

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Chase crossed five counties

*Winchester, Union City men arrested in Auglaize*

Two Randolph County men were arrested last week after leading police on a chase through five counties, including Jay.

David W. Atkinson, 30, and his passenger Jason Gerstner of Union City were arrested Aug. 27 and booked into Auglaize County (Ohio) Correctional Center following a chase that resulted in a Jay County officer firing shots and damage to two police vehicles as well as two vehicles owned by local residents.

Darke County (Ohio) Sheriff's Office received a call about 1:15 a.m. Aug. 27 about a 1999 Chevrolet Silverado facing the wrong way at a stop sign. According to police reports, when a Darke County sheriff's deputy confronted Atkinson and Gerstner, they fled. Police pursued Atkinson and Gerstner through parts of Darke, Randolph, Jay, Mercer and Auglaize counties.

According to Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton, a Jay County officer fired two rounds during the pursuit but did not hit a target.

Jay County officers placed stop sticks on county road 600 East just south of county road 300 South. Atkinson stopped before the spikes and backed into a Darke County officer's vehicle, he said.

The chase continued west along Indiana 26 and county road 100 East toward Portland, then toward county road 300 East and back onto Indiana 26 headed east, into Mercer County and then back onto State Line Road.

See Chase page 2

# Park planning



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pennville Park Board began working on its five-year master plan in order to be able to seek grant funding for improvements such as new playground equipment. (Members said the current equipment is more than 30 years old.) The efforts included a park survey, which identified soccer fields and a splash pad as top items on the wish list.

## *Pennville board is in the midst of five-year plan, efforts to fundraise to make facility improvements*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

A process is underway toward making improvements at Pennville Park.

Pennville Park Board is in the midst of working on its five-year park master plan as well as handling some logistical details and fundraising with a goal of getting some projects started at the park.

"The park is the heart of Pennville now," said Tanner McClain, who joined the park board early this year. "That's where all the events are.

"That's the place where families can go and picnic or play. ...

"That's what we have. So it just needs to be updated."

Nearly all of the park board is new as of this year, with Talir Ellis, John Gibson and Sharon Ross joining McClain and her mom Deb Hidy, who started on the board in November. Upon taking the new roles, the board members started talking about what to do next and looked into possible grants for new playground equipment.

In order to apply for any such state funding, they learned they would need to have a five-year park master plan on file with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). One was not in place.

Working on the plan has been one of the board's focuses since then, with assistance from John Moore of Jay County Trails Club and those who worked on the plan for the Town of Bryant. As part of that process, they surveyed Pennville Park users.

The results showed that the activities most regularly participated in at the park are using the playground (mentioned by 70.2% of respondents), attending public events such as Arts in the Park, Church in the Park and the Pennville Pumpkin Festival (65.9%) and the Pennville soccer program (47.1%). Only a handful said they use the horseshoe pits, with less than 20% of respondents saying they are regular users of the baseball diamond and painted rock garden. (Other amenities

fell somewhere in between.)

Feedback also showed more area for "open play space" and athletic fields as areas of need. When asked about a dream project (regardless of cost) in the next 10 years, respondents prioritized soccer fields and a splash pad.

Armed with that feedback, the park board hired Ryan Cambridge and Mark Beer of FRM-WORK, an architecture design and planning firm based in Zionsville.

See Park page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Bill Pugliana

## Labor parade

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain marches in the Detroit Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4, 2023, in Detroit. The theme of this year's Parade is, "Labor United Stronger Than Ever!" The UAW is currently in contract negotiations with the Big Three automakers Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis, and the current UAW contract expires Sept. 14.

**Lewis Boggs, 94, Portland**  
Details on page 2.

## Participation declines

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Thousands of Hoosier kids are missing out on free breakfast and lunch, even though nutrition advocates say many Indiana families continue to struggle with hunger and food insecurity.

That's according to a new report by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), a national nonprofit that aims to reduce poverty-related hunger.

FRAC's report indicates that nearly 58,000 fewer children in Indiana received a lunch on an average day in July 2022, a decrease of more than 50% from the previous summer. Data for 2022 is the latest to be released.

Participation rates for breakfast fell even further as 60,000 fewer children received breakfast on an average day in July 2022, a decrease of about 81% compared to July 2021.

### *Fewer children are taking part in summer meal programs*

The decline in participation follows previous increases in summer meal participation in 2020 and 2021.

Across the country, every other state also saw a decrease in the average daily participation in summer lunch in July 2022 compared to July 2021, according to FRAC.

Child nutrition waivers issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture make the free meals available at summer meal sites, often-times located at schools and community centers.

While waiver access was

expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic, eligibility restrictions are back in place, meaning fewer kids can access free meals.

"During the height of the pandemic, families could drive through summer meal sites and pick up multiple meals for a few days, making the process a whole lot easier for many," said Emily Weikert Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit focused on increasing Hoosiers' access to food.

See Declines page 5

### Deaths

### Weather

### In review

### Coming up

Jay County had a high temperature of 88 degrees Monday. The low was 66.

Tonight's forecast calls for a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms with a low in the lower 60s. Thursday will be windy with highs in the lower 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Dunkirk Police Pension Board will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday in the city building at 131 S. Main St.

**Thursday** — Results from tonight's JCHS boys tennis match against Randolph Southern.

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.



# Park ...

Continued from page 1  
“They dig through the survey feedback we have with the questions to figure out what’s the most wanted thing?” said McClain. “What is not being used?”  
The firm also utilized Pennville’s revitalization plan and early feedback from the county level as part of the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 process.  
“That way they could try to

find ways to tie into everything so it’s not just limited to the park but incorporated into future things the town may potentially do,” McClain added.  
The park board received a draft of the park master plan from the firm last week. It includes making adjustments to the park to utilize space for soccer fields — a goal is to provide a field large enough for 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds — install a “pump track” for bicycles, skateboards, etc., and a long-

term goal of having a splash pad.  
The board will have another public hearing on the plan — it has not yet been scheduled — in order to gather more feedback.  
“As far as plans go, nothing is finalized yet at all,” said McClain. “It’s just brainstorming.”  
“We have the basics. We know what the people want. We know what’s realistic.”  
The plan needs to be

approved and submitted to the Indiana DNR by Nov. 10.  
In conjunction with the planning, the park board has also been working on fundraising in order to supplement its limited budget. Those efforts include selling concessions during the soccer program, a planned “cow pie bingo” event during the Oct. 21 Pennville Pumpkin Festival (first prize is \$1,000) and designer purse bingo on Nov. 10 at Pennville Community Gym.  
McClain and Hidy noted that

a spiral slide had to be removed from the playground equipment after a child suffered a cut while using it. (They said the equipment is more than 30 years old.)  
It’s time for some updating, they said, with Hidy mentioning that there are a lot of apartments in Pennville that do not provide back yards for children to play in.  
So a lot of them spend time at the park,” she said. “They just need a place to go to run off some of that energy and play.”

## CR almanac

Thursday 9/7	Friday 9/8	Saturday 9/9	Sunday 9/10	Monday 9/11
<b>73/59</b>	<b>71/55</b>	<b>73/51</b>	<b>75/53</b>	<b>77/55</b>
Mostly sunny skies are expected Thursday with a high of 73 degrees.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Thursday with a high of a balmy 71 degrees.	Mostly sunny and clear on Saturday with a low around 51 degrees at night.	Sunny skies are in the forecast for Sunday, when the high will be 75.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday, with a high of 77.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 1-26-32-46-51 Power Ball: 13 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$461 million	Daily Four: 1-4-4-3 Quick Draw: 6-7-9-23-24-32-34-44-46-52-54-57-60-61-62-64-66-76-78-80 Cash 5: 7-9-13-20-23 Estimated jackpot: \$276,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$101 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 4-8-0 Pick 4: 1-8-1-7 Pick 5: 3-3-1-7-5 Evening Pick 3: 2-5-4 Pick 4: 9-3-7-4 Pick 5: 6-8-3-2-5 Rolling Cash: 3-8-17-31-33 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 9-6-4 Daily Four: 8-6-9-6 Quick Draw: 6-8-17-21-24-26-28-41-45-46-48-49-56-59-61-64-66-67-72-75 Evening Daily Three: 0-9-1	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....5.88 Late Sept. corn .....5.28 Wheat .....5.10	Oct. beans .....13.48 Wheat ..... 5.15
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.88 Sept. corn .....5.33 Late Sept. corn .....4.78	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....5.32 Oct. corn .....5.12 Beans .....14.14 Oct. beans .....14.09 Wheat .....5.65
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....5.23 Oct. corn .....4.93 Beans .....13.12	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....5.23 Oct. corn .....4.38 Beans .....13.40 Sept. beans .....13.05 Wheat .....5.15

## Today in history

In 1791, Mozart premiered his opera "La Clemenza di Tito" in Prague.  
In 1860, Jane Addams was born in Cedarville, Illinois. She and friend Ellen Gate Starr opened Hull House in Chicago in 1889 to provide welfare assistance to those in need. Hull House later became key in the labor rights and women's suffrage movements.  
In 1914, British and French forces launched an offensive against the Germans in the First Battle of the Marne during World War I.  
In 1944, Germany launched its first long-range missile during World War II.  
In 1966, a parliamentary messenger stabbed South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd to death.  
In 1968, Swaziland gained its independence from Great Britain, which had ruled it since 1902.  
In 1972, Chester Sloniker, 69, Millgrove, was found dead of two gunshot wounds to the head at a gravel pit southeast of Blackford County roads 600 East and 400 South near Dunkirk. Sloniker reportedly left to go fishing at the gravel pit on the property of Sidney Manor about 8:15 p.m. and was found dead by Manor about 6:50 p.m.  
In 2021, Ball State University's Applied Anthropology Laboratories received a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to implement a traveling panel exhibit about the Battle of St. Clair's defeat at Fort Recovery. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. — Jay County Council budget review, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
4 p.m. — Jay Classroom Teachers' Association and Jay School Corporation public hearing, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland.

**Thursday**  
10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building 131 S.

## Obituaries

### Lewis Boggs

Nov. 6, 1928-Sept. 5, 2023  
Lewis Everett Boggs, age 94, of Portland passed away on Sept. 5 at IU Health Jay hospital.  
He was born Nov. 6, 1928, in Johnson County, Indiana, to Lynn and Katherine Boggs, the youngest of eight children. He was a graduate of Southport High School. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.  
He was an Indiana State Trooper assigned to the Redkey post and then later to the Indiana Toll Road, where he was recognized for his bravery by Indiana Gov. Matthew

Welsh for saving 38 hostages of a hijacked bus on the Indiana Toll Road in a shootout with the hijacker.  
Many from Portland will remember him as an agent for the Prudential Life Insurance company, where he received several awards for his sales.  
He was married to Barbara Sue Kimmel for 63 years, and she preceded him in death in 2017.



Boggs

He is survived by his four sons, John, Michael, Douglas and Gregory; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.  
He will be cremated, and a private family memorial will be held at a later date.  
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.

.....  
The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.

## Felony arrests

### Drug possession

A Dunkirk man was arrested Tuesday for drug possession.  
Daniel R. Meadows, 51, 399 W. Lincoln Ave., was preliminarily

charged with two Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a syringe, along with a Class B misdemeanor for possession of

marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.  
He's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Registration encouraged

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

With just two months between Hoosiers and November's municipal elections, Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales is encouraging all eligible to register to vote, or update a registration.  
“Getting registered to vote is the first step, and then we need Hoosiers to show up at the polls on Election Day,” Morales said in a news release Tuesday.  
Morales' office ran a voter registration booth daily at the Indiana State Fair. It ran from July 28 through August 20.  
And the office sponsored the fair's three \$3 Thursdays, during which iPad-toting staff at two entrances encouraged

fairgoers to register or update a registration.  
September is also recognized as National Voter Registration Month by the National Association of Secretaries of State, of which Morales is a member.  
“As Indiana's Chief Election Officer, one of my priorities will always be encouraging all eligible Hoosiers to register to vote,” Morales said. “It only takes a few minutes, and it can be done online.”  
Hoosiers can register to vote at IndianaVoters.com or at a county clerk's office.  
To vote in municipal elections on November 7, Hoosiers must register by October 10.

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**(812) 667-5645**

## Chase ...

Continued from page 1  
Officers had placed another set of stop sticks on the road, and Atkinson stopped before the spikes and allegedly backed into Jay County Sheriff's Office sergeant Derek Bogenschutz's vehicle.  
About 2 a.m. Atkinson called police and said he had a child in the vehicle, threatening to shoot the child if they didn't stop the pursuit, according to a Portland police incident report. (Police found no child.)

Atkinson and Gerstner lost police near Minnich Farms, where they allegedly stole one of the company's vehicles and headed into Mercer County. The chase ended when Atkinson and Gerstner drove across stop sticks and went off a ramp near St. Mary's, Ohio.  
Atkinson and Gerstner stood off against police for several hours before they were arrested. An assault rifle was allegedly recovered from the vehicle, along with drugs and syringes.  
The Silverado is regis-

tered to Chad J. Timmerman of Portland. Minnich Farms' vehicle had flat tires and various other damages.  
Newton noted the case is being investigated by Jay County Prosecutor's Office as well as surrounding counties, and an internal investigation is also being conducted for the discharge of the firearms and pursuit.  
As of Tuesday, no charges had not been filed in Jay County. No one was injured during the chase.

### SERVICES

Thursday  
**Hostetler,** Patricia  
Hostetler: 2 p.m., Green Park Cemetery.

Service listings provided by  
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**Happy 100th Birthday Marie Whetsel 9-6-23**

Please join us in celebrating a century of Marie's life on **Sunday, Sept 10th from 2:00 to 5:00** at Bethel UM Church 4 miles N of Dunkirk on Hwy 167  
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**260-726-8141**  
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

# Event from past troubles current wife

DEAR ABBY: Two years before he met me, my husband of four years did something I feel was morally repugnant: He solicited a prostitute. When he committed this act, he was going through a dark period in his life. He was divorcing a woman who had cheated and left him for another man, raising his young son and dealing with immense feelings of insecurity. He told me all of this while we were dating, and I thought I would eventually get over it. However, almost five years into our relationship, it still haunts me and makes me question his character. I hate that he was capable of doing something like this, regardless of what he was going through.

I have tried therapy, and we've tried couples therapy — nothing has helped me to move on. He

## Dear Abby



As you stated, he was under a lot of pressure when that happened. I can't name one person who hasn't made a mistake sometime in the past, including me. Use some common sense and quit judging your poor husband for his one "slip," or PLEASE free him to find a woman who will appreciate him for who he is.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: My spouse and I are retired. I thought we would spend our retirement doing things together, but all she wants to do is sleep. It is not unusual for her to stay in bed for two days straight, getting up only to use the bathroom and get a drink. She does not help with the house-keeping or other household chores.

I've asked her why she sleeps so much. She tells me she doesn't know why. I have gone with her to her doctors, and they have run tests. Physically there's nothing wrong to account for all her sleeping. This leads me to believe she's taking prescription medication to be able to sleep as long as she does. When I asked her if this was the case, she denied it.

My wife was sexually abused as a child and is currently being treated for depression. Her doctor and I have wanted her to see a psychiatrist, but she absolutely refuses. I've talked to her on several occasions and let her know I'm unhappy with how this is affecting our marriage. She seems not to care.

I'm thinking of getting a separation. Do you think this is advisable? Or do you have any other

ideas? I love her dearly and being apart is not what I desire. She deserves all my efforts to help her before I just no longer care and give up. — FRUSTRATED IN INDIANA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Losing interest in things someone used to enjoy and sleeping for "two days straight" are classic symptoms of SEVERE, CHRONIC depression. It may have been triggered by her retirement.

Your wife definitely should be talking to someone. If it's not a psychiatrist, then certainly a psychologist who works with a psychiatrist who will prescribe medications if they are needed. You and her doctor should insist upon it, because your wife appears to be very ill.

# Entries open for art exhibit

Minnetrasta, Red-tail Land Conservancy and Anderson Museum of Art are now accepting entry submissions for the Open Space: Art About the Land art competition and exhibit.

The annual competition encourages artists to "find creative inspiration that celebrates "open space" as it relates to the land and nature." It will be displayed this year as simultaneous sister exhibits at Minnetrista and the Anderson museum.

Artists must be 18 or older and a current or former resident of Indiana to enter. Pieces may be paintings, drawings, mixed media, prints, sculpture, fiber, metalwork, ceramics or photography.

The submissions will be carried by Earlham College emeritus professor of art Walt Bistline. Awards,

## Taking Note

including cash prizes totaling \$1,500, will be presented during a reception Nov. 3. For more information, visit minnetrista.net.

### Sweepstakes begins

To highlight National College Savings Month, the State of Indiana is holding the CollegeChoice 529 Education Sweepstakes.

Students with college savings accounts can enter for the opportunity to receive a \$10,000 deposit. The entry form is available at college-

choicedirect.com/september. The deadline is Sept. 30.

"College Savings Month in Indiana is a great time to talk all options college and career after high school," said Daniel Elliott, Indiana Treasurer of State, in a press release. "Since 529 plans can be used for technical and trade programs, registered apprenticeships, and 4-year degrees, this sweepstakes will have a significant impact on a Hoosier family."

### Pennville supper

Pennville Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a free ham and beans supper from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The dinner will include ham and beans, cornbread, dessert and a beverage. Attendees may give free will donations for the meal.

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# Community Calendar

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

### Wednesday

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

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

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

**SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP** — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Well-

ness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

**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 - BRANNA'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

**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.

### 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. For more information, 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.

**LOCALS MARKET** — Is held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in May through October on East Main Street in Portland. For more information, contact The Flower Nook at (260) 726-7166.

### Sunday

**A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'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.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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# Mailbox needed serious clean-up

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Sept. 3, 2008. Jack had an interesting relationship with computers and it was always amusing when he offered his advice on how to fix whatever happened to be the problem of the day. But he knew to steer clear of rich foreign benefactors.*

**By JACK RONALD**  
The Commercial Review

Maybe computers should be designed to have a flush handle. There's a trash can, but that's not doing the trick.

Sometime over the three-day weekend, I noticed that our e-mail software on the home computer was performing slowly.

Now, keep in mind that this is a five-year-old computer, which in the computer equivalent of dog years ranks it right up there with Methuselah.

It's been a great piece of equipment, and we have no plans to replace it.

## Back in the Saddle



(Note to computer owners: Never write a column in which you mention plans to replace the current model. Trust me. The machine knows. And the machine is not happy. Think HAL in "2001: A Space Odyssey.")

But when I looked at the e-mail, I noticed something.

We had the equivalent of several dumpster loads of mail cluttering up our computer, some of it dating back to 2003.

In fact, we had nearly 10,000 pieces of e-mail in our in-box. We'd read them all, but for rea-

sons best left to behavioral scientists we had kept most of them.

I want to interject here that this is not a huge problem for us in the non-cyberspace world, or what used to be known as reality.

While my desk can get a little messy and there's a stack of Wall Street Journals on the old couch in my office, I pretty much keep track of things. And we're great ones at home for purging out recyclables like catalogs and magazines on an efficient basis.

But cyberspace? Well, that's like having an infinite closet for Fibber McGee, to mix a couple of cross-generational references. Who cared if it cluttered up?

Until last weekend, when we approached the 10,000 mark. Maybe that's a red line for sloppy computer users.

At any rate, the concrete-boots speed of the computer got me

looking at what the heck was in our in-box.

The answer: Not much that you'd want to hang onto.

I started deleting things from the bottom of the file, the oldest in the computer.

Then I quickly learned I could clean house more efficiently by grouping things together.

You'd be surprised how many useless e-mails you can flush if you look for those with "auto" at the start or those that refer to failed mail deliveries or those that involve e-mailed newsletters.

Part of the process was a trip back through time. I'd come across an e-mail from 2003 or 2004 from someone I'd never heard of, check it out, realize it was junk, and hit the delete key.

At the same time, I was able to make sure I'd saved meaningful family or business messages.

All in all, it was an especially

satisfying night of purging Internet junk.

Did I do enough? Probably not.

By the latest count, we still have something like 7,700-plus e-mails in our in-box and another 5,800-plus in our sent-mail box.

That's way too many, but I felt good about the electronic house-keeping just the same.

Then, Monday afternoon, the computer beeped at me.

It was signaling incoming mail, and I thought it might be something important.

Turns out, Mr. Patrick Chan of Hang Sen Bank in Hong Kong has a proposal for me.

It seems an Iraqi client of his has plunked \$12.1 million in the bank and will give me half if I agree to be somebody's next of kin.

Sounds like a heck of a deal. Maybe I shouldn't have cleaned up the e-mail after all.

# Focus on supply, demand to fix crisis

**The Columbian**  
(Vancouver, Washington)  
Tribune News Service

During a roundtable discussion this month in Vancouver, a recovering addict delivered a powerful summary of the scourge that is fentanyl.

"I just accepted the fact that I was going to die on the street, probably in the gutter," said Aaron Lopez during a meeting with Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, local law enforcement, health providers and first responders. "And a lot of the times I would use in public just for the fact that if I OD'd, someone would find my body and tell my family what happened to me."

The story is hardly unique. Washington experienced the sharpest rise in overdoses among any U.S. state last year, with most of the increase attributed to fentanyl. And Dr. Kevin Fischer, medical director at Columbia River Mental Health Services, said the number of people seeking treatment has doubled in the last few years.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last year, more than 75,000 U.S. deaths were attributed to synthetic opioids — primarily fentanyl.

In response, Cantwell has been conducting listening sessions throughout the state to glean information about the issue. She also supports the FEND Off Fentanyl Act, which has been folded into the National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation would target the finances of international fentanyl traffickers.

Indeed, fentanyl is a matter of national security, with ingredients typically manufactured in China and then smuggled through Mexico. But the facts often are obscured in debates about how to combat the drug.

Critics claim that undocumented immigrants crossing the southern border are to blame for a spike in fentanyl supply in this country. But officials report that 90% of the fentanyl they have seized has been at official ports of entry rather than in illegal crossings. In 2021, 86% of people convicted of fentanyl trafficking were U.S. citizens.

As a headline from the libertarian Cato Institute read in 2022, "Fen-

## Guest Editorial

**In 2021, 86% of people convicted of fentanyl trafficking were U.S. citizens.**

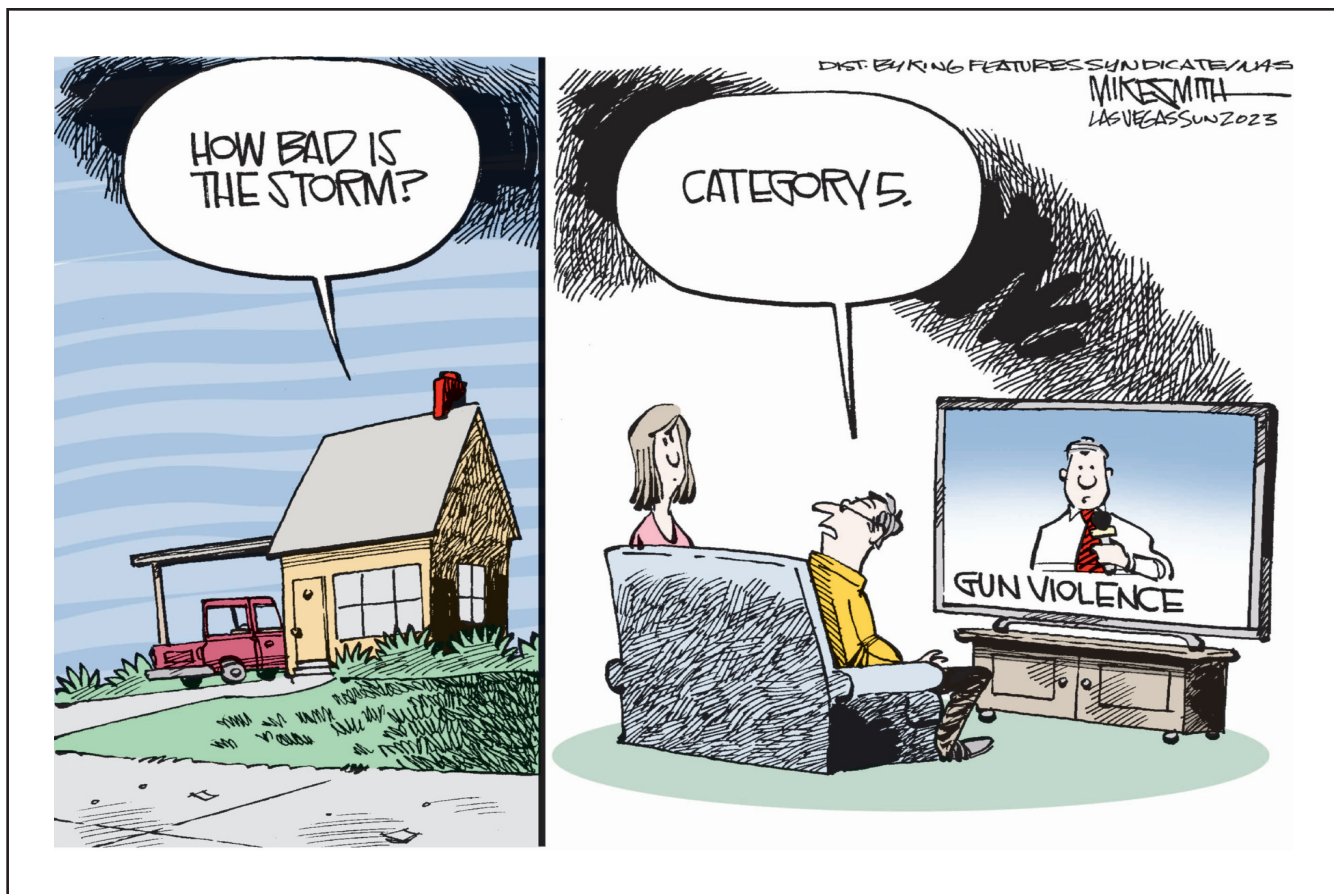
tanyl Is Smuggled for U.S. Citizens by U.S. Citizens, Not Asylum Seekers." And as a headline read in The Seattle Times on Tuesday, "Fentanyl gets into WA in 'any manner you can think of.'"

It also is appearing in any form you can think of, often mixed in with other drugs. In 2021, Clark County Public Health issued a warning: "Anyone who uses powdered drugs or takes pills that were not given to them by a pharmacy should assume they contain fentanyl. Drugs purchased online, from friends, or from regular dealers could be deadly." In 2022, 60% of fentanyl-laced prescription pills analyzed by the Drug Enforcement Agency were found to contain potentially lethal doses.

All of that makes the scourge particularly insidious — and particularly difficult to stem, requiring a focus on both supply and demand. The governments of China and Mexico must be enlisted to slow the manufacturing and trafficking of the drug; education and treatment programs must be bolstered in this country to diminish the market for those illicit drug manufacturers.

During the roundtable with Cantwell, Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle focused on the conditions that contribute to addiction. "If we can bridge this immediate crisis of housing and services, you will give these individuals the help that they need," she said.

That is an important step, and it is within the purview of local government. But slowing the fentanyl crisis will require efforts at all levels of government.



# Can \$8 billion really be cut?

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

It's a catchy phrase, "axe the tax," and the idea of eliminating the state income tax is a simple thing for voters to understand. But that annual \$8 billion in tax revenue provides services that can't be swept under the rug for cuts to be named later.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, a Republican gubernatorial candidate pushing the proposal, has said the how is not as important as the why and what. As someone who has read the state budget over the years, I have to respectfully disagree.

So I thought I would show you what exactly you would have to cut to cover the \$8 billion in revenue that would go away. The current biennial budget spends \$44 billion, or about \$22 billion a year.

First, Crouch says the elimination of the tax will result in increased investment in the state and therefore more tax revenue from corporate, sales and other taxes. But there are no estimates or analysis showing if that happened in other states that went through a similar transition.

And second, she and others also say there are efficiencies that can be found in state government. This is likely true, to the tune of millions. But billions? Absolutely not.

After all, Republicans have controlled the governor's office since 2005 and had supermajorities in the General Assembly for at least a decade.

If there are billions in wasteful spending in the state budget, that doesn't say much for GOP fiscal stewardship.

But I'll be charitable. I will start off by positing that efficiencies

and new investment will cover \$1 billion of the lost revenue.

Now where do we find the next \$7 billion?

Education covers half of the state budget so you have to start there. Abolishing the controversial state-paid voucher system would save about \$500 million.

I'm not an accountant so I'm going to keep cuts nice and simple: 10%. And a 10% cut in tuition support to public schools would save \$880 million. Of course, without that money, there would likely be hundreds of teacher layoffs, larger class sizes and fewer art and music classes.

Our total is now \$2.38 billion.

Next up, we gut economic development funding. First, the quality-of-place program READI that has funneled hundreds of millions to local communities. That is \$250 million next year. Plus, the \$500 million "deal-closing fund." We can also get rid of the 21st Century Research and Development Fund and the workforce cabinet, for savings of about \$45 million.

The running total is now \$3.175 billion.

No one likes road construction, so let's do less of it. A 10% cut would save \$220 million.

Now, we are at \$3.395 billion.

Medicaid — or health care for the poor and disabled — is the fastest growing segment of the budget. It's a mix of state and federal funding. A 10% cut in state

dollars would save \$330 million. But it would come with more Hoosiers going to hospitals as a last resort, ultimately meaning we all pick up the bill — with higher costs.

Our total is now \$3.725 billion.

Next up, we stop paying for new buildings on college campuses. In the new budget, that is about \$600 million.

We are up to \$4.325 billion.

We could cut 10% of the Indiana Department of Correction budget, netting us roughly \$100 million.

And the Indiana Attorney General's Office isn't required by the Constitution, so abolishing it would save about \$30 million.

So now we are at \$4.45 billion.

Canceling other state building projects — from new prisons, to state park inns and an archives building — would save \$1.25 billion.

That brings us up to \$5.7 billion.

I give up, but I think you get the idea. It is much harder than it sounds in a campaign clip.

Do we reduce how much funding goes to protecting abused and neglected children? Do we slash health funding? Eliminate the Department of Environmental Management? Who needs the Department of Natural Resources, anyway?

I'm being tongue-in-cheek, but the matter is serious. And these are questions that should be dealt with now, not sometime later after the damage of eliminating a tax is done.

*Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.*

*Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.*

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—Thomas Jefferson*

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# Declines ...

Continued from page 1  
Although state and federal officials have piloted new programs to get additional kids fed, Bryant said many still lack access to nutritious foods.

“Congress addressed this with a couple of new options that were piloted and developed during the pandemic but they seem unlikely to address child nutrition programs again soon,” she continued, emphasizing that “summers add an extra level of hardship for families at risk of hunger.”

The two federal summer nutrition programs — the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) — provide funding to serve meals and snacks to children at sites during summer vacation or the extended breaks of year-round schools. The programs also can be used to feed children during unanticipated school closures.

The SFSP is a federally-funded, state-administered program that reimburses approved program operators who serve free, healthy meals and snacks to children under age 18 in low-income areas when school is not in session.

Sponsorship is open to public and private nonprofit groups, including local governments, summer camps, religious organizations and recreation centers. Organizations may also consider partnering with an existing

sponsor, such as a school corporation, to serve students in areas where kids lack good nutrition during the summer months.

Separately, the NSLP is available for schools that operate summer school. Only the students enrolled in summer school can receive a meal, however.

The FRAC report indicates the number of SFSP sponsors and sites decreased from July 2021 to July 2022.

Specific data obtained by the Indiana Capital Chronicle from the Indiana Department of Education shows there were 280 sponsors and 2,035 sites statewide that provided summer meals in 2021. That decreased to 192 sponsors providing summer meals at 1,047 sites in 2023.

FRAC experts and state officials attribute much of the decrease in participation to the reintroduction of limitations on summer nutrition programs.

Prior to the pandemic, to qualify as a summer meal site, at least 50% of the children in a given geographic area had to be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, or at least 50% of kids participating in the program at the site had to be individually determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sites that primarily served migrant children also qualified.

Once a site was determined eligible, all children who come to the site can eat for free, regard-

less of their economic or migrant status.

Through the program, a sponsor enters into an agreement with the state education department to run the program and receives reimbursement for each eligible meal and snack served at meal sites.

That changed, though, during the pandemic — from Spring 2020 through Summer 2022 — when states could utilize a nationwide child nutrition waiver that allowed any community to have a summer meal site.

Although waivers were technically available for Summer 2022, Congress did not extend the waivers again until late June, which IDOE officials said was “too late” for Indiana’s SFSP operations.

This year, federal meal program eligibility returned to standard procedure, meaning only low-income areas were qualified to participate.

FRAC noted that program staffing shortages, supply chain disruptions and many meal sites shuttering as a result of the pandemic additionally led to fewer children receiving a summer lunch in 2022 and 2023.

FRAC’s goal is for all states to feed summer lunches to 40 kids for every 100 children who received free or reduced-price lunch in the 2021–2022 school year.

As of July 2022, just eight students in Indiana received a

summer lunch per every 100 students who ate school lunches during the regular academic year, according to FRAC.

To meet the nonprofit’s goal, the Hoosier state would need to increase the number of students served summer lunches by more than 200,000: from 54,445 kids to more than 268,000. That equates to more than \$19 million in additional federal reimbursement dollars for summer lunches.

Bryant applauded IDOE for a program piloted this summer that allowed additional meals sites in rural areas. Kids in certain parts of the state were able to access meals without having to be present at that site to eat the meal, “which is a big step toward increasing summer meals,” Bryant said.

“We need to see more of this — not just in rural areas — but anywhere, because we know it’s not just finding a location but getting to it each day to sit and eat the meal on site that can be difficult,” she added.

Bryant and FRAC also pointed to federal legislation adopted in December 2022, creating a permanent program that will provide an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to purchase food during the summer months to families eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, extending the summer benefits families have received through the Pandemic EBT Pro-

gram. The legislation takes effect next summer.

“It’s a great step forward because SNAP benefits don’t go up in the summer when kids are eating at home,” Bryant said. “These innovations, borne from the pandemic, will help more children access what they need when they’re out of school. What will be important going forward is insuring these programs are as accessible as possible by encouraging Congress and the administering agencies to reduce barriers to program access, streamlining program administration to encourage more site and agency participation, and insuring the benefits are adequate to really be helpful.”

She said families can also access food banks and food pantries in the summer — or any time — for extra help stretching their grocery budget.

Still, FRAC is urging policymakers to improve summer meals access. At the state level, that includes better advertisement about summer meals to families, as well as more financial support for summer food sponsors to increase the number of available meal sites. More broadly, the hunger relief organization called on the federal government to lower the eligibility threshold from 50% to 40%, and to make permanently increase funding for summer and after school programs where meals can be served.

# Talks conclude without a deal

By SELCAN HACA OGLU and MEGAN DURISIN

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he wouldn’t revive a U.N.-backed deal that had eased global food prices by allowing Ukraine to ship its grain through the Black Sea unless obstacles to Russia’s own agricultural exports are removed.

Putin’s comments came after a three-hour meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Russian resort town of Sochi. Erdogan, who helped broker the original Black Sea Grain Initiative in 2022, had hoped to come away from the talks with a new framework for negotiations to present to global leaders at the Group of 20 Summit in India later in the week.

Instead, the two leaders confirmed plans to send 1 million tons of Russian grain via Turkey to African nations concerned the disruptions would raise food prices.

That volume is a fraction of Russia’s total wheat exports, which are expected to reach some 48 million tons this season. It’s also much smaller than the amount Ukraine was shipping through the Black Sea before Russia abandoned the grain deal and closed the safe corridor in July.

Uncertainty about the future of supplies from one of the world’s largest grain exporters has contributed to weeks of volatility in global wheat prices, as has the surge in hostilities in and around the Black Sea.

Russia launched waves of drone attacks on the southern Odesa region in the leadup to the talks, damaging storage and industrial facilities as well as agricultural equipment. It also targeted two river ports that are the main alternative export routes to the Black Sea, setting the tone for the talks.

Putin complained about a surge in Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian gas pipelines, with his defense minister later citing drone attacks as a reason for exiting the deal, according to the Interfax news service.

A mid-sized power that’s maintained strong ties with both Putin and the West, Turkey’s success in brokering the original deal allowed Ukrainian cargoes to return to global markets upended by Russia’s invasion.

But the arrangement, a rare diplomatic win in an otherwise grinding war,

was fragile from the outset and Ukraine’s grain exports were repeatedly disrupted by slow ship inspections and political tensions. Russia complained for months that its own demands for better trade terms had been ignored before finally exiting the deal.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s deputy chief of staff told Bloomberg TV before the talks that his country was depending on Turkey to support the restoration of the grain deal and was also ready to export to poor nations in Africa and Asia.

“The crops in Ukraine this year are quite good. So we are ready,” Ihor Zhovkva said. “The world is suffering when Russia is using aggressive instruments in the food security area.”

But Putin stuck to the position Russia staked out when it left.

“We will be ready to consider the possibility of reviving the grain deal,” he said in a news conference after the talks. “We will do it immediately as soon as all the agreements on the lifting of restrictions on the export of Russian agricultural products are fulfilled.”

Russia has demanded the removal of obstacles to its exports of food and fertilizer, some of which were hit immediately after it invaded Ukraine as banks, insurers and shipment companies steered clear of Russian goods and Baltic nations ceased handling Russian volumes through their ports. That hasn’t stopped Russia exporting record volumes of wheat, and its fertilizer exports are also recovering to pre-war levels.

Russia also wants to reopen an ammonia pipeline that traverses Ukraine and reconnect Rosselkhozbank, a state-owned lender focused on agriculture, to the SWIFT system for international payments.

The United Nations has worked closely with private-sector banks and insurance providers to try to address Russia’s concerns. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently sent Moscow a revised proposal he said could form the basis of a revamped deal.

“We cannot have a Black Sea Initiative that moves from crisis to crisis, from suspension to suspension,” Guterres told reporters in New York Thursday. “We need to have something that works and that works to the benefit of everybody.”

# HEALTHCARE

## The nutritional benefits of peaches



Pies, cobblers and smoothies might be the first things that come to mind when people think of peaches. Perhaps nutrition needs to muscle its way into that discussion?

Peaches are typically viewed as a sweet treat, particularly in summertime. But peaches also provide a host of health benefits, which can make anyone who enjoys a peach-based sweet treat feel a little better about their indulgence.

### Peaches and heart health

Peaches are rich in vitamins and minerals, including potassium. The potassium content in peaches, though moderate, is still significant, as the American Heart Association notes that potassium plays an important role in the management of high blood pressure. In addition, a 2014 animal study published in the Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry found that consumption of peach and plum juice provided protec-

tion against cardiovascular disease.

### Peaches and body weight

One of the keys to long-term health is the ability to maintain a healthy weight from childhood through adulthood. The Cleveland Clinic estimates that a single large peach contains just 68 calories. Peaches also do not contain any saturated fats, making them a good low-calorie snacking option that can help people maintain a healthy weight.

### Peaches and cancer risk

A report from the American Institute for Cancer Research linked fruits with a lower risk for cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, lung, and stomach. Peaches are rich in free radical-fighting vitamin C. That could explain their link to reducing cancer risk, as free radicals are unstable atoms that often contribute to cell damage that is a hallmark of cancer. In addition, MedicineNet re-

ports that peaches are high in polyphenols, which studies have found prevent the formation and spread of cancer cells in lab tests.

### Peaches and vision

Peaches also can have a positive impact on vision. According to the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, a medium-sized peach provides roughly 6 percent of the daily recommended value of vitamin A. That’s helpful for vision, as the American Optometric Association notes that vitamin A supports functioning of the conjunctival membranes and cornea. In addition, the AOA reports that vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of preventable blindness in children.

Peaches have a well-earned reputation as a sweet treat. However, the powerful peach is more than just a post-meal palate cleanser, and in fact can play a vital role in promoting long-term health.

**John Cascio, DDS**

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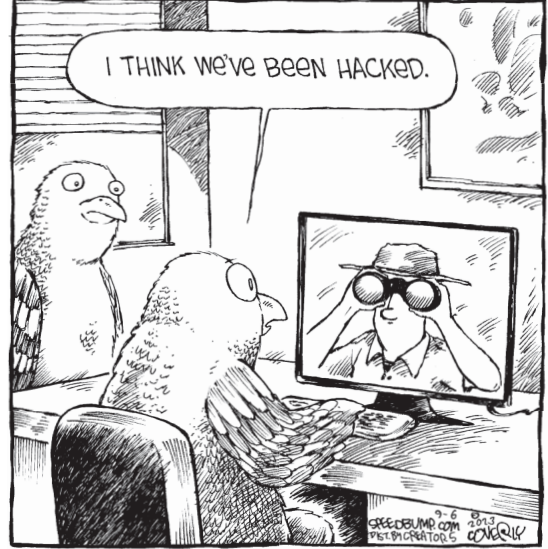
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**Peanuts**



**Rose is Rose**



**Agnes**



**Hi and Lois**



**Between Friends**



**Blondie**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Fancy trump manipulation**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K J 10 8  
♥ K Q 10  
♦ J 9 5  
♣ 7 4

**EAST**  
♠ Q 5 3  
♥ 9 6 4 2  
♦ 10 8  
♣ J 8 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ 2  
♥ A J 7  
♦ K Q 3  
♣ A K Q 10 9 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♣

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.  
Assume you're in six clubs and West leads the ace and another diamond. You win, and everything looks rosy until you play the A-K of trump and learn that East started with four to the jack.  
Of course, you'd now like to lead a trump from dummy and finesse the nine, but that's impossible because dummy has no more trumps. So, to make the slam you must try to reach a position where, in effect, you can take a trump

finesse without leading a trump from dummy!  
This is not as difficult as it might seem. What you first have to do is to ruff two of dummy's cards in order to reduce yourself to the same number of trumps as East. Then, if you have not run into any booby traps, you will be in good shape.  
You begin by playing a spade to the ace and ruffing a low spade. Next you lead the seven of hearts to the ten and ruff another spade.  
You then play the heart jack to the queen, producing this position:

North  
♠ K J  
♥ J  
♦ J

West  
Immaterial

East  
♥ 9 6  
♣ J 8

South  
♥ A  
♦ K  
♣ Q 10

You lead dummy's king of spades, and if East ruffs, you overruff, draw his last trump and claim the rest. If East discards instead, so do you. You then lead the jack of spades. If East discards, so do you. But on the next lead from dummy, East can no longer avoid the inevitable. He has been couped.

Tomorrow: Deviating from the norm.  
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**CRYPTOQUIP**

N L L D K E U T K H J R O G R  
T R A L D A S R A D L " S I Y H I " D X H  
M A H V N X M U J H K R , Y G H O V D  
O G R I V D ? A H X E U N X H O A H .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I GOT MY THICK, WARM MÜFFLER SURGICALLY ATTACHED TO MY NECK, I WAS SCARFED FOR LIFE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals F

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 27 007  
1 "East of Eden" brother  
4 Sound booster  
7 DVR brand  
8 Diarist  
10 Israeli desert  
11 Ravines  
13 Warning from a bearer of bad news  
16 Jaguar or Cougar, e.g.  
17 Clueless  
18 Sock part  
19 Actress Sorvino  
20 "That was close!"  
21 100 bucks  
23 Olympic sleds  
25 Plumbing problem  
26 Moth variety

**DOWN** 12 Plum relatives  
14 Days gone by  
15 Hardly any  
19 Clear the deck?  
20 Links org.  
21 Model T starter  
22 Japanese warriors  
23 Maui meal  
24 Disrobe  
25 Conk out  
26 Sierra —  
28 Vacuum brand  
29 David Lean's  
30 Verizon, e.g.  
31 "Sad to say ..."  
32 Fre-  
34 Formerly  
35 Cicatrix

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

C	N	B	C	B	T	S	A	Y	S			
H	O	R	A	U	R	L	T	R	O	I		
U	N	I	V	G	O	O	S	E	E	G		
G	O	O	I	E	S	T	T	W	A	I	N	
A	M	Y	I	R	E							
S	M	A	R	T	G	O	O	D	A	L	L	
A	N	N	F	U	N	A	L	L				
G	O	O	G	L	E	S	S	W	A	P	S	
L	I	Z	B	A	A							
S	C	R	A	M	G	O	O	F	O	F	F	
G	O	O	D	B	Y	E	S	F	L	O	E	
T	O	R	Y	A	N	S	I	L	G	B	T	
S	K	Y	S		K	E	Y		E	A	S	E

Yesterday's answer 9-6

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## Review preview

Friday - 7 p.m.



### Jay County Patriots

Portland, 3-0 (1-0 ACAC)  
**Coach:** Grant Zgunda, second year (26th overall)

**Conference:** Allen County

**Last week vs. Southern Wells:** After leading by one at halftime, Jay County scored 36 second-half points for a 43-12 victory. Sean Bailey completed 8-of-10 passes for 224 yards and three touchdowns.

**Season leaders:** Passing — Sean Bailey — 23-of-36 for 431 yards and seven TDs. Rushing — A.J. Myers — 60 carries for 236 yards and five TDs. Receiving — Justin DeHoff — eight receptions for 220 yards and three TDs.

VS.

### Adams Central Jets

Monroe, 3-0 (0-0 ACAC)

**Coach:** Michael Mosser, 15th year

**Conference:** Allen County

**Last week vs. Blackhawk Christian:** Ryan Tester returned

the opening kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown as Adams Central rolled to a 54-10 victory. Seven players scored TDs for the Jets, including Trevor Currie on an 83-yard pass from Jack Hamilton and Max Kaehr on a block punt.

**Season leaders:** Passing — Jack Hamilton — 9-of-14 for 197 yards and three TDs. Rushing — Keegan Bluhm — 33 carries for 305 yards and seven TDs, Hamilton — 25 carries for 286 yards and three TDs. Receiving — Trevor Currie — three receptions for 107 yards and two TDs. Defense — Max Kaehr — 27 tackles and one sack; Matt Heiser — 23 tackles.

**Last meeting:** Jay County gave up two touchdowns in the first minute and a half and trailed by 35 at half-time in a 48-7 defeat. Patrick Hemmelgarn scored the lone Patriot touchdown on a 57-yard pass from Sean Bailey in the second quarter.

**Game notes:** JCHS is looking to move to 4-0 for the first time since 1982 ... Adams Central is ranked second in Class 1A. It trails only Indianapolis Lutheran, which it has lost to in each of the last two state championship games ... Calpreps.com has Adams Central as a 30-point favorite.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Patriot hydration

Jay County High School's Isaac Dues gets a drink on the sideline Friday during the Patriots' 44-12 victory over the host Southern Wells Raiders. The win pushed JCHS to 3-0 for the first time since beating Muncie Southside, Huntington North and Delta to open the 1985 season.

## Larson clinches spot in top 12

By SHANE CONNUCK

The Charlotte Observer  
 Tribune News Service

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Kyle Larson has finally won at Darlington.

The driver of the No. 5 car out-paced Tyler Reddick and the rest of the field in Sunday evening's Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway. With his third victory of

the season — his first-ever at the "Track Too Tough to Tame" — the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion clinched a spot in the round of 12.

"This has been one of my favorite tracks my whole career," Larson said post-race on the USA Network. "Been really, really fast here my whole career, but usually hitting the wall. ... Adding this trophy to

the collections is gonna be amazing."

Reddick came in second, with Chris Buescher, William Byron and Ross Chastain rounding out the top five.

Larso now holds the top spot in the playoff standings, but his regular season left a bit to be desired.

See Larson page 7

## Cooper Kupp's status in question

By GARY KLEIN

Los Angeles Times  
 Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — No Cooper Kupp, no worries. No reason for concern.

That theme characterized the answers of Rams receivers Monday when asked what it would be like to play the Seattle Seahawks without their star teammate, whose status for the season opener on Sunday is in doubt because of a lingering hamstring injury.

Coach Sean McVay said Kupp was in Minnesota receiving an evaluation from unspecified experts. A decision on Kupp's availability for the opener — and beyond — was pending, he said.

So the Rams, coming off a 5-12 season, are preparing for their opener without one of their few established stars.

Kupp, quarterback Matthew Stafford and defensive lineman Aaron Donald are the pillars of a team that received no offseason infusion of star talent.

If Kupp does not play against the Seahawks, then Van Jefferson, Tutu Atwell, rookie Puka Nacua or perhaps Ben Skowronek would start at receiver.

"You've got to be able to operate with the situation and the guys that we do have," McVay said when asked about Kupp before practice in Thousand Oaks. "And if he's able to go, that's outstanding for us. And if not, then that's how we've been operating."

## Steele shuts down Giants

By SHAYNA RUBIN

Bay Area News Group  
 Tribune News Service

The San Francisco Giants' offensive drought went completely dry against Chicago Cubs' All-Star starter Justin Steele.

Steele struck out 12 Giants and allowed just two hits, leading to a San Francisco 5-0 Labor Day loss on Monday afternoon at Wrigley Field.

The Cubs' August surge skyrocketed them into the second wild-card spot, where they temporarily hold a four-game lead over the other contenders. The Philadelphia Phillies hold the first wild-card spot.

It marked the Giants' fourth straight loss, pushing them out of a four-way tie for the third wild-card spot, beneath the Miami Marlins (who were off on Monday), the Cincinnati Reds and Arizona Diamondbacks — though Cincinnati and Arizona were just getting their Labor Day games

underway around the time of the final pitch at Wrigley on Monday.

The Giants didn't put a single runner in scoring position on Monday. Casey Schmitt's single in the second inning was the only hit Steele allowed until Paul DeJong's two-out single in the eighth inning. Steele had retired 16 Giants in a row until J.D. Davis' leadoff walk in that eighth inning, erased by Schmitt hitting into a double play.

Logan Webb gave up a solo home run to Seiya Suzuki in the second inning and went on to retire the next 10 batters he faced until Yan Gomes' fifth-inning double. Webb's third time through the Cubs' order brought more trouble in the seventh inning; Cody Bellinger hit a leadoff single and advanced to second with a healthy lead anticipating Dansby Swanson could hit a double-play ball off Webb's sinker.

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