled broadly. On this day, there was nowhere else she’d rather be.

Columbus is now the first city in Indiana

to become an affiliate of Bee City USA, an initiative that seeks to make communities across the country better homes to pollinators.

A mysterious photograph suggests two Columbus families have a connection that goes back decades.

Federal officials on Wednesday clarified recent misinformation about conditions and misconstrued statistics regarding the refugees being temporarily housed at Camp Atterbury.

Jennings County Jail officials are attempting to contain an outbreak of COVID-19 that has already sickened at least eight inmates and one jail employee.

The 2021 Kids’ Fun Run was held in Mill Race Park Friday night starting at 6 p.m. And while it was nearly impossible to count the number of kids in the park that night, organizers put the number of registered participants at about 750.

Running conditions for competitors in the Mill Race Half Marathon and 5K were cool and fast Saturday, an unusual circumstance for the event which usually counts on some heat and humidity during the competition.

As expected, Hope Heritage Days’ return from last year’s COVID-19 cancellation seemed a grand slice of Americana: a loud-and-proud, smoke-trailing, classic military fly-over just after the National Anthem, and just before the parade Sunday afternoon.

A letter of intent with a New York City infrastructure investment company that could eventually result in the county-wide installation of fiber-optic lines stirred up some apprehension among the Bartholomew County commissioners.

A suspect in what has been described as the largest drug trafficking investigation in Bartholomew County history remains behind bars.

As the city continues to work on a multifamily urban grocer project for downtown Columbus, an official leasee for the grocery space has yet to be named. However, a cooperatively-owned grocery store from Bloomington could potentially fill that role.

# OCTOBER



**Clockwise from left:** Reese Kapczynski, left, holds up her completed graphic design project during the Girl Up! STEM event at Columbus North High School. // Bartholomew County Jail Commander Maj. John Martocchia, Chief Deputy Maj. Chris Lane and corrections officer Heaven Butler examine x-ray images from a baggage scanner installed at the courthouse, as corrections officer Jeff Tindell, foreground, examines items going through the equipment. // Ducks are dropped by the duck drop crew from a Huey helicopter flown by Jim Ogilvie and Dave Williams on Oct. 9 during the Kiwanis Incredible Duck Splash at the round pond at Mill Race Park. // Retired NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy talks about his time in space Oct. 16 during a presentation at Columbus North High School. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

**1** Columbus Regional Health plans to raise its minimum starting wage for staff to \$15 per hour as it seeks to retain existing employees and attract new ones.

**2** A group of volunteers has stepped forward to work with Team Rubicon to help Afghan refugees who are being hosted at Camp Atterbury near Columbus.

**3** Indiana Conservation Officers are encouraging Indiana hunters to donate harvested deer to help feed hungry Hoosiers.

**4** East and North's new combined marching band, the Sound and Spirit of Columbus, will compete at regionals this month.

**5** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. is gearing up to spend \$23 million on a variety of capital projects to improve its facilities.

**6** A mini-documentary film done by a Columbus duo featuring local residents talking about racial justice will be part of the prestigious, Indianapolis-based Heartland Film Festival.

**7** Columbus is considering partnering with a company on creating the necessary infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to more than 80% of local residences.

**8** Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department's newest K9 Szabi has received a bullet- and stab-protective vest as a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

**9** A United Way program that helps lift Bartholomew County residents into self-sufficiency is being used as a case study for a national organization that studies and disrupts poverty on a systems-wide level.

**10** Renovation of the former Carson's at FairOaks Mall is expected to begin soon as Columbus Regional Health moves forward with its portion of the NexusPark project.

**11** The 18th Annual Kiwanis Incredible Duck Splash on Saturday saw 14,649 rubber ducks adopted with \$55,230 raised for children and youth-oriented programs.

**12** Columbus Regional Health is on high alert after a wave of cyberattacks hobbled at least three nearby hospitals in recent weeks that have, in some cases, disabled computer systems, forced staff to revert to pen-and-paper record-keeping and disrupted patient care.

**13** Upgraded security is now at the entrance to the Bartholomew County Courthouse, marking one year since county officials approved the purchase of the X-ray baggage scanner.

**14** Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corp. has reached a tentative agreement with its teachers' association that, if ratified, would collectively raise salaries about 10% over two years.

**15** A site plan for the multifamily urban grocer project received city officials' approval after being tabled for revision in September.

**16** A Columbus veteran has about 587 miles left before he finishes a 3,333 mile run from coast-to-coast drawing attention to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

**17** Retired NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy fielded several different questions Saturday at a meet and greet with local residents, ranging from asking about different types of space vehicles to what it was like to fall asleep in space.

**18** The 2021 Ethnic Expo series has announced its sustainability results, which succeeded in keeping 49% of the events' waste out of the Bartholomew County Landfill via recycling and composting.

**19** Bartholomew County health officials are concerned that the flu could come roaring back this winter after plummeting to low levels last year, further straining a local health care system that already has had its hands full with COVID-19.

**20** Designers, local students and community volunteers are close to finishing up a new asphalt mural downtown.

**21** Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. has reached a tentative two-year agreement with its teachers' association that will raise the salary scale about 12.5% over two years.

**22** About 100 people turned out at Columbus City Hall at noon Wednesday for the ninth annual "Men+Friends Take a Stand" event.

**23** Five Columbus firefighters were awarded the department's Medal of Courage for actions taken that resulted in the successful rescue of an 8-year-old child who became trapped in a laundry chute at a home on Forest Drive on September 22.

**24** Another pharmacy is planning to open in Hope early next year within the same building Hope Wellness operated at.

**25** A well-known leader of Columbus-area veterans has been awarded what is frequently called the "Veteran's Oscar." Sgt. Maj. Rick Caldwell of the American Veterans (AMVETS) organization was one of the recipients of the organization's Silver Helmet Awards presented during the AMVET 76th national convention in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**26** With the economic havoc caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, one might easily assume donations to the Columbus Firemen's Cheer Fund have dropped dramatically. But Cheer Fund co-chairman Ben Noblitt said that's not the case.

**27** Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corp. is moving forward with its plan to collectively raise teachers' salaries by about 10% over two years.

**28** More than 100 elementary school students recently took part in an event aimed at engaging young girls in science, technology, engineering and math.

**29** Luke Poindexter, a young Columbus East High School graduate who lettered in three sports and whose father said he was working hard planning for his future, was the victim of a homicide in Indianapolis earlier this week.

**30** Former Golden Gloves boxing champ Peter Soler, long trained to watch for surprises from his opponents, was caught totally off guard on a recent afternoon at his fittingly named Columbus Uppercuts barber shop downtown.

**31** Although the federal moratorium on evictions ended Oct. 3, tenants in the Columbus area still struggling to pay full rent may still have alternatives to avoid being kicked out of their homes.

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# NOVEMBER

1

While several advocates are calling for reallocating some funds from law enforcement to other services, police departments across America are taking steps to improve their understanding of people with mental illness.

2

A Kentucky man accused of stealing a bulldozer and leading Columbus police on a slow-speed chase failed to appear in court last week and a judge has issued a warrant for his arrest.

3

The effort by Bartholomew County Sheriff Matthew A. Myers and sheriff's department employees will be to "Pack-a-Patrol Car" for Bartholomew County residents who may need a little extra help during this holiday season.

4

Kris Hyatt and Sarah Ross of Muddy Paws Pet Salon established a grooming tree allowing customers to donate toward grooming for the sake of pet owners who currently cannot afford it.

5

Local health officials are gearing up to start giving the first vaccinations into little arms after U.S. health officials earlier this week gave the final green light to Pfizer's kid-size COVID-19 shot for children ages 5 to 11.

6

Columbus Parks and Recreation Department employee Jacob Hendricks is being honored by the Indiana Park and Recreation Association for leadership and service in his field.

7

Columbus East and North's combined marching band will compete against 97 other bands from across the country next week.

8

Local volunteers and organizations are planning to plant more than 200 trees as a way to celebrate the Columbus and Bartholomew County bicentennial while also helping the environment.

9

IUPUC and Indiana University business experts predict that while certain economic difficulties and uncertainties are likely to continue in 2022, the year may hold some hope



of economic progress, particularly if the COVID-19 pandemic does not worsen.

10

Columbus North High School alumni have founded a new scholarship honoring beloved English teacher Webb Salmon, who died in December 2020 at age 95.

11

City officials may modify initial pieces of the NexusPark project, after cost estimates exceeded the \$35 million budget, though officials declined to give an exact figure on the overruns.

12

Just before Thursday's Veterans Day program in Columbus began, the temperature dropped 6 degrees and a strong wind created a flurry of autumn leaves next to the Bartholomew County Courthouse. But the nearly 100 spectators held their ground.

13

The Bartholomew County Sheriff Department and Columbus Police Department will receive a combined total of \$20,000 in an Indiana Criminal Justice Institute grant to help fund overtime patrols to prevent reckless or intoxicated driving.

14

The Republican congressional delegation representing Columbus reported raising about \$3.1 million

during the third quarter of the year and now sits atop a collective war chest of more than \$6.9 million.

15

A residential treatment program for male offenders with substance abuse disorder is preparing to graduate a new class late this month.

16

Columbus police are investigating the discovery of a pipe bomb at a local golf course over the weekend but believe there is no ongoing threat to the public.

17

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. board members are contemplating the future of the mask mandate.

18

The first public Christmas celebration of the season will take place Friday in Hope. "Christmas of Yesteryear" will be in and around the Hope Town Square. Organizers say the holiday festival is always held six days before Thanksgiving, so it does not conflict with private and public gatherings held during the traditional holiday season.

19

CVS Health will close hundreds of drugstores over the next three years, as the retail giant adjusts to changing customer needs and converts to new store formats.



**Pictured from left:** Searchers on the Bartholomew County Sheriff Department airboat are shown picking up Emma Sweet's jacket from the East Fork White River near Southern Crossing after it was found by three Columbus men searching the riverbank on their own. // Columbus East and North's combined marching band tuned up to compete against 97 other bands from across the country at the Bands of America Grand National Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. SUBMITTED PHOTO; THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO

20

City officials have approved another step in the city's contribution to the downtown multifamily urban grocer project.

21

The COVID-19 death toll continued to climb during the first half of November, increasing the number of lives cut short by the virus to 110 since a summer surge primarily driven by the delta variant swept across the region and sent more than 3,400 local residents to hospital emergency rooms.

22

City officials plan to invest leftover monies from an old tech park fund into new projects.

23

Columbus Regional Health has started using new technology that includes a human-controlled robotic arm in an effort to help detect and diagnose lung cancer — Bartholomew County's top cancer killer.

24

Local health officials are monitoring demand for COVID-19 booster shots after federal authorities broadened eligibility to all adults, but do not currently have plans to expand their clinics' hours of operation.

25

The Sanctuary church's Christmas Prayer Wall — even larger than the

previous 10-foot high, 30-foot-long version of 2020 — has returned to its place on the church lawn at 3939 Central Ave. in Columbus to give people an outlet for spiritual help.

26

Local health officials say they are seeing an alarming increase in the number of children and high-risk adults in the Columbus area who are falling ill with COVID-19.

27

Duke Energy is proposing a six-year plan it says will reduce the number of power outages by at least 17% — and the length of outages by at least 19%.

28

Schneck Medical Center is still working to fully restore its email system and internet service after being hit with a cyberattack nearly two months ago.

29

The uncle of 2-year-old Emma Sweet tearfully thanked first responders and the community after the toddler's body was found at about 11 a.m. Sunday in the East Fork White River after a three-day search involving airboats, divers and firefighters who walked the riverbanks.

30

Love Chapel food pantry is planning to embark on the largest expansion in the organization's history over the coming years in an effort to increase access to food in Bartholomew County.

# DECEMBER

1

Travis E. Tuttle of Columbus was charged with felony neglect of a dependent in the March death of his 8-year-old son, Lealyn Tuttle, from acute fentanyl and diphenhydramine intoxication.

2

Five Columbus houses of worship have announced plans to sponsor and support four relocated Afghan families as residents of Columbus at least for their first year here.

3

Jeremy Sweet of Columbus, who faces felony charges including neglect involving the death of his 2-year-old daughter Emma, made his initial court appearance Dec. 2 in Bartholomew Superior Court 1 by video conference from jail.

4

Columbus Regional Hospital is scrambling to reconfigure space and increase capacity in an effort to keep up with soaring coronavirus cases, rising emergency room visits and a deluge of patients with more complex conditions as officials brace for what they fear will be another tough winter.

5

Restaurants are continuing to respond to the challenges of serving customers amid a pandemic, but some owners have changed course, and others have decided to close their doors.

6

Ivy Tech Community College will make available transcripts of all students regardless of whether the student owes a balance to the college, President Sue Ellspermann announced.



MIKE WOLANIN | THE REPUBLIC

Ashley Cundiff, right, rings up Tom Vickers on Dec. 3 at Jill's Downtown Diner in Columbus.

7

Columbus Regional Health has suspended its efforts to comply with a federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate for healthcare workers while a challenge to the requirement makes its way through the court system.

8

Twelve local nonprofits that applied for federal COVID-19 revenue replacement funds through the Bartholomew County and Columbus city governments will collectively receive nearly \$905,000.

9

Real or artificial, it's been a bit difficult lately to find a quality Christmas tree. Tree farms are dealing with shortages and the cost

of artificial trees soared due to supply chain disruptions.

10

Indiana State University announced it will retire the number 41 that was worn on the basketball court by Columbus native Jerry Newsome, who played for the Sycamores in the 1960s and is the school's No. 2 all-time scorer behind Larry Bird.

11

Hospitalizations continue to climb in Columbus due to COVID-19 as Bartholomew County approaches 200 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

12

Officials in Columbus and Bartholomew County are

proceeding cautiously on plans to spend federal pandemic assistance. The city received \$4.2 million and the county \$8 million from the American Rescue Plan.

13

The number of parents and guardians requesting assistance through the Bartholomew County Holiday Helpline has increased significantly compared to the year before, Volunteer Action Center director Alicia Monroe said.

14

Bartholomew County Commissioners approved "hazard pay" for county employees who worked through the pandemic, authorizing bonuses of \$1,500 for 227 full-time employees and \$750 for 23-part time workers.

15

The South Central Indiana Talent Region of Bartholomew, Jackson and Jennings counties plus Edinburgh received \$30 million in state Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) grant funds for numerous projects.

16

Cummins Inc. announced its board of directors authorized the company to repurchase up to \$2 billion of its own shares in what local analysts said was a sign that Columbus' largest employer is generating a lot of cash and finds its stock attractive.

17

Columbus Regional Hospital is at its most overwhelmed point of the pandemic so far as officials struggle to handle a flood of patients amid the worst coronavirus wave in a year, which they say has "severely put at risk" their ability to care for patients.

18

The Bartholomew County Highway Department is finally settling into its new garage and headquarters after years of preparations and delays.

19

Considered Bartholomew County's oldest charity that depends solely on public donations, the Columbus Firemen's Cheer Fund "officially" assisted 989 children this year.

20

Indiana Department of Health officials said the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus was detected in a specimen collected from an unvaccinated Indiana resident on Dec. 9.

21

Bartholomew County's unemployment rate for November dropped to its lowest level in at least 31 years, according to data released by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

22

Parishioners witnessed as cranes delicately raised three massive church bells into the tower at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church. The bells had been salvaged from a decommissioned church in Cincinnati that had connections to some of St. Bartholomew's worshippers.

23

The federal government approved the first pill to treat those with COVID-19 symptoms, Paxlovid by Pfizer. The long-awaited milestone comes as U.S. cases, hospitalizations and deaths are rising.