

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371 www.thecr.com \$1

Motion to dismiss filed in suit

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

Portland's police department, its chief and its investigator are asking for a lawsuit against them to be dismissed.

Attorney Katlyn M. Christman filed a motion Friday to dismiss Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips' lawsuit against the police department, Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock and investigator Jeff Hopkins, arguing that they cannot be sued.

"The claims asserted against Dustin Mock, Jeff Hopkins and the Portland Police Department should be dismissed because the

Portland police, chief and investigator seek dismissal on grounds that they are not suable

Portland Police Department is not a suable entity and Mock and Hopkins cannot be sued in their individual capacities," the motion says.

The City of Portland is also named in Phillips' lawsuit.

Phillips sued the city, its police department, Mock and Hopkins in July after filing a tort claim in April. (A tort claim is a formal notice that alleges personal injury or property damage and seeks compensation. Under Indiana law, a written notice of tort claim must be filed before suing a government entity.)

She alleges that she has been the focus of "torment, harassment and defamation" by the city's police department. Her accusations include threats from Mock and Hopkins; the

police chief publishing disparaging or defamatory statements against her; and that Mock and Hopkins reviewed and distributed video footage of Phillips exercising in the city's exercise room and that those recordings included her private telephone conversations.

In her filing, Christman of Clark Johnson & Knight, Merrillville, references Indiana Code saying a county, municipality or township may be sued. She argues that because the police department is only a division of the city, it is not a suable entity.

See **Motion** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cruisin' with the Cat

Fred Howell, 13, hands out an item at the Fellowship Baptist Church table during the Jay County Cancer Cruise on Saturday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Cancer survivors received a variety of items from local organizations and businesses. The event also included a car show and kids carnival.

DOC begins paying counties

Department also forgiving \$7.7 million in overpayments

By **CASEY SMITH**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Department of Correction was scheduled to begin sending payments to dozens of counties Monday to cover costs for housing state prisoners, ending months of delays that left local jails without reimbursements.

"In recent months, the Indiana Department of Correction has been working to ensure calculations of any money owed to the counties are accurate," DOC spokesperson Annie Goeller said in a statement to the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

She explained that two separate streams of payments are at issue: funding tied to Level 6 felony diversions, and per diem reimbursements for state prisoners held in county jails awaiting transfer.

Level 6 offenders used to be sent to state prisons until a criminal justice overhaul in 2013. After that, low-level felons were kept in local jails at state expense.

See **Paying** page 2

Rubio affirms support

By **ERIC MARTIN**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. President Donald Trump's top diplomat refrained from criticizing Israel over its missile strike on Qatar last week, and said the priority is to make sure Hamas surrenders and disarms to end the war in Gaza.

"We are focused on what happens now, what happens next," Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters in Jerusalem on Monday, a suggestion the U.S. wants to move on from the diplomatic fallout that arose from the assault. One element is to determine the role that can still be played by Qatar — a U.S. ally and a key mediator between Hamas and Israel — in resolving the conflict, he said.

Rubio was speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who oversaw the unprecedented attack on a Hamas compound in the Qatari capital of Doha on Tuesday. Netanyahu signaled his country would continue targeting members of the Palestinian militant group — which Israel has been fighting for almost two years — wherever they are based.

The Israeli assault on Sept. 9 killed several Hamas members and a Qatari security guard, and caused panic in Doha. The move was widely condemned by Arab and European governments, who

Secretary of State says priority is for Hamas to surrender and disarm

said it would further destabilize the Middle East. Trump said he was unhappy with the operation, with the White House adding that it didn't "advance Israel or America's goals."

Trump said he knew about the attack too late to halt the strikes and he has avoided overt criticism of Israel.

Netanyahu said Rubio's trip proved the strong bond between the U.S. and Israel. On Sunday, the two prayed at the sacred Western Wall in Jerusalem.

See **Affirms** page 6

Outlaw Nation

Brian Stoney Gallagher, lead singer with Outlaw Nation, belts out a song Friday at Jay County Fairgrounds. The Indianapolis band, coordinated by local marketing group 260 Events, performed following Jay County Chainsaw Carving Invitational and Vendor Fair festivities Friday.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

Robert Muhlenkamp, 86,
Fort Recovery
Judith Smith, 79,
Montpelier
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature reached 86 degrees Sunday in Jay County. The low was 62.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the mid 80s. Highs will remain in the 80s through the weekend.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host Cinnamon and Ceramics for Kids from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the Community Room. Children will have the opportunity to paint ceramic plates, planters and coasters and also enjoy some cinnamon snacks. Registration is required. Call the library at (260) 726-7890.

Coming up

Wednesday — Details from Monday's Fort Recovery School Board meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS volleyball match against Adams Central.

Friday — Coverage of next week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



Obituaries

Robert Muhlenkamp
Sept. 10, 1939-Sept. 13, 2025
Robert John Muhlenkamp, age 86, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away, surrounded by his wife and children, on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, at IU Heath Jay in Portland, Indiana.
He was born on Sept. 10, 1939, in Celina, Ohio, to the late August and Olivia (Schroer) Muhlenkamp.
Bob is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bernadette “Bernie” (Nietfeld) Muhlenkamp, whom he married on Oct. 7, 1961; his children, Steve (Jana) Muhlenkamp of Fort Recovery, Donna (Gregg) Minnich of Portland, Ann (Michael) Jocola of Warren, Ohio, Teresa (Rick) Post of Portland, and Connie (Craig) Buschur

of St. Henry, Ohio; his 16 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, with two on the way, and one great-great-grandchild; his brother-in-law, Shawn Kirkpatrick of Middletown; his in-laws, Joe (Deli) Nietfeld of St. Henry, Mary Studer of Celina, Alberta Brockman of Coldwater, Ohio, Margie (Lennard) Kregel of Beecher, Illinois, Marcellus (Judy) Nietfeld of Celina, and Francis (Betty) Nietfeld; and numerous nieces and nephews.
In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his siblings, Marvin (Delores) Muhlenkamp, Edna (Paul) Rauh, Gilbert (Edna) Muhlenkamp,








Muhlenkamp

Marciel (John) Alig and Betty Kirkpatrick; and his in-laws, Vincent Studer, Harold Brockman and Clete (Bernice) Nietfeld.
Bob was raised in Trinity and graduated from Bryant High School in 1957. He was a talented and respected woodworker and cabinet maker, owning and operating Bob's Cabinet Shop in Fort Recovery for many years. He also worked for All American Homes in Decatur, leaving his mark on many homes through his craftsmanship. Even after retiring from the wood shop, Bob continued working as a janitor at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, where he was a longtime and faithful member.
A man of deep faith and service, Bob was also a proud member of the Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus, where he served as

Grand Knight from 1980 to 1982.
Bob had many passions. He was an avid Cincinnati Reds fan, loved working outside in his yard and garden, and enjoyed making homemade wine. His woodworking didn't stop at cabinets. He poured love into crafting toys and gifts for his family, keepsakes they will treasure for years to come. He also enjoyed playing cards with family and friends and found great joy in the simple moments shared with loved ones.
Above all, Bob loved his family deeply. He looked forward to every visit from his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, always ready with a smile and a warm welcome.
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort

Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.
Guests may visit with Bob's family on Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 3 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. A Knights of Columbus prayer service will be held Tuesday at 6:45 p.m.
Memorial contributions may be given to the American Heart Association.
Condolences may be shared with the family at brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Judith A. “Judy” Smith, Montpelier, the mother of a Portland man, Sept. 2, 1946-Sept. 13, 2025. Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

CR almanac				
Wednesday 9/17	Thursday 9/18	Friday 9/19	Saturday 9/20	Sunday 9/21
 85/54 Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday when the temperature may reach 54 late.	 87/57 Sunny skies are on the horizon for Thursday when the high may hit the upper 80s.	 88/60 Partly cloudy skies on Friday, with slight 5 to 10 mph winds. The high will be in the upper 80s.	 81/59 Saturday's weather looks like a slight chance of rain under partly cloudy skies.	 82/61 There's a 40% chance of showers early Sunday with 10 to 15 mph winds.

Lotteries	
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$64 million	19-28-33-35-39-42-44-45-48-51-56-62-71-72-73-74 Cash 5: 9-18-19-28-31 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$400 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 7-4-6 Daily Four: 9-1-1-3 Quick Draw: 11-12-17-18-23-25-26-31-32-35-39-46-47-53-56-65-68-69-75-79 Evening Daily Three: 9-2-6 Daily Four: 4-4-1-2 Quick Draw: 5-9-13-14	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 6-6-2 Pick 4: 1-6-0-9 Pick 5: 2-7-0-4-6 Evening Pick 3: 0-0-9 Pick 4: 6-7-3-1 Pick 5: 7-6-4-5-9 Rolling Cash 5: 22-26-28-34-38 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.13 Oct. corn4.08 Dec. corn4.23	Dec. beans10.44 Wheat4.80
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.18 Oct./Nov. corn4.08 Dec. corn4.28	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.98 Late Sept. corn3.98 Beans10.03 Late Sept. beans10.03 Wheat4.76
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.04 Oct. corn4.01 Beans10.05	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.09 Oct. corn3.99 Beans.....9.84 Oct. beans9.84 Wheat4.60

Today in history

In 1620, the Mayflower set sail for America. English colonists aboard the ship would have founded the Plymouth Colony in what is now Massachusetts and signed the Mayflower Compact.

In 1848, France abolished slavery in all of its territories.

In 1919, the American Legion, an organization of U.S. war veterans, was granted a national charter.

In 1960, Amos Alonzo Stagg announced his retirement at the age of 98 after a 70-year career as a football coach.

In 1993, “Cheers” spin-off “Frasier,” starring Kelsey Grammer,

debuted on NBC. It became one of the most popular shows of the era.

In 2003, the Jay County High School boys tennis team clobbered the Adams Central Jets 5-0. Kentaro Ohgo led the Patriots with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Matt Bracey at No. 2 singles and Derek Powell gave up just one game in his No. 3 singles victory over Dylan Malone.

In 2021, Fisher Packing announced during a Redkey Town Council meeting that it would expand its Redkey facility to add a new linking line and smokehouse.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar	
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County	Sept. 23 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St.

DOC seeks \$ for prisons

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Department of Correction is seeking \$15.79 million in capital funding from the State Budget Committee to ready the Miami Correctional Facility for use under a proposed federal immigration and law enforcement agreement.

The budget committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday to consider, and possibly approve, the request.
DOC officials requested funding for “capital improvements necessary to operate a proposed detention facility at Miami Correctional Facility in order to facilitate the federal immigration and law enforcement activity.”

The request would cover a series of infrastructure upgrades and equipment acquisitions, including “enhancements to perimeter fencing and lighting, temporary housing structures, modifications to the intake and processing areas, installation of drug detection and drone prevention systems, and x-ray screening equipment.”

Motion ...

Continued from page 1
She also argues that Mock and Hopkins can't be sued as individuals based on the allegations in Phillips' complaint. Again she cites Indiana Code, saying “a plaintiff is barred from suing employees who were acting within the scope of their employment at the time the alleged loss was sustained.”
Douglas Mawhorr of Delaware Circuit Court 3 is serving as special judge for the proceedings in the Phillips case. A hearing on the motion has not yet been set.
Last week, Mawhorr granted a motion from Phillips for a joint case management order — it establishes a shared timeline for pretrial proceedings leading to a trial — in the lawsuit. He gave the parties involved 30 days to submit their proposals.
The suit from Phillips stems from one of five active tort claims against the city or its police department. (Two others that were filed in 2024 have since been resolved.)
The city faces four other tort claims, though none have risen to the level of a lawsuit yet.
Former Portland wastewater depart-

Judged granted motion for a joint case management order last week

ment superintendent Brad Clayton filed two of the claims. In one, he alleges that his Family Medical Leave Act information was illegally made public and in the other he alleges he was berated by wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues and that city representatives, including mayor Jeff Westlake, spread information about him and his job.
Former Portland police officer Patrick Long alleges various incidents of harassment and other issues, and former Portland police officer Kyle Denney alleges that Westlake made statements that included allegations of misconduct against him.

Paying ...

Continued from page 1
Goeller said the outstanding costs associated with Level 6 diversions were governed by a funding formula established by the General Assembly in 2019.
“This formula has since become outdated and no longer reflects current data, resulting in overpayments to several counties,” she said.
To resolve that, DOC will forgive those debts rather than seek repayment, Goeller said.
In total, the department will forgive about \$7.7 million in overpayments across 51 counties, including large amounts in Kosciusko County, which was overpaid nearly \$599,000; Greene County, which was overpaid more than \$254,000; and Clark County, where the overpayment was about \$264,000, according to a DOC payment summary provided to the Capital Chronicle.
See Paying page 6



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Jay County 4-H Building
Jay County Fairgrounds

"Mama's Little Honey Bee"
by Watermelon Jim

I thought I was the best guitar picker this ol' world would ever see. I picked up my guitar and tossed it in my truck and headed for Nashville, Tennessee.

I was auditioning for a man down on Music Row, singing him a song about "Mama's Little Honey Bee". I was picking that ol' guitar in the key of "C," singing my song, "Mama's Little Honey Bee".

That auditioning man told me I was the ugliest and worst guitar picker he ever did see. He told me the only way I could get on the Opry was for my mama to buy it for me. I dropped my guitar and hit that ol' boy with a left and then a heavy right. Yes sir, when I got thru with him, he would be one more sight.

Now, I was doing pretty good with him and was cleaning up the patch. His good-looking secretary came in and went on back to work. She thought we were practicing for the Saturday night wrestling match.

Now he looked up at me and said, "Play that song again about 'Mama's Little Honey Bee' in the key of 'C'". He told me while I was a-picking he'll call and get me on the Grand Ol' Opry. While he was still on the phone, the police came in and took me off to jail and told me I could have one phone call for free. I called that auditioning man and picked up my guitar and started singing "Mama's Little Honey Bee".

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Motorcycle prompts youthful memories

By JAMES FULKES

The Commercial Review

Over the years, I've owned several two-wheeled modes of transportation — motorcycles of just about every size and style imaginable.

As a kid, it started with a dirt bike, then a moped back when those were all the rage.

In high school, I had a couple of pretty nice street bikes and enjoyed the freedom of riding them.

Fulkys
Mayhem



When the U.S. Navy saw fit to assign me to a command in sunny San Diego, the climate was perfect for a very nice Honda CB-750 Four that I purchased while living out there.

In 1987, the command I was with departed San Diego, and after a global circumnavigation cruise, we arrived in Philadelphia.

It wasn't long before I found a great deal on another motorcycle that I couldn't pass up — a 1986 Kawasaki Ninja 1000R.

To say the Ninja 1000R was a game changer would be an understatement. It was lightning fast and designed to stick to the road like it was glued there.

I'll never forget that first ride when I realized it could hit 68 mph in first gear at redline, 93 in second, and there were still four more gears to go.

Thankfully, I developed a healthy respect for it and never pushed past my abilities.

I managed to stay safe on it, which is saying something considering how young I was at the time.

Just recently, one of my

grandsons pulled into our humble Hoosier farmhouse driveway on a Kawasaki Ninja ZX-12R.

Of course, that sight piqued my interest, though for different reasons now.

I distinctly recall the euphoria of owning and riding something like that when I was young. But now that memory is tempered by the natural protectiveness I feel as an older adult who knows exactly what he's riding

and what it's capable of.

It's funny how my perspective has shifted. Sure, it's cool to see, but concern for his safety kicks in quickly. I can almost feel more gray hairs sprouting as I watch him on that machine.

I guess owning one at his age is both a blessing and a curse — especially when you're the one standing in the driveway, watching a much-loved grandson ride away.

Neighbors offer to housesit free of charge

DEAR ABBY: Our neighbors, "Wanda" and "Bob," have agreed to care for our house and cat when we vacation. We told them we'd like to pay them for their troubles, but Wanda says they want to do it for free. Bob just smiles.

Judging by her body language, Wanda seemed offended when I asked her how much she'd like to be paid. You see, I'm sure we can return the favor if they leave town, but we have the means and time to vacation more often than they do. I don't want to offend but neither do I want to take advantage. In our area, there aren't any house-watching services. I'm stumped. What's a neighbor to do in this instance? — GETTING AWAY IN OREGON

DEAR GETTING AWAY: It appears that Wanda and her husband prefer to enjoy the benefits of practicing the good neighbor policy rather than focus on monetary reward. Approach Wanda and tell her you appreciate her willingness to watch your place while you travel and reiterate that you would be pleased to do the same for her

Dear
Abby



and her husband when the opportunity arises. While you are away, if you see an item you think they would enjoy, present it to them upon your return. (I'm thinking something characteristic of where you have been.)

DEAR ABBY: Our grandson is 28. We struggled a lot with him growing up. He lived with us; his parents never married. His mother went to prison for 10 years. He has a job but always asks us for money. We give him about \$400 a month. My husband and I have had a lot of arguments over it.

Our grandson also has a girlfriend and four children who live with him. We are retired, and this is draining us. I feel sorry for that little family, but my own family is sinking. Have

you any advice? — REACHED THE LIMIT IN TEXAS

DEAR REACHED: I certainly do. Turn off the money spigot before your generosity gets you in more trouble than you are already experiencing. You have been more than generous with this grandson. You do not "owe" him \$400 a month. As an adult, it is time for him to take care of his own family, just as it is with you and your husband.

DEAR ABBY: My company has a four-days-a-week return-to-office mandate this year. While it's nice to have the in-person camaraderie, co-workers who are conspicuously ill are now coming in and spreading their contagion. My company provides a generous two weeks of "occasional absence," which may be used for sick days, doctors' appointments and such. I am now sick at home.

These co-workers are not heroes for coming in to work with their germs, but selfish and inconsiderate. Nobody objects! I feel I should say something to our office manager. What do you suggest? — SICK OF SICK CO-WORKERS

DEAR SICK: Speak to the office manager and suggest that a memo be sent out stating that if someone is feeling unwell, they should wear a mask or stay home until their symptoms subside. Many businesses do it.

DEAR ABBY: I've been married for 19 years to my second husband, "Jack." Our children are grown. When we met, I was a business owner, and he was retired. He has had numerous medical issues and procedures, and I have always insured him on my health plans and been his advocate. We have always had separate bank accounts and a household account we equally contribute to. Jack has numerous CDs and funds that he manages. We do not commingle those funds. I have never asked for money from him and have always contributed to any of the household needs.

I still work full time and recently began receiving my Social Security, which I'm banking for my retirement as I don't anticipate receiving any of Jack's money. Maybe I will, but I need to be proactive on my own behalf.

Jack is now seeing my increased income and wants me to contribute a larger portion of my salary to the household account. I don't think his expectation is fair or warranted. I do most of the household and yard chores since he has become limited in his ability and strength. Please advise. — WORKING GAL IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WORKING GAL: The way you have described it, your marriage seems more like a business relationship than a partnership. If you are included in your husband's estate plans, you should know what they are. Because you don't know any details, and you may need those funds later, you should discuss this with YOUR financial adviser before putting any of your retirement money into the household account.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday

of each month at the library.

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

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are

invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

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

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 – BRI-ANNA'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 infor-

mation, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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.

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.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Court’s ruling is a step backward

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

A majority of Americans rightly want a secure border and respect for our nation's immigration laws.

But we believe that most Americans will recoil at what appears to be an ongoing abuse of fundamental constitutional principles in the Trump administration's approach to immigration enforcement.

On Monday, in granting a stay to a California court's injunction of certain Trump administration policies, the U.S. Supreme Court gave approval for people, including U.S. citizens, to be stopped and questioned based on their ethnicity, language, accent and the type of work they do. That is wrong, full stop.

Guest Editorial

Too often, the Supreme Court has used its emergency docket to support the administration's expansion of executive powers with little or no explanation.

In this case, Justice Brett Kavanaugh did shine some light on his thinking, at least. But what he offered only enhanced our concern.

Kavanaugh concluded that law enforcement is within the law when officers' use of "com-

mon sense" helps them decide whether to question a person about their immigration status. While ethnicity can't be a single tell, it can go hand in glove with other factors such as language and physical location.

That alone is worrisome. According to Census Bureau data, some 19% of people in the U.S. were of Hispanic origin as of 2023. While the majority of them are English proficient, many are not.

Should they be subject to questioning?

If their ethnicity and language are a tell, what else qualifies? A beat-up pickup truck? A sticker of the Virgin of Guadalupe?

Kavanaugh suggests that for

those stopped who aren't doing anything wrong, it's no big deal anyway.

"(F)or stops of those individuals who are legally in the country, the questioning in those circumstances is typically brief, and those individuals may promptly go free after making clear to the immigration officers that they are U.S. citizens or otherwise legally in the United States," he wrote.

The reality is more complex and often more frightening, as anyone who has ever been stopped and questioned knows. It's a fact that some U.S. citizens questioned in Los Angeles raids have been pushed against walls, forced to put their hands behind their backs and had their arms twisted.

Our nation has undergone a long and painful journey to recognize that targeting people based on external factors such as race, ethnicity, class and language are beyond the pale of proper law enforcement.

A majority of the Supreme Court has foolishly squandered a share of the progress we have made in accepting this type of enforcement.

As Justice Sonya Sotomayor wrote in dissent, "We should not have to live in a country where the Government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish, and appears to work a low wage job."

We should not.

And our Constitution should protect us from that very thing.

We must reject political violence

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

The assassination of Charlie Kirk confirms our nation has entered a period of political violence that all of us, but especially our leaders, must address with a renewed commitment to core American values of tolerance for different ideas and a willingness to work together toward common solutions.

Guest Editorial

As Americans, we need to recognize some important shifts that are contributing to the terrible part of our history we have entered.

Kirk's murder, an evil act we believe stemmed from an intolerance for his politics, is only the most recent and public example of this spiral of violence. It was preceded by attacks targeting figures on the left and the right, from the murder of Democratic Minnesota state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband in their home to the arson attack on Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, also a Democrat, to the assassination attempt on President Donald Trump, the nation's leading Republican.

And it has gone beyond attacks just on people involved in politics. The murder of UnitedHealthcare chief executive Brian Thompson was an act of naked political violence.

We could go on because the list sadly is long, and we fear it will only get longer.

As Americans, we need to recognize some important shifts that are contributing to the terrible part of our history we have entered.

Very few Americans are radicalized to the point of violence, but too many Americans have become intolerant of, and isolated from, people with different ideas and perspectives.

We have created systems now that privilege intolerance and reward emotion over reason.

Much of our politics is now decided not in general elections, but in party primaries where candidates race toward the most extreme positions, lest they be labeled insufficiently conservative or progressive. This happens even as huge amounts of money flow into the political system from special interests that align with more radical views and are willing to spend big to get what they want.

And our media, so much of it now social

media, is geared to enhance and distribute the most extreme expressions, from speech to pornography to violence. Uncensored videos of Kirk's assassination instantly went viral, and some celebrated the gore and terror.

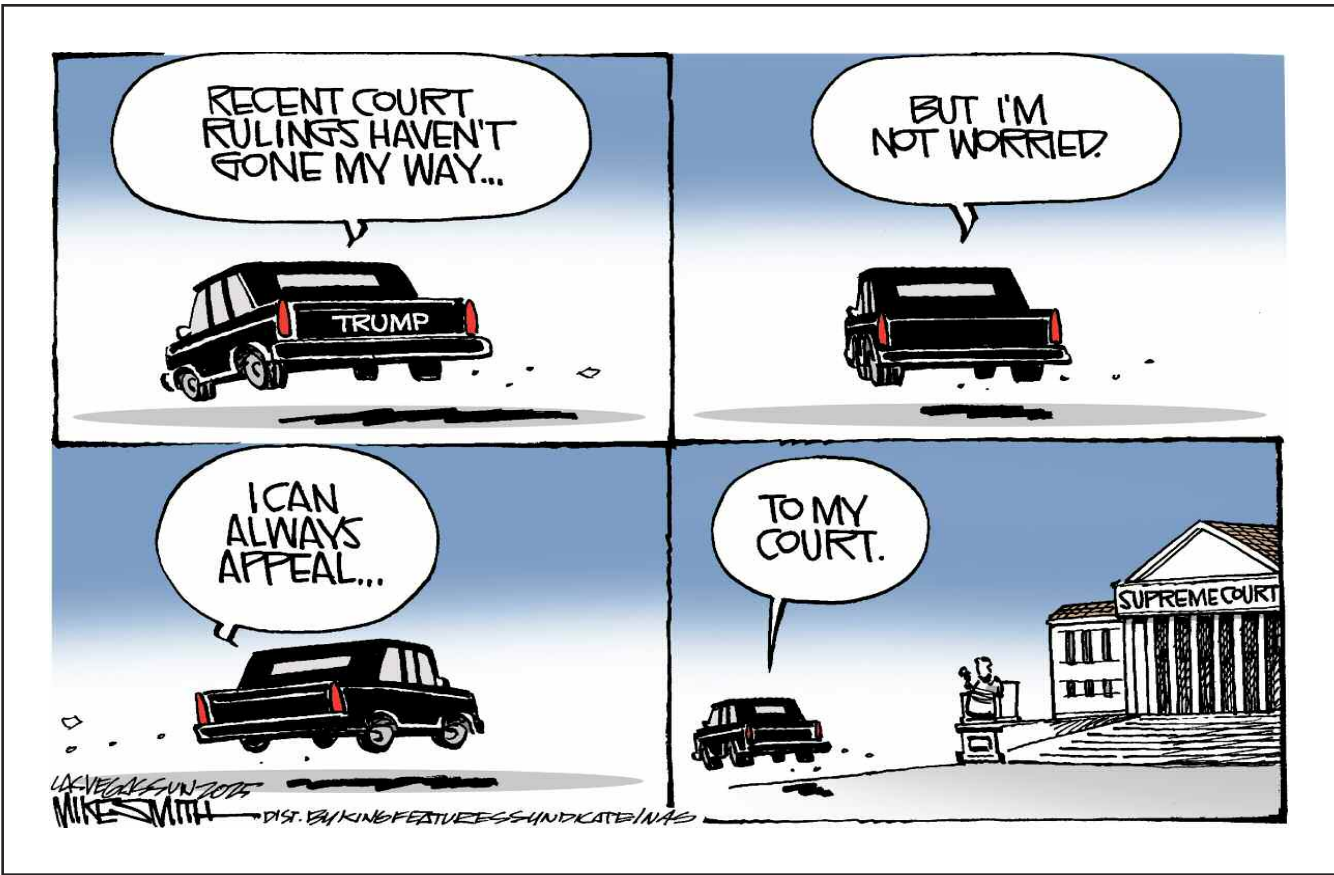
Terrible imagery and maximal rhetoric get clicks and shares. Figures who are willing to say and do the worst things get the most attention. Voices of reason and nuance are drowned out. The companies that profit from this division long ago gave up any responsibility for what they disseminate. They only want the revenue they can draw from it.

The nation we have is a reflection of the systems we have created and tolerated.

We need our leaders, and that starts at the top, to insist that the tone changes. We need them to seriously look at the systems that feed division and seek reform.

We don't have much confidence that will happen, because those in power now benefit from the systems we have.

For our American experiment to endure, the good people of this country must reject this terrible state of things and demand change that supports unity and comity over what we have become.



Support some election changes

By **NIKI KELLY**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

It's no secret that Indiana's voting performance is abysmal. Hoosiers have no problem registering to vote but often don't make it to the polls.

That's why I was intrigued by a meeting on two election proposals — moving municipal elections to even-numbered years and expanding vote centers to all counties — held in Indianapolis last week.

Lawmakers mandated that Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales host a series of meetings on the ideas and provide a report for possible action in the 2026 legislative session.

Increasing voter turnout should be everyone's goal. To me, the vote center proposal is an easy yes.

Instead of having dozens of precinct locations scattered across a county with voters assigned to only one, officials set up a handful of large locations that anyone can use regardless of where they live.

The model is used in 67 of Indiana's 92 counties. It costs less and requires less staffing. The latter is important as many longtime poll workers age and can no longer volunteer.

Boone County, where I live, moved to vote centers in 2014. It was a smooth transition and has been a welcome change. I have voted in Lebanon on my way to the grocery store or in Whitestown on my way to work. I'm not pinned to only one location — I can fit voting within my day more easily.

I have never waited more than 15 minutes. Counties still need to provide enough machines to avoid long lines, though, and they shouldn't skimp and set up too few vote centers.

Indiana law requires at least one vote center location per 10,000 voters but I consider that a minimum and believe officials should plan for more than that.

Allen County is the largest that doesn't use vote centers, but officials there are in discussions to change that. They have 110 polling locations, which would be consolidated into 53 — or one for every 5,000 voters.

Niki Kelly



A vote is planned for Sept. 15 and must be unanimous.

The second proposal Morales is studying isn't ready for prime time: moving municipal elections to even-numbered years alongside major races such as president, the U.S. House and Senate, governor, other statewide offices and the Indiana House and Senate.

The data is clear that turnout is much lower in municipal races.

In 2023, for example, turnout in Indiana's municipal elections was about 27% statewide. That compared with roughly 42% voter participation in the 2022 midterm elections and 61% in the 2020 presidential election.

But that isn't the whole picture.

Right now, your mayoral race or city council contests are the focus of that election cycle. Candidates, news media and voters can focus on local issues, from growth strategies and road funding to zoning issues and crime.

But if you add those to an already busy ballot, those races will be buried behind federal and state politics. If voters make it all the way through those races — and that's a big if — they will be without the benefit of a sustained and direct season focusing only on local matters.

Local races in recent years have gained real importance, whether it be related to controversial data centers or solar panel farms. People are paying attention, and I would hate to see that jeopardized.

While those are the only two proposals under consideration, I did want to mention a few other election changes that have been passed in other states to make elections more efficient and flexible for voters.

•Extended voting hours. Indiana's

polls are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Election Day and I think that's plenty. Especially since Hoosiers have four weeks beforehand to cast an early vote in person at the county courthouse or other satellite locations, there is plenty of time for people to vote.

•Same-day registration. Indiana had 4.8 million registered voters for the 2024 general election, while the state has a total population of 6.9 million. And of course, some residents aren't old enough to vote. I personally don't think registration is the issue. The problem is getting people to the polls. This change would be a heavy lift for no real improvement.

•Ranked-choice voting. Some jurisdictions are adopting this and have seen turnout increases of between five and seven percentage points. This option allows voters to rank candidates for an office in order of their preference. If a candidate receives more than half of the first choices, that candidate wins, just like in any other election. However, if there is no majority winner after counting the first choices, the race is decided by an instant runoff. The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who ranked that candidate as their first choice will have their votes count for their next choice. This process continues until a majority winner, a candidate with more than half of the vote, wins. It's complicated and I don't think Hoosiers are ready for it.

I wish I knew the answer to getting more voters to go to the polls. I understand frustration over House and Senate districts, which people may feel are predetermined by gerrymandered maps.

But most races are statewide and local, where every vote absolutely counts.

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Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 151-NUMBER 96
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and six holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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

"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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Village dining options planned

Three new restaurants have been announced as part of The Cantio hotel project in The Village district of Muncie.

Schahet Hotels, an Indianapolis firm that is developing the hotel, announced plans for The Broken Record, a rooftop restaurant; Believe You Me's, a Bob Ross-inspired eatery; and Beeman's Corner, a cafe with artisan coffee and baked goods named in honor of BSU home economics teacher Mary Beeman.

The Cantio will be connected to the new Ball State University Performing Arts Center.

"Since the beginning stages of planning, we wanted The Cantio to be more than a hospitality experience. With these three restaurants, The Cantio will offer top-tier accommodations and culinary destinations in the heart of The District in Muncie," said Greg Schahet, president and chief financial officer at Schahet Hotels, in a press release. "Each restaurant brings something new and unique to the community while reflecting much of Muncie's rich history and diverse culture."

Events upcoming

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has a ribbon-cutting ceremony and other events scheduled in the coming weeks.

The ribbon cutting for Youth Service Bureau, 603 W. Arch St. is set for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18. An open house will run from noon to 5 p.m.

The chamber will also host its annual golf outing at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, at Portland Golf Club. Its merchant trick-or-treat event is set for 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31.

For more information, email amanda@jaycountychamber.com or call (260) 726-4481.

Field trips are free

Henry Community Health and the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame are partnering to offer free field trips as well as regular free admission.

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame opened its new expansion late last year. In addition to its traditional tours, it now offers learning opportunities in math, read-

Business roundup

ing, writing and social studies for students. Mobile field trips are also offered.

For more information about student learning opportunities, email matt@hoopshall.com or call (765) 529-1891.

Seeking interns

Applications are open for Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance's 2026 summer internship program.

The 11-week program for Indiana college students will run from mid-May through the end of July. There are opportunities in areas including claims, underwriting, information technology and actuarial science.

Representatives from Farm Bureau will be at job fairs at colleges across the state, including from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Ball State University. For more information, visit jobs.infarmbureau.com.

Job fairs set

The United States Postal Service will host another round of job fairs on Friday, Sept. 26.

Sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

- Muncie — 501 W. Memorial Drive
- Decatur — 213 Court St.
- Richmond — 400 N. A St.

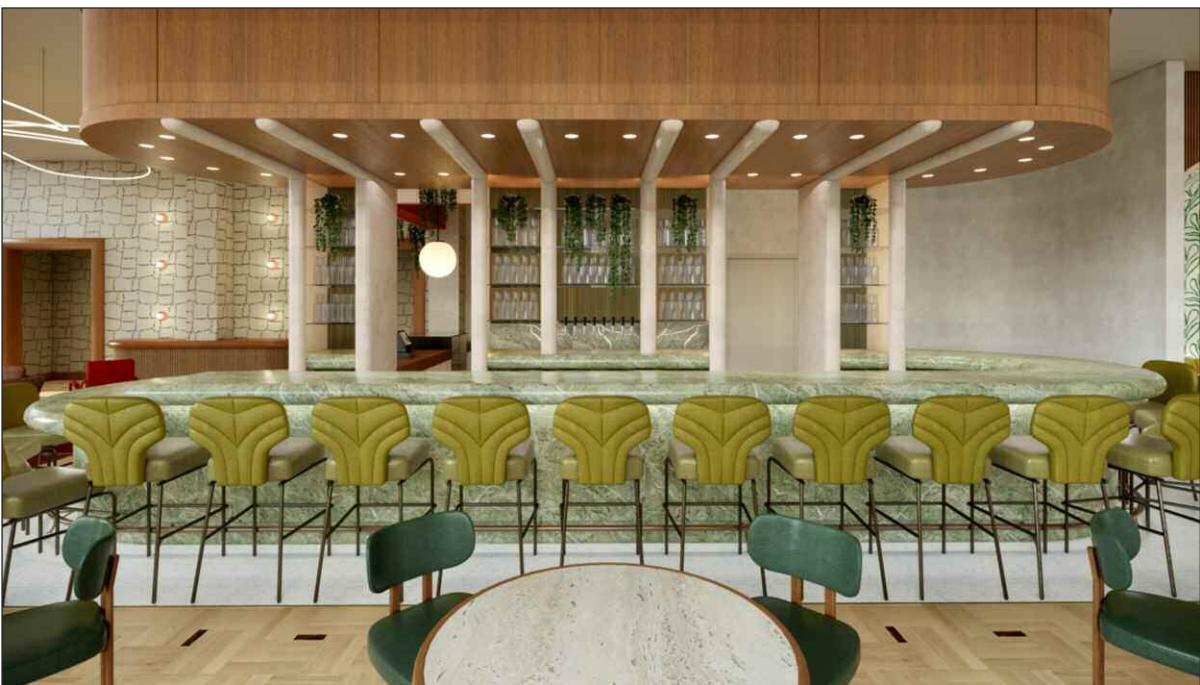
The fair in Muncie will also be used to hire for locations in Winchester, Lynn, Montpelier, Milledtown and Yorktown.

The Decatur fair will also be used to hire for the Berne location.

Hosting events

Indiana Department of Transportation is hosting hiring events for winter seasonal staff.

They will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at various sites, including the Indianapolis subdistrict office, 7105 S. Brookville Road, Indianapolis.



Rendering provided

The above artist's rendering shows the concept for Believe You Me's, a Bob Ross-inspired restaurant planned as part of the ongoing building project in The Village at Ball State University in Muncie. It will be part of The Cantio hotel.

For more information, visit INDOTJobs.com.

Training offered

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 23.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

Additional sessions will be held on Tuesdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 25.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

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.

Discussions planned

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 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 programs coming up.

The chamber's Emerging Leaders Forum is slated for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. It will include sessions on adaptability, leading

without a title, listening with your eyes and providing productive feedback.

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.

For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

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

FAA proposes a \$1.3 million fine for Boeing safety violations

Problems led to panel blowout on Alaska Airline 737 MAX

By LAUREN ROSENBLATT
The Seattle Times
Tribune News Service

The Federal Aviation Administration proposed Friday fining Boeing \$3.1 million for safety violations in the months leading up to the Alaska Airlines 737 MAX panel blowout last year.

The regulator said it "identified hundreds of quality system violations" at the manufacturer's Renton factory and its supplier Spirit AeroSystems between September 2023 and February 2024.

That September, a fuselage made its way through Spirit's Wichita, Kansas, factory, where workers construct the 737 MAX fuselages before shipping the structures to Boeing's Renton plant for final assembly.

In January 2024, a panel flew off that fuselage mid-flight, leaving a gaping hole in the side of the plane.

The FAA did not provide more detail Friday on the quality system violations it found in Boeing's operations during that time period.

The regulator said Boeing presented two un-airworthy aircraft to the FAA for airworthiness certification and failed to follow its quality system.

Additionally, the FAA said Boeing interfered with a safety program designed to let certain Boeing employees help FAA workers maintain oversight of the manufacturer. Boeing's involvement

with the program — called Organization Designation Authorization, or ODA — has been heavily scrutinized in the past, with FAA-deputized Boeing employees reporting that they felt pressured to act in the interest of their employer and feared retaliation if they raised safety concerns.

The FAA said Friday that a Boeing employee who was not involved in the ODA program pressured an ODA worker to sign off on a 737 MAX airplane so Boeing could meet its delivery schedule, even though the ODA worker had determined the aircraft did not comply with standards.

In response to the FAA's proposed fine, Boeing said Friday in a statement, "We regret the January 2024 ... accident and continue to work on strengthening our safety culture and improving first-time quality and accountability across our operations."

The company has spent the months since the panel blowout designing and implementing a safety and quality plan, including key performance metrics to gauge the quality of its airplanes as they move through the factory.

"Our team continues to implement these improvements, such as investing in workforce training, strengthening production system compliance and encouraging employees to speak up," Boeing said in its statement.

Spirit did not respond to a request for comment.

As part of Boeing's plan to improve quality and safety, it will bring Spirit back into its fold, roughly 20 years after spinning it out. The acquisition is still pending regulatory approval but both companies expect it will be finalized this year.

Boeing has 30 days to respond to the FAA, the agency said.

The FAA said Friday it "utilized its maximum statutory civil penalty authority." Still, the \$3.1 million fine is minor compared to Boeing's \$22.8 billion in revenue in the most recent fiscal quarter. Overall, Boeing reported a net loss of \$612 million, or 92 cents per share, for the three months from April to June.

The fine is also smaller than previous penalties issued by the FAA, including a \$17 million fine issued in 2021 for 737 production mistakes and a \$12 million fine issued in 2015 for a pattern of falsified paperwork.

William Alderman, founding partner of the aerospace and defense financial firm Alderman and Co., said the fine won't have a material impact on Boeing's earnings or free cash flow.

He called it a "gentle slap on the wrist" that acts as a reminder to Boeing that the FAA is paying attention.

Boeing is "already in a different place" than it was in September 2023, Alderman said. "Not fixed, not great, a long way to go, but the problems of 12 months ago ... I think they're in the rearview mirror."

Scott Hamilton, an analyst with the aerospace and consulting firm Lee- ham News, interpreted the FAA's fine differently.

To him, the fact that the FAA again mentioned pressure on Boeing's ODA program, after years of the company saying it would change the system, made him think Boeing's efforts in the wake of two fatal 737 MAX crashes six years ago were more "smoke and mirrors than substance."

"Despite all the fancy rhetoric Boeing had," Hamilton said, the FAA indicated the same problems persisted and may have contributed to the panel blowout years later."



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Trump, Xi to talk to seal TikTok deal

By **DANIEL FLATLEY, OLIVIA TAM and DANIEL BASTEIRO**
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
President Donald Trump said he would speak with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Friday, following talks between the countries to keep ByteDance Ltd.'s TikTok app running in the U.S.

"I will be speaking to President Xi on Friday. The relationship remains a very strong one!!!" Trump said in a post on social media Monday.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters after Trump's post — as discussions

Framework is in place to keep app running in the U.S.

in Madrid wrapped up — that a framework to keep the TikTok app running in the U.S. had been reached and that Trump and Xi would speak to complete the deal. The terms of the blueprint remain unclear.

"President Trump and party Chair Xi will speak on Friday to complete the deal, but we do

have a framework for the deal with TikTok," Bessent said. "I think the framework is for it to switch to U.S.-controlled ownership."

Trump and Bessent's comments come ahead of a deadline this week to secure a deal that would divest TikTok's American operations to com-

ply with a U.S. national security law. Trump has already extended the deadline more than once to keep the popular app, which he credits with boosting his appeal among younger voters in the last election, running.

China's Vice Commerce Minister Li Chenggang also told reporters in Madrid that a framework of consensus had been reached on TikTok, while cautioning that Beijing won't sacrifice principles for a deal. China takes issue with the politicization of trade and economic issues, Li said.

High-level engagement between Washington and Bei-

jing has kicked up a gear this month ahead of a potential in-person summit meeting between Trump and Xi when both are expected to attend an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in South Korea at the end of next month. Last week, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth spoke with their Chinese counterparts.

The two nations have suspended the most extreme economic protection measures against each other, which saw U.S. tariffs go up as high as 145%, with the latest deadline coming in mid-November.



Tribune News Service/Las Vegas Review-Journal/Chase Stevens

Celebration starts

Attendees dance during the fifth annual kickoff celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month on Sunday at Liberty Park outside of North Las Vegas City Hall. The event is a monthlong celebration that "provides an opportunity to recognize and reflect on the significant impact of Hispanic and Latino heritage in shaping our shared history and future."

Paying ...

Continued from page 2

The department will also resume reimbursements for jail holds, where inmates who have been convicted of state crimes remain in county jails until DOC picks them up.

State law requires pick-up within five days, but counties are reimbursed at a daily rate for each additional day an inmate is held.

The General Assembly raised that per diem earlier this year, and Goeller said DOC currently owes counties "approximately \$6.1 million to 41 counties for these holds."

"The department will begin reimbursing these counties immediately," she added.

The largest payments are set to go to several northern Indiana counties with high numbers of state holds.

Elkhart County is owed more than \$638,000 for 34,024 days of holds, while St. Joseph County is owed nearly \$397,000 for 21,910 days. In Lake County, where 13,463 hold days were recorded, the reimbursement totals just under \$178,000.

Additionally, Delaware County will receive roughly \$216,000 and Vigo County about \$290,000 — both for more than 10,000 days of holds. Hendricks County, meanwhile, is set to receive more than \$171,000.

Other counties are owed smaller amounts, such as Monroe County at about \$53,000; Jennings County at nearly \$27,000; and Fountain County at about \$39,000, the DOC summary shows.

Goeller said the reimbursements will come in a single distribution next week, and that "money will come from IDOC's budget, which includes funding for jail payments."

Affirms ...

Continued from page 1

Rubio also attended mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The two spoke about how to end the war in Gaza, which has raged since Hamas militants attacked Israel in October 2023, and to secure the release of the remaining 48 Israeli hostages, around 20 of whom are thought to be alive.

Those targeted by Israeli jets last week were discussing a U.S. proposal to end the conflict, which has roiled the wider Middle East, devastated much of Gaza and displaced most of the territory's 2 million people.

Arab governments said Israel's attack would hurt efforts to reach a ceasefire. Israeli officials argued the operation would increase the pressure on Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union.

The Doha strike came as Israel prepares to deepen an offensive on Gaza City, the territory's de facto capital and home to hundreds of thousands of people. The U.S. has broadly backed the plan, while many of Israel's other allies have said it will cause more suffering for Palestinian civilians and should not take place.

"Hamas can surrender tonight, if they want, and lay down their weapons," Rubio said. "We'll continue to pursue that route. It's the ideal outcome. But it may require, ultimately, a concise military operation to eliminate them."

Many Arab leaders, including Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, are meeting in Qatar on Monday to discuss a response to the Israeli attack. It's unclear what they can do and most analysts say they have few avenues through which to hurt Israel economically.

Qatar is one of the U.S.'s main allies in the Middle East and is the site of the biggest American military base in the region. The gas-rich country has hosted Hamas officials for over a decade, something the U.S. has endorsed to improve communication with the group.

More than 64,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the war started, according to the Hamas-run health ministry there, and a United Nations body has declared a famine in parts of the territory. Hamas killed 1,200 people with its assault on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

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♥ K J 3
♦ K 7 2
♣ A K 5

WEST
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♥ 10 8 5
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ J 8 7 4

EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ A Q 9 6
♦ 10 8 4
♣ 10 Q 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A 6 5
♣ 9 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead — diamond queen.

On some deals, the outcome is a forgone conclusion. Declarer takes his tricks, loses what he has to lose, and that's that. On other deals, the outcome might hinge solely on the lie of the adverse cards. The opposing distribution or the location of a particular card determines the result, and there is nothing that can be done about it.

On both types of hands, declarer has little or no chance to demonstrate his skill. But on a third type of hand — more common than the

other two — declarer is presented with an opportunity for skillful play. It is on these occasions that he must consider various options and then choose the one that offers either the greatest chance of success or that is designed to overcome an unlucky lie of the cards. Today's hand illustrates the latter case.

In four spades, South can count four potential losers — a diamond and three hearts. Declarer sees that by leading twice toward dummy's K-J-3 of hearts, he can avoid losing three heart tricks if West has either the ace or queen of hearts, or both. His only real concern, therefore, is how to make the contract if East has the ace and queen. This is where skill enters the picture.

To assure the contract, South wins the diamond lead with the ace, draws trump, then cashes the A-K of clubs and ruffs dummy's last club. He then plays the king of diamonds and exits with a diamond.

He does not care one whit which opponent actually takes the trick. If East wins, he must play a heart to dummy's K-J-3 or yield a ruff-and-discard by leading his remaining club. If West wins the diamond, he can return a heart, but dummy simply plays the jack or king, forcing East to win and concede the game-going trick as before.

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE DISPLAY OF REALLY SPECIAL BORDERS AROUND PICTURES: THE HALL OF FRAME.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scent
5 "He/— (pronoun pairing)
8 Taxi alter-native
12 Low horn
13 Solid-rock insert
14 Sleuth Wolfe
15 Knightly conduct
17 Anthro-pologist Margaret
18 Outer (Pref.)
19 Well-springs
21 Alan Ladd western
24 Landed
25 "— in Boots"
26 Santiago natives
30 Ballpark fig.
31 Plum relatives
32 Luau necklace
33 Passage-ways for Santa
35 Optimum
36 Broad-casts

DOWN

2 "Gee, ya think?"
3 Japanese sash
4 Black birds
5 Over-head light?
6 Leb. neighbor
7 Short-lived insects
8 Remove from silent mode
9 Existed
10 Part of Q.E.D.
11 Scepters
16 Chopper
20 Fixes squeaks
21 Detail, in short
22 "Pipe down!"
23 Sparkling Italian wine
24 Greetings at sea
26 Like some office work
27 Out of the storm
28 Lawman Eliot
29 Poses
31 Use scissors
34 Bull or bear
35 Chaps
37 Tampa Bay
38 NFLer
39 107, to Cato
40 Atmosphere
41 Pickling herb
44 "Yoo—!"
45 Bud
46 Notable time
47 LAPD alert

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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51				52				53		

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Patriots win pair

Strong singles, resilient doubles queue sweep

By **ETHAN OSKROBA**

The Commercial Review

It certainly wasn't a sleepy Saturday morning for the Patriots.

Jay County High School boys tennis had to labor for a pair of match victories while hosting the Patriot Invitational, but ultimately found a way, edging the Evansville Central Bears 3-2 before topping the Elwood Panthers 4-1.

"I thought it was a good day, in parts," said Jay County coach Donald Gillespie. "There were some moments that we were a little leery, but kids come through."

Early in the initial match against Evansville Central, there were no guarantees that the Patriots (8-4) would prevail. While Henry Dirksen cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Conor Hoover at No. 2 singles, the Patriot lead didn't last long.

The Bears pushed Jay County to the brink when they put the next two points on the board as Wyatt Plisky blitzed Paul Dirksen, 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1 singles before Sawyer Plisky and Jack Ungethiem downed Alex Miller and Kadyr Carpenter, 6-3, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles.

That left the No. 2 doubles tandem of Brock Wasson and Gabe Overton with its back to the wall, especially after dropping the first set to Jaxon Trautvetter and Jayden Guin, 6-2.

"Coach talked to us, and he was basically saying that (we were) playing scared and shouldn't be losing by that much," Overton said. "So we kind of just flipped a switch and changed our mentality right there."

Empowered by the mental transition, Wasson and Overton rallied in set two, earning three breaks. The third one came in the clinching game, when Overton finished off the set with a massive charging forehand to cement the 6-2 set win.

With Jay County's Clark Wellman firmly in command of his No. 3 singles match, Wasson and Overton knew that the team's fate rested on their shoulders as they headed into a super tiebreaker.

"Coach came up and told us that we needed to win that one if we wanted a chance to win," Wasson said. "So we knew what was at stake."

The duo shone under pres-



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Alex Miller of the JCHS boys tennis team hits a backhanded volley during the No. 1 doubles match on Saturday's Patriot Invitational. Miller and Kadyr Carpenter fell in both matches, but the Patriots beat both Evansville Central and Elwood.

sure, with a pair of mini breaks giving Jay County a 5-2 edge they would never relinquish. An Overton lob that the Bears failed to return cemented the 10-3 tiebreaker win.

"In the tiebreaker, we had all of the momentum we had, so we were rolling and rolling," Overton said. "And we just tried to stay hype right there, and just keep it. Try not to get scared, try not to get down, just keep going."

Moments later, Wellman finished off a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Ryland Oglesby to complete the Patriots' win.

While the successes of Wellman and the No. 2 doubles pair propelled the Patriots to one victory, they immediately had to recalibrate, taking on Elwood in the second half of the twin bill.

While Miller and Carpenter

were again dispatched at No. 1 doubles, this time in 6-1, 6-0 fashion by Liam Cannon and Jackson Gordon, the singles courts swiftly secured the Patriot triumph.

Henry Dirksen became the only Patriot to win two singles matches on the day, vanquishing Kalen Leever, 6-4, 6-1. (Wellman technically also received a second win, as the Panthers did not have a player at No. 3 singles.)

After a gritty first set victory, Henry Dirksen got the second set off to a roaring start, employing a pair of thunderous two-handed backhands to break Leever in the opening game. He rode the momentum to two more breaks as he polished off the set in seven games.

"He played really well today," Gillespie said. "That's the Henry I'm used to seeing at

practice when he's playing his cousin Paul. There's been a couple matches (where) we haven't seen that, and he knows he's better being on the aggressive side than just playing back."

Paul Dirksen quickly followed his kinsman by besting Drake Quesada at No. 1 singles, 6-3, 6-3, to clinch the match for Jay County.

That left Wasson and Overton as the final Patriots on the court, once again caught in a riveting duel, this time with Kolin Leever and Jacob Schmitt. While the Patriot pair again lost the first set, 6-4, they came alive once more in the second stanza, winning 6-3.

That set the stage for another super tiebreaker, in which the Patriots prevailed again, parlaying a 7-1 lead into a 10-6 victory on the strength of multiple

finishes at the net by both players.

In total, Wasson and Overton spent roughly three hours on the court with only a short break between matches.

"My legs definitely hurt," Wasson said. "But when I'm playing, I don't really feel it, so I just kept on going. It didn't feel like that long, it felt like a quick day, but it was fun."

It might have been a little less fun for Gillespie, who found himself stressing during the pair's suspenseful contests, but was pleased with the result.

"Really proud of the No. 2 doubles team," Gillespie said. "I saw some fight in them, which that's what I'm looking for. I wish they wouldn't go three sets, it's a little nerve-racking, but I think that they handled it well and I'm very happy for those two guys."

Prosperers ...

Continued from page 10

The team's pair of seniors also ran in close proximity to each other, with Alexis Sibray completing the team score with a 28th-place finish in 23:17.73 and Paityn Wendel 16 seconds behind her in 30th.

With Caleb Garringer out of the lineup again — he is expected to return for this weekend's Yorktown Invitational — Max Klopfenstein led the Jay County boys with his time of 18:52.91. (Garringer's season-best time would have put him in third

place and shaved about 70 points off of the team's score.)

Mason Tomboni of Wapahani won in 16:16.96 over Northeastern sophomore Dash Thacker (16:27.17), who spent his freshman season at JCHS. Caison Lloyd stayed

within sight of his senior teammate, posting a time of 19:03.14 for 35th place.

"Caison Lloyd has been impressing us as a freshman," Williams said. "He's come in and he's really continued to improve every single meet and push himself.

So we've been proud of how he's been performing."

She had similar comments about freshman Grant Glentzer, who finished 43rd in 19:36.79. Rounding out the team total for the Patriots were Alex Rivers (62nd

— 20:28.79) and Ethan Powers (91st — 22:11.49).

Alyvia Muhlenkamp also ran for the Patriot girls, placing 70th in 30:48.09, while John Cook (92nd — 22:15.85) and Isaac Hawbaker (104th — 26:19.13) competed for the boys.

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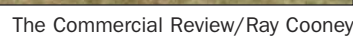
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The trio of Patriot runners



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The team's pair of seniors also ran in close proximity to



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