



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

District seeking Safe Streets feedback

Program focuses on preventing roadway fatalities

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Funding is available to make travel safer. East Central Indiana Regional Planning District is seeking feedback on what areas need the most attention.

The planning district is in the final stages of working through a planning grant to seek implementation funding for projects through the Safe Streets and Roads For All federal grant program. The program, created through the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, focuses on preventing roadway deaths and serious injuries. There is almost \$2 billion in funding available for projects nationwide.

Goals for the grant program include reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities, creating sustainable infrastructure, promoting economic growth, enhancing mobility and connectivity. It focuses on implementation of Vision Zero, a national road safety strategy that integrates engineering, education and enforcement, and the safe system approach, a philosophy that acknowledges human error is inevitable. Utilizing those approaches, Indiana Department of Transportation is seeking to address and mitigate areas of risk.

Funding can be used for projects involving streets, sidewalks, bike trails, signs, lights, pedestrian walkways and other related items. (In 2024, Indianapolis received nearly \$20 million and Shelbyville got about \$3.5 million in implementation grants.)

See Feedback page 2

In concert

Lilly Johnson (left) performs during Just Treble's show as part of Sunday's Jay County Junior-Senior High School fall choral concert. Just Treble's performance featured the songs "I Want Candy" and "Promise of a New Day." Also performing Sunday were the seventh and eighth grade choir and the Patriot Edition show choir. Pictured above, Kinley Thompson sings during the junior high choir performance that included the songs "Free Ride" and a mash-up of "Go the Distance" and "Defying Gravity." Below, Jacob Weitzel dances as part of the Patriot Edition performance. The co-ed group's show features the Sister Sledge song "We Are Family."



Shutdown could hurt services like WIC, SNAP

State would have to step in to keep funds flowing to families

By WHITNEY DOWNARD and CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

In the coming days, a food aid program that helps millions of mothers and young children will likely run out of money. States like Indiana must use their own dollars to keep funds flowing to families or let it lapse, a move that could cut benefits for the 157,000 Hoosiers who rely on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC.

But the Indiana Department of Health declined to share specifics about how WIC would operate in the state, saying that "funds have been identified to keep WIC operating as normal for the foreseeable future."

"IDOH continues to monitor the situation, and WIC is operating as normal," said Greta Sanderson, the chief communications officer for the agency.

But advocates warn of the potential impacts to Hoosier mothers — including those who are pregnant — and children relying on government services like WIC if such funds ran out.

"It's providing nutrition to a population where nutrition is critical for development," said Emily Weikert Bryant, the executive director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry. "... no matter what, our member food banks will continue to be there for communities and for our neighbors who are in need of food assistance."

See Services page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

At the wheel

One-year-old Anthony Schroen of Portland pretends to drive a firetruck Saturday morning during Portland Fire Department's Fire Safety Day. The event included various fire department vehicles, information from first responders and visits with the department's dog Huey.

Deaths

Verla Roessner, 93, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 71 degrees Sunday in Jay County. The low was 42. Tonight's low will be 50. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high in the upper 60s. The high will also be in the 60s Thursday before climbing into the 70s Friday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Second Harvest Food Bank will host tailgate food distributions. •Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 102 W. Holmes Ave., Redkey •Thursday, Oct. 16, at Blackford County Fairgrounds, 409 E. Park Ave., Hartford City Tailgates are scheduled for 10 a.m.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting. Thursday — Preview of the JCHS football regular-season finale against Heritage. Friday — Results from the FRHS volleyball team's tournament opener.



Obituaries

Verla Roessner
April 6, 1932-April 6, 1932
Verla M. Roessner, age 93, of Fort Recovery passed away on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater, Ohio. She was born on April 6, 1932, in Fort Recovery to the late Linville and Regina (Killian) Gagle. In addition to her parents, Verla was preceded in death by her husband, Linus L. Roessner, whom she married on Sept. 30, 1953, and who passed away on June 19, 1996; her son, Joseph Roessner; her grandson, Adam Roessner; her siblings, Ruth Presscott, Clara Mae McWay, Linville Gagle Jr. and Calvin Gagle; and her in-laws, Esther Roessner, Alvin and Gertrude Roessner, Helen and Melvin Heitkamp, Harold Roessner,

Irma and Ralph Wuebker, Norbert Roessner, Eugene Roessner, Charles Roessner, Anna Lee and Jack Kunkel, Joan Roessner, Joseph Roessner and Paul Wehrle. Verla is survived by her children, Ralph (Irene) Roessner of Fort Recovery, Jeff (Deb) Roessner of New Bremen, Ohio, Laura (Doug) Burke of Portland, Dale (Diane) Roessner of Coldwater, Roger (Lisa) Roessner of Fort Recovery, Tim Roessner of Yorktown, Mary (Baird) Corrigan of Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada, Susie (Steve) McCain of Fort Recovery, Linus (Laura) Roessner of Bellefontaine and Beth (Aaron) Guggenbiller of Fort Recovery; her 45 grandchil-



Roessner

dren and 55 and counting great-grandchildren; her sister, Alice Jean (Carroll) Eichenhauer of Celina, Ohio; her sister-in-law, Peg Bergman of Fort Recovery; her brother-in-law, Virgil Miller of Lima, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews. Verla Marie graduated from Fort Recovery High School in 1950 and went on to attend beauty school in Toledo. Her life was one of dedication and love — raising a large family while working alongside her husband on their family farm. A devoted member of St. Peter Catholic Church, Verla actively participated in the ladies’ sodality, taught CCD classes and faithfully handled the church laundry for many years. Her faith and service were central to her life. After the passing of her beloved husband Linnie, Verla

continued to care for others by working with Visiting Nurses and later babysitting in her home. She found joy in embroidery, crocheting, crossword puzzles and painting. Her artistic talent lives on through the hand-painted keepsakes treasured by her children and grandchildren, as well as the lovingly crocheted baby blankets she made for family, friends and eventually for Dayton Children’s Hospital. Verla often reflected on her life with gratitude, saying she had lived a “good and blessed life.” A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17 at St. Peter Catholic Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Guests may visit with Verla’s family on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 2 to 7 p.m. and again on Fri-

day from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family request that contributions may be made to the Fort Recovery Community Foundation in support of the Verla Marie Gagle Helping Hands Scholarship. Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com. ***** *The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

CR almanac

Wednesday 10/15	Thursday 10/16	Friday 10/17	Saturday 10/18	Sunday 10/19
 68/46 Cloudy skies with some sun, leading to a high around 68 degrees.	 69/47 Thursday's forecast shows sunny skies with winds between 5 to 10 mph.	 76/57 Mostly cloudy skies are expected Friday, when the low will be around 57.	 81/57 There's a 60% chance of showers on Saturday when winds will reach 10 to 20 mph.	 64/43 Another 60% chance of showers with winds again at 10 to 20 mph.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$160 million	14-19-21-24-26-45-49-59-64-68-69-70-71-72-76-77 Cash 5: 17-21-25-33-34 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$497 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-4-7 Pick 4: 7-3-1-6 Pick 5: 3-5-7-4-4 Evening Pick 3: 4-9-8 Pick 4: 5-9-1-2 Pick 5: 4-8-1-6-1 Rolling Cash 5: 5-21-27-34-37 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-2 Daily Four: 5-3-9-1 Quick Draw: 2-5-6-7-8-26-33-37-61-64-66-68-69-70-72-73-75-76-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 1-6-4 Daily Four: 6-3-0-5 Quick Draw: 4-5-6-13-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.02 Nov. corn3.97 Dec. corn4.12	Late Oct. beans.....9.78 Wheat4.55
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.02 Dec. corn4.17 Jan. corn4.23	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.87 Nov. corn.....3.92 Beans.....9.75 Late Oct. beans.....9.80 Wheat4.90
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....3.92 Dec. corn4.02 Beans.....9.70	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.12 Oct. corn3.97 Beans.....9.50 Dec. beans9.73 Wheat4.35

Today in history

In 1066, during the Battle of Hastings, the invading army of William, duke of Normandy, defeated King Harold II of England. The feat came to be known as the Norman Conquest.

In 1912, former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was shot in an assassination attempt in Milwaukee; the bullet lodged in his chest, but after insisting on finishing his scheduled speech, he was taken to the hospital.

In 1926, “Winnie-the-Pooh” was published. The popular teddy bear character debuted in a collection of short stories created by British author A.A. Milne.

In 1947, American

Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier, flying an experimental aircraft at Mach 1.07 at an altitude of 45,000 feet.

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Prize for Peace. King was a social activist and minister in America, leading the civil rights movement from 1955 up until his assassination in 1968.

In 2013, Jay County Commissioners put in a \$30,000 offer for a property owned by Robert Shier near Jay County Jail. The county ultimately purchased the piece of land and expanded the parking lot for the jail.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Ridgeville	Town Council, fire station, 302 N. Walnut St. Thursday 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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Capsule Reports

Hit pedestrian
A Dunkirk resident complained of pain after an Upland woman hit him with her car at the intersection of Meridian and Water streets in Portland about 9:30 p.m. Friday. Tessa Mozden, 28, was driving her 2017 Jeep Patriot on Water Street and turning north onto Meridian Street when she noticed a pedestrian, Scott E. Bragg, in the road. She told police she wasn’t able to stop her car before crashing into him. Bragg complained of lower back pain. He refused treatment on scene. Damage is estimated at less than \$1,000.

Intersection crash
A Portland woman crashed into a Portland man’s car at the intersection of Ship and North streets about noon Saturday. Veronica K. Wilson, 63, was driving her 2019 Chevrolet Equinox west on North Street and stopped at its intersection with Ship Street. She told police she didn’t see the oncoming southbound 2017 Chevrolet Pacifica driven by 22-year-old Logan D. Schroen, and

continued into the intersection. Schroen told police Wilson failed to yield the right of way, and he wasn’t able to stop before crashing into her. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Wilson’s vehicle was towed.

Avoided deer
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a Ridgeville man swerved off U.S. 27 to avoid a deer and lost control of the vehicle he was driving, causing an accident about 11:51 p.m. Sunday. Draven B. James, 22, was driving a 2006 Hyundai Tiburon south on the highway near county road 650 South when he noticed a deer in the road. He swerved into the opposite lane and back into the southbound lane, and he lost control of the vehicle. The car continued into a ditch west of the highway and hit a culvert under the driveway at 6692 S. U.S. 27. He continued south into an embankment, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report, and bounced back into the road. James sustained a back injury and was transport-

ed to IU Health Jay. The car he was driving was towed.

Lost control
A Portland man complained of pain after the vehicle he was driving went off county road 900 East and into a ditch about 5:35 a.m. Friday. Arais Campuzano-Alonzo, 24, was driving a 2013 Ford Escape north on county road 900 East just south of county road 200 North when he drove off the east side of the road. His passenger side’s tires went off the road, and he overcorrected, causing the car to spin counterclockwise. The car went across the road and into a ditch west of county road 900 East, where it rolled onto its roof. Campuzano-Alonzo complained of upper arm pain. He refused to be transported by emergency medical personnel. He was cited for driving without a license and driving without financial responsibility. The vehicle he was driving was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Hit bridge
Damage is estimated

between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Bluffton man crashed his truck along county road 300 North about noon Saturday. Ryan P. Kemp, 41, was driving his 2000 Ford F-150 west on county road 300 North near its intersection with county road 550 West. He told police he drifted off the south side of the road and hit a concrete bridge rail with the side of his truck. Kemp’s vehicle was towed.

Rolled semi
A Fort Wayne man rolled the semi he was driving along U.S. 27 in Jay County about 7:35 a.m. Sunday. Tavaris D. Davis Jr., 18, was driving a 2022 Kenworth T3 Series south on the highway near its intersection with county road 200 North when he drove off the side of the road. He told police he overcorrected, causing the semi to roll onto its side and stop in the middle of the road. The vehicle Davis was driving is registered to HC Transport of Cincinnati, Ohio. It was towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Feedback ...

Continued from page 1
East Central Indiana Regional Planning District is leading the grant effort for Jay, Blackford, Delaware and Grant counties in partnership with Delaware Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission and engineering consultant American Structurepoint. “If we can get that regional cooperation, it will help all of us,” said Matthew Nichols, the project manager for the program. The current planning stage involves gathering data and doing other preparation work. Nichols spent the summer and early fall visiting fairs, festivals and farmers markets to share information and seek feedback. Through the

end of the year, he plans to visit local government bodies to share information about the program. The planning district is also looking for feedback from the public. A 21-question survey is available at bit.ly/ecirpdssrfamap. It allows members of the public to “drop a pin” at intersections they feel are unsafe. (The interactive map currently shows one active pin in Jay County, at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 600 South on the southwest side of Redkey.)

“We need feedback,” said Nichols, adding that he has gathered about 100 surveys thus far. “We need data. Because that’s how we’re going to get our answers and get our projects.” The data gathered from the surveys will be used along with crash data collected over the past decade to determine the areas that could most benefit from safety improvements and what projects will be selected to apply for funding. The planning grant runs through the end of the year, after which East Central Indiana Regional Planning District will work on an action plan in early 2026. It will be used to apply for grant funding to implement the selected projects, with a decision expected by fall 2026.

SERVICES

Today

Patch, Betty: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Friday

Roessner, Verla: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by

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Services ...

Continued from page 1
Bryant said other food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, appeared to have steady funding in the coming weeks alongside WIC. However, SNAP is reportedly also running out of money even as the Trump administration explores using tariff revenue to fund WIC. In a preliminary estimate on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s website, 156,752 Hoosiers received benefits from WIC in May 2025, the latest data available. Of those, more than half — 87,000, or 56% — were children while infants and mothers each made up 22% of Indiana’s total, or roughly 35,000.

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Photos provided

New members

Jay County Cincinnatus League recently inducted new members. Pictured at left are sponsor Karen Bailey, new member Lucretia Miller and Cincinnatus League president Drew Houck. Pictured at right are sponsor Barbara Street, new members Cameron Paxson and Jennifer Booth and Houck.



Friend’s presence made funeral more stressful

DEAR ABBY: My close friend “Annie” came to my father’s funeral. She had met him only a couple of times. While I realized she was doing it to be there for me, I felt responsible for her since she knew no one there. I had her sit with me, but I was trying to deal with friends and family I hadn’t seen in a long time. I ended up unable to talk with everyone as the funeral was very emotional. I appreciated her coming, but I wished she hadn’t been there.

I prefer to avoid funerals

Dear Abby



because I become emotional. Unless it’s immediate family, I prefer to remember the deceased the way they were and keep those images as my last memories.

My dilemma: Annie’s mom is

having health issues, and the time will come when she passes. I have met her a few times, but we are not close. I feel I should go to the funeral to be there for Annie as she was for me, but I would prefer to remember her mom as she was. So, do I go for her sake and end up an emotional wreck, or get together with her a few days later, just the two of us, which is what I wish she had done for me? — SAD EITHER WAY IN THE EAST

DEAR SAD: Please accept

my sympathy for the loss of your father. I can only imagine how emotional you and your family must have been at that funeral. Annie meant to be supportive, and I don’t think it would be helpful to point out that her presence distracted you from talking with the many relatives who had gathered.

I do think you need to ask Annie those questions. (“Do you need me to be present for emotional support at your mother’s services, or would

you prefer we get together — just the two of us — a few days later?”) They are important. Take your cues from her reaction, but be prepared for the fact that when it actually happens, her feelings may be different.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane 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.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the

Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

Wednesday

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon

each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday’s Solution

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

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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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Shutdown is as pointless as others

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

With funding expired, new appropriations bills stalled and progress on a stopgap nonexistent, Congress has for the 15th time since 1981 allowed the federal government to shut its doors. Don't expect this round to be any more edifying than the others.

Republicans want to extend current spending levels until November, as a bill passed by the House on Sept. 19 would do. To lend their support to a similar measure in the Senate, and thus overcome a filibuster, Democrats have issued a list of policy demands (on health care and much else), on which Republicans have so far refused to compromise.

One week on, the two sides remain far apart. They should both see the virtue in minimizing the harm caused by this needless impasse and getting back to work.

Guest Editorial

Democrats had many reasons to avoid this clash. As always, the public is overwhelmingly opposed to shutting down the government. Historically, parties making such demands have almost invariably taken the blame for the resulting chaos. And with their own ranks divided about what they hope to achieve with this maneuver, Democrats are risking more than the usual political blowback.

This shutdown, moreover, could prove more harmful than most. A memo circulated last month by the Office of Manage-

ment and Budget instructed agencies to consider permanently firing many of the employees who would ordinarily be furloughed until a deal was reached. Although Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called the memo "an attempt at intimidation," he and his colleagues would be better off assuming it is entirely sincere.

With the labor market already weak, it's not a great time for sweeping government layoffs. Bloomberg Economics estimates that a three-week shutdown could push the unemployment rate up by as much as 0.4 percentage points, to 4.7%; if the administration follows through on its threats, the rate might remain as high as 4.5%, rather than receding as normal after the government reopens. Each week of a shutdown might cut 0.2 percentage points from annu-

alized real GDP growth for the quarter.

That's to say nothing of the broader harm done to the public. Air traffic is already starting to slow thanks to staffing shortages. Active-duty troops may miss their next paycheck. Depending on how long the shutdown lasts, taxpayers can expect worsening disruptions to regulatory inspections, essential data collection, permitting and export certifications, certain loans and benefits, government contracts, and more. The tourism industry alone could lose \$1 billion a week.

Under less fraught conditions, the Democrats' policy goals might be reasonable. They hope to extend tax credits for purchasing insurance on Affordable Care Act exchanges, roll back cuts to Medicaid that were part of the reconciliation bill enacted in July, and restrict the ability of

the White House to hold up congressionally authorized spending. Still, this shutdown is unlikely to get them closer to any of these objectives.

What it will do is cause a lot of unnecessary chaos. Perhaps, if the pain is felt widely enough this time, both parties will be moved to reform America's broken budgeting process — for instance, by automatically triggering continuing resolutions whenever funding expires. They might even begin to see the wisdom in passing regular appropriations bills on time.

Alas, that's for another day. For now, Democrats should agree to a stopgap bill to turn the lights back on. Republicans, including the president, should commit to good-faith negotiations over the health-care impasse. Everyone involved should agree that no one wins from governance-by-episodic-crisis.

Modify committees or eliminate them

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

More than 25 years of monitoring the Indiana General Assembly has taught me one clear thing — it's time to vastly reform or eliminate interim study committees.



Niki Kelly

These panels so rarely result in advancing policy discussions that they are simply unnecessary. And yet the state continues to spend money on them year after year. The average cost the last four years is about \$100,000 annually though it has come down recently.

The spending is largely in increased per diem and mileage paid to lawmakers to attend the meetings, though there are some staff expenses as well.

I love the theory behind study committees — that sometimes the best law is not made in the heat of a fast-moving legislative session. Instead, there are complex topics that deserve a more thorough vetting.

So, legislative leaders every year pick issues that need to be studied more intensely during the summer and fall months. This year, 12 committees were assigned topics ranging from how to help Hoosiers with medical debt to barriers for licensed professions and the economic value of public recreational land.

Usually, the committees are made up only of legislators, but a few panels also have members with specialized expertise.

One good thing about the committees is that a lot of really good information is presented to them and many studies, analyses and documents are made available to the public. But that's where the usefulness ends.

Many of the committees meet only once, though a few get in two meetings. I would say, generally, we are talking about a few hours of discussion on some pretty significant issues. And then a final report is adopted with little fanfare. And what's in those reports?

Not much.

It's usually a recitation of how many meetings were held and who spoke at them. And then there is the recommendation section. Here is a sample from a few committees this year that have already adopted their reports.

The Interim Study Committee on Courts and the Judiciary heard some fascinating proposals in terms of medical debt but didn't come up with a single rec-

ommendation.

"Chair (Liz) Brown reviewed the topics considered by the Committee during the interim, as outlined in the draft final report. The Committee will not make recommendations regarding medical debt, the INjail Public Portal, or the proposal to allocate judicial resources. The Committee approved the final report by a vote of 14-0," the minutes read.

Similarly, the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications reviewed annual reports of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and "issued no findings or recommendations."

Sometimes the panels don't want to wade into specifics of legislation so as not to pin lawmakers down on hot topics too early. But more often it's that there just isn't time in one or two meetings to do any work of depth.

I want to give some credit to the Interim Study Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, which met twice and adopted 13 recommendations. They included reintroducing bills from the 2025 session that didn't quite make it to the finish line. Other suggestions were more aspirational, such as additional funding for building and maintenance at state parks, establishing a dedicated source of conservation funding and implementing a system to collect visitor fees at state fish and wildlife areas.

Occasionally, there are some interim committees that make real progress. But they are the aberration, not the norm. And it's time for lawmakers to either do away with them altogether or strengthen them in a way that allows for thoughtful and realistic recommendations for specific legislation.

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



Gen Z voicing its discontent

By **ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD**
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Around the world, Gen Z is leading a wave of anti-government protests. It is the most significant spike in global dissent since the Arab Spring 15 years ago, with a geographic reach already to four continents. Though the proximate cause of protests in each country differs, all are driven by young people who are angry at rising government corruption, poor government services and mismanaged economies that leave them with bleak futures.

In cities across Morocco, young people have taken to the streets for days demanding an end to corruption and better social services and employment opportunities. The protests are loosely organized by an anonymous group that goes by the name "GenZ 212" after Morocco's country code. They have clashed violently in some cases with security forces, and the government is now calling for dialogue.

Thousands are demonstrating across at least eight cities in Madagascar, protesting power and water cuts. The police met them with force, killing at least 22 people, according to the United Nations. In response, the president dissolved his government and called for a new one to be formed, even inviting people to apply online for its positions. But protesters returned to the streets the next day, demanding the president himself step down too.

Over 8,000 miles away in Peru, costly pension reform sparked the ongoing Gen Z rallies against their president, and they continue fueled more broadly by anger at economic insecurity, corruption scandals and a lack of accountability for dozens of protesters killed during demonstrations that occurred in 2022. Clashes with police have left at least 19 injured so far. Transportation unions joined the fray last week with a strike to protest violence and extortion of drivers.

In Nepal, protests first erupted in September over a social media

Elizabeth Shackelford



ban but developed into a general backlash against widespread government corruption. Though the organizers urged peace, these protests, too, turned violent, with police firing on demonstrators and crowds then setting fire to the parliamentary building and government leaders' homes. Seventy-four people were killed, and the country's prime minister resigned. About 8,000 young Nepalis voted for their choice of interim prime minister through the Discord app. The former chief justice, Sushila Karki, emerged as the winner. Though the process had no legal authority, the president then appointed her to the position with the mandate to oversee new elections in six months.

In Indonesia, protests came after news of a \$3,000 monthly housing allowance for lawmakers, 10 times the minimum wage in a country where most people struggle to meet basic living costs. They grew more aggressive after an armored police van ran over and killed a young delivery driver. The subsequent online tumult drove more people and organizations into the streets.

Other countries where Gen Z has led anti-government protests recently include Kenya, Togo, the Philippines, Serbia, Georgia and East Timor. Some of these movements have continued for months or keep reemerging despite growing violence and repression against them.

The grievances driving these movements are real. Each of these countries faces government corruption and high youth unemployment. Young people want better governance and are fed up with suffering from poor services and economies

while their leaders get rich around them and inequality grows.

These movements also share methods, particularly the role of social media, which has fueled and facilitated them all. Young activists are finding common cause across borders, gaining inspiration and courage through other movements going viral. It helps that this is the first generation to be native to that medium. They share symbols, too, such as the pirate flag adopted from a popular Japanese animation series that has become a common emblem of their fight against abusive authority.

The protests are all loosely coordinated, happening almost organically online rather than organized and promoted by traditional activist groups or political institutions. Social media platforms not only make it possible to instantaneously connect and alert people across cities, nations and the world, but they also provide a level of anonymity and fluidity that has made it harder for governments to interrupt or crush them.

The milestones some of these movements have already accomplished is inspiring: toppling bad governments, securing policy changes, and forcing dialogue and inclusion.

But, as the Arab Spring taught us, there is no guarantee that what comes after will, in fact, be better. Many of the movements will continue to face violent repression. Concessions are not guaranteed, and even if they are secured, governing is difficult business. It is far more difficult to build something up than it is to tear something down.

As the former prime minister of Nepal said as he left power, "Now your generation will have to lead the country!" They've inspired many around the world so far with their activism. Let's hope Gen Z is ready for the political and governance challenges ahead of them as well.

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Shackelford is a program director with the Institute for Global Affairs and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

The Commercial Review



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

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

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Chamber hosting ribbon cuttings

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has a series of ribbon-cutting ceremonies scheduled for the rest of October.

•Noon Friday, Oct. 17, at Life Works Counseling, 112 N. Meridian St., Portland

•3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at IU Health Wound Healing Center in IU Health Jay, 500 W. Votaw St., Portland

•Noon Friday, Oct. 24, for Sip-N-Groove, at 124 W. Walnut St., Portland

•4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at IU Health Rehab to Home Activity Room, 500 W. Votaw St., Portland

Encompass Behavioral Group was also welcomed as a new member.

The chamber is also preparing for its merchant trick-or-treat event. It will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31.

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

Drive scheduled

First Financial Bank is hosting a food drive.

The bank will accept non-perishable canned and boxed food items at its Portland location, 112 N. Meridian St., Portland. The drive will continue through Oct. 31.

“Helping our neighbors is what we’re all about as we strive to create opportunities for our clients and communities to thrive,” said Roddell McCullough, First Financial chief corporate responsibility offi-

Business roundup

cer, in a news release. “Our communities have always been supportive of our food drives, and we’re excited to get started on filling cupboards in the area once more.”

Donating to schools

McDonald’s restaurants will raise funds for local high schools.

Owner-operators of McDonald’s locations in Portland, Winchester, Union City, Hartford City and Albany will donate 10% of proceeds made via purchases from the mobile app on Oct. 21 to schools in their communities. Jay County, Winchester Community, Union City, Blackford and Delta high schools are slated to benefit from the program.

University ranked

The Times Higher Education World Rankings placed Purdue University at 32nd among U.S. research institutions.

Purdue was the highest-ranked Indiana university on the list, also coming in at 85th globally. The rankings were released Thursday.

“Research excellence and impact are core to our academic mission, and our many close collabora-

tions with industry partners benefit our students enormously,” said Purdue provost Patrick Wolfe in a news release. “With record numbers of undergraduate, master’s and doctoral students applying to Purdue this past year, I’m confident we’ll continue to gain ground amongst the nation’s leading research universities.”

Hosting drive

Menards stores are serving as drop sites for food pantries this month.

Customers are invited to donate non-perishable food items such as cereal, soup, peanut butter and other canned or boxed items. They will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 31.

Stores in Muncie and Richmond in Indiana and Celina in Ohio are participating.

Adding offering

Indianapolis International Airport will add a flight to San Juan next year.

The airport announced that Southwest Airlines will begin offering non-stop flights to Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in June. They will be offered on Saturdays from June through early August.

“This is another first-time-ever route and another win resulting from listening to Hoosier travelers, and our team working diligently with our airline partners to bring wish-list destinations to our grow-

ing roster of nonstop flights,” said Marsha Wurster, senior director of commercial enterprise for the airport, in a news release.

To invest

Eli Lilly plans to invest more than \$1 billion in India to boost its manufacturing and supply chains, Reuters reported.

Lilly, an Indianapolis-based pharmaceutical firm, made the announcement last week, noting a goal to increase the availability of its drugs for obesity, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, cancer and autoimmune conditions. It launched its weight-loss drug Mounjaro in India this year.

“We are making significant investments to increase manufacturing and medicine supply capacity around the world,” Patrik Jonsson, president of Lilly International, said in a news release.

The announcement comes after Lilly noted plans last month for a new \$5 billion facility in Virginia.

Expanding

CVS Health last week opened its new Workforce Innovation and Talent Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

The facility is “designed to build a pipeline of skilled health care professionals by offering no-cost workforce training and health care services.” It

will offer training for roles such as pharmacy technicians, customer service associates and call center representatives.

“Our new Workforce Innovation and Talent Center aims to create pathways to opportunity,” said Sheryl Burke, senior vice president of corporate social responsibility and chief sustainability officer at CVS Health, in a news release. “By working hand-in-hand with the Fort Worth Housing Solutions and local workforce organizations, we’re helping community members gain the skills they need for in-demand roles — like pharmacy technicians — and build healthier futures for themselves and their families.”

Certification earned

Ardagh Group’s distribution facility in Fairfield, California, received the Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR building certification for the 10th year in a row.

The ENERGY STAR certification goes to facilities that “are verified to perform in the top 25 percent of buildings nationwide, based on weather-normalized source energy use that takes into account occupancy, hours of operation and other key metrics.” The Fairfield site serves Ardagh’s packaging needs on the West Coast.

“At Ardagh Group, our commitment to sustain-

ability extends far beyond manufacturing infinitely recyclable glass containers,” said Alex Winters, chief sustainability officer at Ardagh Glass Packaging, in a news release. “We’re focused on protecting the communities in which we live and work by conserving energy and minimizing our environmental footprint. Achievements like the ENERGY STAR certification reflect our ongoing efforts and ambition to help lead the packaging industry toward a more sustainable future.”

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

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. Oct. 28.

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.

An additional session will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

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

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

U.S. launches financial rescue of Argentina

By DANIEL FLATLEY and PATRICK GILLESPIE

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The U.S. rushed to stabilize Argentina’s economy last week, offering \$20 billion in financing and carrying out a rare intervention in currency markets to prop up the peso after weeks of sharp declines.

Washington has finalized a \$20 billion currency swap framework with Argentina’s central bank, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a social media post. The U.S. also directly purchased pesos, he said, a move that follows unsuccessful efforts by Argentine authorities to stabilize the exchange rate on their own.

President Donald Trump and Bessent are making a bet on a nation that’s defaulted and devalued repeatedly over the past several decades. The goal is to help their political ally President Javier Milei notch a win in Oct. 26 midterm elections, and calm markets unsettled by fears of his leftist rivals returning to power.

Currency swap framework finalized after weeks of decline for the peso

“The U.S. Treasury is prepared, immediately, to take whatever exceptional measures are warranted to provide stability to markets,” Bessent said.

Milei welcomed the intervention, thanking Bessent and Trump in a post on X. “Together, as the closest of allies, we will make a hemisphere of economic freedom and prosperity,” he said.

‘Illiquidity’ trouble

Bessent characterized Argentina’s woes as “a moment of acute illiquidity,” suggesting he doesn’t see a fundamental issue with its ability to make good on its debt. It isn’t immediately clear what the U.S. is asking of Argentina in return for its aid. Milei has

denied that the U.S. asked Argentina to get rid of a separate \$18 billion swap line with China.

While speculation had risen before Bessent’s announcement that the U.S. might press Argentina to allow a free float of the peso, the Treasury chief said the country’s “exchange rate band remains fit for purpose.”

“Argentina’s policies, when anchored on fiscal discipline, are sound,” Bessent said. He also said he discussed potential investment incentives for U.S. companies who may want to do business in Argentina.

Argentina’s dollar bonds jumped across the curve, with some of the nation’s most liquid notes up more than 4 cents on the

dollar to session highs. The peso, which started the Thursday down 2.7% as local authorities stayed out of the market for the first time in more than a week, ended it 0.7% higher against the dollar.

Summit coming

Trump and Milei will meet at the White House Oct. 14 in their second sit-down, after they held talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

The announcements follow several days of U.S. discussions with Argentina’s economic team, including Economy Minister Luis Caputo, who had also met this week with International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva. Argentina is by far the Fund’s biggest debtor, owing some \$55 billion after a string of bailouts.

The new bilateral “swap” would likely be different from the swap lines that the Federal Reserve has with other developed-economy central banks, and

more reminiscent of tools used by Washington to bail out Mexico three decades ago.

“It’s familiar terrain” for Bessent, said Gregory Faranello, head of U.S. rates for Amerivest Securities Inc. — alluding to the former hedge fund manager’s long experience in the foreign-exchange market. But even a \$20 billion line is “unlikely to fix the underlying challenges,” he said.

Politicians’ concerns

The move to aid Argentina has already been questioned on both sides of the aisle in Washington for conflicting with Trump’s “America First” agenda. Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren has been among the most vociferous critics, and on Thursday asked a group representing hedge funds and asset managers whether they played a role in Washington’s aid.

For his part, Milei has repeatedly said the government isn’t the solution while wielding a chainsaw to symbolize federal spending cuts in Argentina.

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

YOU BOTH SAY YOU'RE "DOG PEOPLE," YET AT THE LAST DEBATE YOU BOTH CLAIMED TO BE "CAT PEOPLE."

EXPLAIN?

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

10-14

"She's your only sister, and you'll just have to LEARN to like her."

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Peanuts

YOU ASKED SNOOPY TO GET YOUR BLANKET BACK FROM EUDORA?

IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, HE CAN...HE'S GOING TO WIN HER OVER AT THE DISCO SCENE

THE DISCO SCENE?

HI, BABE! DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

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Rose is Rose

CLICK CLICK

10-14

PACK AN INDOOR AUTUMN.

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Agnes

...SO THEN I SAY TO HER, "SO IS THAT HOW IT IS?" AND THEN SHE SAYS...

WHOA UP... EAR BREAK

WHAT?

ACCORDING TO MY INTERNAL GABMETER, YOU HAVE BEEN YA KETY-YA KING FOR A FULL THIRTY- EIGHT MINUTES!

I DON'T WANT MY EARDRUMS TO GET WORKHARDENED FROM EXCESSIVE USE. THEY WILL GET BRITTLE.

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Hi and Lois

I HEARD DAD SAY THAT THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE...

SO TRUE! I SEE LOTS OF COLOR OUT THERE!

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Between Friends

IS EMMA STILL DATING THE SAME BOYFRIEND?

YEP

IT'S BEEN CLOSE TO A YEAR NOW

OHHAH... SO IT'S SERIOUS?

I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T ASK THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS

WHY NOT?

I DON'T WANT TO JINX ME GETTING ANSWERS

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Blondie

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FORGET THE ENTREE!

BRING ON THE PASTRIES

IT'S YOUR PARTY!

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Snuffy Smith

ENNY SIDE EFFECTS, DOC?

NOPE !! BUT THAR'S POSSIBLE TOP AN' BOTTOM EFFECTS !!

MIGHT MAKE HAIR GROW ON YORE HAID AN' FEET !!

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Beetle Bailey

WHAT'S IN THE STEW?

EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK

IT TASTES LIKE WHAT'S IN THE KITCHEN SINK

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A straw worth grasping

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q J 3
♥ 9 6
♦ K 7 2
♣ K Q J 6 3

WEST
♦ 4
♥ 10 2
♦ 10 8 6 4 3
♣ A 9 7 5 4

EAST
♦ K 9 8
♥ A K Q 8 7 5
♦ 9 5
♣ 10 2

SOUTH
♦ A 10 7 6 5 2
♥ J 4 3
♦ A Q J
♣ 8

The bidding:
South 1♦ Pass West 2♣ North 2♥ East 2♥
South 2♣ Pass West 4♣ East 4♣

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Just as declarer must assume there is a lie of the cards that will allow him to make his contract, the defenders must likewise assume that there is a way to defeat the contract. Without this mindset, the defenders may all too often permit declarer to make a contract that could have been defeated.

Consider this case where East takes the first two heart tricks against four spades and must then ask himself how the defense might score two more tricks. To begin with, East knows from his partner's lead of the heart ten followed by the

deuce that West started with only two hearts. He also knows from the bidding that South must have nearly all of the missing high cards as well as a rebiddable spade suit.

Starting with this as a base, East should conclude that if South has all three missing aces, the contract cannot be stopped. East must therefore credit his partner with either the ace of clubs or ace of diamonds.

However, this assumption accounts for only the third defensive trick. The next step is to look for a way to score a fourth trick, since the king of spades — apparently the only remaining hope — seems certain to fall prey to South's ace of spades.

The solution to the problem lies in East's knowledge that West started with a doubleton heart. So at trick three East continues with a heart — a low one is best to make sure West understands what is expected of him. After South follows with the jack, West ruffs with the four, forcing dummy to overruff with the jack.

East now has a guaranteed trump trick whatever South does next, and this, together with West's hoped-for-ace, spells inevitable defeat for declarer. Surprisingly, West's lowly four of spades proves to be the straw that breaks the contract's back.

Tomorrow: Avoiding a harrowing guess.
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10-14

CRYPTOQUIP

CN B VPI KTXLBVD CO NTSXPJ
IZCKZ JPOCHVO KBS CHVCUCTV
ODOUPXO, CO CU B OUBSU-EL
OUBSUEL?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: "STAR WARS" GUY WHO ALWAYS GOT TASKED WITH INSPECTING AND CLEANING GIPSENS: LUKE STY-WALKER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals H

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Karate move

5 Dandy guy

8 School support orgs.

12 Tora —

13 Ram's mate

14 Move, in

lingo

15 Sugary brew

17 Hurler

Hershiser

18 Meadow

19 Horn — glasses

21 Layered rock

24 At the summit of

25 Caffeine source

26 Elite police unit

30 Bank-book abbr.

31 Prefix with "red"

32 I love (Lat.)

33 Saltwater fish

DOWN

1 "Survivor" ailer

2 "In what way?"

3 Mine yield

4 Spanish dish

5 Greek cheese

6 Have bills made with boscs

8 On time session

9 School Sheltered

10 Auctioneer's cry

16 Casual shirt

20 Greek vowel

21 Vail gear

22 Sharpen near

23 Resort Snowbird

24 Terrible

26 Shows disdain

27 Deserve for

28 Out of control

29 NYC gallery

31 401(k) relatives

34 Service for a social

35 Detroit hoopster

37 Frenzied

38 Staffer

39 Streetcar

40 Leslie Caron film

41 Pesky insect

44 New England cape

45 Street, in Montreal

46 HIV-treating drug

47 Not neg.

Solution time: 22 mins.

PEG	A	A	H	E	A	D	H	U	M
O	D	E	M	E	S	S	I	E	G
T	U	M	M	Y	A	C	H	E	A
L	A	T	L	E	S	P	R	I	T
F	A	T	C	A	T	N	E	A	T
E	X	O	N	H	L	S	A	T	S
A	L	O	T	Y	A	Y	S	C	O
R	E	T	A	G	G	U	S	H	O
S	E	A	S	O	N	E	T	E	
A	R	C	B	E	L	L	Y	A	C
N	A	H	A	R	M	O	R	U	R
E	S	E	L	O	N	G	S	P	S

Yesterday's answer 10-14

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No. 7 Hoosiers dominate third-ranked Oregon

By AARON FENTRESS
oregonlive.com
Tribune News Service

EUGENE — No. 7 Indiana extinguished the magic of No. 3 Oregon's win two weeks ago at Penn State, handing the Ducks their first-ever Big Ten Conference defeat, 30-20, Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza, minutes after throwing a pick-six that left the game tied at 20-20, hit wide receiver Elijah Sarratt for an 8-yard touchdown on a back-shoulder throw, giving the Hoosiers a 27-20 lead with 6:23 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The loss ended Oregon's 18-game winning streak in Autzen Stadium, the nation's longest heading into the week.

Indiana's win came 21 years after the Hoosiers pulled off a 30-24 upset win at Autzen Stadium to start the 2004 season.

Indiana snaped Ducks' 18-game home winning streak and stayed perfect in the Big Ten

Oregon (5-1, 2-1 Big Ten) quarterback Dante Moore experienced his first off day this season, completing 21 of 34 passes for 186 yards and one touchdown with two interceptions.

The first interception came on a tipped pass late in the fourth quarter, setting up the 22-yard field goal that put Indiana up 30-20 with 2:06 remaining in the game.

The second followed on the Ducks' next drive, ending any chance of a comeback.

Mendoza led Indiana (6-0, 3-0) with 215 yards passing and one touchdown. Sarratt led the passing game with 121 yards on eight receptions and the game-winning touchdown.

Indiana running back Roman Hemby rushed for 70 yards on 19 carries with two touchdowns.

Lanning's first gamble on fourth down, while needing one yard, came up short, handing possession to Indiana at the UO 46-yard line. The Hoosiers took advantage, taking a 3-0 lead on a

42-yard field goal from Nicolas Radicic.

The Ducks responded when Moore found Malik Benson open deep for a 44-yard touchdown, as Oregon took a 7-3 lead.

Indiana answered on its next drive, covering 75 yards in nine plays. Hemby's 3-yard touchdown run put the Hoosiers up 10-7 with seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Both teams were limited to field goals in the second quarter. Indiana's came from 58 yards out with one second remaining to give the Hoosiers a 13-10 halftime lead.

The kick from Radicic was set up by a pass interference call on Devon Jackson that gave Indiana the ball at the UO 40.

Oregon pulled even midway at 13-13 through the third quarter on a 33-yard field goal by Atticus Sappington.

Indiana responded with its second 75-yard drive. A 22-yard pass reception by Hemby and a pass interference set up a 2-yard touchdown by Hemby, giving the Hoosiers a 20-13 lead late in the third quarter.

The Ducks' offense sputtered, but Oregon got life with 12:42 left in the game when cornerback Brandon Finney Jr. intercepted a Mendoza pass and returned it 35 yards for a game-tying touchdown.

Penn State fires James Franklin

By MAX RALPH
pennlive.com
Tribune News Service

Penn State has fired head football coach James Franklin in his 12th year at the helm of the Nittany Lions.

The university announced the move Sunday afternoon after a 22-21 loss to Northwestern at Beaver Stadium on Saturday. It was the third straight loss for the Nittany Lions after entering the year ranked No. 2 and among the favorites to win a national championship.

Associate head coach/cornerbacks coach Terry Smith, a Penn State letterman, will serve as the interim head coach.

According to the original terms released for the contract extension Franklin signed in 2021, Penn State owes him \$56 million dollars in a buyout. However, the contract was amended in 2024 without publicly released terms. It is possible Franklin and his camp could have negotiated different parameters for an exit.

Franklin was asked if he still wanted to be the head coach at Penn State after the loss to Northwestern, but he didn't directly address that idea.

"It's always been about our players, and those guys are hurting right now, and the fans are frustrated. I get it," he said. "I totally get it. We have great fans here. We get unbelievable support, and I understand their frustration. Trust me. We're as frustrated as anybody."

Pressed further on whether being the Penn State head coach remained the best situation for his career, Franklin answered in a way that suggested the writing was on the wall.

"I take full responsibility for what's happened tonight," he said. "I take full responsibility for what's happened this season, and I'm committed to the guys in that locker room."

Franklin took over at Penn State in 2014 after previous coach Bill O'Brien departed for the NFL. Inheriting a program under NCAA sanctions for the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse case, Franklin won the 2016 Big Ten Championship in just his third season.

He piloted the Nittany Lions to six double-digit win seasons, five New Year's Six bowl games and a berth in the first 12-team College Football Playoff in 2024, where Penn State lost by just three points to Notre Dame in the national semifinal.

Despite a long history of success, Franklin could never get his team over the hump when it mattered most. He finished 4-21 in games against opponents ranked inside the top 10 nationally and 1-11 against rival Ohio State, the benchmark for top-end success in the conference.

Franklin's teams were thus best known for winning virtually every game they were supposed to win, and straight losses to UCLA and Northwestern in such a highly anticipated season made the situation untenable.

He finished with a 104-45 as the Penn State head coach, tied for second at the university with Rip Engle.

During this past week, after the UCLA loss, Franklin was asked if he still has faith in reaching his goals at Penn State. He responded with a strong statement.

"I believe in Penn State. I believe in our players. I believe in the men and women in the Lasch Building. And I believe in myself," he said.

Born in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, just north of Philadelphia, Franklin labeled Penn State as his "dream job" at his introductory press conference in 2014.

"I'm excited to come here," he said then. "I'm a Pennsylvania boy with a Penn State heart."

Now, Penn State and Franklin will go their separate ways.



Special to The Commercial Review/Paul Yode

Cook keeps runnin'

John Cook of the Jay County High School boys cross country team trudges along during the Allen County Athletic Conference meet hosted by South Adams on Saturday. For more info on the meet, see page 8.

Sports on tap

Local schedule	TV schedule	Local notes
Today Fort Recovery — Junior high football vs. Anna — 5 p.m.	Today 6 p.m. — College soccer: Ohio State at Michigan (BTN) 7 p.m. — NHL: Tampa Bay Lightning at Washington Capitals (ESPN) 7:30 p.m. — College football: Arkansas State at South Alabama (ESPN2) 8:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Los	Cooper to host Cooper Farms will host its 18th Annual Turkey Trot 5K benefitting EverHeart Hospice on Nov. 1. The race will begin at Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant at 1 Cooper Farms Drive, St. Henry, OH. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m. There will be age groups from 9-and-
Wednesday Fort Recovery — Volleyball district quarterfinal vs. Riverside at Newton — 5 p.m.	Wednesday 7 p.m. — College football: Delaware at Jacksonville State (ESPN) 7 p.m. — College volleyball: Rut-	gers at Maryland (BTN) 7 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Detroit Red Wings (TNT) 8:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners (FS1) 9:30 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at St. Louis Blues (TNT) 10:30 p.m. — NBA Preseason: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: CR 200 S AND CR 300 E, PORTLAND, IN
REAL ESTATE
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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9:00 AM
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CONSTRUCTION-SHOP-MISC. ITEMS
(5) Sets of X Brace Heavy Duty Scaffolding: (3) Sets of 5' Scaffolding: (11) Pcs. Scaffolding with Walking Plank: (2) 40' FiberglassExt. Ladders: 28' Alum. Ext. Ladder: Champion Blower & Forge Co. Forge: N.C. Anvil: Craftsman 2700 Psi Pressure Washer: Makita Battery Operated Wheel Barrow with Dump Bed: Kolbalt Tile Saw: Air Framing Guns: Assorted Hand Tools.
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JCHS football will play the 0-8 Braves in the sectional, see story below

FRHS volleyball opens postseason Wednesday, see Sports on tap



Special to The Commercial Review/Paul Yoder

Jay County High School senior Paityn Wendel makes a turn during the Allen County Athletic Conference cross country championship hosted by South Adams on Saturday. Wendel placed eighth with a time of 22 minutes, 11.3 seconds to help the Patriots claim the ACAC title.

Tribe volleyball ends season with a victory

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe finished up its final Midwest Athletic Conference match of the season and had one last opportunity to put another win in its record before the postseason.

The Indians didn't let the opportunity go to waste.

Fort Recovery High School's volleyball team picked up a 25-21, 25-15, 26-24 victory over the Tri-Village Patriots on Saturday to cap off the regular season.

Cameron Muhlenkamp led the Tribe (10-12) with 12 kills while adding 17 digs, one block and one ace. Brynn Willmann followed with eight kills and Bridget Homan added seven.

FRHS also dropped 12 aces on the Patriots (11-11). Kayden Ranly had the best day behind the service line with half of the team's aces.

Ranly also had a team-high 27 assists and dug out

FRHS Roundup

12 balls. Kayla Gaerke led the Indians with 18 digs.

Fort Recovery blocked seven of Tri-Village's shots. Willmann led at the net with four blocks, while Homan sent three shots back.

FRHS will open up the postseason on Wednesday, when it travels to Newton Local for the sectional final against the 15th-seeded Riverside.

Tribe takes seventh

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Fort Recovery boys cross country team finished seventh in the Midwest Athletic Conference hosted by Coldwater on Saturday, while the girls fell one runner short of scoring.

The Tribe finished with 182 points to place seventh, while Versailles won with 24 points. (Minster won the girls race with 55.)

Alex Roessner paced the boys with a time of 17 minutes, 33.27 seconds to claim 17th place. Reece Diller (18:17.49) and Gavin Heitkamp (18:46.06) both finished in the top 50 as well by crossing in 35th and 49th.

Other scores for the boys came from Andon Roessner (52nd – 18:54.01) and Andrew Rehmert (61st – 19:11.43).

While the girls didn't score as a team, three of the Indians finished in the top 50. Makenna Huelkamp paced the Tribe with a 20:27.84 that placed 11th. Riley Heitkamp crossed the line in 16th with a time of 21:15.07. Madison Heitkamp claimed 41st in 22:40.18.

Claire Grube finished 85th in 26:27.16.

Patriots draw Bellmont

It's been a difficult year for the Patriots.

Sunday's sectional draw may give them a bright spot.

The Jay County High School football team came away with an opening-round game against the winless Bellmont Braves.

The Patriots (2-6) will play at Bellmont (0-8) in the opening round of the Class 3A Sectional 28 tournament on Friday, Oct. 24. The full bracket is as follows:

No. 4 Mississinewa (7-1) at Oak Hill (5-3)

Norwell (1-7) at Heritage (5-3)

Bishop Luers (4-4) at Delta (3-5)

Jay County (2-6) at Bellmont (0-8)

JCHS has dropped six of seven since its season-opening victory over Blackford, including a 42-14 loss Friday to Class 2A No. 3 Lapel. The Braves, meanwhile, have lost 40 consecutive games heading into their regular-season finale against undefeated Class 4A No. 2 East Noble.

This marks the second consecutive year in which the Patriots will play Bellmont in the

opening round of the tournament. They won 42-7 last season before falling 41-8 to state runner-up Bishop Luers in the semifinal round.

A win for Jay County in the opening round this season would result in a home game in the semifinal round on Halloween against either Bishop Luers (4-4) or Delta (3-5).

Jay County won its only sectional championship in 2007.

ACAC XC runs through Jay County

BERNE — The Patriots didn't have any runners finish in the top three among the Allen County Athletic Conference teams. But five girls finishing in the top 10 did the trick for the team.

The Jay County High School girls cross country team finished first at the ACAC meet hosted by South Adams on Saturday while the boys finished fourth.

The girls claimed the conference championship with 33 points, while Bluffton was the runner-up with 40. The boys had 113 points for the fourth-place finish, while South Adams earned the top spot with 49.

Ava May (20 minutes, 56.4 seconds) and Brooklyn Byrum (21:17.5) placed back-to-back in fourth and fifth place. Jessie Homan came in next with her time of 22:05.7 to cross the line in seventh. Paityn Wendel (eighth) and Alexis Sibray (ninth) came in right behind Homan with times of 22:11.3 and 22:25.3, respectively.

Caleb Garringer paced the Patriots with a 17:44.0 that earned ninth place. Max Klopfenstein (18:03.6) and Grant Glentzer (18:33.7) also earned spots in the top 20, crossing the line in 14th and 20th.

The other two scores came from Alex Rivers (30th – 19:43.8) and John Cook (40th – 21:40.9).

Pats take title

LIBERTY — The Jay

Jay County Roundup

County volleyball team wrapped up the regular season on Saturday by winning the Union County Invite.

The Patriots (20-10) opened the day with a 25-20, 25-18 victory over Lawrenceburg. In the second round of pool play, JCHS took down the Whiteland Warriors 23-25, 25-16, 25-15.

Jay County then defeated host Union County 25-14, 25-14 in the championship game.

Hallie Schwieterman and Maria Hemmelgarn carried a bulk of the offensive load with 32 and 24 kills, respectively. Mya Kunkler (18), Elizabeth Barnett (11) and Brenna Schmiesing (10) all had double digit kills as well.

Kunkler and Hemmelgarn also had big days defensively at the net. Hemmelgarn had two solo blocks and eight block assists, while Kunkler sent three shots back herself and assisted on four more.

Other leaders for the Patriots were Paisley Fugiett with 60 assists, Lani Muhlenkamp with 38 digs and Carley Trinidad and Kayla Jetmore with nine aces apiece.

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