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Flawless helps empower teen and tween girls

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Cass County Recorder running for re-election

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PHAROS-TRIBUNE

PharosTribune.com THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 \$2.25

ALL IN THE FAMILY



The new space for Cup of Joe at 1050 W. Market St. It shares the building with Designer Joe's.

Designer Joe's and Cup of Joe continue partnership at new location

EMILY WHITCOMB
FOR THE PHAROS-TRIBUNE

What's in a cup of coffee? It could be cream, it could be sugar, it could be nothing added, please and thank you.

For Edye Barber, owner of Designer Joe's Hair Care and Nails, a cup of coffee is more than any of that. Offering coffee to her clients started as a representation of her dad, Joe Allen; a reminder of his kind spirit and hospitality after his passing in 2015. On Oct. 20 of this year, that cup of coffee became a business.

Owned by Aly and Jake Rouch — Barber's daughter and son-in-law — Cup of Joe is open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday inside Designer Joe's new location at 1050 W. Market St.

Without any prior experience in coffee, the Rouch's come prepared with the love of coffee, willingness and business experience. The Rouch's also own Fire Pizza in Walton, and were immediately



Aly and Jake Rouch, right, are the owners of Cup of Joe, which is inside Designer Joe's salon at 1050 W. Market St. Edye Barber, second from left, is Aly's mother and owner of Designer Joe's.

willing to take Barber up on her offer to open a coffee shop within the salon. Barber's only condition

for this venture was the name.

"And then when I said there was one stipulation, and I said it had to be called Cup of Joe, they were like, done, no problem," Barber says. "And they actually, even without looking at the place, they didn't even see the pictures. They were already like, yep, we're in."

The coffee shop started out as a free service to salon clientele in honor of Allen, who opened Designer Joe's in the early '80s and ran it until Barber bought the salon in 2012. Once Barber decided to move locations earlier this year, and knowing she wanted to stop offering nail services, Barber saw the opportunity for space for a coffee shop and took it.

"Honestly, it was my faith. I had to test my faith and just say, let's just do it," Barber says.

Barber began in the hair business watching Allen work and helping out around the salon while in high school. Originally

she wanted to attend school to become a teacher. Now she's been a hairdresser for 36 years.

"And I love it. I love being with the people. Your customers, when you build clientele, they become like your extended family," Barber says. "The love, the laughter, the tears, the praying. I mean, it's just amazing on that aspect of it, and that's why I've stayed in. And I absolutely love what I do."

Rouch followed in her mother's footsteps, doing hair from 2012 to 2022. And like Barber, the people are the most important part of the business.

"That's what I miss most about doing hair is the people, and now I get to come in here and work and see those people again. So it's been great catching up and seeing all the faces again," Rouch says.

Just as the community supported Barber and her family after Allen's passing, so they've shown up for them as they've moved locations

See **FAMILY** on A3

Governor's group eyes ceiling for ABA usage

Rising Medicaid costs means rate changes

LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

Parents of autistic children — and ABA therapy providers — may soon encounter new usage limits, reimbursement rates and other changes as Indiana attempts to slow rising Medicaid spending.

About 20 recommendations, released Wednesday morning by a state-backed panel, could shape upcoming service shifts for thousands of Hoosiers.

"There will still be growth, just not as much, and it still protects the current ABA access for children and families who need it," said Eric Miller, the deputy secretary and chief of staff for the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

Miller was among the nearly two-dozen state leaders, health professionals and others charged with evaluating "cost containment" strategies that "minimize" the negative impact on enrollees. Gov. Mike Braun directed FSSA to organize the working group in a February executive order.

Applied behavior analysis, or ABA, therapy is often used to improve communication and learning skills in children and young adults with autism or other developmental disorders.

Its popularity has surged in recent years. More than 8,000 Hoosiers rely on Medicaid to pay for ABA therapy, with most of them between three and eight years of age.

"This is something that's very valuable — but at the same time, we know it's unsustainable, the current cost trajectory," said Miller. His agency, FSSA, administers the state's Medicaid program.

Two of Miller's own children have benefitted from ABA therapy.

Other recommendations are meant to boost quality and improve oversight, in response to a revealing federal audit.

See **ABA** on A3

White House calls released Epstein email a Democrat smear

Leak claims Trump 'knew about the girls'

MICHAEL R. SISAK
AND ERIC TUCKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Jeffrey Epstein wrote in a 2019 email to a journalist that Donald Trump "knew about the girls," according to documents made public Wednesday, but what he knew — and whether it pertained to the sex offender's crimes — is unclear. The

White House quickly accused Democrats of selectively leaking the emails to smear the president.

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released three emails referencing Trump, including one Epstein wrote in 2011 in which he told confidant Ghislaine Maxwell that Trump had "spent hours" at Epstein's house with a sex trafficking victim.

The disclosures seemed designed to raise new questions about Trump's friendship with Epstein and about what knowledge he may have had

regarding what prosecutors call a yearslong effort by Epstein to exploit underage girls. The Republican businessman-turned-politician has consistently denied any knowledge of Epstein's crimes and has said he ended their relationship years ago.

The version of the 2011 email released by the Democrats redacted the name of the victim, but Republicans on the committee later said it was Virginia Giuffre, who accused Epstein of arranging for her to have sexual encounters with a number

of his rich and powerful friends. Epstein took his own life in a New York jail in 2019 while awaiting trial on federal charges.

The emails made public Wednesday are part of a batch of 23,000 documents provided by Epstein's estate to the Oversight Committee.

GIUFFRE: TRUMP NOT INVOLVED

Giuffre, who died earlier this year, had long insisted that Trump was not among the men who had victimized her.

In a court deposition, she said under oath that she didn't believe Trump had any knowledge of Epstein's misconduct with underage girls. And in her recently released memoir, she described meeting Trump only once, when she worked as a spa attendant at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, and did not accuse him of wrongdoing.

Giuffre wrote that she was introduced to Trump by her father, who also worked at the club. She described Trump as friendly and

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FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

WEATHER

More sunshine. **High 60, Low 32.**
Complete forecast on Page A8.



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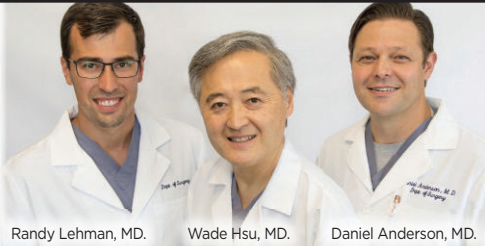
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