

# Teachers slated for 4.5% increases

Board will vote on agreement Monday

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Local teachers are slated for an average 4.5% raise.

Jay School Board reviewed a tentative agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association during its meeting Monday.

The teachers' union unanimously approved the agreement last week following a process that included four bargaining sessions.

"I would describe it as very collegial and problem-solving in its orientation," said Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley. "We truly work together."

The board plans to vote on it during a special meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, when Gulley also plans to propose increases for support staff and administrators.

The tentative agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association calls for a base salary of \$47,503 for first-year teachers. Those with a literacy endorsement would get an additional \$500.

Annual raises are broken down by:

•Evaluation — Those who receive a rating above "ineffective" — \$1,500

•Experience — Those working 120 days or more in the previous school year — \$800

•Education — Those who have a master's degree in a content area — \$200

Salary increases are also slated for several teachers because of their "invaluable contributions to Jay School Corporation."

Teachers with 30 years of experience or more would be guaranteed a raise of \$2,300 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$2,500 for those with a master's degree.

See **Increases** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Corn questions

East Elementary School second graders Leo Esquivel, Lucy Loyd and Scarlett Cox look at a bottle of pure maple syrup Monday. Students were asked to guess which product presented on a table didn't contain corn. (It was the maple syrup.) Jay County Farm Bureau and food service Chartwells recently partnered on a corn-focused program for Jay School Corporation, offering students the opportunity to learn more about corn.

# Indiana is seeking a federal waiver

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana is asking the federal government for permission to overhaul how it spends and tracks billions in education aid — a request that Hoosier officials said would align the state's accountability system with federal law and allow more freedom in how schools use their funds.

The request, submitted Friday to U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon, seeks a waiver from multiple provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or ESEA, the federal law governing K-12 education.

*State officials say they want to streamline education funding, and 'align' accountability*

If approved, the changes would take effect beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

State education leaders framed the proposal as an effort to "prioritize student learning over federal bureaucracy." Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner said the state's message to federal officials was clear.

"With the opportunity to return education back to the states, we had a clear choice to

make in Indiana: continue with the status quo or seize this moment to gain the flexibilities needed to remove federal barriers to more urgently move the needle for students," Jenner said in a Monday statement. "As a state, we are leaning in to seize this moment, and today, our message to Washington is clear: Indiana is ready and eager, so give us the flexibility to keep driving forward for Indiana students."

Gov. Mike Braun also praised the move, calling it proof that "Indiana continues to lead the nation in education and innovation."

See **Waiver** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Festive march

Jay County Marching Patriots band members march along Union Street (Indiana 1) in Pennville on Saturday during the Pumpkin Festival parade. The parade led into a day of activities, food, pumpkins and other festivities at Pennville Park.

# Takaichi becomes Japan's first female prime minister

By LARS NICOLAYSEN  
dpa  
Tribune News Service

TOKYO — Japan's staunchly conservative former interior minister Sanae Takaichi was elected by parliament on Tuesday as the country's first female prime minister.

The 64-year-old succeeds the comparatively liberal Shigeru Ishiba, who recently announced his resignation following election defeats for their Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Takaichi owes her election to the LDP's new coalition partner, the conservative neoliberal Japan Innovation Party (Ishin).

The opposition camp could not agree on a joint candidate. Despite being the largest party, the LDP — even with the Innova-

tion Party — is just short of a majority in parliament, meaning that it will continue to lead a minority government.

According to experts, the fact that the Innovation Party has not contributed a single member to Takaichi's new Cabinet shows the party's cautious distance from the major government partner. This, they argue, also makes the alliance appear unstable.

Takaichi, who used to play drums in a heavy

metal band and likes to present herself as Japan's Iron Lady in the style of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, faces significant challenges.

She must not only lead a party struggling to regain voters' trust after financial scandals but also a country grappling with a rapidly ageing population and geopolitical tensions.

In a few days, President Donald Trump is expected to visit.

*Parliament elected former interior minister to succeed Ishiba*

### Deaths

**Ruth Campbell**, 81, Berne  
**Ronnie Mosser**, 77, rural Geneva  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 65 degrees Monday. The low was 40.

Expect a low in the upper 30s tonight. Skies will be mostly sunny Thursday with the high topping out in the mid 50s. Cooler temperatures are expected through the weekend. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Cat Tales will host a Chips & Trims event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Nail trims will be offered for \$5 or \$10, depending on the size of the pet, and microchipping will be available for \$20. Cat Tales is located at 601 N. Charles St., Portland.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — Columnist Michael Hicks addresses the state of the economy.

**Friday** — Details from Wednesday's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

**Saturday** — Results from the Jay County football team's sectional game at Bellmont.



# Obituaries

**Ruth Campbell**  
*Jan. 7, 1944-Oct. 18, 2025*  
Ruth Ann Campbell aka Ruthie, age 81, of Berne, formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully on Saturday morning Oct. 18, 2025, at 7:39 a.m. at Adams Memorial Hospital in Decatur. She was born in Muncie on Jan. 7, 1944, the daughter of Cleo R. and Cora Frances Bisel. She married Alan W. Campbell on Feb. 22, 1967, who survives. Ruthie, as she was affectionately known, was loved by all who

had the fortune to know her. She was a source of strength to lean on when times were tough and she always had the best advice. She was a homemaker, a helpful hand on the family farm and the Bearcreek Township clerk for 32 years. She was a wonderful cook and won several cooking contests over the years. She enjoyed fishing and camping. She had been an active member at The Church at Westchester and for several years she took great pride in providing the custodial services for her church.

Ruth Ann is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 58 years, Alan Wayne Campbell; two daughters, Lisa Renee (David) Gullett of Fort Wayne and Toni Lynn (Brad) Wurster of Berne; two sons, Matthew Wayne Campbell and Mark Alan Campbell of Berne; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren and one due in January. She was preceded in death by two sisters; and a brother and a nephew. Visitation will be Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Free-

man Funeral Home in Portland and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. in The Church at Westchester. A celebration of life service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, in The Church at Westchester with Pastor Darrell Borders presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery in Bryant. Memorials can be made to The Church at Westchester. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

**Ronnie Lee Mosser**, rural Geneva, July 5, 1948-Oct. 19, 2025. A service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home.   
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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                                                                        |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday<br>10/23                                                                 | Friday<br>10/24                                                                   | Saturday<br>10/25                                                                 | Sunday<br>10/26                                                                   | Monday<br>10/27                                                                   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>56/32</b>                                                                      | <b>58/34</b>                                                                      | <b>60/40</b>                                                                      | <b>63/40</b>                                                                      | <b>64/46</b>                                                                      |

| Lotteries                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Powerball</b><br>Monday<br>32-38-66-67-69<br>Power Ball: 19<br>Power Play: 2<br>Estimated jackpot: \$320 million                                                                       | Daily Four: 0-3-2-9<br>Quick Draw: 7-13-16-20-24-25-29-30-40-41-44-45-48-53-59-64-67-72-76-78<br>Cash 5: 6-21-25-29-44<br>Estimated jackpot: \$163,000                                                                      |
| <b>Mega Millions</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$650 million                                                                                                                                  | <b>Ohio</b><br>Monday<br>Midday<br>Pick 3: 7-3-4<br>Pick 4: 4-9-8-1<br>Pick 5: 8-4-3-1-0<br>Evening<br>Pick 3: 0-4-6<br>Pick 4: 3-8-0-3<br>Pick 5: 0-9-0-5-3<br>Rolling Cash: 1-12-14-21-23<br>Estimated jackpot: \$120,000 |
| <b>Hoosier</b><br>Monday<br>Midday<br>Daily Three: 8-8-1<br>Daily Four: 8-8-7-9<br>Quick Draw: 2-6-11-16-18-20-29-30-38-45-52-57-60-61-64-65-66-67-76-79<br>Evening<br>Daily Three: 4-7-7 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Markets                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b><br>Corn.....4.14<br>Nov. corn .....4.14<br>Dec. corn .....4.24    | Nov. beans .....10.15<br>Wheat ..... 4.61                                                                                          |
| <b>POET Biorefining Portland</b><br>Corn.....4.19<br>Nov. corn .....4.19<br>Dec. corn .....4.34     | <b>ADM Montpelier</b><br>Corn.....4.09<br>Nov. corn .....4.14<br>Beans .....10.10<br>Late Oct. beans .....10.15<br>Wheat .....4.96 |
| <b>The Andersons Richland Township</b><br>Corn .....4.09<br>Nov. corn .....4.09<br>Beans .....10.05 | <b>Heartland St. Anthony</b><br>Corn.....4.09<br>Nov. corn .....4.09<br>Beans .....9.85<br>Nov. beans .....9.90<br>Wheat .....4.51 |

**Today in history**

In 1836, Sam Houston was inaugurated as the first president of the Republic of Texas. He had helped lead the defeat of Mexico in the Texas Revolution. Texas would be admitted into the United States on Dec. 29, 1845.

In 1883, the Metropolitan Opera House opened on Broadway at 39th Street in New York City.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy informed Americans of the Cuban missile crisis when he declared a naval blockade of Cuba to prevent additional shipments of missiles to the island that sits 90 miles off the Florida coast.

In 1964, Jean-Paul Sartre became the first to decline a Nobel Prize after he had been announced as the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. A french philosopher, novelist and playwright, he had been honored “for his work which,

rich in ideas and filled with the spirit of freedom and the quest for truth, has exerted a far-reaching influence on our age.”

In 1972, Jay County native and Chesterfield resident Harold R. Evans and his wife Sandra L. Evans died when their car collided with another vehicle in southern Jay County.

In 2020, the Division IV No. 4 Fort Recovery High School volleyball team cruised to a 25-15, 25-12, 25-13 victory over the Lima Central Catholic Thunderbirds in the sectional championship match. The victory improved the Indians to 19-3.

In 2021, Fort Recovery High School juniors Natalie Brunswick and Trevor Heitkamp swept the individual championships at the Division III district cross country meet at Columbus Grove. —The CR

| Citizen’s calendar                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b><br>4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.<br>5 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.<br>6 p.m. — Dunkirk | Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.<br><b>Friday</b><br>8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St. |

# Increases ...

Continued from page 1

If the tentative agreement is approved, the school corporation would contribute \$8,000 toward single health insurance plans and \$17,200 toward family plans. It also calls for adding a weight room supervisor position and elimination of several advisor positions for clubs that are no longer active. There were no comments from members of the public or the board on the proposal. Board members Donna Geesaman, Marci Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Chad Dowell and Aaron Clark, with president Ron Laux and Jon Eads absent, also reviewed a proposal for the 2026-27 school calendar, which calls for the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 12. (Gulley noted that the first day was shifted in conjunction with Indiana State Fair Band Day, which will be held on Friday, Aug. 7.) Fall break would be Oct. 21, 22 and 23, winter break from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1 and spring break from March 19 through 26. The last day of school would be May 26, the Wednesday before Memorial Day. The board took no action on the proposed calendar and plans to also vote on it at the Oct. 27 meeting. In other business, the board: •During the Patriot Pride moment, honored Bloomfield Elementary School students for their efforts to make posters for Red Ribbon Week. Students discussed making positive choices through the Just Say No club. Gulley noted

*Proposed school calendar for 2026-27 shows first day on Wednesday, Aug. 12, to remain after state fair band day*

that all of the schools in the corporation are active in Just Say No. •Approved the following: extracurricular assignments, including Marc Bogenschutz as assistant girls basketball coach and Eddie Fields as assistant boys wrestling coach; a leave of absence for East Jay Elementary School special education teacher Emily Kaiser; an FFA poultry judging team field trip to Louisville, Kentucky, for the National Poultry and Egg Conference; a contract with Orange Grove Therapy for virtual speech/language therapy; the hiring of Tyler Diek as a custodian at the junior-senior high; recovery expenses from the September 2024 tornado (the overall total is just over \$5 million); and the sale of two buses through Bricker Auction Company. •Accepted donations of \$7,800 for the boys basketball program from Friends of Jay County Basketball; \$3,000 for Jay County Robotics from The Portland Foundation, \$3,000 for the high school show choirs from Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau and \$1,000 for the choirs from Compass Poultry. •Approved retirements for bus driver Janet Dunmoyer and West Jay Elementary School instructional assistant Annette Stultz. •Accepted a \$21,523.14 Formative Assessment Grant to help with the purchase of NWEA assessments. Assistant superintendent Trent Paxson noted that the grant is about \$22,000 less than the school corporation received last year. •Accepted the resignation of school bus aide Paige Gillette.

# Capsule Reports

**Fund established**  
Fort Recovery Village Council established a new fund Monday for Ohio Department of Transportation’s Systemic Safety Funding grant. The village will build a multi-use trail for pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Ohio 49, Sharpsburg Road and Flaler Road next summer, with the grant to cover approximately 90% of the cost. Council also accepted plans Monday to annex Nathan Fortkamp’s 1.035-acre parcel at the intersection of Fort Recovery-Minster Road and Flaler Road on the east side of the village. The annexation — it was approved in August by Mercer County Commissioners — will become effective in 30 days.

Joshua C. Wendel, 31, Fort Recovery, was driving a 2018 Ram 4500 east on the highway near its intersection with county road 700 East. He told police the cows were in the road and he wasn’t able to avoid hitting them. Both animals were killed. Gregory A. Imel, 65, Union City, was driving a 2022 Mack truck along the road and also hit one of the deceased cows in the westbound lane. Both cows were owned by Aaron and Abigail Post of rural Portland. The vehicle Wendel was driving was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

**Cows in road**  
Two cows died on Indiana 26 after Cooper Farms truck drivers crashed into them about 12:25 a.m. Monday.

| SERVICES                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b><br><b>Crump</b> , Lillian: 11:30 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.                                                   |
| <b>Friday</b><br><b>Campbell</b> , Ruth: 11 a.m., The Church at Westchester, 4487 E. 400 North, Portland.                                                                        |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>Mosser</b> , Ronnie: 1 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.                                                                    |
| Service listings provided by<br><b>PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS</b><br>120 N. Meridian St.<br>Portland, Indiana 47371<br>(260) 726-9201<br>progressiveofficeproducts.com |



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Photo provided

## Celebrating firefighters

Portland Evening Optimist Club recently honored Portland Fire Department. Pictured are Portland firefighters Chuck Denney, Brandon Clifton, Zach Hudson and Fire Chief Mike Weitzel accepting cups from Optimist club member Mike Aker, with fire department dog Huey, in appreciation for the crew's service to the community.

## Grandpa's actions ruin relationship

DEAR ABBY: I'm 22, and my boyfriend is 21. We've been dating for a few months. At a recent family dinner, his maternal grandfather hit on me. I was helping to clear the dinner table and leaned across the table to grab some dirty plates when Grandpa shoved his hand up my skirt. Then he leered at me, and my survival instincts kicked in. I slapped him across the face so hard he fell off his chair. It created a scene, and my boyfriend's mother screamed at me.

My boyfriend's sisters tried to downplay what he did, dismissing Grandpa's behavior as "he's just a scamp!" I left the house in a hurry, and the family is now talking about suing me for assault. I'm dumbfounded, and now I'm second-guessing myself. I have told my boyfriend we are over, and he's upset because we had a nice relationship. I'm no longer sure I can go forward with it. Am I in the wrong here? Should I apologize? — SHAKEN IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR SHAKEN:** You have no reason to apologize. Your boyfriend's family should apologize to you. Your boyfriend's grandfather is not a "scamp." He's an old

Dear Abby



man who appears to be losing control of his faculties. You were not wrong to defend yourself. If there is any more talk of "suing you for assault" after what Gramps did, tell them you will file a police report about his inappropriate behavior, which was far from harmless. His next victim could be a minor.

DEAR ABBY: When it's hot, I like to take my shirt off in store parking lots and toss it into the cart while I unload. It gives me some relief from the scorching summer temperatures. This seems relatively harmless to me, but what do you think? — BARE-CHESTED GUY

**DEAR GUY:** The answer depends upon how "hot" you are. If you're a buff, furry-chested male, it's fine with me as long as you're wearing sunscreen.

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

**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.

**PORTLAND EAGLES** — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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.

**JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE** — Holds its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

### Thursday

**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.

**LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES** — Free and confidential consulta-

tions with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

**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.

**DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP** — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

### Friday

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

### Saturday

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

### Sunday

**A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

### Monday

**PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS** — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

**PING PONG** — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

**EUCHRE** — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS)** — Will

meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

**THE LIFE CENTER** — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

**BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL** — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

**PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB** — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

### Tuesday

**JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS** — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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## Jay County Highway Department Mechanic Position

Jay County Highway Department is seeking someone to fill a Mechanic Position. Candidate must be 18 years of age or older, possess a High School Diploma or GED, and an Indiana Driver's License plus Class B CDL w/air brake endorsement. Candidate must have the ability to meet all County hiring requirements including the passage of a medical exam and drug test.

- Must have a working knowledge of trucks, vehicles and equipment and be able to complete related maintenance and safety measures including preventive maintenance
- Must have the ability to operate a variety of machinery, equipment, and tools
- Must have the ability to occasionally work extended hours, evenings, and/or weekends
- Must have the ability to occasionally serve on-call and respond to emergencies from an off-duty status
- Must be able to comply with all employer and Department policies, procedures, and rules
- Must have the ability to effectively communicate with co-workers and other county departments

Interested candidates may pick up an application at the Jay County Highway Department located at 1035 E 200 N, Portland, IN 47371 Mon-Thur 6:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

*Application Deadline will be October 29, 2025.*

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

# What’s a good pogo stick anyway?

*Editor’s note: This column is being reprinted from Oct. 21, 2015. Birthdays are interesting. Many love them. Some would prefer to ignore them. Jack took this opportunity to do some lighthearted self-reflection.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

With yet another birthday on my horizon, it seems as if this might be a good time to admit some of my failings.

So here goes:  
•Stilts. I watched the kids trying to master the stilts at Jay County Historical Society’s Heritage Festival and was strangely pleased to see they found this as difficult as I always have. There’s something about lifting up the right side at the same time you lift your foot up off the stilt that doesn’t work for me. I’m not sure I am wired correctly for stilts.

## Back in the Saddle



•Pogo sticks. Does anyone really enjoy a pogo stick? Let’s be honest. It’s a horrible invention intended to injure children whose parents were foolish enough to buy the silly things. One or two bounces is all most people can get before falling over. Okay, maybe three if you’re especially coordinated.  
•A stick shift. This one is truly embarrassing, particularly for a guy. There’s something macho and masculine about mastering a stick shift. But I was raised in an automatic transmission family (not

sure if that’s a religious or ethnic differentiation) and never got the hang of the thing. Now that my daughter Sally is learning how to deal with a stick, I find this truly humiliating.  
•Harmony. I love hearing it, but I’ve never figured out how to make it happen. If I’m standing next to someone who is a natural alto, I just don’t get it. Perhaps I am musically simple minded.  
•Playing serious chords on a guitar. I’ve fiddled around with a baritone ukulele for years, but it has four strings instead of six. I have enough trouble with four.  
•French, Romanian, Russian or any other foreign language. Along with failing to master a musical instrument, this is the most common regret for Americans. My French was pretty good in high school, at least by

Marguerite VanDyke standards. And I did OK in college. But when faced with French speakers in real life, I am a mess. Romanian is much like other Romance languages, but I still struggle. And Russian? My vocabulary tops out at about a dozen words.  
•Swimming. OK, I won’t drown. But I’ve never had the confidence a good swimmer has. My wife does and my children do. I’m counting on them to rescue me.  
•Spinning a basketball on my index finger. Enough said.  
•Flying a kite. I try this almost every year on the beach at the lake in New Hampshire, and I’ve had some degree of success. But I’ve never been able to get the kite aloft the way I’d like it. I blame the beach or the lake or maybe the whole state of New Hampshire.  
•Gambling. I have never, ever

been good at it. I approach the challenge with the assumption I will lose money, set a limit on how much I’m willing to lose, lose that money, then walk away wondering why the heck I did that. Am I missing something?  
•Plastic models and decals. There was nothing quite like — when I was a kid — roaming through the aisles of the Art Craft shop on a Saturday morning with your allowance in your pocket. Sure, your allowance was 25 cents and you couldn’t buy much with that. But the boxes of plastic models were seductive. World War II fighter planes, hot rods, you name it. Trouble is, when you tried to put them together they never came out quite right, especially the decals.  
•Riding a unicycle. This is something best left to circus performers.

# Government debt is a global problem

Bloomberg Opinion

Tribune News Service

Finance ministers and central bankers, gathering in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund, face a global trading system in disarray, uncertainty over the dollar’s standing and the likely course of interest rates, and financial markets that are (for now) unnervingly complacent.

Amid all these challenges, policymakers must pay particular attention to one more: Following years of neglect, public debt has emerged as an increasingly serious risk.

Five years ago, budget deficits soared worldwide because of the pandemic. Lockdowns throttled economic activity and squeezed tax revenue, while public spending surged as governments tried to protect the most vulnerable. Deficits increased from 3.5% of global output in the year before the emergency to 9.5% in 2020. No question, a strong fiscal response was necessary — but, as many argued at the time, it should’ve been reversed in due course. It wasn’t. Even now, deficits are higher than they were in 2019.

Before the pandemic, government debt was 84% of global gross domestic product. It currently stands at 95%. In country after country — including the U.S., the UK and most of the European Union — it’s on track to keep growing faster than output. By 2030, even if all goes well, the global debt ratio might surpass the level it surged to in 2020, when the fiscal emergency was at its worst.

Public debt, to be clear, isn’t bad in itself, and there’s no fixed ceiling on how high it can safely go. But as it rises, so-called fiscal capacity shrinks, leaving governments less room to maneuver when the next crisis comes around. Eventually, a combination of protracted indiscipline, bad economic news and souring financial markets can dig countries into a hole so deep that the only way out is some form of debt default, either explicit or disguised by high inflation.

Attitudes shifted after

## Guest Editorial

the global recession of 2008, and they will need to shift back again. Because the post-crash recovery was so sluggish, “austerity” — the effort to roll back the earlier stimulus — got a bad name. There was talk of “secular stagnation” as interest rates fell to historic lows, which were then thought to be permanent. Cheap money for years to come made bigger deficits affordable. Balance the budget? From now on, public borrowing would pay for itself.

The facts have changed, but this mind-set persists. Most U.S. policymakers have simply stopped caring about ever-rising debt. Elsewhere, governments might pay lip service to the need for discipline — in some cases adopting budget rules or creating “fiscal councils” to address the problem — but their actions have fallen short. If long-term inflation-adjusted interest rates outpace economic growth and drift even higher, debt will keep trending upward and deficits will be ever harder to cut.

That’s all too likely. In the U.S. and Europe, aging populations are raising dependency ratios, pushing revenue down and social spending up. Governments are acknowledging the need for bigger defense outlays. New and better infrastructure is urgently required, including for the clean-energy transition. And coping with the next recession, to say nothing of the next pandemic, is a matter of when, not whether.

The only alternative to an eventual fiscal breakdown is to combine spending restraint with new revenue. First, though, policymakers must understand just how vulnerable their economies have become. It’s way past time for them to rediscover budget discipline — and actually plan to do something about it.



# Hiding behind masks devalues law

By STEPHEN DOWNING  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

As a young recruit, the first thing I learned when I pinned on a badge was simple but profound: Power must always be visible and accountable. A nameplate, a badge number, an agency insignia — those aren’t just pieces of metal and cloth. They’re promises that those who wield the authority of the state can be identified, questioned and held responsible for their actions.

That’s why California’s new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2026, should be welcomed by anyone who values the rule of law. It will make it a misdemeanor for any law enforcement officer — federal or local — to conceal their identity with a mask during enforcement actions in public spaces such as schools, hospitals or places of worship. The goal is straightforward: When government agents act in the name of the people, the people should know who they are.

Predictably, critics call the measure “political theater.” Some insist that “federal law trumps state law.” Others argue that agents have a “right” to wear masks — and that if they’re arresting undocumented people, “who cares?”

Those claims are not only wrong but betray a fundamental misunderstanding of what policing in a democracy is supposed to look like — and why accountability is not optional.

The line between a lawful arrest and an abduction is thinner than most people realize. What separates them is the ability of the public to identify who is acting under color of law. When that ability is removed, trust collapses and fear takes its place.

We’ve already seen the consequences. In 2024, Maria Ruiz, a U.S. citizen, was detained by masked ICE agents outside her workplace and held without cause for three days. In

## Stephen Downing



2023, masked federal officers stormed a San Diego courthouse and seized a man leaving a family law hearing, causing panic among bystanders. And in 2022, masked agents entered a Central Valley emergency room and detained two patients seeking care.

When the public can’t distinguish law enforcement from a street gang in tactical gear, we’re no longer talking about policing — we’re talking about power untethered from accountability.

The new law is neither radical nor anti-federal. It does not bar immigration enforcement, block arrests or interfere with warrants. It simply requires that those executing the power of the state do so without hiding their identity — with clear exceptions for undercover work and imminent safety threats.

This is well within California’s constitutional authority. States have always had broad powers to protect the safety and civil rights of their residents. And no federal statute requires agents to wear masks. In fact, federal regulations require officers to identify themselves when making arrests. Far from conflicting with federal law, California’s statute reinforces it.

The Supreme Court has also upheld state laws that are neutral, generally applicable and incidentally affect federal operations. California’s law applies equally to everyone with a badge and regulates conduct, not the federal government itself.

The most common defense from

Immigration and Customs Enforcement is that masks protect agents from being “doxed” — having their personal information exposed. But every law enforcement officer faces the risk of retaliation. For more than a century, officers have accepted that risk while still showing their faces. We protect them with training, security protocols and laws against harassment — not by granting them anonymity.

Some doxing incidents happen after agencies hide misconduct or refuse accountability. Masking officers doesn’t prevent those situations — it helps create them. And California’s law already allows exceptions when safety is truly at risk.

As a former police commander, I can tell you that no competent executive would allow officers to operate masked and unidentifiable during routine enforcement. If one of my detectives showed up for a warrant service in a face covering, they’d be pulled from the operation before they reached the door.

Professionalism isn’t situational. It doesn’t stop at the state line or end with federal jurisdiction. And it certainly doesn’t change because the person being arrested is undocumented. The standards of legitimacy are the same across the board.

When officers hide their faces, they hide their responsibility. They erode public trust. They chill constitutional rights. And they create the very conditions in which abuse thrives.

California has drawn a bright line — one that says state power must be visible, accountable and answerable to the people it serves. That’s not politics. That’s Policing 101. And it’s a standard that should be embraced by every law enforcement agency in America.

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*Downing is a retired deputy chief of the Los Angeles Police Department.*

# The Commercial Review



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*“Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter.”*

—Thomas Jefferson

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# Church conversion?

## States consider spaces for affordable housing

By ROBBIE SEQUEIRA  
Stateline.org

Growing up in a religious family, Florida Republican state Sen. Alexis Calatayud has seen how many church communities are no longer anchored to a single building in the way they used to be. Her small prayer groups take place over chats these days, not necessarily in person or sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in pews.

With churches in her Miami-Dade County district grappling with shrinking membership and aging buildings, Calatayud thinks those institutions can do good with their unused land, by acting as anchors of new housing rather than as bystanders in neighborhood redevelopment.

“When you look at someone sitting on a small church, on a 10-acre property with a dwindling congregation, the question becomes, ‘How can this entity continue to be the beating heart of the community?’” Calatayud said in an interview.

“I think it’s to create a village, where we can create more housing and even centralize other needs in the community on that land.”

This year, Florida enacted a measure, sponsored by Calatayud, allowing multifamily residential development on land that is both owned by a religious institution and occupied by a house of worship, so long as at least 10% of the new units are affordable. Some housing advocates believe the zoning override has the potential to unlock roughly 30,000 parcels statewide.

Florida’s new law is part of a growing movement known as YIGBY — Yes in God’s Backyard. Touted by many faith leaders, lawmakers and developers, the movement imagines a connection between a religious mission to serve and the very real hurdles of building affordable housing.

If the U.S. is to meet the nation’s demand for new apartments, developers are going to need land, experts say, and parcels owned by faith-based organizations are starting to become a part of the solution for some states. At the same time, some skeptics question whether the movement could strip local communities of having a say in neighborhood development.

Places of worship are found in every corner of the United States. Land owned by faith-based organizations makes up 84 million square feet in New York City, for example, with enough land for 22,000 units on just the vacant lots and surface parking lots of those organizations, according to the Furman Center of New York University. Elsewhere, HousingForward Virginia says faith-based organizations own 74,000 acres in the state, nearly twice the size of Richmond.

California enacted what is considered the first statewide YIGBY law in 2023. It cleared the way for churches and other places of worship, as well as nonprofit universities, to create affordable housing on their land. It allows landowners to bypass public hearings, discretionary votes by city councils or planning boards, and certain environmental reviews so long as they meet affordability requirements, with at least 75% of the homes affordable for low-income households.

Several states — Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York and Texas — have considered YIGBY legislation this year, though none has passed. And a bill filed last month in Congress would allow rental properties to be built on currently unused church land with federal assistance.

Opponents of the Colorado bill frame it as state overreach on local zoning decisions and worry about a potential pathway for religious landowners to bypass Fair Housing Act protections for hous-



StatelineScreenshot courtesy of St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John’s Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, is being converted into a 10-story high-rise that will combine a worship space with more than 100 affordable apartments. Lawmakers see the potential for much-needed housing on church-owned land, but opponents worry local communities could lose their authority over neighborhood development.

ing applicants who may not share that faith, according to a position paper opposing Colorado’s YIGBY legislation.

Beverly Stables, a lobbyist for the Colorado Municipal League, told Stateline that local governments worry YIGBY bills could undermine constitutional home-rule authority and saddle towns with unfunded state mandates.

“Our members have worked successfully with schools and churches on housing projects already,” she said. “The question is, what problem are we really trying to solve?”

The Rev. Patrick Reidy, an associate professor of law at Notre Dame who has studied the relationship between housing and faith-based organizations, says states and cities are eager to partner with faith-based organizations to use their land.

It’s not an easy decision for faith leaders to switch the purpose of their land from a devoted congregation space to housing, he said.

“The decision to change the way church land has been used historically for decades or even centuries is not easy for a place of worship to make, so lawmakers should meet faith communities where they are,” said Reidy, who also is co-director of Notre Dame’s Church Properties Initiative.

“It’s more an understanding that the way places of worship approach housing is from a moral mission to serve, so things like financing, zoning and legal know-how to create housing requires some walk-through for faith-based organizations,” Reidy said. “The real challenge is learning to speak each other’s language.”

### ‘Right in the middle’

Every afternoon at 3:22, members of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, pause what they are doing and pray. Whether they are working, at home, watching baseball’s Milwaukee Brewers or sitting in a temporary worship space, they pray at that exact time.

It isn’t random: “322” is the address where the German Lutheran church has stood downtown at East Washington Avenue and North Hancock Street — just a block from the state Capitol — for 170 years, the Rev. Peter Beeson said.

Congregation members no longer worship there because the site could be set for the biggest transformation in its history: trading in stained-glass windows and church pews for a 10-story high-rise that will combine a worship space with more than 100 affordable apartments.

Beeson told Stateline that the congregation moved out of the building in the fall of 2023 for a groundbreaking later that same year.

“Our current building was built in 1905, and was nearing the end of its useful life, with many additions and renovations over the years,” Beeson said. “And it made sense to sacrifice our existing building to build affordable housing plus worship and community space as a way of serving our mission — providing much needed affordable housing for 130 or so families, and providing a home for the congregation for the next 150 years.”

The congregation, founded in 1856 by German Lutherans, has evolved with the needs of its community.

The church hosted a men’s homeless shelter for more than 20 years, ran a drop-in center for people with mental illness and offered small-scale aid for residents seeking anything from bus tickets to steel-toed work boots to child care, Beeson said.

Before construction could get underway on the housing project, though, Beeson and the church ran into a familiar issue that constrained housing across the country in 2023 — rapidly increasing construction costs and skyrocketing interest rates.

Beeson said he isn’t deterred. Other projects have taken 10 to 15 years to break ground, he said. “So keeping that timeline in mind, we are right in the middle.”

He believes the project, which has received sizable donations from community members via GoFundMe, is a God-ordained mission to provide a service for its community.

“We are continuing to move forward with the project. There have been setbacks and challenges along the way,” Beeson said. “However, like God led the Israelites through the wilderness with a pillar of fire by day and a pillar of clouds by night, God continues to open doors and pave pathways to bring this project to completion.”

### Ceding local control

The economic realities surrounding homebuilding are among many hurdles challenging congregations that want to develop new housing.

In states such as Colorado, local governments worried that a proposed statewide development measure that would give preferential treatment to faith-based organizations could undermine local control and even potentially open the door to religious discrimination.

“Not suggesting it from all enti-

ties,” said Stables, of the Colorado Municipal League, “but we were concerned about the potential for discrimination, and potential violations of Fair Housing Act requirements.”

Stables also thinks this year’s legislation was premature, just a year after Colorado lawmakers made sweeping changes to land use rules — including new laws removing parking minimums and encouraging transit-oriented developments and accessory dwelling units — that she said haven’t had time to take effect or be meaningfully implemented locally.

She also said the bill would have stripped local governments of zoning authority while offering no new resources. More than 200 municipalities opted into an affordable housing fund created through a 2022 ballot initiative, Stables said, but the legislature has been sweeping out some of that money for other budgetary needs, leaving cities under-resourced to deliver on those housing goals.

In the end, Colorado’s legislation passed the House but died in the Senate after supporters concluded it didn’t have the votes to pass.

YIGBY supporters elsewhere have had to balance the tension between state goals and local zoning authority. A 2019 Washington law requires cities and counties to offer density bonuses for affordable housing on religious land — an incentive, but not a legal override of zoning laws.

In Minnesota, state Sen. Susan Pha, a Democrat, told Stateline she modeled some aspects of her YIGBY proposal off the California law. She also tailored aspects of her bill — such as a focus on middle-housing options like small studios — to find solutions that work specifically for her state.

Pha said some of her big battles have been around the allowances of small lot sizes, such as 220-square-foot studio units, which she said the state “really needs” in order to make a dent in its housing shortage.

“The obstacle really is zoning,” Pha said. “If we can change some of those zoning requirements, we could produce more affordable housing and leverage the space and the dedicated work these faith-based organizations already do.”

Pha’s bill failed to reach a floor vote.

Other YIGBY-like policies have passed in localities including Atlanta; Montgomery County, Maryland; and Seattle. Atlanta’s program aims for the creation of at least 2,000 units of affordable housing over eight years.

When New York City passed its City of Yes housing initiative in December 2024, it permitted faith-based organizations to convert underused properties into housing by lifting zoning, height and setback requirements.

### Unlocking land

In an interview with Stateline, Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens pointed out that some of the city’s historic churches sit on prime land with underused parking lots that at one time were filled by many of the churchgoers’ cars.

Unlike many developers who might flip properties after short-term affordability requirements expire, Dickens said, churches may offer stability, since their mission is to serve “the least, the less and the lost” — meaning they might be less likely to sell off the property due to market pressure.

Atlanta is working with financial partners such as Enterprise and Wells Fargo to guide faith-based institutions that need that help, he said.

“Churches are usually on great corners, and they’re hallmarks of the community with land that’s underutilized, and their mission aligns perfectly with affordable housing,” Dickens said. “We’ve got churches that say, ‘Teach us how to develop. We have no idea what we’re doing.’”

The potential is vast, experts say. California faith-based organizations and nonprofit colleges own about 170,000 acres of land, equivalent in size to the city of Oakland, and much of it could be developed under the state’s YIGBY law, according to a 2023 report by the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley.

In North Carolina, congregations have had small successes. A Presbyterian church in Charlotte turned an unused education wing into 21 units of permanent housing, and an Episcopal church in Chapel Hill built three tiny homes on its property for a trio of formerly homeless residents.

Eli Smith, the director of the nonprofit Faith-Based Housing Initiative, argues that state YIGBY laws should ease affordability requirements for small infill projects such as those in North Carolina and allow them to get built more quickly. Otherwise, he said, small churches’ projects “can’t get off the ground.”

“Think of it as a cottage neighborhood tucked behind a sanctuary — people know each other, it’s beautiful, it’s meaningful,” Smith said. “The future of this movement isn’t in [high-rise apartment] towers; it’s in small, intentional communities that fit their surroundings.”

# Waiver ...

Continued from page 1  
“We can best support Hoosier students when we return education to the states, empower parents with high-quality educational options, get red tape out of the way for educators, and focus on improvement for every student,” he said in a news release.

The 19-page waiver application outlines a plan to simplify how federal dollars are administered and to align Indiana’s accountability system with federal requirements.

The state’s proposal cen-

ters on four main areas of flexibility: streamlining federal funding, easing local compliance, creating an innovation fund, and unifying accountability metrics.

In its filing, the Indiana Department of Education asked to combine funding from more than 15 federal education programs — including portions of Titles I, II, III and IV — into a single “strategic block grant.”

Those programs make up the bulk of federal K-12 aid: Title I supports schools serving higher percentages of low-

income students; Title II funds teacher training and professional development; Title III provides extra assistance for English language learners; and Title IV helps schools expand “well-rounded” education programs, boost safety initiatives and increase access to technology.

Indiana officials argued that managing those programs separately consumes significant time and resources. The waiver emphasized that IDOE currently spends about \$2.2 million annually in staff time to support the

administrative infrastructure required to meet ESEA compliance demands, with roughly 75% of that amount — about \$1.7 million — dedicated solely to compliance and reporting rather than to initiatives that directly advance student achievement.

By consolidating those programs, officials said the state agency can redirect resources toward its top priorities, like early literacy, STEM education and high school redesign.

The filing compares Indiana’s management of the federal COVID-era

ESSER relief funds, which the department described as a “more efficient” block grant model that allowed it to “move with urgency” and “align resources with its most pressing educational priorities.”

The waiver additionally seeks to extend similar flexibility to school districts by allowing them to merge multiple federal grants into a single plan.

Department officials argued that the change would simplify paperwork and monitoring, reducing what they describe as a “burdensome regulatory environment” that often

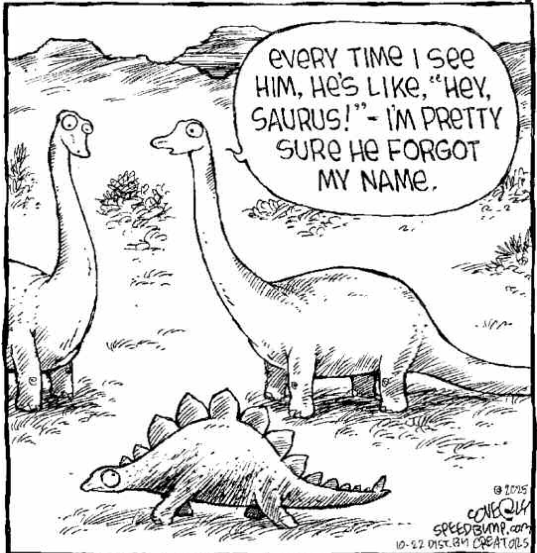
discourages “innovation” at the local level.

Under the new system, districts would complete one consolidated application and monitoring process, rather than separate plans for each federal program. That streamlined process would “free up time and staff to focus on what matters most: effective implementation, real-time progress monitoring, and continuous improvement,” according to the waiver.

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*This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.*

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



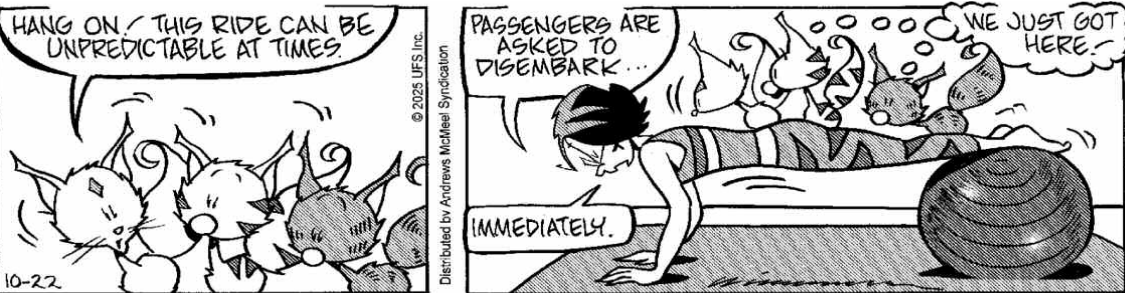
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



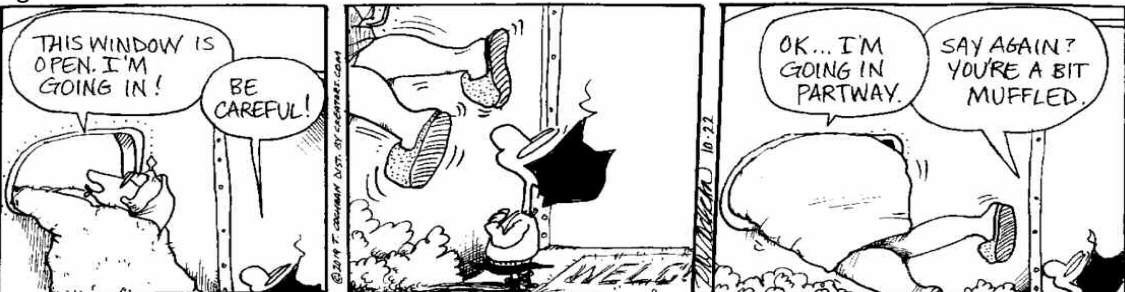
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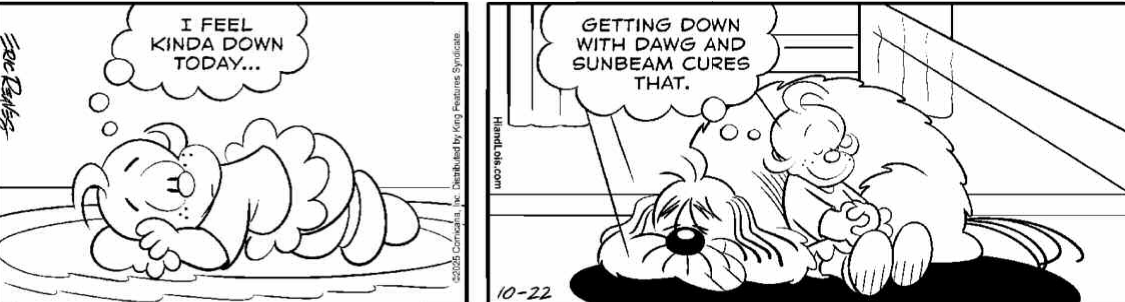
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Hidden chance

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

|       |              |  |  |
|-------|--------------|--|--|
| NORTH |              |  |  |
| ♠     | A 8 5 3      |  |  |
| ♥     | A K 4        |  |  |
| ♦     | A J 8 2      |  |  |
| ♣     | 10 3         |  |  |
| WEST  |              |  |  |
| ♠     | 10 7 6       |  |  |
| ♥     | Q 19 6       |  |  |
| ♦     | 7 4          |  |  |
| ♣     | A 7 4 2      |  |  |
| EAST  |              |  |  |
| ♠     | Q J 9        |  |  |
| ♥     | 10 8 5 3     |  |  |
| ♦     | 5            |  |  |
| ♣     | Q J 9 8 6    |  |  |
| SOUTH |              |  |  |
| ♠     | K 4 2        |  |  |
| ♥     | 7 2          |  |  |
| ♦     | K Q 10 9 6 3 |  |  |
| ♣     | K 5          |  |  |

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1 NT Pass 3♦  
Pass 4♦ Pass 5♦

Opening lead — queen of hearts.  
It is obviously better to give yourself two chances to make a contract instead of just one. It is important to keep this in mind before settling for the most straightforward line of play.  
Take this case where you're in five diamonds and West leads the queen of hearts. You certainly can't relax when dummy appears, since you have only 10 sure tricks. You note that you can easily score an eleventh if East has the ace of clubs. However, you should not pin all

your hopes solely on the 50% chance that East has the club ace. Instead, you should seek an approach that might give you a better chance than that.

One possibility is to win the heart lead, draw trump, cash the A-K of spades and exit with a spade. If the suit is divided 3-3 and West wins the third spade, you are home free. This line of play is better than relying exclusively on the location of the ace of clubs, but it is still not the best approach. A superior play is to let West's queen of hearts hold the first trick!

This unusual maneuver offers you by far the best chance to make 11 tricks. It is clearly better than playing the A-K and another spade, because it avoids the risk of East winning the third spade lead when the suit is divided 3-3.

In the actual case, once you let West win the queen of hearts at trick one, nothing can stop you from making five diamonds, whatever West does next. You win any return, draw trump, discard a spade on one of dummy's high hearts and establish an extra spade trick by cashing the K-A of spades and ruffing a spade. If the spades don't divide 3-3, you can still fall back on the possibility that East has the ace of clubs.

Tomorrow: Steppingstone to success.  
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10-22 CRYPTOQUIP

LVZB DT BVN OZGPKDBN  
TLNNB TUZSH PO WPTB FNPEN  
ZBBNURDUJ VNZGX-WNBZE  
SPUSNKBT? KPSH SZURX.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY FORCEFULLY REMOVED A PIRATE'S EYE COVERING, YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S BEEN DIS-PATCHED.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sci-fi prefix

5 Knock

8 Coffee pod

12 One-named super-model

13 Tram load

14 Post-WWII alliance

15 Easy money

17 Mother of Horus

18 Dog's rewards

19 Kitchen whistler

21 Impose

22 Con

23 Swiss peak

26 Wimbledon division

28 Jeter of baseball

31 Carrots' mates

33 24 horas

35 Peregrinate

36 Green sauce

38 Timetable abbr.

40 Pester

41 Scrabble piece

43 NASA moon craft

45 Noted Jewish scholar

47 Dwellings

51 Landed

52 Barkeep's cry

54 Teeming

55 Compass dir.

56 Hawaiian city

57 Home-owner's document

58 Refusals

59 Admin. aide

DOWN

1 Falling-out

2 Sharif of film

3 Pyramid part

4 Available

5 Awakened suddenly

6 Rainbow shape

7 Conductor

8 Yarn shop customer

9 Skillet makeup

10 Gas co., for one

11 Stance

16 A/C measures

20 Finale

23 iPhone download

24 Country music star

Greenwood

25 Former incarnation

27 Cravat

29 Ms. Longoria

30 Beer barrel

32 Pompous

34 Collections of maps

37 World Cup cheer

39 Arrears

42 Barkin or Pompeo

44 Coffee flavoring

45 Difficult

46 "Would — to you?"

48 Lectern locale

49 Building wings

50 Mailbox feature

53 Year in Madrid

Solution time: 23 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| J | A | G | S | O | R | L | S | P | A | R |
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# Jay County soccer had 12 honored by ACAC

A dozen Patriots have been recognized for their work out on the pitch.

Seven boys and nine girls for the Jay County High School soccer teams received All-Allen County Athletic Conference honors for the 2025 season.

While the boys only had three first-team members, Elias Mueller and Emmitt Reynolds earned the top spots for defender and midfielder, while Jacoby Penrod made it as the second forward.

Also receiving honors on the second team for the Patriots, which finished third in the conference, were Samuel Wiggins, Jaxson DeHoff, Brody Collins and Peyton Yowell.

## Local Roundup

The girls had four players named to the first team including top midfielder Aixa Lopez and No. 1 forward London Lloyd. The other first teamers were Emma Hatzell (defender) and Ariel Beiswanger (at-large).

Tessa Frazee, Raylah Newton, Raylin Hummer and Maleah Parsons all made second team All-ACAC, and Charlee Peters was an honorable mention.

### Junior honored

Fort Recovery High School's Cameron Muhlenkamp was named to the District 8 All-Star third team on Tuesday.

The FRHS junior is one of eight Midwest Athletic Conference volleyball players to be named to the third team that ran 20 spots deep.

Muhlenkamp led the Indians' offense with 208 kills and 49 aces. She also had the second-most digs at 193, while Kayla Gaerke had the most with 288.

She also had five blocks and 12 assists as well, while leading the Indians to an 11-12 record and the No. 2 seed in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 District tournament.

### Four firsts

CONNERSVILLE — The JC Flipsters gymnastics team swept first place in each division as it opened up the 2025-26 season over the weekend at the Spooktakular Classic.

Emalee Miller earned the top spot in the Xcel bronze division with 35.2 all-around points. She claimed first place on the bars (9.15) and the floor (8.2) and added runner-up finishes on the vault and the beam.

At the Xcel silver level, Emma Robinson's 36.85 all-around points earned first place. She topped the competitions on the vault bars and floor with scores of 9.45, 9.375 and 9.125, respectively.

Emma Fisher took first on the beam (8.75) and added second-place finishes in the bars and floor competitions to collect the most all-around points in the Xcel gold division at 34.825.

Allie Evans finished first in the Xcel platinum division with an all-around score of 35.55. She nearly swept all the events with first-place finishes on the bars (9.175), beam (8.1) and floor (9.25).

The Flipsters also claimed second place in each division and third in the bronze, silver and gold. Lettie VanSkyock, Madi Biagi, Charli Stephens and Audrey Miller all were runners-up and Sydney Muhlenkamp, Paxton Hirschy and Aubrey Foreman all placed third.



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# Los Angeles ran over by Jonathan Taylor

By **SAM FARMER**

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Chargers had the look. All-gold uniforms. Retro logos. Powder-blue end zones with script from the nostalgic days of Dan Fouts and Don Coryell.

But their defense? As dead as disco when it counted most.

Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor, the NFL's leading rusher, trampled the Chargers on Sunday with touchdowns of 23, eight and 19 yards in a 38-24 victory at SoFi Stadium.

It was just another Sunday for Taylor, who came into Week 7 leading the league in rushing yards and touchdowns, and averaged 5.9 yards per carry against a Chargers defense that had been respectable to this point. That defense allowed an average of 20.8 points in the six previous games.

That helped open the passing lanes for Colts quarterback Daniel Jones, who threw a pair of touchdowns and again made an early-season case for Comeback Player of the Year after his career had seemingly flamed out with the New York Giants.

It was the second trip to Los Angeles in four weeks for the Colts, who lost to the Rams here in Week 4. They got better on both sides of the ball but couldn't fully atone for their ineffectiveness in the first half.

The Chargers, whose distinctive look was a nod to the 1970s, were sleepwalking in the first half before coming to life in the second.

Justin Herbert kept the home team somewhat in the game with three touchdown passes after halftime but found himself trying to dig out of a deep hole all day.

The Chargers actually outgained the Colts, 445 yards to 401, and held the ball for nine minutes longer, but Indianapolis was more efficient with its possessions, better in the red zone and took advantage of its opportunities.

Herbert saw two of his passes intercepted in the first half. The first was batted high in the air at the line of scrimmage and plucked by 314-pound defensive tackle Grover Stewart. The second pick came in the red zone, when safety Nick Cross slipped in front of Quentin Johnston in the end zone to intercept an eight-yard pass.

The Chargers, who trailed at halftime, 23-3, clawed their way back into the game with touchdown passes to Johnston, Keenan Allen and Oronde Gadsden II.

Such a rollercoaster of a season for the Chargers, who ran the table against the AFC West in the first three weeks, then lost back-to-back games to the Giants and Washington Commanders, before rebounding with a come-from-behind win at Miami.

There's not much bounce-back time after Sunday's loss as the Chargers play host to Minnesota on Thursday night.

The Chargers can take solace in that no one is running away with the division. Kansas City stomped Las Vegas on Sunday, 31-0, but the Chiefs aren't as dominant as in recent years. And Denver lost to the Chargers on the road and still looks to be finding its way.

Against the Colts, the troubles began early for the Chargers. After the home team's first snap, Chargers left tackle Austin Deculus lay face down on the turf. He was the team's fourth player to line up as Herbert's blind-side protector.

It was an ankle injury that felled Deculus — he wound up returning in the second quarter with a bulky brace — and the Chargers turned to the lightly experienced Foster Sarell, who suddenly held one of the most important positions on the field.

Just more offensive line insanity for the Chargers, who have cycled through six tackles so far. Their line was once considered an area of strength.

# Padres plan to interview Pujols

By **KEVIN ACEE**

The San Diego Union-Tribune  
Tribune News Service

SAN DIEGO — One of the game's biggest names is among the candidates the Padres will interview for their vacant manager position.

The team will meet with future Hall of Famer Albert Pujols, sources said, as they seek to replace Mike Shildt, who announced his retirement last week. It is not known when the interview of Pujols will take place.

Pujols, who retired as a

player in 2022 after 22 seasons playing for the Cardinals, Angels and Dodgers, is also expected to interview with the Orioles. Pujols interviewed with the Angels earlier this month but is no longer a candidate for that job, according to multiple reports.

Pujols is said to have expressed interest in the Padres job from the time Shildt's retirement became known, and the Padres reached out to him late last week.

See Padres page 7

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