

The Commercial Review



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Celebrating optimism

Portland Breakfast Optimist Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gathering Saturday in the Farmer's Building at Jay County Fairgrounds, just east of the Optimist Stand. Pictured above, 2023 and '24 president Rodney Miles speaks during the event with other Optimist members surrounding him. He noted that the organization currently contributes to 28 organizations in Jay County, all via money raised at the Optimist Stand at the fairgrounds. There are currently 68 members in the Portland Breakfast club, 65 in the Portland Evening club and 38 in the West Jay Optimist Club. "Everywhere in Jay County, there's Optimists," said Miles.

Students awarded more than \$160,000 for college

Local students were awarded more than \$160,000 in scholarships.

The Portland Foundation awarded scholarships to 64 students, totaling \$160,435. Every student who applied received a scholarship.

A pair of Starbuck scholarships were awarded to long lists of students. The Elizabeth Starbuck II Scholarship for Jay County High School graduates entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of college went to Madeline Ardizzzone, Mara Bader, Zion Beiswanger, Olivia Bright, Hannah Boggs, Samuel Bracy, Cameron Clark, Kenzie Clayton, Joseph Dow, Jackson Edwards, Madison Hambrook, Joske Herndon, Kristy Herriford, Garrett Hime, Cash Hollowell, Haylea Hough, Abigail Johnson, Reece Leavell, Danielle May, Laci McGinnis, Mabrey McIntire, Makinsey Murphy, Josh Monroe, Adam Muhlenkamp, Molly Muhlenkamp, Regina Muhlenkamp, Parker Nichols, Ty Paxson, Owen Ransom, Brooke Retter, Lainey Reynolds, Chloe Ruiz, Samantha Sager, Sophia Saxman, Cameron Smitley, Sebastian Solis, Alizabeth Stotler, Isabel Rodgers, Azalea Thompson, Lauryn VanCise, McKenna Vore, Isabelle Wall, MacKenzie Weesner, Leah Wenning, Jordan Wickey, Seth Wilson, Anthony Wood and Lindy Wood. The Haynes Starbuck II Scholarship, which has the same criteria, went to Mara Bader, Shea Bailey, Hannah Boggs, Grace Brewster, Olivia Bright, Cameron Clark, Kenzie Clayton, Joseph Dow, Jackson Edwards, Madison Hambrook, Joske Herndon, Dustin Harris, Kristy Herriford, Garrett Hime, Cash Hollowell, Haylea Hough, Abigail Johnson, Reece Leavell, Danielle May, Laci McGinnis, Mabrey McIntire, Josh Monroe, Molly Muhlenkamp, Makinsey Murphy, Parker Nichols, Ty Paxson, Brooke Retter, Lainey Reynolds, Chloe Ruiz, Samantha Sager, Sophia Saxman, Cameron Smitley, Sebastian Solis, Alizabeth Stotler, Azalea Thompson, Lauryn VanCise, Isabelle Wall, MacKenzie Weesner, Leah Wenning, Jordan Wickey and Anthony Wood.

See **Awarded** page 2

Indiana independent initiative launches

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A new initiative — Independent Indiana — launched Tuesday to help spotlight and provide resources to Hoosiers who are running as independents.

The idea began when Executive Director Nathan Gotsch, himself a 2022 independent candidate for Congress, dug into election results across the state.

"In 2023 and 2024, 244 independent candidates qualified

for partisan races," Gotsch said in a news release. "More than half of them — 52% — won. Those results point to something real happening in Indiana politics."

Independents aren't just running for local offices. More are

aiming higher, from county-wide seats to the state legislature and even Congress.

Nearly a third of independents who lost in 2023-24 still received 30% to 49% of the vote.

See **Independent** page 2

Macron is set to host Ukraine allies

Meeting will assess steps to assist Kyiv

By SAMY ADGHIRNI

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

French President Emmanuel Macron will host a summit of Ukraine's top allies on Thursday to follow up on last month's talk of security guarantees amid shrinking hopes of a rapid ceasefire.

The meeting of the so-called "coalition of the willing," which will be attended by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelen-

sky in person and a number of other leaders virtually, will assess its next steps to assist Kyiv as Russia still refuses to commit to a ceasefire, the French presidency said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear whether the U.S. would participate in the talks and if so, at what level. Defense ministers would meet virtually the day before, according to the French defense ministry.

Thursday's meeting comes in the wake of European leaders' summit on Ukraine with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 18. Trump voiced approval for security guarantees for Ukraine, leading Kyiv's other allies to start sketching out what form those assurances could take.

See **Ukraine** page 2

Jamboree buddies

Logan Schoenlein, 9, and Dawson Stallsmith, 9, of Portland look at Stallsmith's mother while whizzing around on a ride at Montpelier Jamboree on Saturday.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Weather

The high temperature in Jay County for Labor Day was 80 degrees. The low was 50.

Tonight's forecast calls for rain with a chance of thunderstorms, winds gusting to 20 mph and a low in the mid

50s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with more rain expected and a high in the upper 60s. Lows will be in the upper 40s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will offer creative play in the children's area from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday. A variety of blocks and Legos will be available.

Coming up

Thursday — Details from next week's Portland City Council meeting.

Saturday — Coverage of the JCHS football game at South-ern Wells.



Awarded ...

Continued from page 1

Earning the Weldon and Dorothy Hamma Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing post-secondary education were Mara Bader, Olivia Bright, Chelsee Brunswick, Cameron Clark, Jackson Edwards, Josh Gibson, Joske Herndon, Kristy Herriford, Garrett Hime, Haylea Hough, Reece Leavell, Laci McGinnis, Mabrey McIntire, Todd Muhlenkamp, Makinsey Murphy, Ty Paxson, Lainey Reynolds, Cameron Smitley, Jennifer Snow, Sebastian Solis, Rachel Stultz, Elizabeth Stotler, Azalea Thompson, Lauryn Vance, MacKenzie Weesner and Jordan Wickey.

Earning the Charles & Ruth Joos Scholarship for Jay County residents entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of college were Hannah Boggs, Kenzie Clayton, Joseph Dow, Jackson Edwards, Madison Hambrock, Kristy Herriford, Cash Hollowell, Abigail Johnson, Danielle May, Josh Monroe, Molly Muh-

lenkamp, Parker Nichols, Brooke Retter, Chloe Ruiz, Samantha Sager, Sophia Saxman, Isabelle Wall, Leah Wenning and Anthony Wood.

The Orla and Ruth Tharp Education Scholarship for Jay County graduates enrolled in a master's or non-medical doctoral program went to Chelsee Brunswick, Pacie Denney, Ashlyn Dow, Josh Gibson, Todd Muhlenkamp, Andrew Simmons, Jennifer Snow and Rachel Stultz.

Earning Dr. Ara C. and Gay B. Badders Medical Scholarships for Jay County graduates majoring in a doctoral program were Candler Hedges, Jason Minnich, Aubrie Schwieterman and Ivan Smeltzer.

Clifford and Nancy Ball Scholarships for Jay County graduates went to Chelsee Brunswick, Pacie Denney, Ashlyn Dow, Josh Gibson, Todd Muhlenkamp, Andrew Simmons, Jennifer Snow and Rachel Stultz.

Other scholarships were awarded as follows:

Altrusa Club of Portland Scholarship — For non-traditional students – to Kristy Herriford

Janet B. Arnold Memorial Scholarship — For Jay County graduates majoring in elementary education – Olivia Bright.

Alwyn Carder Scholarship — For Jay County residents majoring in architecture, history or education – Olivia Bright, Regina Muhlenkamp, Alizabeth Stotler and McKenna Vore.

James and Imogene Cowan Memorial Scholarship — For Jay County residents pursuing education in vocational arts – Josh Monroe

Marseal T. Deweerd, Edith T. Horn, and Virgie M. Brady Memorial Scholarship — For Jay County residents entering their junior or senior year – Ty Paxson, McKenna Vore and Mackenzie Weesner

East Central Opportunities Scholarship — For non-traditional students – Makinsey Murphy

Shirley Franck Perseverance Scholarship — For non-tradition-

al students pursuing post-secondary education – Josh Gibson

Lola (Louks) Gadbury Nursing Scholarship — For students pursuing a nursing degree – Leah Wenning

Larry and Maria Hiatt Scholarship — For students pursuing a degree in education – Olivia Bright

Carla E. Horn Memorial Scholarship — For non-traditional students who are pursuing a degree in healthcare – Leah Wenning

Joyce A. Horn Scholarship — For juniors or seniors majoring in elementary education – to Olivia Bright, Regina Muhlenkamp and Alizabeth Stotler

John Jay Center for Learning Scholarship — For non-traditional students – Makinsey Murphy

Linus and Margaret Mescher Scholarship — For Jay County residents pursuing higher education – Mara Bader, Shea Bailey, Grace Brewster, Abigail Johnson, Molly Muhlenkamp and Isabelle Wall

Jerry R. Pierce Memorial

Scholarship — For employees and descendants of employees of Accelerated Curing – Chase McFarland

Robert Quadrozzi Memorial Scholarship — For non-traditional students – MacKenzie Weesner






Martha Catharine Rockwell Music Scholarship — For Jay County graduates with a preference to juniors or seniors majoring in a music-related program at a Christian college – Owen Ransom and Jordan Wickey

Fred M. and Elizabeth L. (Hudson) Stultz Scholarship — For juniors or seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture or veterinary science – Laci McGinnis

Ruth Whipple Badders Scholarship — For a junior or senior majoring in education – Garrett Hime

Richard L. and Loretta E. (Larry) Zeigler Memorial Scholarship — For a Jay County resident entering their junior or senior year – Dustin Harris, Laci McGinnis, Jennifer Snow and Alizabeth Stotler.

CR almanac

Thursday 9/4	Friday 9/5	Saturday 9/6	Sunday 9/7	Monday 9/8
 68/51 Slight chance of morning showers. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	 74/46 Friday's forecast shows partly cloudy skies with winds up to 25 mph.	 69/44 Saturday looks to be sunny with 10 to 15 mph winds.	 71/41 Mostly sunny on Sunday. The low at night may dip into the low 40s.	 69/44 Another day of mostly sunny skies, with a high around 69 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 8-23-25-40-53 Power Ball: 5 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$1.3 billion	Daily Four: 7-4-4-3 Quick Draw: 1-14-15-21-35-40-42-42-45-51-52-55-60-62-63-69-72-74-76-78-80 Cash 5: 2-10-18-22-43 Estimated jackpot: \$294,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$302 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-4-0 Pick 4: 3-2-0-4 Pick 5: 8-0-0-4-2 Evening Pick 3: 8-0-8 Pick 4: 6-5-9-9 Pick 5: 1-1-5-8-3 Rolling Cash: 5-17-27-29-37 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 5-0-8 Daily Four: 7-5-0-9 Quick Draw: 6-11-14-15-22-23-25-34-36-49-50-56-57-61-63-65-66-69-74-76 Evening Daily Three: 6-7-1	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.05 Oct. corn4.01 Dec. corn4.19	Oct. beans9.99 Wheat 4.80
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.19 Late Sept. corn4.09 Oct. corn4.04	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.96 Oct. corn3.89 Beans10.06 Oct. beans10.01 Wheat5.15
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.99 Oct. corn3.99 Beans10.15	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.09 Late Sept. corn4.04 Beans9.90 Late Sept. beans9.85 Wheat5.02

Today in history

In 1609, Henry Hudson of England sailed into the harbor of what is now New York City and up the river that is now named for him. He was on a mission for the Dutch East India Company.

In 1783, the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War, was signed. It had been nearly two years since British Gen. Charles Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia.

In 2021, the Jay County High School football team scored five second quarter touchdowns en route to a 64-12 thrashing of the Southern Wells Raiders. Quinn Faulkner totaled 115 yards and three touchdowns on the ground while also catching a 36-yard TD pass from Sam Dunlavy.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 6:15 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, council chambers, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.	Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Independent ...

Continued from page 1

The initiative highlighted some successful independents. In Huntington, Mayor Richard Strick left the GOP and won twice as an independent; in Bedford, Shawna Girgis served three terms as an independent mayor; and in Lewisville, former Republican state lawmaker Tom Saunders serves on the town council as an independent.

That lines up with an analysis by the Independent Voter Project of Hoosier voters’ partisan leanings.

Based on data from L2, a nonpartisan provider, nearly 44% of registered voters in Indiana are independents – compared to about 31% who are Republicans and 25% who are Democrats.

Gotsch said “we’re proud to have financial support from multiple Hoosiers – both Republican and Democrat – who’ve seen the negative consequences of not having competitive elections in our state and believe in our mission to change that.”

He also runs Fort Wayne

Politics, a free email newsletter about what’s happening behind the scenes in state and local politics.

Independent candidates in Indiana face high barriers, however.

To get on the ballot, candidates must collect petition signatures from registered voters equal to 2% of the most recent secretary of state vote in their district. For a statewide race, that means nearly 37,000 signatures — closer to 50,000 in practice once rejections are factored in. With paid circulators

charging at least \$15 per valid signature, ballot access for a statewide independent candidate can cost more than \$700,000.

“These successful independents prove that voters will cross party lines when given the choice,” Gotsch said. “Independent Indiana exists to shine a spotlight on that success, develop educational resources for prospective candidates, and study what reforms are needed so independents can compete at every level of government.”

Ukraine ...

Continued from page 1

France and the U.K., along with other allies, have long sought to assemble a coalition to guarantee Ukraine’s security militarily in order to deter Russia from launching any further attacks. The U.S. has suggested it could provide air and intelligence support to any such postwar force operating in Ukraine.

European leaders are also calling for tighter sanctions on Russia as they lose patience with the U.S. president’s reluctance to more strongly pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin into ending his full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. president’s latest two-week deadline to Moscow is close to expiring, with little clear progress made toward a peace deal.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Sunday said he hasn’t given up hope that a ceasefire can be secured in Ukraine, though was not under any illusions that the process would be quick or easy.

“I am preparing myself inwardly for the possibility that this war could go on for a long time,” Merz said in an interview with public broadcaster ZDF.

Capsule Reports

Buggy accident

Two rural Bryant residents were thrown from their buggy after a Muncie man’s car struck their vehicle on Indiana 67 about 5:39 p.m. Monday.

Elisha A. Huffman, 18, was driving a 2007 Saturn Vue west on the highway near county road 200 East. He told police the glare from the sun made it difficult to see the west-bound buggy in front of him. He attempted to swerve but wasn’t about to avoid a collision, ejecting Jonas and William Christner from the buggy.

The Christners complained of minor leg pain.

Huffman’s vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

road 600 East about 4:40 p.m. Monday.

Zoe A. Romine, 19, was driving a 2017 Nissan Rogue east on the highway. She began turning north onto county road 600 East and didn’t notice the 2016 Ford Fusion stopped in the southbound lane. Romine’s vehicle struck the Ford driven by 18-year-old Dakota A. Marbach.

The vehicle Romine was driving is registered to Beth A. Alig of Portland, and the vehicle Marbach was driving is registered to Christo-

pher M. Aker of Portland.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Limberlost Cemetery Meeting

September 6, 2025

10:00 am

Portland Church of Christ

1217 W Votaw St, Portland

To determine the future care of Limberlost Cemetery

EAA Chapter 2

Young Eagles Rally

September 6th, 2025

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M

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*Preregistration for flights is required.

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS





Dad passes test being on his own

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

The chips were stacked against me.

We've been fortunate that since Baby Schanz has been around, neither my wife nor I has had to be a "single parent" for more than an evening.

I'd be away for a night freelancing for local media covering football games while Chrissy is at home keeping the house afloat. Or, Chrissy may be picking up some extra hours helping out the hospital she works at with some outreach for local high school athletics, and it'd be up to me to keep a toddler alive.

We've never been on our own with our daughter for very long. Last fall, when I went to Las

Parental Ponderings



Vegas for work, my mother-in-law was in town to help out Chrissy.

A couple of weekends ago, though, I had to embark on being a single dad for more than three full days while my wife went to Spencerville, Ohio, to spend some time with her friends.

It was going to be uncharted territory for us. It would be the longest duration Chrissy had been away from us, and it was going to be the first time I'd

be alone with our daughter. I was ready for the challenge. However, things were lining up to be more difficult than I had thought I could handle.

Chrissy was going to head down on a Wednesday, and the weekend prior, we noticed our daughter was cutting both of her top incisors. The entire week, our daughter was not sleeping well. She'd wake up hysterical around 2 or 3 a.m., have to join us in bed and still toss and turn all night. On one occasion in particular, she didn't want anything but to be held, so I had to attempt to get sleep — emphasis on "attempt" — on the couch with our daughter in my arms.

It did not end well. We

had gone into the living room at 3:30 a.m., and I was awake for the rest of the night.

So, knowing that Baby Schanz was having a rough week ahead of her mother skipping town for the weekend, I was second-guessing my ability to get through it.

Chrissy even had second thoughts about leaving us to visit her friends.

I demanded she go, though. She needed the time away. She needed a bit of a break for her mental health and to see her best friend.

I reassured her that, although Baby Schanz was having a tough time, I'd get through it.

Lo and behold, all the worrying we did was much ado about nothing.

The first night, Wednesday, I made sure Baby Schanz had gotten her Tylenol and tablets to help with her teething. She woke up crying shortly after midnight, I brought her into bed with me and she had little issue sleeping from that point on.

She had some trouble falling asleep on Thursday, and I wasn't able to put her down until about an hour later than normal. But she slept in her crib even longer this time, not needing the parental comfort until after 5 a.m.

Friday, she stayed in her crib all night long.

Easy peasy.

My reinforcements arrived a day early, as Chrissy chose not to stay

that final night. Truth be told, though, she could have stayed another three nights and I would have been a-OK.

I was dreading that weekend, knowing how difficult a week Baby Schanz was having. The one-two punch of new teeth and trouble sleeping was a recipe for a troublesome time for a first-time father on his own with his 16-month-old daughter.

I passed the test. And I'll have less to worry about when duty calls yet again.

Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor who survived being a "single dad" for the first time. Send comments to christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Roommate's \$\$\$ habits make situation worse

DEAR ABBY: Nine months ago, my friend "Anne" moved in with me after losing her home following her boyfriend's death. Since then, she's had trouble finding employment, but when she does work, she spends money on stuff she really doesn't need. She's always talking about how she hates to be a burden on me and will move out ASAP. Then she buys random stuff from online shopping sites (like designer purses and clothes), so I doubt she's saving for her own place yet. She says it's because she's been through a lot and she deserves it. She has a "you only live once" mindset. She once encouraged me to buy a brand-new \$300 set of luggage "just because I liked it." She also shows her appreciation to me by buying me things.

We're both in our mid-50s, each with an only child in their 30s, and I'm trying to get rid of stuff I don't need so my daugh-

Dear Abby



ter won't have to deal with it when I'm gone. I know we're both adults and that I don't have the right to tell Anne what to do with her money and life. I just would rather she take the money she's spending on frivolous stuff for me and put it toward getting her own place. Anne's sensitive and takes things personally. How do I break it to her gently that I'm not a fan of presents, and the best way she can show her gratitude to me is to save her hard-earned money instead of buy-

ing me more stuff I don't need (and really don't want)? — THANKS, BUT NO THANKS

DEAR T.B.N.T.: What you need to "break gently" to your friend is that you do not want a permanent roommate, and that if she wants to show her gratitude, you would appreciate her starting to seriously save so she has the money to get a place of her own.

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering how to handle questions I get about children. My wife and I don't have kids. For example, at a networking event in which people don't want to lead off with what they do, children seem a "safe" topic. In my opinion, if someone wants to bring up the subject of children, they should first ask if everyone in the group has them, because it becomes awkward when they get to me, and I say we are childless. (Same goes for

other sensitive topics, such as cancer, etc.) Isn't it rude for people to assume that everyone has children, because, if they don't, they are then excluded in the group discussion? I can't share my child's graduation story, broken bones, etc. — CHILD-FREE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CHILD-FREE: Not everyone has kids. It's a fact. Rather than rude, the questioners are thoughtless. A way to deal with the question would be to say, "My wife and I are child-FREE."

DEAR ABBY: A couple of days a week, when I have no plans and no place to go, I stay in my pajamas. They are comfy, and I figure why dirty clean clothes just to make more laundry and waste soap and water? Well, older people tell me I should dress every day. I don't see the problem. I shower regularly, wash my paja-

mas and other clothes, and keep my house and yard clean. I'm not lazy — I just don't see the value in getting dressed for the sake of getting dressed. I really wish people would quit telling me how to live my life. What do you think? — COMFORTABLE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR COMFORTABLE: My late mother used to say that when people look their best, it gives them confidence, which makes them feel better about themselves. She wasn't wrong. She also told me that if I didn't make the effort, invariably I would run into someone I wished I had looked better for. (Alas, also true.) This may be the message these folks are trying to communicate. However, because you are comfortable wearing pajamas AT HOME a couple days a week, you'll get no argument from me.

Community Calendar

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

Today

JAY COUNTY HOSPITAL RETIREES — Will host a carry-in lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the community room at Jay County Public Library. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish and table service and bring their own beverages.

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.

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.

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

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

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Jay County Cancer Society's office, 227 N. Meridian St., Portland. Open discussion for cancer

patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday

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

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Saturday's Solution

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

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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The Commercial Review

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Problems there are cause for worry

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Aug. 31, 2005. Jack made frequent visits overseas and had friends around the world. Twenty years ago, he was worried about some of those friends. It's fair to say that, if he was still with us today, he'd be worried about friends in Ukraine. When we think about these international crises, it's important to remember that these are not abstract people and places. They are real places, and they affect real people, like Sascha, Vyascheslav and Mukhtor.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

It's been a rough several weeks. Not here. There.

Here, things have been just short of spectacular. Sure, we could use some rain. But we enjoyed a great Jay County Fair and a bigger-than-ever engine show. Meanwhile, we've had wonderful visits with family and friends. Life has been good.

But things are often different

Back in the Saddle



on the other side of the world, as the news from Iraq reminds us daily.

In my own case, there refers to the countries in the former Soviet Union, where I've been working off and on with newspapers and their journalists for the past seven years.

There, things have been rough indeed.

The bad news comes via e-mail, and it never seems to be counter-balanced by good news.

First came word that the boys in Temirtau are in trouble.

Temirtau's an ugly, polluted, industrial city in north central Kazakhstan. It's also home to a

publication — the name translates as Evening Gazette — which is trying to be a real community newspaper. I first visited the city and worked with the paper back in 2002 and wrote about it then. Since that time, things seem to have gone pretty well.

But now my buddies Sascha and Vyascheslav have hit a wall.

According to an outfit called the Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations, the Kazakh National Security Committee's regional department has filed a lawsuit against the Temirtau paper and one other, claiming that their reporting on a suspended sentence handed down to a corrupt police official defamed his "honor and reputation."

You can forget worrying about how a corrupt cop has any honor and reputation to defame. That doesn't factor into the equation.

It's not clear how it's all going to play out, but there will at least be hefty fines, and there may be worse.

I'd barely digested that bad news when I was hit by a double-whammy last week.

On Thursday, one of the newspapers I've been working with in Belarus was ordered closed and another I'd worked with in Tajikistan saw its editor facing criminal penalties.

In Tajikistan, Mukhtor Bokizoda was sentenced to two years of "corrective labor." He's also been fined and had his salary garnished. Mukhtor is the head of something called the Foundation for the Memory and Protection of Journalists, which was created after the Tajik civil war.

He's also editor and publisher of a paper whose name translates as The Power of the Word.

His "crime"? Getting tangled in the Tajik web of tax laws, which are arbitrarily enforced and often contradictory.

In Belarus, where I hope to be returning in late October, the government concocted a case based upon technical minutiae

to liquidate a paper — Courier of Borisov — which had the audacity to be successful in the face of subsidized government competition. It will officially cease to exist in January, but it's really dead as of last week. The editor, Liudmila Ochenashenko, has been replaced by the local head of government ideology.

It was just last May when I visited Borisov, met Liudmila's boss, and did some training for the newspaper's staff.

As I said, it's been a rough period.

Often, I tell people that I do this crazy work overseas because it's so rewarding. And that's true.

But it's also true that the work is occasionally frustrating, disheartening, and maddening.

So if I've seemed a little distracted lately, it has nothing to do with the fair or the engine show or even the need for rain.

It's not a problem of here. It's a problem of there.

Dark clouds are on the economic horizon

Bangor Daily News (Maine)

Tribune News Service

As summer winds down and we mark the Labor Day holiday, it's an apt time to assess the wellbeing of American workers. Despite claims of America's economic superiority, there are worrying signs on the horizon.

As was reported earlier this month, the number of new jobs created in the U.S. in July was lower than expected. The revision in jobs numbers wasn't unusual — there were many such downward revisions during the Biden administration. What was unusual was President Donald Trump's response to the numbers. He claimed the numbers were wrong and quickly fired the director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and replaced her with a conservative, long-time critic of the bureau.

Trump can put out numbers that suggest employment and the economy are rosy, but that doesn't change the reality for America's struggling to pay their rising bills. It just means we can't trust numbers from the Trump administration.

Worse, the Trump administration has proposed dozens of rollbacks of labor protections that could lead to lower wages, less job security and more dangerous working conditions for millions of American workers, especially women and people of color.

The proposed changes would allow home health care workers, those who help our elderly and disabled family members and neighbors with daily living, to be paid below the federal minimum wage — which has been stuck at \$7.25 an hour for more than a decade and a half — and exempt them from overtime requirements. State laws, like Maine's, would still apply.

The Labor Department also proposed to reinstate a sub-minimum wage for workers with disabilities and to rescind farm worker protections.

Other proposed changes call for the easing of federal safety reg-

Guest Editorial

ulations to protect workers from dangerous chemicals and other workplace hazards.

These changes will unnecessarily put workers at risk while reducing the compensation for some. These are significant steps backward.

While trying to worsen working conditions, the Trump administration has also raised costs for Americans.

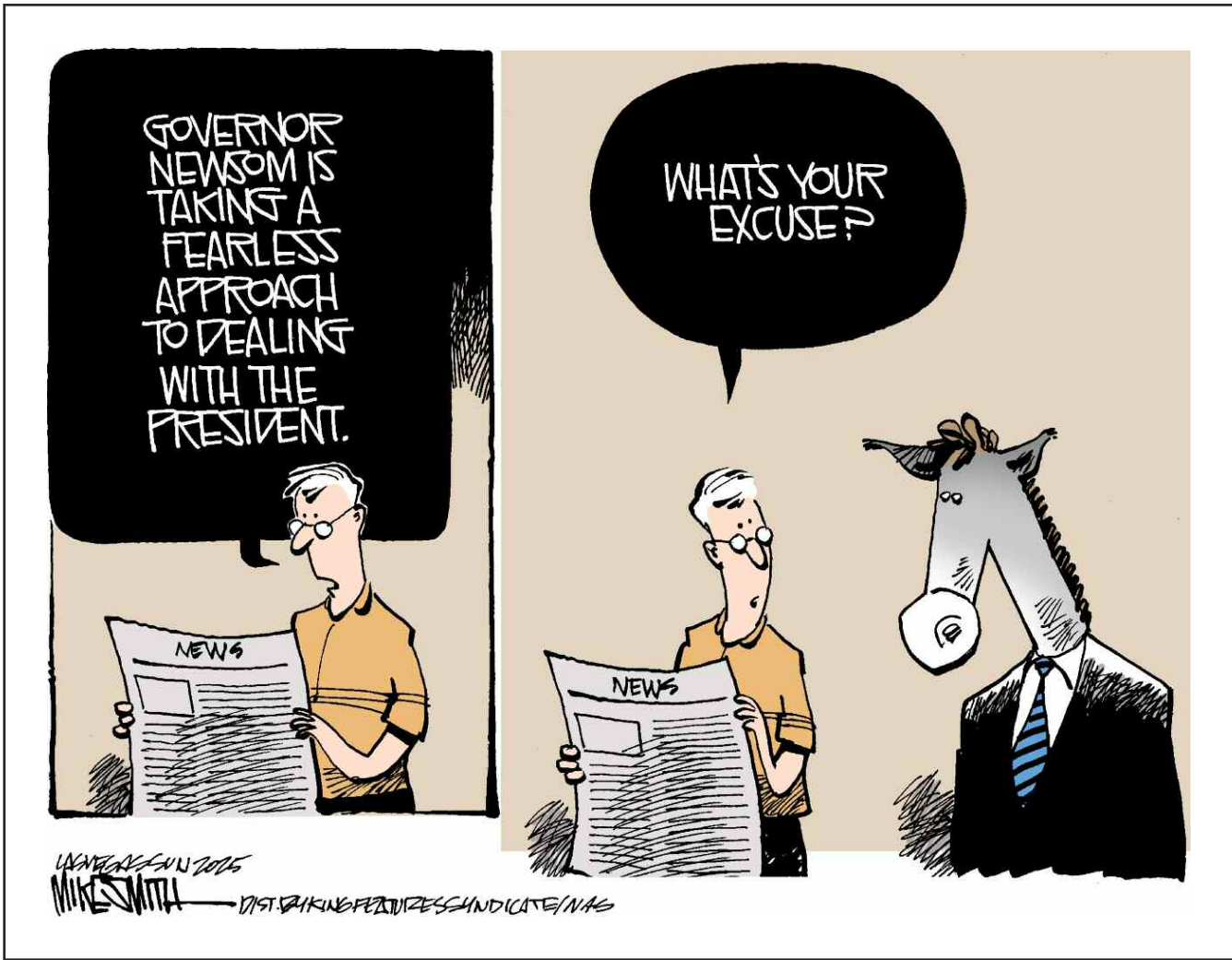
Despite the president's claims that the tariffs his administration has imposed on imports from numerous countries have helped the economy, economists have reiterated that these levies are mostly paid for by Americans. American consumers will pay two-thirds of the tariffs costs, as U.S. companies raise prices, according to a recent report from economists at Goldman Sachs. This is essentially a new tax on Americans.

The most recent analysis from The Budget Lab at Yale University found that the tariffs imposed so far will raise prices in the U.S. by 1.8 percent. That translates to the equivalent of an average per household income loss of \$2,400 this year.

The lab's report also warns that the tariffs and their economic consequences will depress growth in the country's gross domestic product, stall job growth and increase unemployment.

All of these actions are weighing on Americans. Consumer confidence, a measure of peoples' attitudes about the economy, fell this month. Many of those surveyed voiced concerns about tariffs and jobs. And while the consumer confidence index remains above recession levels, economists warn, and Americans fear, that a recession could be coming.

We don't mean to be the proverbial rain on your Labor Day picnic. But, the future does not look bright for American workers.



‘Facts’ change to suit situation

By DAVID MASTIO
The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump has a tendency to make those who take him at his word look like clowns. As Trump teases — some reporting says “prepares” — to start sending federalized National Guard troops into Democrat-run cities with crime problems, one of his own arguments is starting to look a little foolish.

About the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Trump said to Fox News' Sean Hannity: “I requested ... I definitely gave the number of 10,000 National Guardsmen, and (said), ‘I think you should have 10,000 of the National Guard ready.’ They took that number. From what I understand, they gave it to the people at the Capitol, which is controlled by (then-House Speaker Nancy) Pelosi. And I heard they rejected it because they didn't think it would look good. So, you know, that was a big mistake.”

Now, it was always obvious that this was a goofy argument. There is only one person who has the power to say yes or no to deploying the National Guard in Washington, D.C. That is the president. It is the federal city, after all. That is why there are troops on the ground there now, despite opposition from local officials.

But millions of people believe Pelosi blocked the deployment of National Guardsmen because Trump has said it at least a half-dozen times on TV and in writing along with a chorus of his other backers. One of the tells that this is bogus is that the details change depending on who is telling the story. Sometimes it is 20,000 troops Trump requested, and

David Mastio



sometimes then-Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer joins Pelosi in rejecting National Guard protection.

Before Trump was elected a second time, one man made a cottage industry of peddling this story to anyone who would listen: Kash Patel, now director of Trump's FBI. Patel said he was a witness to the order and even wrote about it for a boot-licking Trumpist journal called The Federalist.

“I was serving as the chief of staff for the Department of Defense on Jan. 6, 2021,” Patel wrote. “The deployment of the National Guard requires presidential authorization, which Trump gave days before Jan. 6 in the Oval Office, where I was present. It also requires a request from local governing authorities, including D.C. Mayor Bowser and Capitol Police, who report to the speaker of the House.”

“For years, I have testified under oath, in the media, and everywhere in between that Pelosi and Bowser were responsible for not requesting the National Guard on Jan. 6 after President Trump constitutionally authorized deploying the guard,” he continues, citing a letter from them as proof.

The only thing is the letter he links to is not from Pelosi and the

mayor of D.C. It is just from the mayor. Moreover, it does not refuse to authorize the deployment of federal law enforcement or the National Guard, it requests “notification to and consultation with” the D.C. police before such action is taken.

That's not the only problem with Patel's memory. The other guy in the room with him at the White House that day, his boss acting Secretary of Defense Chris Miller, says Trump didn't actually authorize the deployment of the National Guard at that meeting. Neither does the Department of Defense after-action review of events before and after the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Now, after years of arguing that he didn't have the power to deploy National Guard troops in Washington, D.C., to thwart an attack on Congress without the support of other federal officials and the local mayor, Trump is now threatening to deploy the National Guard into Democratic cities to fight street crime without the support of the local mayors or even the states' governors, who are nominally in charge of their states' National Guards.

The turnabout leaves those who bought Trump's argument looking like fools. And it, once again, reveals the truth about Trump's relationship with the facts: He's perfectly willing to change them to suit the needs of the moment without any regard for what he said in the past.

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Mastio is a national opinion columnist for McClatchy and The Kansas City Star.

The Commercial Review



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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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Photos provided

Newly opened

Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce recently held ribbon-cutting ceremonies for two new organizations. Divine Little Ones Learning Center (above left) is a new faith-based preschool. Pictured are Eric Brackman from the chamber, owner Rya Buschur with her parents Trent and Jodi Buschur, owner Kenadie Ervin and her parents Mitch Ervin and Sandy Ervin, and Thomas Shaw with the chamber. Sunshine Boutique (above right) is under new ownership. Pictured are Thomas Shaw, Amy Wendel and Shawn Robinson of the chamber along with new owner Holly Bihn and her family.

IU Health Jay earns stroke honor

The American Heart Association recently awarded IU Health Jay with one of its Get With The Guidelines – Stroke quality achievement honors. The hospital received the Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Silver Plus quality achievement award. It recognizes commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. “IU Health Jay is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines,” said Marci Pittenger, IU Health Jay clinical nurse quality coordinator, in a press release. “Get With The Guidelines makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which studies show can help patients recover better. The end goal is to ensure more people in our community can experience longer, healthier lives.”

Project approved

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently approved NextEra Energy’s waiver request to restart the Duane Arnold nuclear facility in Iowa. NextEra, which owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in Jay and Randolph counties, shut down the plant in 2020 because of economic challenges, Utility Dive reported. It had planned to use the facility’s interconnection for solar farms. The plant could be operational as soon as the fourth quarter of 2028.

Joins staff

First Bank of Berne has hired Joe McFarren as its new human resources manager.

Business roundup

McFarren has 20 years of experience in human resources leadership. He is a graduate of Ball State University and is pursuing a master’s degree in business administration and management. “As we continue to grow, it’s important to have great people strategies in place to ensure our close-knit culture remains customer-driven and community-focused,” said First Bank of Berne president and CEO Kent Liechty in a press release. “Joe’s deep commitment to developing people and to fostering an invaluable part in our future success.”

Contract approved

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 700 recently approved a new three-year contract with Kroger. The contract covers about 8,000 union members at 68 stores in central Indiana. It includes increasing top pay by \$2.75 over the course of the agreement, adding full health care coverage for spouses and increasing premium pay. “By sticking together in solidarity, our members were able to secure a contract that not only raises their pay, but also protects health benefits and more,” said UFCW Local 700 president Tracy Bartak in a press release. “This is a huge win for all our members in Central Indiana locations.”

Discussions plan

Registration is open for the

annual conference of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants. The conference will be held Nov. 2 through 4 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Indianapolis North. It will feature speakers on each day, with Margy Eckelkamp of Farm Journal’s Top Producer brand moderating a “What I wish I knew then/What I know now” panel discussion. For more information, or to register, visit agconsultants.org.

Courses scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce has several safety opportunities coming up. A two-day Safety Leadership Principles course will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 23 and 24. It will cover skills including worksite analysis, accident investigation and decision-making in safety. There will also be a Competent Person Certification course from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 2 and 3. It will cover identifying fall hazards, designing solutions and other factors. A forklift “train the trainer” course is set for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 13. Attendees will learn how to effectively train their staff on safe and compliant forklift operations. Each of the courses will be held at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Conference Center in Indianapolis.

Adding items

McDonald’s is adding new menu items beginning Wednesday. The fast food chain is introducing a new Special Edition Gold Sauce, which has a North Carolina-style BBQ sauce base. The sauce will be used on new McCrispy Sandwiches that will

also be offered with bacon, pickles, lettuce and tomato. **Offering services** CVS Health has announced the expansion of its MinuteClinic virtual mental health services. Talk therapy appointments will be available seven days a week, with scheduling available at MinuteClinic.com or the CVS Health app. Referrals will not be required. “By combining the physical footprint and trusted brands of CVS Health and MinuteClinic with our own workforce of highly trained mental health providers, we’re helping to close the gaps in care that many people face, whether due to provider shortages, stigma or scheduling barriers,” said CVS Health vice president and chief psychiatric officer Taft Parsons III in a press release.

Holding drive

Menards stores are serving as drop sites for local humane organizations. Stores will accept donations from now through the end of September. Items needed include pet food, treats, feeders, collars, beds, storage containers and other items. Collection boxes will be near the doors of participating locations. Taking part in the drive are Menards stores in Muncie and Richmond in Indiana and Celina in Ohio.

Expanding in El Salvador

Walmart of Mexico and Central America held a groundbreaking for Walmart Santa Tecla in El Salvador last week. The company plans to invest more than \$250 million in the Central American country in the next five years. It will open

new stores, remodel existing ones and upgrade distribution centers. “We believe in El Salvador, which is why we’re making this investment announcement that will boost the economy, create direct jobs, and expand commercial relationships with local suppliers, including agricultural producers and small manufacturing businesses,” said Walmart Central America CEO Cristina Ronski in a press release. “There is great potential and much to be done.”

Comcast partnering

Comcast NBCUniversal and Amazon recently announced new and extended agreements to expand partnerships involving Prime Video, Peacock, Fire TV and Xfinity X1. Among the new offerings will be that Prime Video customers will have access to Peacock Premium Plus as a channel subscription. The companies renewed agreements that provide access to Peacock on Fire TV and other crossover offerings. “Millions of Amazon customers can continue to enjoy NBCUniversal’s popular shows, films, and live events on Peacock via Fire TV or through Prime Video Subscriptions, or buying or renting on Prime Video, while also accessing Amazon’s premier entertainment on Xfinity X1 — ensuring they can watch what they love, wherever and however they choose,” said Mike Cavanagh, president of Comcast Corporation, in a press release.

Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

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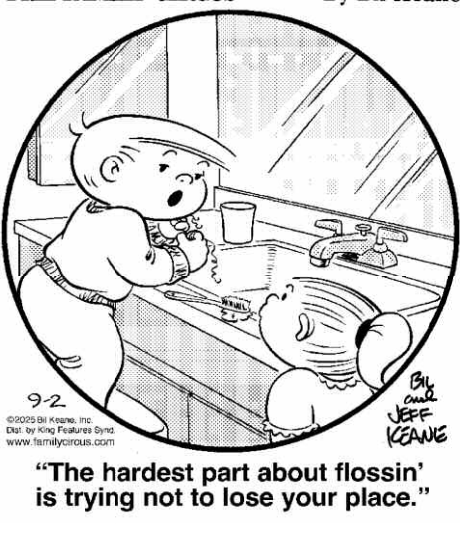
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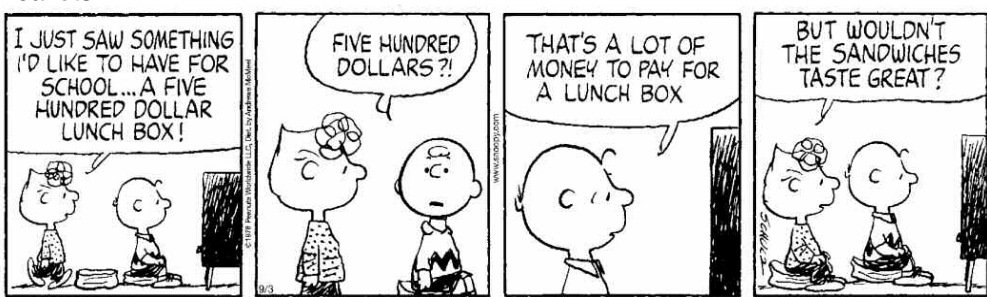
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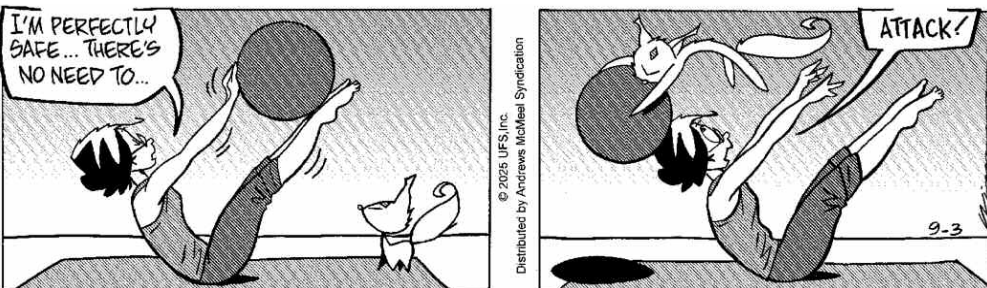
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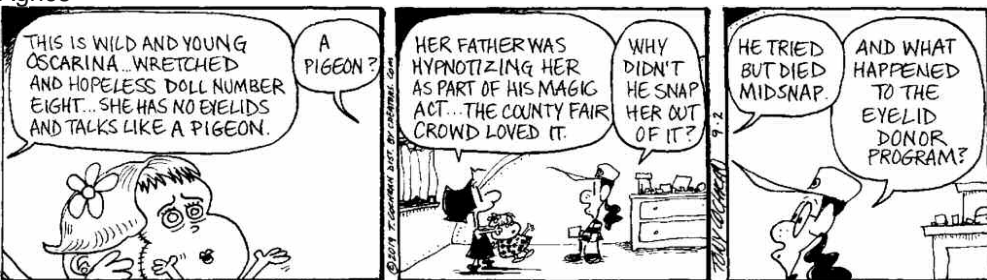
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Rose is Rose



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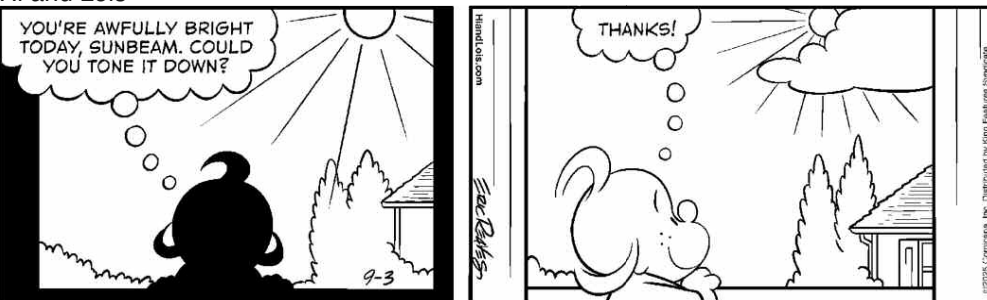
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Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



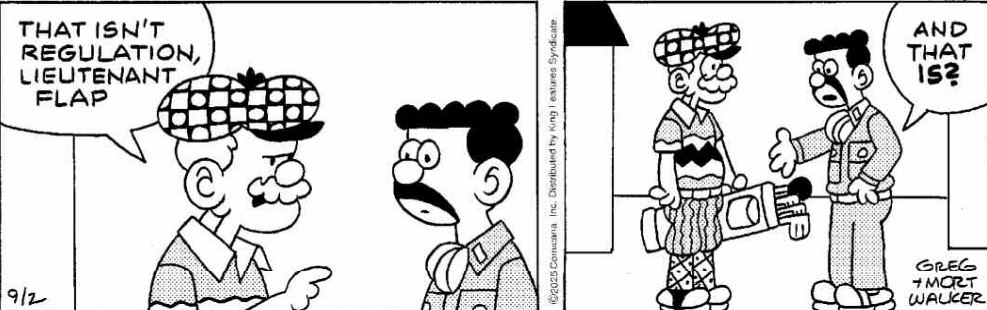
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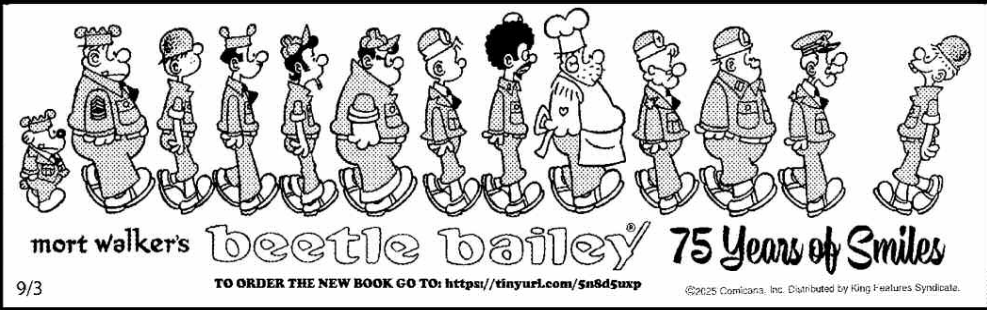
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Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



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

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

When to break a general rule

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ A K 4
♦ J 6 2
♣ 8 7 3

WEST EAST
♠ 3 ♠ Q 8 6
♥ 8 3 ♥ 10 9 6 5 2
♦ A K Q 10 9 7 4 ♦ 5
♣ Q 9 2 ♣ J 10 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 1 4 2
♥ Q J 7
♦ 8 3
♣ A K 6

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♦ 2 ♣
Pass 4 ♣
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

A problem frequently encountered by declarer is whether to finesse or play for the drop when missing the Q-x-x-x of a suit.

To illustrate, consider only the North-South spade holding in today's hand and assume that the opponents have never bid. In the long run, the winning approach is to cash the ace and, if both opponents follow low, continue with the king. Mathematically, this is slightly

better than taking a finesse against the queen.

But the advantage of playing for the drop is so slight that declarer should prefer the finesse whenever there are sound clues or good tactical reasons that make it a better play percentage-wise.

In the present deal, for example, after West leads the K-A-Q of diamonds, declarer should ruff the queen, cash the ace of spades, cross to dummy with a heart and take a trump finesse.

The finesse is correct here because of the highly significant information South obtained at trick two. On that trick East showed out, revealing that West started with seven diamonds and East with only one.

West therefore has just six unknown cards that might include the queen of spades, while East has 12 unknown cards that might include the queen.

On this basis alone, the odds are 2-to-1 that East was dealt the queen, so South should take the finesse on the second round of the suit. He should not bet the proverbial homestead on its success, as West might have started with the Q-x, but, all factors considered, it is clearly the better play.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A question of percentages

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 7 5 3
♥ J 10 9 5 2
♦ A J 10
♣ 7

WEST EAST
♠ Q 8 ♠ J 10 4 2
♥ 6 3 ♥ —
♦ K 9 4 3 ♦ Q 7 6 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 2 ♣ K Q 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A 9 6
♥ A K Q 8 7 4
♦ 8 5
♣ A J

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Bridge is a game of probabilities. A player makes a particular bid or play because he thinks that, percentage-wise, it is the bid or play that will work out best.

He does not necessarily make these bids or plays because he is certain they will succeed, since if a genuine choice exists, it is possible the less-likely choice will prove to be the winner.

Take this deal where South is in six hearts and West leads a club. Declarer's only possible losers are a

spade and a diamond, so he must try to avoid losing one or the other.

There are two ways to proceed. After drawing trump, declarer can play the A-K and another spade, hoping the opposing spades are divided 3-3, in which case his diamond loser can be discarded on dummy's fourth spade.

Alternatively, declarer can try to develop an extra diamond trick by taking two successes in the suit. This approach succeeds if West has the king or queen of diamonds, or both, in which case South's spade loser can eventually be discarded on one of dummy's diamonds.

Any experienced player, whether familiar with the exact percentages or not, would choose the latter line of play. He would instinctively know that this offered by far the better chance of success.

In terms of actual percentages, the 3-3 division offers only a 36% chance of succeeding, while the probability of finding West with one or both diamond honors is about 75%. Consequently, the prospect of developing a 12th trick in diamonds rather than spades is more than twice as promising. Even so, it is important to remember that this is merely a percentage play, so that on a bad day, the inferior play might win while the superior play might lose.

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40 NOTICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland IN SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 9:30 A.M.

REAL ESTATE
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Tract 2 - One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.

Tract 3 - Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland.

Tract 4 - Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.

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manure spreader, corn picker, and 2 bottom

plover; cast iron kettle;

beer steins;gazing ball; and many other items not listed.

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For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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9-3 CRYPTOQUIP

YSZB LHD YUJRZ K QZRRZU
RSKR QZKIZG HDR CKBL
JCWHURKBR WHJBRG, JG RSKR
KB HCJGGJIZ CJGGJIZ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY'S HOUSE HAS BECOME DREADFULLY MESSY, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT? FIT TO BE TIDIED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

9-2 CRYPTOQUIP

XV MTPJNTKQ'M CTD MJ CWM
NJLTPJ KGJWKVDUUQ PJMMQ,
CTO OTDUK QTD KJMLGXNJ XE?
VXE ET NJ EXKXJK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUGELY POPULAR VIDEO GAME FRANCHISE WHOSE CHARACTERS SLOWLY DEVELOP PSYCHIC POWERS: MINDCRAFT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 28 Milan's 2 Jazz 19 "A pox
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Two 3-1 victories



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Freshman midfielder Maria Laux plays a ball down the sideline in Jay County's home match against Woodlan on Saturday. Three different Patriots found the back of the net in a balanced effort that led to a 3-1 win.

Jay gets team effort to beat WHS

By Ethan Oskroba
The Commercial Review

Nearly every coach preaches selflessness and teamwork as keys to success, but those intangibles don't always manifest in a quantifiable way. They certainly did for the Jay County High School girls soccer team in its Allen County Athletic Conference match against the Woodlan Warriors on Saturday. The Patriots shared the spotlight, with three different players finding the back of the net in a 3-1 home victory.

"One thing I'm super excited for with this new formation we've been running is I've been really pressing that every time we get a point on the board it's because our defense, our midfield, our forwards did our job and the forward just got that last touch on it," said Jay County coach Kendra Muhlenkamp.

While Charlee Peters, Aixa Lopez and London Lloyd were the players who got that final touch on the trio of Jay County (3-1, 2-0 ACAC) scores, the defense also shined bright throughout the contest, stifling the Woodlan attack and keeping the Warriors (2-2, 1-1 ACAC) off the board for the first 79 minutes before conceding a goal with 57 seconds left.

"We just work as a real-

ly good team and make sure to get the ball up," said Jay County defender Ariel Beiswanger. "We just play really good together, and it's been the past few years, so we just work really well together and have created a strong defense."

That unit is primarily fueled by the upperclassman quartet of Beiswanger, Emma Hatzell, Tessa Frazee and Raylah Newton. Throughout the game, the Patriots aggressively pursued offensive chances, leaving the defenders on an island to quell a bevy of Woodlan breakaways.

Time and again, the Patriots found an answer, with the defense's tenacity and experience being enhanced by its chemistry.

"We all have a really strong friendship as well," Beiswanger said. "So that helps it, and then we all just love the sport and always have fun during the game."

The offense also had plenty of fun in Saturday's triumph.

Freshman Charlee Peters got the festivities underway just over ten minutes into the contest, when she found herself face to face with the Woodlan goalie after receiving a throw in. While Peters' first attempt was saved, she

pounced on the rebound and trickled it in.

The goal was the first of Peters' career, and could be a sign of things to come.

"She's a freshman," Muhlenkamp said. "But she's still hungry to score, which is a good thing."

For the majority of the contest, Peters' goal was the only tally of the day. It wasn't until just under 10 minutes remaining in the match when the Patriots finally got some breathing room, courtesy of Jay County leading scorer Aixa Lopez.

The senior used her dexterity and ball-handling ability to shake multiple defenders on the right side before blasting a low shot across the face of goal, tucking it inside the far post to double the Patriot lead.

With the victory all but secured, Jay County remained relentless. After generating a slew of chances throughout the game but being unable to finish, London Lloyd collected a Lopez feed on the threshold of goal and rocketed it in with 2:12 remaining in the match.

The goal was Lloyd's first of the season. It ended a three-game goal-less drought to start 2025 after she amassed seven goals last season as a freshman, third most on the team.

See **Team** page 9

Penrod powers boys past Warriors with hat trick

By Ethan Oskroba
The Commercial Review

What a difference a day makes. Or two days, to be particular.

On Thursday, Patriot freshman Jacoby Penrod stood at the penalty spot, seeking to equalize a clash with Delta in the game's final minutes.

His shot clanged off the bar, and Delta went on to hand Jay County its first defeat of the year.

Penrod more than atoned for that miscue on Saturday, scoring three goals to propel Jay County High School boys soccer to a 3-1 Allen County Athletic Conference win over the visiting Woodlan Warriors.

"It feels great," said Jay County coach Rodney Reynolds. "I mean, that's what I told the kids when we took the loss to Delta. 'It's OK. We're going to come back, we don't have time to put our heads down, because we have a conference game.' The conference game is a very important game. They were focused from the get-go right after that game."

Despite the Patriots' (3-1-1, 1-0 ACAC) preparedness, they fell behind early in Saturday's battle. It was Lucas Gramajo who broke the ice, scoring for Woodlan (4-1, 0-1 ACAC) just before the midway point of the opening half.

Then, Penrod took over.

The freshman's speed applied pressure to the Warrior defense all afternoon, and Penrod finally found the back of the net with 15:28 to play in the initial stanza. He zipped past defenders on the right side to win the race to a lengthy feed by Rockland Beiswanger before scalding it across the goalmouth and inside the far post to knot the score.

"I'm just running, and saw (the defender) going after it and just went right by him," Penrod said. "Saw the post wide open and just put it right there."

The teams maintained the 1-1 deadlock for much of the second half before Penrod struck again.

Around the halfway mark of the final period, Emmitt Reynolds sent a



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay County goalkeeper Peyton Yowell leaps to corral a shot during the Patriots' 3-1 home win over Woodlan on Saturday. The senior racked up 11 saves along with several aggressive claims to anchor the Patriot defense in the victory.

seemingly benign ball chopping toward goal.

Once again, Penrod streaked past a posse of Warrior defenders and careened into the net along with the ball to put Jay County in front.

Seven minutes later, Penrod would secure a hat trick and the Patriot victory, calmly snaring the rebound from a Jaxson DeHoff shot and slotting it into the yawning cage.

For Penrod, the three-goal effort meant even more after his costly miss just two days prior.

"After that, I felt like I needed to be better," Penrod said. "And came out here and just tried to give it my all and just kept pushing."

Even before Saturday's performance, already the second multi-goal game in

five tries in Penrod's young career, Rodney Reynolds' confidence in his young phenom never wavered.

"Even great players, even pro players, miss PKs," Reynolds said. "And you got to get it out of your head and you got to look in front of you ... He'll be fine, I promised him. I said, 'erase it like it didn't happen, and you focus. The more you focus, the better off you are.'"

Another player whose focus was vital to the Jay County victory was goalkeeper Peyton Yowell. The senior stopped 11 shots on the day, including several excellent reaction saves.

While Yowell's individual effort shined, he credited the team with imbuing him with confidence.

See **Penrod** page 9

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.
TRACTORS - CRAWLER
1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours. 1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours. Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours. New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade. Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD 450-B Crawler Loader. **TRUCKS-MOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT**
. 1968 Chevy C50 Single Axel Dump Truck. 2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 4x4 93,000 Miles. 1985 Chevy C30 Utility Truck w/ Boom Lift and Snow Plow. 2021 Harley Davidson 1200 Model 48 w/ 2300 Miles. 2009 Kawasaki KLX 250 S Dirt Bike w/ 708 Miles. JD 55-A 3 Bottom Plow. Oliver 565 4 Bottom Plow. JD 7' Cycle Bar Mower. JD 4 Row Cultivator. New Idea 2 Row wide Picker. . JD 24T

90 SALE CALENDAR

Square Baler. Kelly 18i Backhoe Bucket. 30 Ton Hyd Press. Lincoln 225 Welder. . Merry Mac Shredder Chipper. Rabbit Cages.
TOYS-ANTIQUES
JD, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, AC, Massey Harris Toy Tractors. . (2) 110 lb Anvils w/ Stands. Corn Sheller. Misc Slate. (4) Steel Wheels. Radio Flyer Wagon.
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Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13th, 2025
10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 8584 Day Rd, Versailles OH.
TRACTORS
JD 3010 D. Wide front, low profile Tractor (rare).

90 SALE CALENDAR

JD A. Modified pulling Tractor w/ weights. 1936 JD A. w/ spoke rear rims. Massey Harris 33 Tractor. JD Tractor and Equipment Manuals. **TRUCK-TRAILERS-EQUIPMENT-MISC**
2003 Ford F250 Fx4 155,000 miles. Moritz DLH Series 10,000 lb Dump Trailer. Tandem Axel 10,000 lb Goose-neck Flatbed Trailer w/ Ramps. 15' Tandem Axel Livestock Trailer. 13 x 38 Rims and Tires. 7' Skid Steer Bucket w/ Boom. Snow Blade. 48i Lawn Roller. 3 Hog Feeders. Hardwood Lumber. . Chicago 90 amp Flux Wire Welder. Acetylene Cutting Set. Lincoln 225 Stick Welder. . Gone w/ the Wind Style Lamp. Last Supper and other Pictures. Cast Iron Pot w/ Lid. Flower Bin. Quilting Rack. Champion 12 gauge Single Shot Shotgun.
OWNER: Kenneth Dirksen Estate.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE

90 SALE CALENDAR

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PUBLIC AUCTION THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025
TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 506 N George St. Ridgeville, IN
GUN -GUN SUPPLIES-AMMO
Taurus 357 Mag 6 Shot Revolver (3 Screw). 45 Cal ACP Pistol. H & R Sportsman 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. Ammo Reloader. Tumbler. Reloading Supplies. Large Lot of Lead. Large Lot of Gun Supplies. **TRAILER-TILLERS-SHOP EQUIPMENT**
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ANTIQUES-HOUSE-

90 SALE CALENDAR

HOLD-MISC
Toys and Miniatures. Primitive Tools. Cross Cut Saws. Banjo. Marlboro Sign. Marlboro Top Ornate Sofa Table w/ End Tables and Coffee Tables. Laser Printer. 2 and 4 Drawer Filing Cabinets. Large Lot of Hardware.
OWNER: Friends Firearms by Flora Friend.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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Explosive ...

Continued from page 10

“We had to make some adjustments,” said NCHS coach Kyle York. “We did some different things with how we were covering guys on the back end that allowed our linebackers to play a little bit faster to the run. Those were the adjustments and it seemed to work, and it seemed to give us ... a few more hats around the football.”

The Trojans (1-1), meanwhile, tacked on two more touchdowns late in the second quarter. Sherrell ran in a 2-yarder at the 2:38 mark and Hall found Darin Reynolds down the left sideline for a 33-yard score with 1:19 remaining.

Often working with a short field — the Patriots had four punts of 20 yards or fewer — New Castle needed just 13 plays for its 181 yards and four touchdowns in the opening half. It scored on drives of 66, 30 (twice) and 33 yards.

The win was big for the Trojans, who lost two players in the opening week to season-ending injuries and will now open Hoosier Heritage Conference play against Pendleton Heights (2-0).

“Our team's been through a lot of adversity the first couple of weeks,” said York. “So I'm real proud of how our team responded ... We've got good players left that have to step up.”

Jay County's defense fared a bit better after the break as it limited the Trojans to 99 yards, but a running clock was in effect following Trent Supinger's 7-yard TD that put the home team up by five touchdowns late in the third quarter.

Sherrell racked up 108 yards on just six carries, adding rushes of 15, 24 and 34 yards to his long scoring run. Bell completed 9 of his 16 pass attempts for 156 yards, hitting five receivers.

It was a reversal of fortunes for the Patriots, who clobbered Blackford 56-6 in the opening game of the season. They managed just 115 yards of total offense, with 11 rushes going for negative yards. Leighton Brown's 49 yards on 21 carries led the team, while Laux completed five passes for 43 yards.

“We've got to be able to get the ball where they're not, and we got to be able to make them pay when they're not there,” said Fields. “Sometimes you get to win the one on one, and we weren't able to do that ...

“When we got lined up right, we did well,” he added of the defense. “I felt like our guys did a good job of being physical in the front.”

Box score

Jay County Patriots (1-1)
at New Castle Trojans (1-1)

Jay County 0 0 0 0 — 0
Allen East 14 14 7 0 — 35

First Quarter

NC — Luke Sherrell 66 run (Owen Barrett kick), 6:13.
NC — Carson Bell 15 run (Barrett kick), 4:02.

Second Quarter

NC — Sherrell 2 run (Barrett kick), 2:38).
NC — Darin Reynolds 33 pass from Bell (Barrett kick), 1:19.

Third Quarter

NC — Trent Supinger 7 run (Barrett kick), :37.1

Fourth Quarter

No scoring

Team Statistics

	JC	NC
Rushes - yds	40-55	18-114
Comp-Att-Int	6-14-1	9-17-1
Passing yds	60	156
Total Plays	54	28
Total Offense	115	270
Punt ret - yds	0-0	2-15
Kickoff ret - yds	2-34	0-0
Sacks - yds lost	0-0	2-7
Punts - yds	6-130	1-38
Ints - yds	1-0	0-0
Fumbles - lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties - yds	9-86	6-65

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Jay County — Leighton Brown 21-49, Nick Laux 11-12, Carter Fuglett 7-(-6). New Castle — Luke Sherrell 6-108, Trent Supinger 5-10, Tylin Thrine 2-2, Carson Bell 5-(-6).

Passing — Jay County — Nick Laux 5-11-0 43, Carter Fuglett 1-2-1 17, Leighton Brown 0-1-0 0. New Castle — Carson Bell 9-17-1 156.

Receiving — Jay County — Aiden Phillips 3-21, Brady Jetmore 2-16, Carter Fuglett 2-10, Leighton 1-3. New Castle — Alijah Turner 3-62, Tylin Thrine 3-25, Darin Reynolds 1-33, Carson Bane 1-17, Trent Supinger 1-9.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County's Brayden Fox takes down a New Castle receiver during the Patriots' 35-0 loss on Saturday. Despite running only 28 plays, the Trojans finished with 270 yards of offense.

Penrod ...

Continued from page 8

“I just believe in our team,” Yowell said. “And I know even when we were down 0-1, I know we can get that goal back. I trust my defense and I trust my offense.”

In addition to the double-digit saves, Yowell also came barreling off his line on numerous occasions to claim Woodlan through balls, often arriving a split-second before the Warrior offensive player.

For coach Reynolds, Yowell's aggression was a welcome sight.

“He's got to play the game like he knows how to play the game,” Reynolds said. “And sometimes he's hesitant ... It looked a lot better today. He didn't hang back. He was quick, he wanted to come out.”

The veteran Yowell's performance was a major boost to a youthful Jay County team, which is continuing to gain confidence as the season rolls on.

“We are a young team, but they show up, and they play,” Rodney Reynolds said. “And as long as they're giving us 120%, we can't ask for anything better.”



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay County's Samuel Wiggins sends the ball upfield in the Patriots' 3-1 victory over the Woodlan Warriors on Saturday. The freshman helped galvanize the defense as fellow first-year Jacoby Penrod poured in three unanswered goals to lift the Patriots.

Team ...

Continued from page 8

“I've been in a slump all season,” Lloyd said. “And it's been harder for me to put the shots in the goal, so it felt really nice to finally be able to see that ball in the back of the net.”

While the Patriots lost the shutout on Woodlan's goal in the final minute, the 3-1 victory represented a key bounceback for Jay County. The Patriots had just lost for the first time this season on Thursday in a 2-1 defeat to Coldwater.

“It was a hard loss,” Muhlenkamp said. “But we knew when we lost to that team, we definitely got better.”

Saturday's win went a long way in solidifying that claim.

Sports on tap

Local schedule
Thursday
Jay County — Girls golf vs. Muncie Central — 4:30 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Norwell — 5 p.m.; Boys tennis vs. Mari-on — 5:30 p.m.; Boys soccer at Norwell — 5:30 p.m.; Volleyball at Wapahani — 6 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Driver — 5 p.m.; Junior high volleyball at Driver — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf vs. Versailles — 4:30 p.m.; Girls golf at Versailles — 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball at Parkway (including freshmen) — 4:30 p.m.; Middle school football vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.

TV schedule
Today
11:30 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Toronto Blue Jays at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
Thursday
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL: Dallas Cowboys at Philadelphia Eagles (NBC)

Local notes
Outing announced
The Adams Health Network Founda-

tion 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 health-care 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.tormb-ley@adamshospital.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 multi-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@jaycountychamber.com.
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Explosive opposition

Trojans needed just four plays to put its first two TDs on the board against JC

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

NEW CASTLE — A cannon and fireworks highlighted pregame activities just beyond the south end zone.

When the Trojans touched the ball for the first time, they exploded as well.

Jay County High School moved the ball well on its first drive before getting stopped on fourth-and-inches, and New Castle responded with a first-play touchdown en route to handing the Patriots a 35-0 defeat Saturday.

“I think it’s just a building block,” said JCHS coach Eddie Fields. “We talked about this game being a test of where we’re at. We know we’ve got to grow. We already knew that going in, but now we kind of see how much more we got to grow.”

“We’ll get on the film and see there’s a bunch of stuff that if we execute, we have a better chance.”

“Just a bad day.”

The Patriots (1-1) took the opening kickoff, picked up a couple of first downs and moved the ball to the New Castle 34-yard line on a 3-yard pass from quarterback Nick Laux to receiver Aiden Phillips. There were just inches to go for the first down.

“We’re moving it, moving it, moving it, methodic, doing

what we’re supposed to,” said Fields. “Then we get a fourth-and-1 and called a freeze play, which we hadn’t practiced enough.”

The idea was to try to draw the Trojans offside, but instead the ball was snapped and Laux was stopped short.

“It’s on me, just poor preparation,” said Fields. “That kind of set off kind of a downfall.”

Quarterback Carson Bell of the Trojans handed off on the first play to Luke Sherrell, who broke through the Jay County defensive line. All that remained in front of him was turf. Sherrell breezed 66 yards to the end zone — an explosive run that resulted in more fireworks set off along Trojan Lane.

Following a three-and-out for the Patriots and a short punt, New Castle needed just three plays to reach the end zone again. Sherrell picked up 15 yards and then Bell scrambled left and fought off a tackle attempt near the goal line to make it in for a 14-0 lead.

JCHS struggled to find much offensively, as 40 of its 79 yards in the first half came on the opening drive. It went three-and-out four times and had one drive stall out with another miss on a fourth-down attempt at the 24-yard line.

See Explosive page 9



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Aiden Phillips of the Jay County High School football team reels in a catch during Saturday’s 35-0 loss at New Castle. Phillips led the Patriots with three catches for 21 yards.

Tribe beat Trojans

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe slipped up against Marion Local but evened the score against the Trojans.

The Fort Recovery High School volleyball team evened up its record at 2-2 after beating the Arcanum Trojans 25-22, 25-21, 25-18 on Saturday.

Brynn Willmann led the Indians with 13 kills. Cameron Muhlenkamp followed with nine kills, while Alexis Grisez added seven.

Grisez and Kayden Ranly blocked three shots, while Willmann had two. Ranly also had 28 assists.

FRHS had five aces with two apiece coming from Willmann and Kayla Gaerke and one more from Bridget Homan.

Gaerke and Muhlenkamp were the only two with double-digit digs with the former recording 13 and latter tallying 11.

Girls finish fourth

UPLAND — The Jay County High School girls cross country team walked away with a fourth-place finish at the Taylor University Invitational on Saturday, while the boys placed 12th.

Local Roundup

The girls tallied 156 points in the 14-team field, trailing only Zionsville (28), Homestead (36) and Norwell (152). The boys ended with 346 points to beat seven teams, while Homestead claimed the title with a 43.

Caleb Garringer had the highest finish of the day as his time of 16 minutes, 35.98 seconds claimed 26th.

Other scores for the boys came from Grant Glentzer (118, 18:57.1), Max Klopfenstein (136, 19:16.80), Caison Lloyd (140, 19:21.05) and Alex Rivers (181, 20:10.98).

Ava May paced the girls with a time of 20:58.41 to cross the finish line in 30th. Abby Fifer wasn’t far behind as her 21:08.46 put her in 32nd.

Jessie Homan (21:32.2) and Brooklynn Byrum (21:37.66) had back-to-back finishes in 44th and 45th place, while Alexis Sibray

(73, 22:49.18) rounded out the team score.

Huelskamp leads

GREENVILLE, Ohio — Fort Recovery High School’s girls and boys cross country teams finished 11th and 12th, respectively, at the Treaty City Invitational hosted by Greenville on Saturday.

The girls tallied 266 points to finish 11th in the 15-team field, while the 334 points to boys 12th of 18 teams.

Makenna Huelskamp took the top spot of the Tribe as her 21 minute, 7.2 second time earned eighth place. Riley Heitkamp trailed behind in 23rd with a 22:09.9.

The other three scores came from Kendall Ranly (79, 25:27.6), Claire Grube (96, 26:41.6) and Yoselin Juarez-Gomez (102, 26:53.5).

Alex Roessner paced the boys with a time of 17:52.2 to claim 19th.

Reece Diller (19:08.5) and Gavin Heitkamp (19:37.8) both broke the 20-minute mark as well, as they placed 63rd and 78th.

The other two scores came from Evan Diller (96, 20:28.5) and Russell Hart (106, 20:52.3).

Stafford will start

By GARY KLEIN
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Matthew Stafford will start at quarterback and the plan is for Alaric Jackson to start at left tackle on Sunday in the season opener against the Houston Texans at SoFi Stadium, Rams coach Sean McVay said Monday.

Stafford, 37, practiced the last few weeks after sitting out training camp and several weeks because of a back issue.

“He’ll be good,” to start against the Texans, McVay said during a video conference with reporters after the Rams completed a no-pads practice that was closed to the media.

Jackson, who signed a \$35 million extension in March, practiced Monday for the first time since he was diagnosed with blood clots in his legs in June. Jackson had been doing individual drills with trainers

and had participated with starters in jogthroughs.

“He earned the right to be in the position, where you pay him — it was a big priority for us to get him back,” McVay said. “He’s done everything in his power to be ready to go. This was always the end goal in mind — is to be ready to go against the Texans.”

After Jackson was diagnosed with blood clots for the second time in his career — he also dealt with the issue in 2022 — the Rams signed veteran tackle D.J. Humphries. Warren McClendon Jr. and David Quessenberry are other tackles that could play opposite right tackle Rob Havenstein if Jackson is injured, limited or struggles.

But McVay sounded optimistic that the Rams would continue to manage Jackson’s condition and that he would be ready for Sunday.

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