

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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Rates, salaries set to go up

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review
Water, sewer and trash rates will be going up. So will employee salaries.

Dunkirk City Council approved 3% increases to water and sewer rates, a contract with Best Way for trash service with 5% increases over three years and 4% raises for city employees during its meeting Monday.

(The water and sewer rate increases and raises will need to be approved again in the form of ordinance changes.)

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins had asked council at its June 26 meeting to consider water and sewer rate increases for 2024. The city's master utility plan calls for an increase of between 2% and 5%.

As he did at the previous meeting, council president Jesse Bivens suggested it was best for council to make small annual increases in its rate in order to keep up with maintenance and avoid the need to make one large increase in the future.

"We can't really say 'no raises,' but we can keep them small," said Bivens. "This is hard ... but if we don't do our job today, somebody in the future is going to be yelling at us and not be able to accomplish anything ..."

Council members ultimately agree, with Tom Johnson, Christy Curts and Kevin Hamilton supporting a motion from Bivens to increase water and sewage rates by 3%. (Council member Bryan Jessup was absent from the meeting.)

The increases amount to about 71 cents per month to the minimum rate for water and 50 cents per month to the minimum rate for sewage.

If approved via an ordinance change, the new rates will go into effect Jan. 1.

Council also approved the only bid to provide trash removal service in the city. Best Way, which currently provides the service, was the lone bidder with an offer of a rate of \$12.58 per household per month for the first year, \$13.20 per month for the second year and \$13.86 per month for the third.

The contract, which was approved unanimously, represents an increase of 5% from the current rate of \$11.99 with additional 5% increases in the next two years.

See Up page 2

2023 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Engaging expressions

The Jay County Fair continued Monday with the 4-H cat show in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibit Hall, the Jay County Farm Bureau Cook-Off in the Farmer's Building and a Delaware County Championship Wrestling event at the grandstand. Pictured above, Sophia Calvary smiles at her family in the crowd while sitting with her cat, Ella, Monday during the cat show. At right, Fr. Peter Logsdon uses his knife to gesture at another team during the cook-off. For more photos from Monday and Tuesday at the fair, see page 5.

New educator has joined Jay Co. team

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

At first glance, Emily Krings' path to being an agriculture and natural resources educator seems fairly straightforward.

She grew up in rural Indiana. She was involved in 4-H and FFA. She pursued a degree in natural resource and environmental management.

But she brings a bit

more varied experience as her resume also includes a six-year stint in the military that included a deployment to the Middle East.

Krings joined Jay County's Purdue Extension office in May as its new agriculture and natural resources educator and is getting her first taste of the Jay County Fair this week.

"It is awesome," said

the 23-year-old after competing in the Jay County Farm Bureau's Cook-Off. "I just feel like I'm welcomed in so quickly.

"And it's so fun to see so many people here. I'm so impressed. Because other fairs that I've been to you see people here and there, but everybody's interacting, saying, 'Hey, how ya doin'.' I just love that."

See **Educator** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

New Jay County Purdue Extension agriculture and natural resources educator Emily Krings (right) prepares to put a skewer on the grill while competing Monday with co-workers Ashlynn May (left) and Jessica Kerrigan in the Jay County Farm Bureau Cook-Off at the Jay County Fair.

Richards reviews recent JCDC activities

By **BAILEY CLINE**
The Commercial Review

JCDC is keeping busy.

Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards shared updates with Jay County Commissioners during their meeting Monday.

MakeMyMove, a website designed to attract new residents, has had an increase in applicants for the area. As of Monday, Richards had connected with 44 applicants and one had accepted an offer to move to Jay County. (The county signed

a contract with the Indianapolis-based recruitment company in 2022 to attract 18 new residents.)

Richards recalled Jay County Council and commissioners adopted the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Project strategic investment plan previously. Through the project, the county is determining how to spend at least a third of its \$3.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars, along with an additional \$1 million from Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for involvement in the project.

Richards asked how JCDC could help the county as it works with Kleinpeter Consulting and OCRA to administer the funds. (County officials have had a few executive sessions in recent months, including a joint meeting June 14 hosted for "discussion of strategy of a real property transaction," at which representatives from Kleinpeter Consulting and OCRA were both present.)

"I think it's more trying to decide what we can actually use that money for," said commissioners president Chad Aker.

Jay County recently acquired about 68 acres of farm land on the west side of Portland city limits along Indiana 67. Officials have discussed options, such as creating infrastructure for new housing or building a multifaceted public safety building on the land.

Richards noted tax abatements that have been approved by Portland for FCC, Minnich Poultry, Pioneer Warehousing, Penntville Custom Cabinetry and Pioneer Equipment Leasing. He added OCRA recently awarded an \$81,000 planning

grant for a master utility study in Redkey.

Richards also highlighted other activities, including a broadband discussion hosted with Gary Thompson of East Central Indiana Regional Planning District. He's working on hosting another that would cover broadband funding options.

Commissioners also heard from Jay County highway superintendent Eric Butcher, who shared quotes for outfitting two dump trucks next year.

See **JCDC** page 2

Deaths

Roby Ford, 75, Redkey
William Stickler, 66, Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Monday. The low was 61.

Showers are expected tonight and there is a chance of a thunderstorm. Skies will be partly cloudy Thursday with a high in the mid 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Coming up

Wednesday

3 p.m. — Cincinnatus League Senior Citizen Recognition in the Farmer's Building

4:30 p.m. — 4-H sheep show in the Show Arena

7 p.m. — Breanna Faith Music concert in the Farmer's Building

7 p.m. — Full Throttle Monster Trucks at the grandstand

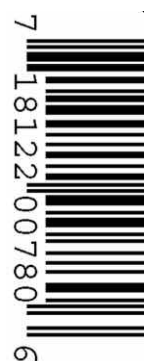
Thursday

9 a.m. — 4-H horse and pony show in the Outdoor Arena

4 p.m. — A Touch of Mexico mariachi band in the Farmer's Building

5 p.m. — 4-H large animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena

7 p.m. — We Are Messenger concert at the grandstand



Obituaries

Roby Ford

July 9, 1948-July 9, 2023
Roby C. Ford, 75, of Redkey, Indiana, passed away peacefully Sunday, July 9, 2023, while in the company of family members at his residence.
Roby was born in Portland, Indiana, on July 9, 1948, a son of Barbara Jean (Dytmire) and the late Carl Ford Jr. Roby was a 1966 graduate of Redkey High School and received his electrical technology degree from Ivy Tech Community College in Muncie, Indiana.
Roby was the loving husband

of Donna Jean (Himes) Ford who he happily married on Oct. 8, 1966. He was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Portland, Indiana, and enjoyed watching Westerns, telling stories, good old-fashioned hard work and anytime he could be with or have his kids and grandchildren around.
Roby is survived by his mother Barbara; his wife Donna; three sons, Roby Carl Ford Jr.,



Ford

(Annie), Timothy Wayne Ford (Shelly) and Troy E. Ford (Andrea); one daughter, Tina Carol Hunt (Thomas); one brother, Michael Lee Ford (Betty); three sisters, Ramona Ellen Chapman, Denise Kay Roby (Steve) and Vanessa Marie Clearly; several grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by his father Carl Ford, Jr.
Visitation will be held on Friday, July 14, 2023, from 4 to 8 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel and again on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 10 to 11

a.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church in Portland, Indiana. Funeral services will follow on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church in Portland, Indiana, with Pastor Hugh Kelly officiating. Burial will be held in Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie, Indiana.
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Roby's honor to the Kidney Foundation.
A special thank you to State of the Heart Hospice for the wonderful care and compassion shown to Roby and his family during this difficult time.
Arrangements have been

entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.
William Edward (Buck) Stickler, Dunkirk, Sept. 8, 1956-July 6, 2023.
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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 7/13	Friday 7/14	Saturday 7/15	Sunday 7/16	Monday 7/17
84/66	85/68	83/64	83/64	83/64
Thursday's forecast shows a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Friday also has a 50% chance of rain with a high in the low to mid 80s.	There's a 60% chance of storms on Saturday, with highs in the 80s.	Sunday's weather looks to be mostly sunny with rain possible as well.	Mostly sunny skies on Monday with rain also possible. Otherwise, windy.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 2-24-34-53-58 Power Ball: 13 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$725 million	Daily Four: 7-2-1-6 Quick Draw: 3-6-9-13-21-23-24-26-31-34-40-41-47-54-60-66-67-71-72-80 Cash 5: 4-15-24-34-35 Estimated jackpot: \$513,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$500 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 7-7-6 Pick 4: 8-9-0-5 Pick 5: 9-5-5-7-1 Evening Pick 3: 5-6-7 Pick 4: 8-9-3-7 Pick 5: 6-1-6-8-2 Rolling Cash: 4-18-28-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$360,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 3-6-4 Daily Four: 7-5-5-2 Quick Draw: 4-12-16-23-25-27-33-34-35-36-41-42-43-46-50-51-65-70-73-76 Evening Daily Three: 3-0-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.52 Oct. corn4.82 Wheat5.96	Aug. beans.....13.28 Wheat 6.24
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.81 Aug. corn5.56 Oct. corn4.88	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.44 Late July corn5.38 Beans14.64 Late July beans.....14.59 Wheat6.24
The Andersons Richland Township Corn5.46 Aug. corn4.78 Beans14.68	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....5.25 Aug. corn5.20 Beans14.59 Aug. beans.....14.29 Wheat6.10

Today in history

In 1543, King Henry VIII of England married Catherine Parr, who was his sixth and final wife. He had two of his previous wives beheaded and divorced two while the other died in childbirth.
In 1862, the U.S. Army created the Medal of Honor. It is awarded for battlefield bravery.
In 1962, the Rolling Stones held their first concert in a London club.
In 1974, G. Gordon Liddy, John Ehrlichman and two others were convicted of conspiracy and perjury in relation to the Watergate scandal.
In 1978, the TV game show "Family Feud" began airing on ABC. It was originally hosted by Richard Dawson.
In 1997, Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Swat Valley, Pakistan. She is an activist who as a teenager spoke out against girls in Pakistan being prohibited from receiving an education. She survived an assassination attempt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.
In 2017, the Cincinnati League honored Paul and Helen Martin, Lee Newman, Judy Zearbaugh and Bob Vance with Lifetime of Service awards during a ceremony at the Jay County Fair.
In 2021, Jay County Commissioners approved road use and decommissioning agreements with Leeward Renewable Energy for its proposed Rose Gold Solar facility north of Dunkirk. The \$150 million, 150-megawatt facility was planned to be operational sometime in 2024.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Corporation, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station,	1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.
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FR approves '24 budget

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
It's budget time.
Fort Recovery Village Council approved its 2024 budget during a meeting Monday.
Per Ohio law, the budget must be submitted to the Mercer County Auditor's office by July 15. Fiscal officer Roberta Staugler's estimates set the general fund's revenue at \$1.27 million and expenditures at more than \$1.94 million. (Village administrator Randy Diller noted the budget will change significantly through the budget-

ing process, adding they typically underestimate income tax and overestimate expenses.)
Diller and Staugler referenced various items they've accounted for in next year's budget. The two largest projects expected to come out of the 2024 budget are the reconstruction of Wiggs and Gwendolyn streets and construction of a second water tower.
Plans are to reconstruct Street between Milligan and Wiggs streets and Wiggs Street between Gwen-

dolyn and Wayne streets sometime in the next year, with the cost expected to be \$488,767.
The bulk of the cost for a new water tower is covered by a \$1.25 million grant for the project through the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure program. It will hold 250,000 gallons, mirroring the existing tower along Industrial Drive on the southeastern side of the village. Fort Recovery will contribute about \$400,000 of its own funds toward the project, which includes installing an

additional 2,600 feet of water line.
In other business, council:
•Authorized annexing 0.909 acres of land near Fort Recovery Community Park. Donated by Buzz and Patt Hull, the land will be utilized for the future Sawyer Overman Ninja Park.
•Amended its wage ordinance, with Diller explaining utility operator trainee Aidan O'Dell passed his Class I Water exam June 30. Per the village's agreement, O'Dell receives a \$1 raise for passing the test.

Up ...

Continued from page 1
Council members also looked at raises for city employees for 2024, with Robbins suggesting between 2% and 5%.
Bivens advocated for giving a raise while also asking clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott if the city's budget could handle increases. She responded that the city could afford raises but that she would not suggest large increases.
After brief discussion, Bivens suggested a 4% raise across the board and it was unanimously approved.
Also Monday, council opted against contracting with Jay County Humane Society for animal control services.
Robbins last month had presented a proposed contract from the humane society, which is in the process of renovating the former Fastenal building on the west side of Portland its new headquarters. Its hope had been to provide animal control services to the entire county via the new facility. (The humane society has been handling animal control for Jay County and the City of Portland since 2021 following the retirement of animal control officer Bill Fields.)
The proposed contract called for Dunkirk to pay \$18,000 annually for services for the first three years and \$15,000 annually in subsequent years. (The city currently has about

\$17,000 budgeted annually to handle animal control.)
Bivens suggested he and his fellow council members reject the contract proposal, noting that the city has its own animal control building. (The structure on Blackford County road 825 East, just outside the city, was rebuilt in late 2020 after it was damaged by fire.) He acknowledged new regulations that will require animals to be spayed/neutered and tagged, but said he feels the city would still be better off on its own for animal control.
Curts expressed concern about services being provided during limited hours, with Johnson agreeing.
Hamilton said he is uncomfortable with the two-year term of the initial contract, saying a shorter trial period would have been preferred.
Ultimately, council voted unanimously against signing the contract with the humane society.
In other business, council:
•Approved up to \$55,137 in matching funds for a grant for self-contained breathing apparatus tanks for the city's fire department. All of the county's municipalities worked together on receiving a \$1.07 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to replace tanks.
•Decided against making any ordinance changes to allow chickens in

the city. Some residents had previously asked council for an amendment to allow the animals.
•Learned the following from Robbins:
—Construction is underway on a sidewalk project on Highland Avenue to connect Dunkirk City Park to West Jay Elementary School.
—A new trailer arrived Monday with another expected Tuesday at the trailer court on Lincoln Avenue, now known as Lincoln Meadows (formerly Sisco Mobile Home Park).
—Upgrades have been made to Dunkirk Public Library, including landscaping, painting, steps and handrails.
•Heard Robbins compliment the city's Independence Day fireworks on July 3 and Saturday's concert as part of the Webster Depot Summer Concert Series.
•Discussed the need to add a line item for overtime for park employees in the 2024 budget.
•Heard from Curts that a jiu-jitsu studio is now occupying some of the space in the former Westlawn Elementary School building.
•Voted to place a lien on a property owned by Nathan Conatser. He had a water bill of more than \$8,000 because of a leak at an unoccupied rental property.
•Heard a complaint from Jean Willoughby regarding noise from neighbors riding mini bikes.

JCDC ...

Continued from page 1
Lindco Equipment Sales of Merrillville asked for \$93,671 and WA Jones of Columbia City asked for \$92,794. Butcher suggested taking the bids under advisement.
He noted several residents have filed complaints with the department about how Great Lakes Chloride of Warsaw has been handling dust control services. Butcher suggested cutting the county out of the

process to allow residents to deal with the matter privately. Aker noted the county had been involved previously to avoid repeated visits from the company.
Butcher also informed commissioners he will be applying for a Community Crossings grant through Indiana Department of Transportation in January to replace the Seventh

Street over the Salamonie River in Portland. The initial estimate for the work is \$1.3 million.
In other business, commissioners Brian McGalliard and Aker, absent Rex Journey:
•Approved a \$1,010.25 administration fee for utilizing the Indiana Bond Bank fuel budget program
•Appointed John Col-

dren to the Meridian Health Services Board
•OK'd overnight travel requests from Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel for state-required conferences
•Were reminded by Aker the Jay County Fair is ongoing this week. He encouraged those at the meeting to visit the fairgrounds.

SERVICES

Today
Atkinson, Peggy: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Pugh, Jeff: 11 a.m., Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene.

Thursday
Gilly, Karyn: 10:30 a.m., Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., Bluffton.

Saturday
Ford, Roby: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
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Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

FAIR WEEK BLOWOUT

Run any ad at regular price during the week of the Jay County Fair (July 7 through 15) and run it one more time for free between July 18 and 29.

Deal does not apply to special sections.

The Commercial Review Call (260) 726-8141
Jayland's Award Winning Newspaper or email ads@thecr.com



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Top babies

The annual Jay County Fair baby contests were held Saturday morning in the Farmer's Building at Jay County Fairgrounds. Pictured above are the contest winners. At left is Kennedy Lawhead with her mom Rachel Louck as the winner of the contest for babies 6 months through 12 months old. At right Mason Kuss gives a slight grin as he receives his ribbon with dad Simon Kuss for winning the contest for babies 12 to 18 months old.

Ex-husband is unsure what future holds

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been together more than 20 years.

Our relationship grew stale over time, and a couple of years ago, she decided to leave me. However, over the few years, even though she has had several lovers, we have started to get close again.

The problem is, I really love her and want her back as my GIRLFRIEND, but she sees this as a casual relationship, which leaves me feeling hurt.

For example, she doesn't see a problem with having a long conversation with another lover while she's at my house. When she realizes that I'm hurt, she gets exasperated and says she feels like she has to "walk on eggshells" around me.

Is it me? Is there a path for-

Dear Abby



interested in how her actions affect you. The path forward is one that's as far away as you can get from this person because your agendas are polar opposites.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a widow who recently became engaged to a man who, I'm realizing after two years, has a gambling addiction. He recently lied to me about his whereabouts, and I found out this same thing went on during his first marriage. I can't say for sure this was the first time he was untruthful, but I had a gut feeling.

We had developed what I thought was a good relationship based on mutual respect and trust. I could use some advice about what I should do going forward. He has become

my friend and family since I have no children and have lost not only my late husband, but also a brother and recently my father. — THROWN IN NORTH DAKOTA

DEAR THROWN: I know you are lonely. But if you love your fiance, continue the relationship as it IS, and do not plan on marrying him.

Realize that should you marry a person with a gambling addiction, committing your assets could ruin you financially and affect your retirement.

If he has a desire to change, there are 12-step programs he could join, Gamblers Anonymous being one of them (gamblersanonymous.org). But please be aware that com-

pulsive gambling is an addiction, and your fiance could fall off the wagon at any time.

DEAR ABBY: My husband texted a graphic nude photo of himself to his ex-girlfriend. I am shocked and hurt.

Should I leave this man? — CAN'T UNSEE IT IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR CAN'T UNSEE: Yes, I think you should, because the naked truth is that your husband isn't finished with his former girlfriend.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

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
PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Pizza Hut in Portland.

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 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

Coming Soon!

Plan now to

ADVERTISE

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss them.

CR ONLY — *Swiss Days* (special pages only, not a separate section)

Wednesday, July 26 (ad deadline July 18)

NG ONLY — *Randolph County Fair results*

Tuesday, August 8 (ad deadline July 31)

NT ONLY — *Blackford County Fair results*

Wednesday, August 9 (ad deadline August 1)

UNIVERSAL — *Engine show*

Tuesday, August 22 (ad deadline August 14)

GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

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Fair is about old, new memories

Editor's note: This column is being re-printed from July 10, 2019. Jack was always a big fan of the Jay County Fair — "The best darned fair in Indiana." It's a week of remembering old times and creating new memories. Say thank you to those who make it all happen.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

The scent of cotton candy is in the air. The midway's going full swing. And kids are using hoses to keep the hogs cool in the 4-H barns.

It's Jay County Fair time, and the fair prompts its own flood of memories.

Memories like:

- Getting my fingers stuck in what used to be called a "Chinese" finger prison. It had been a prize from the duck pond concession, and at age 6 or so, it had me baffled. It's a wonder I'm not stuck in the darned thing to this day.
- The caterpillar, a ride on the midway back in the 1950s and

Back in the Saddle



early '60s. Like the Himalaya, it squeezed riders together with centrifugal force as it built up speed. Unlike the Himalaya, it had a curtain or cover that went over the riders, plunging them into the dark.

- Standing with other teenage boys outside the girlie shows while the pitchman barker touted the exotic attractions within. We were too young to get into the tent, and by the time we were old enough the "hoot shows" had vanished. Today it's hard to believe they were ever there. But they were.
- Winning a huge teddy bear at the mouse game and giving it to the first girl I saw. She was

thrilled, and I didn't have to haul the thing around the rest of the night. But her boyfriend, as I recall, was less than enthusiastic about my generosity. Does the mouse game still exist? Or have the anti-gambling and anti-animal cruelty forces pushed it into history?

- Hamburgers at the Tri-Kappa stand Tuesday nights during fair week. Dad was at Rotary, and my mother was working the stand. So it made a perfect spot for dinner.
- My hapless — and hopeless — attempt to show a pig as part of a "celebrity" hog show benefit for 4-H. The threshold for what constituted a celebrity was low, but not as low as my performance in the show ring. Every shred of dignity disappeared a long time ago.
- Riding the double Ferris wheel at the Jay County Fair with my wife. It wasn't a side-by-side double. It was a vertical double, and you felt you were going to die when it

reached certain points on its circuit.

- A creepy sideshow which included, at one point, a midget (today, a little person) lying in a bed of glass while the barker hectored the crowd to "stand on the little man's chest." I think I actually did so, very briefly.
- A fair — way, way back — when the second floor of the roundhouse was actually open to the public. There were booths up there, but it was dreadfully hot in addition to being unsafe.

And, finally, memories of years it seemed that the fair was on its last legs. This was back in the 1960s, when it seemed county fairs had run their course.

That was especially true of Jay County's. Buildings were in disrepair; the midway was increasing sleazy and leadership had burned out.

But a dedicated group of individuals decided that wasn't going to happen.

Led by the late Everett May Jr. and centered around members of

the Portland Lions Club, new fair board leadership emerged. Guys like Bob Lyons and Clyde Beeler and a dozen others stepped up in the early to mid 1970s. And they were joined by others, folks like Rob Weaver and former Dunkirk banker Bob Wyne, convinced that the fair would not only survive but would thrive.

Ball State University played a pivotal role as well. Architecture students from BSU did one of their one-day workshops with the fair board and community leaders, then drew plans for improvements.

Things like the food court, the north entrance, the central walkway from the north parking to the midway, and the unified color scheme of the buildings were all born during that project.

Mostly of course, it was hard work by the fair board, as dedicated a group of volunteers as any community could hope to find.

Say "thanks" when you see them at the fair this week.

Let hearts drive intention, action

By WIM LAVEN

Mother Teresa said: "If I look at the mass I will never act. If I look at the one, I will."

How has this played out in recent times?

The last decade has showcased a trend that has been observed for the last century. Good people will repeatedly ignore mass murder and genocide. Good people will give to causes they believe in but United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is underfunded, in 2018 they reported that more than 3 million children die of undernutrition each year.

Oxfam, an organization dedicated to alleviating global poverty, tells us that \$23 billion could meet the needs of people facing starvation and acute malnutrition this year, or "\$37 billion every year until 2030 to tackle both extreme and chronic hunger."

Similarly, when hundreds of refugees perished in a terrible Mediterranean fishing trawler disaster last month, it generated a few stories in the U.S. press, but nothing like the rapt attention and comprehensive coverage blanketing our news media during the search for a missing tourist submersible. AP news reports that OceanGate Expeditions is an undersea exploration company that has been chronicling the Titanic's decay and the underwater ecosystem around it via yearly voyages since 2021.

I have observed a variety of ways that people are reacting to this search. One example is the observation: "I wish people cared the same about refugees on boats the same as billionaires on sightseeing trips to the Titanic." But this type of shaming will not work. Demanding that a person "care" is different from a critique of media priorities and extrapolating media coverage into judgment of society in general is unlikely to result in more assistance to refugees.

There is a large body of research explaining that people are much more likely to act charitably to individuals or in response to "bad luck" than they are to help groups or systemic problems. This is why so many aid groups advertise about aiding an individ-

Wim Laven



ual's life. Our brains perceive large problems as unsolvable but individual struggles as "I can make a difference." We also tend to view mass numbers as less relatable than one person's life, or a small group's fate.

Personalizing problems can seem manageable, but contemplating systemic change is often felt as a tsunami of complex and massive challenges. It feeds the compassion fatigue. If I donate \$50 and I'm told that 4-year-old refugee Jamila in a far-off land has enough to eat for two months as a result, that is tangible and my compassion is energized, not enervated.

In our self-talk, we can reframe some of the systemic barriers so that we can take small actions toward preventing further structural failures that cost so many lives.

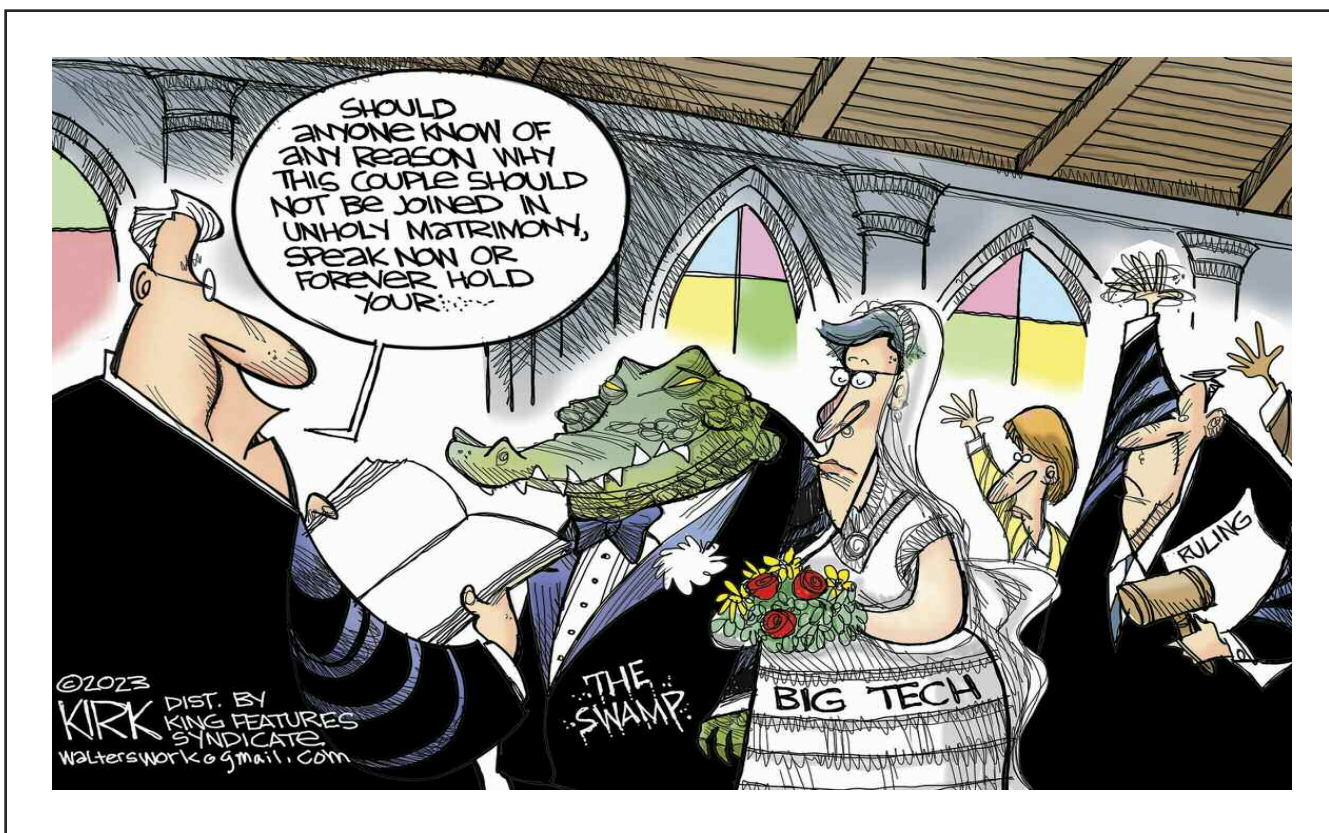
Instead of shaming, we need to demand changes to our broken systems and alarming budget priorities. We need to elect leaders who will see to the changes that can address and alleviate these global calamities that go un-or-under addressed year after year.

Yes to my \$50 toward Jamila's survival and yes to my \$50 toward the election of an official who will rightly reduce the bloated military budget in favor of life-affirming structural outlays. Jamila is meaningful to me, even though she is only one of millions. Similarly, when we think of how close votes are in politics these days, supporting one peace candidate with my little donations can feel doable and significant.

Any budget shortfall for saving life can be taken from the war coffers. In our hearts, we know this, and our hearts should be driving our intentions and our actions.

.....
Laven, syndicated by PeaceVoice, teaches courses in political science and conflict resolution.

PeaceVoice is a project of the Oregon Peace Institute.



Remember the existing plan

By CLAUDIA SAHM

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Last week the Supreme Court struck down the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness plan, which would have done away with as much as \$20,000 per borrower. And that was the second blow to borrowers in recent weeks. The first was when House Republicans used the deal to raise the nation's debt ceiling to force borrowers to start paying back their loans in October, which is sooner than planned.

Some macroeconomists who have spoken out against forgiveness, fearing it would either spark inflation or represent fiscal malfeasance or both, should remember that the plan is not large enough to move the needle on macroeconomic conditions. In reality, the plan was primarily about the positive effects on individuals, not gross domestic product or inflation. The bipartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the loan forgiveness program would have cost \$400 billion over the next 10 years, but that's only around 1% of the \$25 trillion economy annually.

Advocates have fiercely debated how to best structure student loan forgiveness, and President Joe Biden said he's not giving up. "We'll use every tool at our disposal to get you the student debt relief you need and reach your dreams," he said Friday at the White House. A key sticking point was whether Biden's plan was progressive or regressive, especially whether it would have improved racial wealth equity. With the Supreme Court ruling, such debates are largely moot now. Congress is the only path to forgiveness, and that's unlikely to happen anytime soon.

The Biden administration and advocates who had been pushing for broad-based forgiveness should focus on the narrower program already on the books: the Public

Claudia Sahn



Service Loan Forgiveness program. A fresh look might improve the PSLF program for public servants and help meet at least some of the administration's goals. In the PSLF program, recipients must make loan payments and work full-time in a public service job, in the military, or at a qualifying non-profit. The top occupational groups eligible are teachers, doctors and social workers, and protective services (such as police and firefighters). After 10 years, a borrower's remaining loan balance is forgiven.

Sure, the program is much smaller than the plan envisioned by the Biden administration, and, in principle, it sounds simple. But the PSLF needs to work on low take-up, and the implementation of that is burdensome, especially the verification of work and workplace. In 2017, when the first cohort completed the 10-year program, only 96 borrowers received loan forgiveness. The following year was not much better, with a little under 400. Finally, by the start of 2022, some 84,000 had received PSLF loan forgiveness. But that's out of 3.5 million borrowers who are likely eligible for the program. Low completion rates are due, in part, to the implementation of benefits. Recertification — the annual process to verify that a borrower is still eligible — is a particular sticking point. For example, a borrower must get a signed form from their employer yearly to show eligibility.

Given that the PSLF was not fulfilling its mandate, the Department

of Education created a temporary waiver from October 2021 to October 2022. The key innovation was to allow borrowers to receive benefits after the fact. In the normal system, an eligible borrower starts the program in year one of repayment and then proceeds for 10 years through the end of the program. With its simpler administration and requirement, the waiver had noticeably increased the number of borrowers getting loan forgiveness. But it expired in October. An excellent first step toward improving the program would be to make permanent changes like retroactive benefits as was the case with the temporary waiver.

In contrast, the take-up on Biden's plan looked like it would have been high, with the administration estimating that 40 million borrowers would have been eligible. Some 26 million — more than two-thirds of the eligible — had signed up for the program in a matter of weeks. Yes, the programs are different, but the gap is so wide that there must be lessons on outreach for the PSLF from Biden's plan.

And there's a lesson for everyone. Sarah Turner, a professor at the University of Virginia, and her co-authors found in a study of the PSLF plan that enrollment is a big factor in which groups — whether by income, race/ethnicity, or education — receive disproportionate more benefits. This type of analysis is called "distributional analysis." It's not enough to look at the legislation; it's essential to see what happens in the real world. The goal should be 100% enrollment, as getting close as possible will do policy as intended.

Friday's court decision was a hard day for many. But it's also a chance to exchange ideas with other forgiveness plans. And before that, focus on getting the best possible loan repayment.

The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 150-NUMBER 51
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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2023 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Full of activity

Monday and Tuesday morning were busy again at the Jay County Fair. Pictured, clockwise from upper right: 3-year-old Harley LaMontagne holds a phone next to the Show Arena to record a portion of the dairy beef and beef feeder show Monday; Maebre Cline licks some ice cream out of a cup Monday; Tucker the dog, who along with Sophia White was dressed as an old lady, walks the stage at the Farmer's Building during Tuesday's pet parade as part of Kids' Day activities; Hailee Hamilton (left) and Josiah Hotmire hang upside down on Ring of Fire on the midway Monday evening; Benton Langenkamp keeps his cow close during the dairy beef and beef feeder show Monday in the Show Arena; and members Delaware County Championship Wrestling perform during their show Monday evening at the grandstand.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Educator ...

Continued from page 1
Kring grew up in Dearborn County and enlisted in the U.S. Army during her junior year at East Central High School. She did basic training that year and then moved on to advanced individual training for military police following her graduation in 2018. She then started pursuing her bachelor's degree at Ball State University, but after three semesters she was deployed to Qatar during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. While in the small country of about 2.5 million that juts north off of Saudi Arabia into the Persian Gulf, she mostly handled transporting vehicles between ports and from ports to bases.

"I had a great experience being young, deployed," said Kring. "I learned a lot about myself, about the military, life, all of the above."
And why sign up for military service at 17, with a year of high school still remaining?
"I really just wanted to be part of something bigger than myself," added Kring, noting that her grandfather was a veteran. "I wanted something to really just run with. I wanted to be part of an organization."
"I love discipline. But not in an aggressive way, but more of a structural way. So I just really appreciated that. That's my type of personality, is to have structure."
Upon returning home, she

finished her degree at Ball State, graduating in December and got married in February. Her husband, Jaelen, grew up in Delaware County and graduated from Burris, and the couple has purchased land from his grandfather to build a home in the Albany area.
She hopes to bring her love of structure to her new job as she takes over the role as agriculture and natural resources educator from Justin Curley, who moved on after three years in Jay County to become the extension director in Delaware County.
In her time with Purdue Extension thus far, she's been visiting other programs in the

organization's Region 7 — it includes 11 counties bordered by Jay and Blackford counties to the north, Franklin County to the south and Madison County to the west — to learn about her job and gather ideas. (Her first six months are a training period.) She's also helped with things like tree identification, pond problems and soil testing.
"I've been popping around to different programs, seeing how they do things, bringing back ideas for what it's going to look like here in Jay County," she said. "I've really just been adding things to my toolbox to be able to serve Jay County better."
She's also been working to

make connections to help her learn what kind of educational programs might be well-received for both youth and adults. She said she especially enjoys hands-on activities.
Having been involved in horticulture in high school and soil judging in college, she hopes to bring her passion for agriculture to her job every day.
"I would love to just build up this position to be able to just be an asset to people," Kring said. "(I want to) be an outlet for people to come to and get their questions answered, and just receive help for things they may not know are out there. That would be my ultimate goal."

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



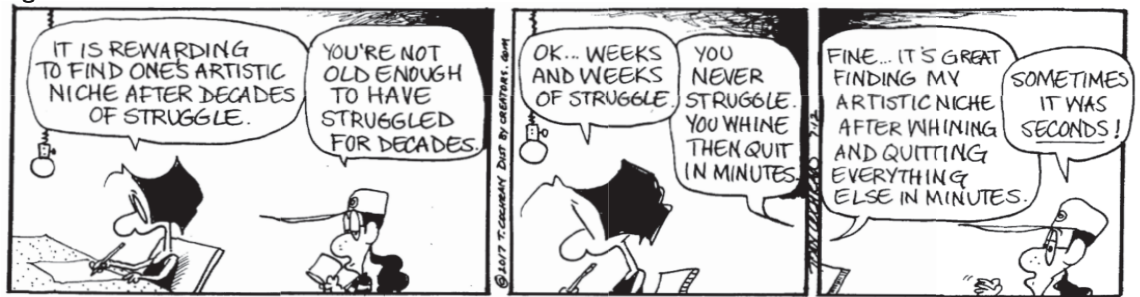
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



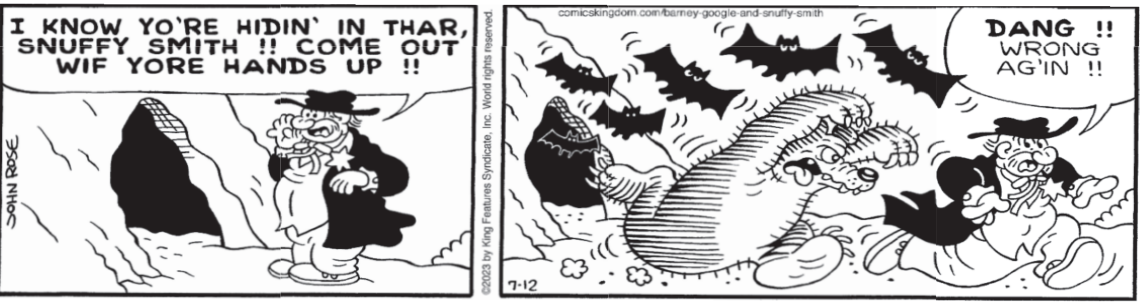
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Card-reading plus

West dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K J 5, ♥4, ♦Q J 9 6 2, ♣A K 9 3. EAST: ♠10 8 6 2, ♥Q 9 3 2, ♦A 5 4, ♣6 5. SOUTH: ♠A Q 7 3, ♥J 10 8 7, ♦—, ♣J 10 8 7.

The bidding: West 1♥ North 2♥ East 3♥ South 4♥. Opening lead—king of hearts. This unusual hand was played in a national pair championship many years ago...

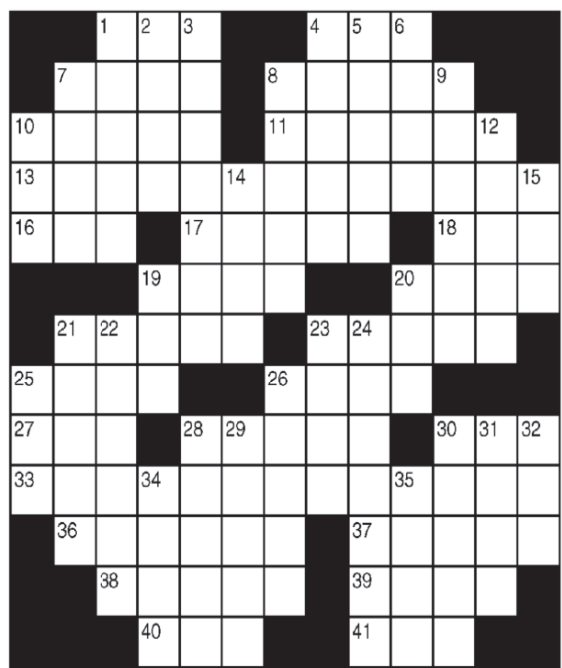
Tomorrow: The main objective. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

7-12 CRYPTOQUIP

ESKB JDPNS XY NLS AQQXUS AQ NLS JMSFXSM AQ UPYPEP'K KFPDDSKN NSMMXNMT: "THBAY UAHYN AY FS!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD ONE CALL PEOPLE WITH CAREERS AS SLEEP RESEARCHERS? UNDER-COVER INVESTIGATORS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Smidgen powered, 4 Pouch two-wheeler, 7 Only friend con—, 10 Bob Hawaiian Marley, for one, 11 Ancient desserts, 13 Donna Summer hit of 1978, 16 Govt. lender for a start-up, 17 Author Joyce Carol—, 18 — chi, 19 Con opera, 20 Office part-timer, 21 Ranch visitors, 23 Touches down, 25 Lapel jewelry, 26 Legal wrong, 27 Arles buddy, 28 Battery-powered resort, 30 Ninny friend, 33 Crunchy transition, 36 Trattoria Taiwan, 37 Jockey move, 38 Was livid, 39 Luau strings, 40 Orig. of "Chicago Hope", 41 Martini liquor, DOWN: 1 Puccini, 12 Small measures, 14 Body pics, 15 Half a ton, 19 Billboards, 20 Potent stick, 21 "Joltin' Joe", 22 Relief org. for kids, 23 Norse trickster, 24 Floor covering, 25 Nonstick spray, 26 Shy, 28 Dutch cheeses, 29 Kathy of "Misery", 30 Poet W.H., 31 Fr. holy women, 32 Old map letters, 34 Reunion attendee, 35 "The Mother" director Caro. Solution time: 23 mins. Yesterday's answer 7-12



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Sports

Jay wins final dual

Jay County was looking for a strong finish meet to carry them into the Wabash Valley Conference Championship.

That is exactly what they got in their final dual meet of the regular season.

The Jay County Summer Swim Team dismantled Yorktown for a 771-178 victory on Monday afternoon at Portland Water Park.

Jay County's victory included sweeps of the 15-and-older boys and girls, 13-14-year-old boys and girls and 9-10-year-old girls age groups.

Mara Bader and Matthew Fisher both won three events to contribute to the 15-and-older sweep. Bader took the 200-meter open freestyle, breaststroke and short freestyle while Fisher won the 200 open freestyle, butterfly and backstroke.

Addisyn Champ and Sophie Warvel were both victorious in a trio of events for the 9-10-year-old girls. Champ won backstroke, breaststroke and short freestyle with Warvel handling the long freestyle, butterfly and individual medley.

Carson Westgerdes' victories in the backstroke



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Elly Byrum swims the backstroke during the 11-12-year-old girls medley relay in the Jay County Summer Swim Team's 771-178 victory over Yorktown on Monday at Portland Water Park. The team was one of 15 different relay teams that had first-place finishes for Jay County in the meet.

individual medley and breaststroke propelled the 13-14-year-old boys.

Cora Arnold (8-and-younger) and Grady Warvel (11-12-year-old)

were the only triple-winners from their age groups. Arnold won the long freestyle, individual medley and short freestyle while Warvel beat the field

in the backstroke, individual medley and breaststroke.

The swimmers also won 15 of 18 relays to close the regular season.

Tickets sell out quickly

dpa

Tribune News Service

BERLIN — Tickets for a second NFL game in Frankfurt between the New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts were sold within a few minutes on Tuesday.

Fans shared pictures of the virtual queue set up by the ticket provider on social media. In some cases, those in line would see more than two million people ahead of them seeking tickets.

"Fans have tried to buy tickets through more than three million devices. Of course there are people who used more than one device to increase their chances. Nevertheless, the demand is insane," NFL Germany general manager Alexander Steinforth told dpa.

Frankfurt will host two NFL regular season games, the other one between Super Bowl champions Kansas City Chiefs and Miami Dolphins and also sold out.

The Chiefs, led by star quarterback Patrick Mahomes, host the Dolphins on November 5, while the Patriots welcome the Colts a week later on Nov. 12. Both games will take place at Eintracht Frankfurt's Deutsche Bank Park.

Those who wanted to buy a ticket had to register beforehand to receive a code to join the sale. However, the measure was not enough to stop scammers.

Colts to play in Germany on Nov. 12

Tickets were already being offered for resale online at ludicrous prices. Originally, tickets were costing between €75 (\$82.44) and €225, depending on the category.

American football is increasingly growing in Germany. Last year, the country hosted its first NFL game between the Seattle Seahawks and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Munich. Organizers said they could have sold over three million tickets for that game if possible.

"At that time, we had already sensed an incredible anticipation among the people, which was then reflected in the interest in tickets. But we have noticed that we have made another big leap in terms of demand," Steinforth said.

"Due to the enormous demand, we have reduced the number of tickets per buyer. We have gone down from six to four," he added.

Yankees to hire Casey

By GARY PHILLIPS

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

A new mayor is coming to New York City.

The Yankees will hire Sean Casey to be their new lead hitting coach. Per the New York Post's Joel Sherman, Casey's deal is for the rest of the 2023 season.

The club fired Dillon Lawson on Sunday after less than two seasons in the same job. As of Sunday, the Yankees planned on retaining assistant hitting coaches Casey Dykes and Brad Wilkerson.

"I'm just really excited about having this opportunity in the second half to impact the guys in the line-

up," Casey, a former Cincinnati Red, said in a statement provided by the team. "The Yankees have a lot of professional hitters, and I'm looking forward to connecting with them and getting on the same page."

Brian Cashman said that he wanted to venture outside the organization for Lawson's replacement.

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