

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Council reviews '24 budget

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Raises, wages and contracts. Jay County Council took another look at the county's 2024 budget Wednesday, asking questions of each department head about their respective requests.

Next year's budget sits at just under \$22.3 million, an increase of about \$1.44 million from the current year. Approximately \$466,000 of that amount is designated for wage increases, which include the addition of two new positions at Jay County Health Department for about \$92,000. (The new roles, a school health liaison and a health educator,

will be paid for using the enhanced state funding starting in 2024. Jay County will receive at least \$222,698 next year and a minimum of \$445,396 in 2025 with the enhanced funding, effectively doubling the department's budget in two years.)

Wage increases mostly range

between 2% and 7%, with a few outliers: the health department's food inspector may get a 25% raise, council members could see a 20% raise and commissioners, the coroner and veterans affairs officer could all get a 10% raise. (Each of those positions' pay is at least 20% or

more — council is 44% — lower than the external midpoint rate for their positions, according to information compiled by consulting firm Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates.)

Council members Harold Towell and Cindy Bracy asked various questions during the

hour-and-a-half meeting, learning from department heads as they made their way through the budget.

Commissioner president Chad Aker confirmed a few annual charges in the commissioners' budget, such as telephone bills for Jay County Courthouse.

"Again, this is stuff the commissioners don't have control over," said Aker.

Bracy reassured him, saying she was asking to learn the information. (This is her first budgeting process as a council member, having taken over the role in January.)

See **Reviews** page 2

*Spending projected at \$22.3 million, up about 6.5% from current year*

## Portland budget proposed at \$9.6 million

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Portland's budget for next year is proposed at nearly \$9.6 million.

Portland City Council on Tuesday briefly looked at and also held its public hearing on the 2024 budget.

Council also approved a couple of ordinance changes.

The city's notice to taxpayers shows a budget of \$9.59 million for 2024. It includes \$4.42 million in the general fund, \$1.31 million in the motor vehicle highway fund, \$1.3 million in the insurance surplus non-reverting fund and \$509,000 in the park and recreation fund.

There were no comments from the public or the council on the proposed budget.

Council approved the formation of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in the city.

Boggs had proposed an ordinance to do so at its last meeting, but council members asked for more time to consider the measure.

Under new state legislation that went into effect July 1, cities can have Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas where bar/restaurant patrons can purchase alcohol, leave the establishment and walk with their drink in an open container. The beverages would need to be in a designated container, such as a plastic cup approved by the city.

Several council members expressed hesitation at that meeting, but Golden said his questions had been answered through conversations with the mayor and police chief. With no other comment, council voted unanimously to approve creating a designated outdoor refreshment area in downtown Portland that will stretch to cover The Greazy Pickle, Good-Rich Brewery and establishments in between.

Council members Kent McClung, Mike Aker, Michele Brewster, Goldsworthy and Golden, absent Janet Powers and Don Gillespie, also approved an amendment to the city's historic preservation ordinance to eliminate the need for a "certificate of appropriateness" unless city funds are being requested.

See **Proposed** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Chasing and coaching

The Jay County High School cheerleaders held their annual clinic for kindergarten through sixth graders Tuesday and Wednesday. Pictured above, Maci Homan tries to chase down Patriot sophomore Faith Faulkner during a game of duck, duck, goose. At right, JCHS senior Cash Hollowell helps Addison DeBoy learn a cheer. Participants in the clinic will join the high school cheerleaders on the sideline during halftime of Friday's football game against Adams Central. For a story about the football team, see page 8.



## Park board, Pee Wee are at odds

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Portland Park Board and Jay County Pee Wee Football had a verbal agreement to split the cost of concrete upgrades around Hines Inman Memorial Field at Portland Memorial Park.

Jay County Pee Wee Football is now refusing to pay an invoice, saying the work was subpar.

The park board agreed to forward the issue to city hall after discussing the issue with Jay County Pee Wee Football repre-

*Dispute is over payment for concrete work at football field*

sentatives during its meeting Tuesday.

Park board president Brian Ison noted the group had a verbal agreement with park board to pay for half of the cost for converting por-

tions of Hines Inman Memorial Field's stone surfaces to concrete at Portland Memorial Park. The work was completed by city employees over three years. Jay County Pee Wee Football recently declined to

pay the \$1,720 invoice for concrete work completed in 2022.

Kaleb Hemmelgarn and Alex Huntsman of Jay County Pee Wee Football attended the meeting, with Hemmelgarn explaining his concern with the quality of work completed in that time period, which included the slab of concrete in front of the concession stand.

"I would challenge anybody to go out there and look at it and say, 'Would I put that in my front driveway?' And the reaction is going to be no," said Hemmelgarn.

See **Odds** page 2

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 82 degrees Wednesday. The low was 70.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 50s. Expect part-

ly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the lower 70s. Highs are projected in the 70s through at least Tuesday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

**Tuesday** — Results from the Patriot Invitational tennis tournament at JCHS.



# Reviews ...

Continued from page 1  
Towell questioned Aker's words.  
"You said you don't have control over it (your budget), but you do," he said. "Do you not?"  
Discussion turned to funds for telephone costs (\$8,500) and computer maintenance (\$150,000). Aker explained commissioners pay for contractual fees and that they are looking at options to cut costs throughout the county. (Franks noted approximately \$75,000 of the computer maintenance fund is used for financial and taxing software used by the treasurer and auditor.)  
Towell pointed out the fund used in previous years for Jay County Development Corporation (JCDC) has been eliminated from the economic development income tax (EDIT) portion of commissioners' budget.  
Aker said the county will be paying JCDC out of the contractual services fund. (Citing Indiana Code 6-3.6-10-2, commissioners have pushed for the county and JCDC to have a contract,

which the JCDC board approved last month.)  
Bracy also questioned commissioners' recent decision to lump contractual services into one fund with undefined amounts for each contract. Approximately \$280,000 is allocated for the fund next year, leaving enough room for services from Jay County Development Corporation (\$130,000) and East Central Indiana Regional Planning (\$100,000) in 2024 as well as a \$50,000 buffer for additional needs. (Council agreed in August to decrease the fund from commissioners' original request of \$580,000.)  
"It doesn't really list what and who is getting what," she said. "I feel like I'm going to Walmart with my eyes closed and my children are sticking things in the cart and then I have to go check out."  
She suggested specifying designated amounts into the fund for each contract. Aker noted the contractual services needed may vary annually, with Bracy pointing out "big-ticket items" such as contracts with Kleinpeter Con-

sulting, JCDC and East Central Indiana Regional Planning.  
Aker referenced development of the 68 acres the county purchased earlier this year.  
"When we're setting this budget, we don't always know who we're going to be working with throughout the year, so we put this in contractual services," he explained.  
Bracy requested commissioners specify amounts for contracts they expect to continue utilizing through the fund.  
Council members also granted an approximately \$1,300 raise to Jay County surveyor Brad Daniels.  
Council president Jeanne Houchins explained that Jay County Personnel Committee recently recommended bumping the surveyor's pay, noting it is approximately \$4,000 behind the external midpoint for the position across the state, according to the study by Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates.  
Bracy questioned council's decision to give raises despite a deficit budget, later voicing her

disapproval of giving council and commissioners a pay bump. Houchins noted the county has been attempting to catch up with salaries as compared to other counties for years.  
Sheriff Ray Newton explained a few increases in his budget, including an additional \$127,000 for medical and hospital expenses for inmates at the jail. The fund currently allocates \$23,000 annually.  
(Newton pointed out he will likely need to seek additional appropriations for the fund before the end of the current year.)  
"We are a hospital, and believe me, we have a lot of people who are sick in there," said Newton. "Illnesses, medication — that's a part of our responsibilities, so, there again, nothing we can do to avoid that. They have to be provided this care."  
He also noted an estimated \$18,000 will be added in contractual services for information technology repairs, which had previously been taken out of the commissioners' budget.

Per Indiana law, he added, the sheriff's office no longer charges for handgun permits — as of July 2022, permits are no longer required to legally carry, conceal or transport a handgun in Indiana — and the revenue from those permits had been used previously to help pay for ammunition and flares. As a result, next year's allocation for those expenses is up by \$7,000.  
Towell questioned the \$109,211.76 allocated for the Spillman contract, which Newton pointed out county officials approved in June. The county purchased Spillman Flex, a computer-aided drafting (CAD) mapping system tied into the county's dispatch system, and split the \$90,000 cost with Portland. The county also entered into an agreement with a few local municipalities to share the annual cost of its Spillman server. Per the agreement, Portland pays 40% and Redkey and Pennville each pay 5%.  
Also Wednesday, council approved Jay County Solid Waste District's budget at \$302,290.

## CR almanac

Saturday 9/9	Sunday 9/10	Monday 9/11	Tuesday 9/12	Wednesday 9/13
<b>73/54</b>	<b>76/54</b>	<b>77/57</b>	<b>71/52</b>	<b>69/47</b>
Mostly sunny and clear on Saturday with a low around 55 degrees at night.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Sunday, when the high will be 76.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday, with a high of 77.	Tuesday has a 40% chance of rain throughout the day.	There's a chance of showers Wednesday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

## Lotteries

<p><b>Powerball</b> 9-14-20-23-63 Power Ball: 1 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$500 million</p> <p><b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$122 million</p> <p><b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 6-7-9 Daily Four: 8-2-7-5 Quick Draw: 1-9-18-20-21-27-29-37-42-44-45-54-56-57-58-64-69-74-75-79 Evening Daily Three: 5-4-8</p>	<p>Daily Four: 4-3-5-4 Quick Draw: 6-11-23-25-28-30-32-33-34-39-43-46-49-52-54-62-69-70-72-78 Cash 5: 17-18-22-35-45 Estimated jackpot: \$308,000</p> <p><b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 9-7-0 Pick 4: 9-0-2-9 Pick 5: 5-7-0-4-7 Evening Pick 3: 9-1-0 Pick 4: 5-0-5-1 Pick 5: 1-8-8-5-1 Rolling Cash: 2-14-30-31-32 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000</p>
--	--

## Markets

<p><b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....5.85 Sept. corn .....5.30 Wheat .....5.15</p> <p><b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.60 Late Sept. corn .....5.35 Oct. corn .....4.80</p> <p><b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....5.25 Sept. corn .....4.95 Beans .....13.13</p>	<p>Dec. beans .....13.50 Wheat ..... 5.20</p> <p><b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....5.32 Sept. corn .....5.12 Beans .....14.14 Sept. beans .....14.09 Wheat .....5.65</p> <p><b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....5.25 Oct. corn .....4.40 Beans .....13.41 Oct. beans .....13.06 Wheat .....5.20</p>
--	---

## Today in history

**In 1966**, the first episode of "Star Trek" aired.

**In 1972**, the Portland High School football team rallied from a 12-0 deficit for a 20-18 victory over Delta. Pat Medler scored twice for the Panthers. Harry Ziegler scored on a 62-yard run to give Portland the lead for good and Mike Boggs followed with a 2-point conversion run that proved to be the deciding margin.

**In 2021**, Portland Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously granted a special exception to U.S. Aggregates to allow mining on its about 108 acres of property that sits between county road 100 South and Tyson Road, east of county road 200 West. The exception was the final step in the process to allow the company to expand its operation north of its location at 2228 W. 125 South.  
—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<p><b>Friday</b> Noon — Jay County Public Library Board executive sessions, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.</p> <p><b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audito-</p>	<p>rium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.</p>
---	--

# Proposed ...

Continued from page 1  
Previously, a "certificate of appropriateness" had been required for any changes to buildings in the city's historic district.  
"Where is that line between preservation and making it look appropriate and historic versus let's get these people to invest the money to get their windows fixed?" said historic preservation committee member Emily Goodrich. "I really believe this was how it was supposed to be in the first place. ... I think this is a good, reasonable change."  
McClung, who at the previous council meeting expressed the need for the city to take greater action to preserve downtown structures, voiced his support for the proposal.  
"If this means saving a building and it might not be quite perfect ... versus losing a building, I'd rather do this," he said.  
Council also made slight modifications to the city's payroll ordinance regard-

ing a line item for park opener/closer, pension payments and lateral transfers. The lateral transfer change clarified that the financial incentive does not apply to police officers who go through Indiana Law Enforcement Academy training with the department, leave, and then come back.  
In other business, council:  
•Was reminded that the Indiana Military Vehicle Preservation Association's annual show and swap meet is scheduled for Sept. 16 and 17 at Jay County Fairgrounds. It will feature the 9/11 Never Forget mobile exhibit, which will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 16 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 17.

•Was reminded by Goldsworthy that the city will need to take action to prepare for implementation of a state law that will require council meetings and other city meetings to be live-streamed and recorded beginning in July 2025. Council heard proposals for equipping its chambers to record and livestream but took no action. Boggs suggested council members revisit those proposals before making a decision.  
•Heard the mayor compliment this year's Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Show, which was held last month. He thanked Tri-State president Chris Englehardt and all those who work on the event for their efforts.

# Odds ...

Continued from page 1  
He recommended hiring an outside company to do similar work in the future, saying the concrete poured in 2022 likely won't last for more than a decade. Hemmelgarn presented park board with a few options — leave the space as is and pay for the entire cost or take out the concrete and re-pour it, or take the issue to Portland City Hall. If the work is redone, Jay County Pee Wee Football would pay for half the cost, he said.  
Moving forward, Ison recommended park board create written agreements with organizations. The process would include going through Portland City Council, he noted.  
Park board member Michael Brewster criticized Jay County Pee Wee Football, saying he has seen the work and although he said he understood the concern, the invoice needs to be paid.  
"Pee Wee Football is setting a bad precedent by not upholding their agreement with the park board," said Brewster.  
Ison added that the group uses a city park, and the park board provides supplies, lawn mowing, trash removal and water, among other amenities.  
The park board agreed to forward the issue to city hall.

In other business, the board:  
•Received two quotes for new playground equipment at Haynes Park. (Shauver suggested replacing the set east of the park's center pavilion.) Both proposals included two sets of swings, one for infants and one for young adults and older. Board members agreed to review the proposals and make a decision at a later date, with Ison reminding them there are Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars available for the parks.  
•Decided to look into creating and enforcing a catch-and-release fishing ordinance for Hudson Family Park. Shauver noted individuals have been netting 20 to 30 fish at the park at a time.

# Arrests

**Arson**  
A Terre Haute man was arrested Tuesday for arson.  
Dana L. Zimmerman, 40, 3818 Locust St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 4 felony for the alleged crime.  
He's being held on a \$15,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

## SERVICES

Saturday

**Pries**, Fred: 11 a.m., East Street Church, 128 N. East St., Winchester.

**Ford**, Phil: 3 p.m., Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St., Redkey.

---

Service listings provided by

**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
[progressiveofficeproducts.com](http://progressiveofficeproducts.com)



# GREAT SELECTION

of newspaper roll ends

# FOR SALE!

Stop by our office or call TODAY!

## GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

Publishers of

**The Commercial Review** Portland, Indiana  
**The News and Sun** Dunkirk, Indiana  
**The News-Gazette** Winchester, Indiana  
**The News Times** Hartford City, Indiana

309 West Main Street  
Portland, IN 47371

# 260-726-8141

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm



**Friendship, Indiana**

**Sept. 9-17**

**Open daily 9:00 a.m.**

S.E. Indiana, 1 mi. east of town on St. Rd. #62  
[www.friendshipfleamarket.com](http://www.friendshipfleamarket.com)  
**(812) 667-5645**

## Are you at risk?

Get Screened for Risks of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease

**Call 844-499-4567**

Special Screening Package for \$149




LIFE LINE SCREENING  
The Power of Prevention



Photo provided

## Five generations

Pictured are five generations of the Simmons family. In front are Graham Watts of Carmel and great great-grandmother Roberta Simmons of Union City. In the back row, from left, are mother Katharyn Watts of Carmel, grandmother Sarah Daugherty of Yorktown and great-grandmother Maria Hiatt of Portland.

## Introvert avoids outing

DEAR ABBY: I am in a group of friends who are mainly from the same country. We bond pretty well and occasionally spend time together. We mostly communicate by text in a chat group. Once in a while I get messages from them — mostly greetings or chats about general stuff, but nothing personal.

I'm an introvert, so I'm comfortable with the level of closeness we have right now. I don't crave deeper connections with them, and I'm happy with how things are. If I have the chance to get together, I do my best to see them for meals or other activities.

In a few weeks, there is a plan for us to do an outdoor activity that requires an overnight stay. I'm not excited about it. It makes me nervous to think about spending that much time with people who are not my family. I don't mind having lunch and chitchatting all afternoon, but being around them for more than 24 hours feels like too much to handle.

I tried hinting that I'm not interested by saying I don't have any equipment for the activity. Now there is pressure for me to go because they suggested I can use their equipment. I really don't know how to say I don't want to go without seeming like I'm antisocial. Please help! — PEER-PRESSED

**DEAR PEER-PRESSED:** Everybody is different. Not everyone is an extrovert and able to handle the stimulation of being around other people for an extended period of time.

If you were to accept the invitation, would there be a way you might manage some alone time so you could recharge your batteries? If you could, it might solve your problem. However, if the answer to that question is no, be

Dear Abby



honest. Tell your friends the truth, that this is one excursion you will have to pass on and why.

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter has a girlfriend she's been "dating" for about eight months. They're not sexually active, and they only see each other socially a couple of weekend days every month, but they do FaceTime with each other every day. From what I can gather, they are also attached at the hip during school hours.

My concern is the length of this relationship. I remember when I was their age I had a crush on a different boy practically every week, and boyfriends didn't last long. Is it healthy for her to be in such a serious relationship? She's a very social person, has lots of friends and is active in sports. Part of me wishes they would break up so she can experience other relationships and not be tied down at such a young age. What do you think? — TWEEN'S MOM IN MASSACHUSETTS

**DEAR MOM:** I think that because your friendships ended after only a short time when you were your daughter's age does not mean that hers will (or should). Best friendships can last for years and even decades. Let your daughter mature at her own pace, and resist the urge to interfere.

## Community Calendar

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

### 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 from June through October on East Main Street in Portland. For more information, contact The Flower Nook at (260) 726-7166.

### 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.

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP** — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

**JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION** — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

**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.

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTER** — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

tion or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

**REDISCOVERING JOY** — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

### Tuesday

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

**BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE** — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical

Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

### 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.

**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.

**JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE** — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut 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.

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

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP** — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30

p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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

### Connect Anywhere, Anytime.

Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with ACP

You qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program if a household of two has an income of less than \$39,440, or if you receive:

- Medicaid
- Veterans Pension
- SNAP
- Survivors or Lifeline Benefits
- SSI
- Tribal Assistance Program
- WIC
- Housing Assistance

Get a subsidized 4G Android Tablet for \$20

**CALL TODAY (866) 981-3302**

## What's for BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER

Advertise in the **GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS**

**Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com**

**4x4 ad once a week in**  
The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette, The News Times and The News and Sun throughout September

**\$415** (85% off regular price)

Or run a **4x4 ad once a week in**  
the publication(s) of your choice:

- The Commercial Review - **\$275**
- The News-Gazette - **\$250**
- The News Times - **\$210**
- The News and Sun - **\$210**

Ads must run in September  
Rate does not apply to special sections

# Drug price plan is good medicine

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

The federal government operates three gigantic systems providing health care to millions of Americans. The VA takes care of veterans, Medicaid (whose costs are shared with states and localities) is coverage for the poor and Medicare is health insurance for seniors and people with disabilities.

The VA and Medicaid can, and do, negotiate with suppliers on drug prices, just like they negotiate payment levels for other health services. Yet Medicare, which sets the reimbursement rates for doctors and hospitals, is barred by federal law from negotiating on drugs. That's the doing of the well-heeled pharmaceutical lobby.

The prohibition from allowing

## Guest Editorial

Medicare to negotiate on drug prices was part of the original legislation when Medicare's Part D drug benefit was first approved by a Republican Congress and President George W. Bush in 2003. Sen. John McCain, always a truth-teller, said the ban on negotiations was "outrageous," as Democrats pledged to change it.

It took a long time, but the change finally came last year with President Joe Biden's hodgepodge Inflation Reduction

Act. The law, signed a year ago this month, permitted Uncle Sam (meaning Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra) to haggle over the prices of medications, albeit only a small group of drugs at a time.

Biden has now announced the first 10 drugs. The negotiations, by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, will take years and the lower prices for consumers will begin in 2026. There will be another 50 drugs over the next four years up for negotiations and after that, 20 a year. And Big Pharma is fighting all the way, already in court to stop it.

The billions saved by both the government and the patients are billions coming from their bank accounts. Higher prices mean higher profits. As for lower

prices, that is something that they are not interested in. The first group of drugs are made by Bristol Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Amgen, AbbVie and Novo Nordisk.

Those pharmaceuticals do good work and deserve to be fairly compensated. We are committed capitalists and think that private companies are entitled to gain from their medical discoveries (even though a great deal of the research money is government funds). But should medicine for diabetes or heart disease cost a fortune?

One of the drugs on the list, Imbruvica, for blood cancer, runs \$17,000 a month, or \$204,000 a year. Is it that expensive to manufacture? Or were its development

expenses extraordinarily pricey? Or are there not that many patients using it, so the costs per person have to be so high? Whatever the reason, it can be addressed during the talks now permitted between Medicare and the supplier, a joint product of AbbVie and Johnson & Johnson.

Big Pharma argues that since Medicare is such a big customer of their goods, it won't be a real negotiation but a dictate, laid down by Medicare without much back and forth. And since Medicare is the federal government, it would be akin to the government setting prices.

With their ample resources to wage this courtroom battle, the legal fight will eventually land in the U.S. Supreme Court. Hopefully, the program will be upheld and drug costs will be lowered.

## Market dictates how we raise kids

By KATHRYN ANNE EDWARDS  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Kathryn Anne Edwards



Who wants the government to decide how they should raise their children? This is what opponents fear will happen if the state provides free child care: Families will be powerless, mothers will be forced to work, children will be removed from their homes.

What they fail to recognize is that the market already limits families' freedom of choice more than the government ever could.

Suppose a mother with young children wants to work. Can she, if nobody else is willing or able to stay home with the kids? Only if the child-care market permits it. She'll have to find a provider near her home or work, obtain a spot with that provider and find a way to afford the tuition. That's not easy. Half of the country is classified as a "child care desert." In many markets, the going rate can be \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. Families fortunate enough to have children in care devote a fourth of their income to such expenses.

That's not all. The power of markets over families starts the day new parents come home from the hospital. Can they stay home with their newborn? The labor market doesn't think so: Only a fraction of workers have paid family leave, least of all the poorest.

Should they have another child? Today's parents want as many kids as prior generations, but they're having fewer nonetheless. In one survey, a staggering 64% cited the high cost of child care, while 39% cited inadequate paid leave and a further 38% cited a complete lack thereof. Lower-income parents are twice as likely to cite affordability issues as their more affluent counterparts.

How to reform such a cruel and unequal system? America needs a comprehensive zero-to-five policy to counter the market's dysfunction.

From birth to four months, parents should have paid family leave. From four months to three years, they should have guaranteed access to affordable childcare in centers or from home-based providers. From

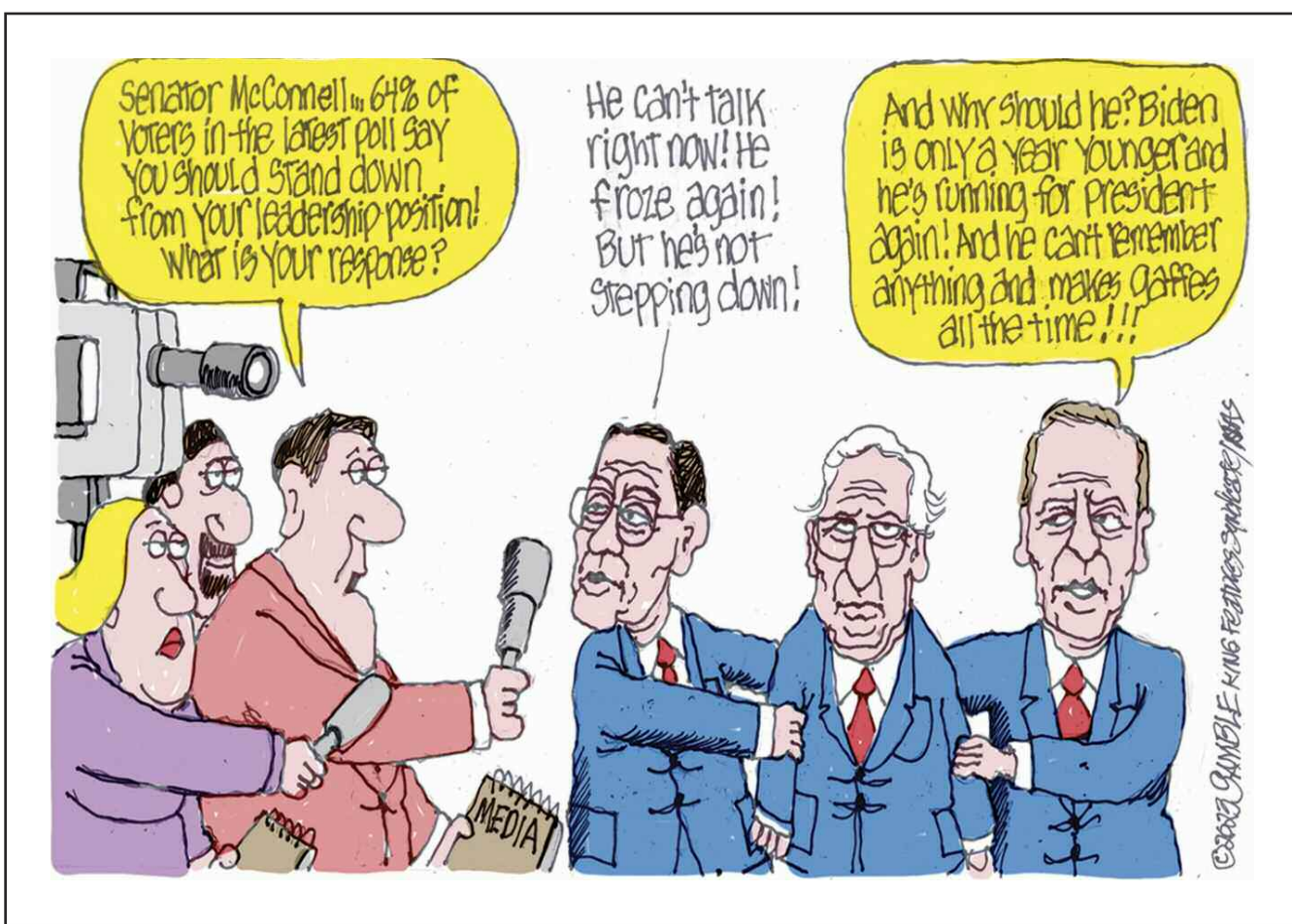
*Half of the country is classified as a "child care desert." In many markets, the going rate can be \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. Families fortunate enough to have children in care devote a fourth of their income to such expenses.*

three to five, free preschool. From then on, the existing K-12 system can kick in. At all levels, all families are covered, and all can choose whether to participate.

These investments would enhance family autonomy by providing guaranteed choices, rather than mercurial market privileges. They would also generate a positive return for the economy — through children's health, mothers' health, educational performance and labor supply.

If decisions such as how many children to have and how to raise them reflected what families prefer, rather than what markets permit, everyone would benefit.

Edwards is a labor economist and independent policy consultant.



## Electorate is happy to be mad

By MICHAEL LEPPERT  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Michael Leppert



With football season upon us, I must confess one of my favorite things about it. I love yelling at the refs. It's a silly thing to do, since after decades of doing it, I can count the times a football referee has distinctly heard my complaints on one hand. It's hard to be heard from the upper deck at Lucas Oil Stadium, or my preferred spot, the recliner in my living room.

Let me introduce you to the American voter.

I was scrolling social media over the weekend and came across a post by pollster Nate Silver. He had attached a graph from Federal Reserve Economic Data, or FRED, that details consumer spending. The graph is familiar looking to wonks. It shows a steady increase until an abrupt and extreme decrease in March of 2020. By February of 2021, the graph had picked up where it left off and has continued to rise since.

So? Silver's observation is consistent with what many of us have been saying for some time now. Americans are behaving as if times are great, while also saying the economy is bad.

In April of this year, Pew Research Center published "Americans take a dim view of the nation's future, look more positively at the past." The center routinely measures the nation's optimism, and currently, it's running low. As has been consistent with other polling data, the pessimism has apparently set in. Just before the pandemic, 57% of Americans had a positive outlook on the state of the economy. Today, that number has plummeted to 19%, even though all economic indicators show conditions to be similar to pre-pandemic measures.

What conclusions can be drawn from data that shows a populace that is experiencing a similar economy, but nearly 40% more of us now view it negatively?

My conclusion is that we have sim-

ply become angrier. Just in general, across the board, our pessimism seems to have engulfed our collective psyche. If that is correct, how will messaging to such an angry crowd change?

This space is normally dedicated to politics and government, so let's start there.

Indiana is an interesting place to be when the environment is so conflicted. Next year, a hotly contested race for governor will take place. Several well-funded candidates will fight for the Republican nomination, and most are campaigning toward the angriest of the angry, the Trump voter. To attract that bunch, a candidate will need to take the "we're madder than hell and we're not going to take it anymore" approach.

The trouble is, Republicans have controlled everything in Indiana for so long, it will be awkward explaining at whom to direct their hostility. Should the Hoosier voter blame Democrats on the national stage for all that ails them? If they do, how then do they simultaneously support state Republicans for the same conditions?

One Republican candidate, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, proposes a drastic elimination of the state income tax as part of her platform. But she has been in office for a long time now, and to implement her plan she will have to undo the pillars of Republican policies she has supported that entire time.

It's like she's gone negative on herself.

In the Indianapolis mayor's race

that will be decided in two months, the negative campaigning is also awkward. Two-term Democrat incumbent Joe Hogsett has primarily been running negative ads against his Republican challenger, Jefferson Shreve.

Indianapolis just saw a Democrat incumbent prosecutor, Ryan Mears, run against a strong Republican challenger in 2022 and win by 20 points. In 2019, Hogsett won his first reelection bid by nearly 40 points.

It would seem to me that Hogsett should be shaking hands and kissing babies, celebrating the successes of his eight years in office and the overwhelmingly blue nature of his constituency. Instead, he seems to be trying to convince people to be mad at a challenger who shouldn't have much of a chance at even getting close to beating him.

Is the market for "happy" simply dead?

Oddly, I found a diamond in the rough. And when I say "rough," I'm talking about marriage.

That's right, married people in Indiana are among the nation's happiest. The Lafayette Journal & Courier reported earlier this year that 86% of married Hoosiers report they are, in fact, "happily married." This survey, conducted by Mixbook, ranks Indiana fourth in the nation.

What the Mixbook survey didn't do is tell us why.

I love my wife, job and economic outlook. I am optimistic about the future. There's no reason to assume I'm mad about anything.

Unless you referee football. Even before the NFL starts, I will say it now, the refs are terrible.

Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis.

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

# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

LOUISE RONALD  
Board president  
TONIA HARDY  
Business manager

RAY COONEY  
Editor and publisher  
BRIAN DODD  
Production manager

VOLUME 150-NUMBER 93  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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.

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

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

Subscription rates  
Internet-only: Three days - \$3; Monthly auto-pay - \$10; 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108.  
City (walking - where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$11; 13 weeks - \$35; six months - \$66; one year - \$118.  
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$12; 13 weeks - \$43; six months - \$72; one year - \$136.  
Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$47; six months - \$78; one year - \$147.  
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

# Grant aims at dairy efficiency

By STEVE KOPPEL  
Purdue Ag News

A team of Purdue University researchers has received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to improve feed efficiency and consistency on dairy farms by using automated video analytics systems. The grant is among \$9.6 million in recent NIFA investments supporting 12 projects in animal innovation systems.

"Feed costs are the No. 1 cost for dairy farmers. In order to make improvements on feed efficiency, we have to provide feedback to farmers close to in real time," said Jacquelyn Boerman, associate professor of animal sciences. "If we can improve the consistency of that feed and we know what individual cows are eating, we're going to manage that feed better. That has economic implications for dairy farmers."

The dairy industry aims to become carbon neutral by 2050 via various approaches, including modifying the environment of the cow rumen and managing manure to reduce methane emissions. Boerman's team will focus on enhancing dairy cow efficiency by providing them with consistent feed and measuring how much they eat.

A cattle nutritionist, Boerman will assess feed composition for consistency, which improves their milk production. Amy Reibman, the Elmore Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, will handle the video recording logistics and data analytics.

Dennis Buckmaster, professor of agricultural and biological engineering, will integrate the data with software systems that can measure movement, temperature, water intake, rumination and milk-production data from cows. Linda Pfeiffer, associate professor of agricultural sciences education and communication, heads the project's social sciences team, which will work with stakeholders to better understand how they can integrate the video technology into their operations.

The researchers will carry out the initial testing phase pri-



Purdue Ag News/Tom Campbell

Jacquelyn Boerman, associate professor of animal sciences at Purdue University, and her husband are dairy farmers, as are her parents. "I want to improve the lives of dairy farmers and the cows that live on their farms," she said.

marily at the Purdue Dairy Unit. "We hope that it will have applications for commercial farms afterward," Boerman said. The project has letters of support from the Indiana Dairy Producers and from farm nutrition companies.

The collaboration began with an internal 2022 proposal that led to funding a project between faculty members in the College of Agriculture and the College of Engineering. The new project also extends the work of Matthew Rogers, who received a doctorate in agricultural and biological engineering from Purdue in 2022. Rogers used stereovision to measure the volume of granular agricultural materials.

If successful, the project will make it possible to measure feed intake on a per-animal basis in group settings. "To date, we have only measured output per animal and have inputs aggregated per group," said Buckmas-

ter, who is also the Dean's Fellow for Digital Agriculture.

Buckmaster is excited to blend early career work on forages, feeding, total mixed ration (TMR) for dairy cows, and particle size with his more recent work in digital architectural data pipelines.

"The ability to know that each batch is uniformly blended without tremendously tedious and expensive sampling will also be of great value in TMR situations," he said. His role will include assisting with the TMR uniformity experiments and feed characterization.

"I expect there will be some analysis and modeling needed to go from raw bulk volume measurements to per-animal intake, too. That will involve density and moisture content aspects as well as appropriately dividing feed disappearance when cows are side by side," he said.

The project's video analytics component will be designed to enhance understanding of the

visual data that farmers depend upon for decision-making.

"Farmers are trained to make a lot of decisions based on things that they see," said Reibman, who specializes in video analytics for animals. "I'm an engineer. I want to solve problems. We should be able to design a system that can augment their abilities."

"We would like the system to be effective in an operational farm, and operational farms sometimes have harsh visual environments: bad lighting, dust. I call it shmutz in the air that gets on your cameras."

The team's guiding principles are to obtain the data they need with placement of cameras and other equipment that dairy farmers will not have to work around. "This notion that 'it has to work the way it is' instead of 'can we change the environment so that it'll work' is fascinating to me," Reibman said.

Pfeiffer, who leads the project's social science team, specializes in

upstream, dialogic and coproduction communication models. "That means we're engaged upstream in research as the technology is being designed," Pfeiffer said. "And coproduction means that we're taking feedback from stakeholders."

For this project, farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians and industry representatives will share feedback with the engineers and the scientists as they're designing these camera systems to improve feed efficiency.

"We're frequently seeing technologies that are being developed to improve life often introduce costs, risks and challenges to the end user that are not often anticipated," Pfeiffer said. And that can result in resistance to the technologies.

The social science team also includes professor Mark Tucker and PhD candidate Rob Weiner, both in the Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication.

## Ag producer sentiment dips

By KAMI GOODWIN  
Purdue Ag News

Producer sentiment was notably lower in August, as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index dipped 8 points to a reading of 115. This month's decline was fueled by producers' weaker perception of current conditions both on their farms and in U.S. agriculture. The Index of Current Conditions fell 13 points to a reading of 108. The Index of Future Expectations also declined 5 points in August to a reading of 119. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from August 14-18.

"Rising interest rates and concerns about high input prices continue to put downward pressure on producer sentiment," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "This month over half (60%) of the producers we surveyed said they expect interest rates to rise in the upcoming year."

When asked about their top concerns for their farming operations in the next 12 months, producers continue to point to higher input prices (34% of respondents) and rising interest rates (24% of respondents). Even though crop prices weakened significantly this summer, only one in five producers (20% of respondents) chose declining commodity prices as one of their top concerns.

The Farm Capital Investment Index was lower this month, falling 8 points to a reading of 37. Increasing prices for farm machinery and new construction along with rising interest rates continue to be the two most commonly cited reasons for

their negative view. Meanwhile, producers' rating of farm financial conditions changed little in August, as the Farm Financial Conditions Index declined just one point to a reading of 86.

Despite increasing concerns about rising interest rates, producers remain cautiously optimistic about farmland values. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index rose one point to 126, while the long-term index was unchanged at a reading of 151. About 4 out of 10 (39%) respondents said they expect farmland values to rise over the next year, while 13% said they look for values to decline in the next year. When asked about their longer-term view of farmland values, more than 6 out of 10 (63%) respondents said they expect values to rise over the next five years, while 12% said they expect values to fall.

To better understand the usage of carbon contracts in row-crop agriculture, corn and soybean growers were asked about the types of conversations they have had with those companies. In the August survey, 6% of corn and soybean growers said they have engaged in discussions with companies about receiving payments to capture carbon on their farms, while just 2% said they had signed a carbon contract. Nearly half (47%) of the farms who discussed contract terms with a company said they were offered a payment rate of \$10 to \$20 per metric ton of carbon captured. Among the farms who engaged in discussions but chose not to sign a carbon contract, half said it was because the payment level was too low.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report at [purdue.ag/agbarometer](http://purdue.ag/agbarometer)

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

Our fall home improvement special section will be distributed in **The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)**

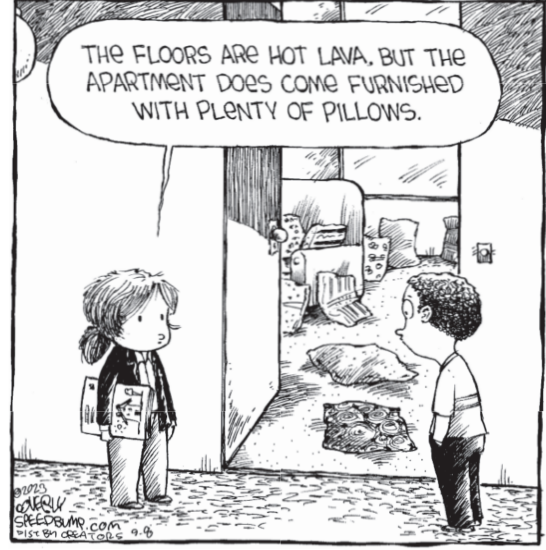
full-page color	<b>— \$500</b>
full-page B&W	<b>— \$400</b>
1/2-page color	<b>— \$400</b>
1/2-page B&W	<b>— \$320</b>
1/4-page color	<b>— \$350</b>
1/4-page B&W	<b>— \$280</b>
Big business card (3x3.5)	<b>— \$120</b>
Business card (2x2)	<b>— \$80</b>

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Lindsey at  
[L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com) or  
(260) 726-8141

### SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



### Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

#### Test your play

Assume you're declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

**WEST**  
♠ K J 7  
♥ K J 6  
♦ A  
♣ A J 7 6 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ A 4 3 2  
♥ A 4 3 2  
♦ —  
♣ K Q 9 8 3

This excellent problem, published in the British Bridge Magazine many years ago, was composed by Paul Lukacs, Israeli expert.

West should begin by ruffing the queen-of-diamonds lead in dummy (it would be wrong to discard a spade or a heart). He then draws both missing trumps, ending in dummy, and leads the deuce of spades. If South follows suit with the five or six of spades on the first round of the suit when he holds the eight, nine or ten.

trump and leads the three of spades toward his hand, planning to play the jack if South follows low.

By adopting this line of play, declarer makes the contract in each of the following six cases:  
1. If South has no spade higher than the six.  
2. If South errs and plays the five or six of spades on the first round of the suit when he holds the eight, nine or ten.

3. If South has the queen of spades, in which case whatever other spades he was dealt makes no difference at all.  
4. If North has either the singleton or doubleton queen of spades.  
5. If the six spades held by North-South are divided 3-3.  
6. If the potential heart finesse — taken as a last resort after the spades fail to behave favorably — wins because South was dealt the queen.

Only if all six chances go wrong would declarer fail to make the slam on the recommended line of play. If they all did go sour, declarer could easily be forgiven if he decided to give up the game for a while.

Tomorrow: That magic number 13.  
©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

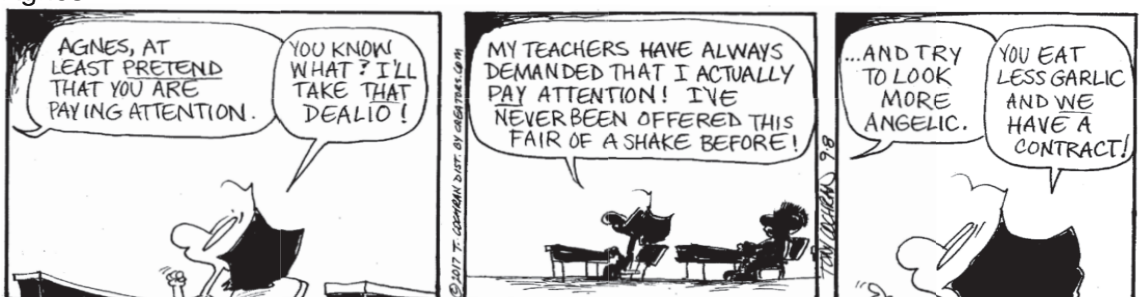
### Peanuts



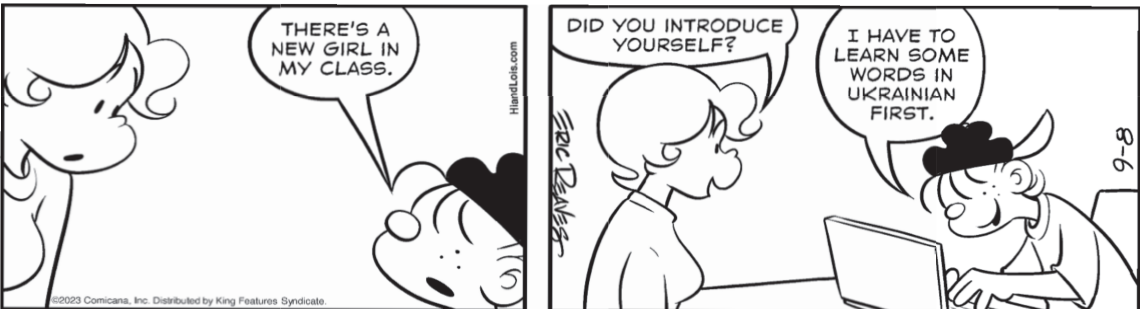
### Rose is Rose



### Agnes



### Hi and Lois



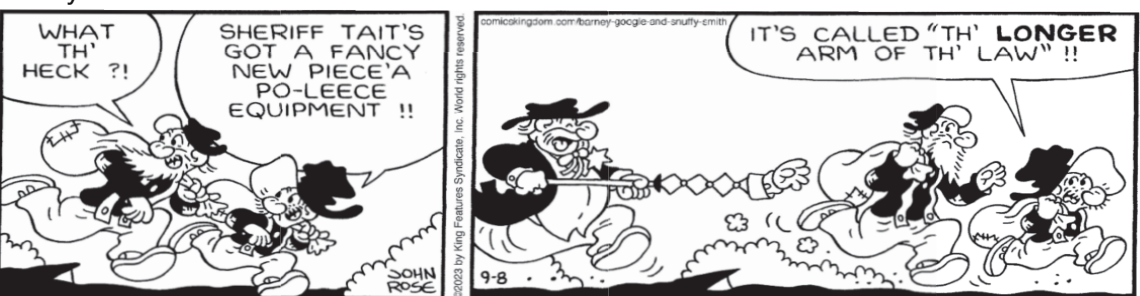
### Between Friends



### Blondie



### Snuffy Smith



### Beetle Bailey



### 9-8

### CRYPTOQUIP

VYDK IQHMU QBC JDMM IYQLKL  
VDBUCOXBI DOQHBV LCDOJYXBI  
AQO AQQU XB KYC VXMU?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVEL ABOUT A FAMOUS TANNER WHOSE WARES ARE MADE OF VIVID-RED BUCKSKIN: "THE SCARLET LEATHER."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals G

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- |                           |                           |                            |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>             | 36 Ethan and Joel of film | 2 Jr.'s son                | 21 "Beetle Bailey" dog |
| 1 "Home-land" org.        | 37 Lawman Earp            | 3 Tree-dwelling            | 22 Biological group    |
| 4 Autumn script stats     | 40 Blacken on a grill     | 4 Strong suit              | 23 Un-repaired         |
| 8 Trans-put on TV         | 41 Top-notch              | 5 Hertz rival              | 25 Futile              |
| 12 Put on "Amores" poet   | 42 Sign of winter         | 6 Lucy of "Kill Bill"      | 26 Cabinet department  |
| 14 Coffee vessels         | 46 Color worker           | 7 Mormon church, for short | 27 Japanese noodle     |
| 15 Roman emperor          | 47 Influence              | 8 Com-poser                | 28 Tools with teeth    |
| 17 Emailed                | 48 Fre-quently            | 9 Quarry                   | 30 Tech news website   |
| 18 Feedbag fill           | 49 Scatters seeds         | 10 Actress Hathaway        | 33 Cove critters       |
| 19 Eyelid woes            | 50 11th President         | 11 Swift jets              | 34 Fly like a hawk     |
| 20 Rich cake              | 51 Sturgeon product       | 16 Comestibles             | 36 Black-board need    |
| 22 Vasco de —             | <b>DOWN</b>               | 19 Blue material?          | 37 Bankrolls           |
| 24 GPS suggestions        | 1 Persian, for one        | 20 Golf hazard             | 38 Toy on a string     |
| 25 Pompeii volcano        |                           |                            | 39 From the top        |
| 29 — standstill           |                           |                            | 40 Select from a group |
| 30 "Be quiet!"            |                           |                            | 42 iPhone download     |
| 31 Secret-protecting doc. |                           |                            | 43 Status —            |
| 32 "Hamlet" role          |                           |                            | 44 E.T.'s craft        |
| 34 Pack cargo             |                           |                            | 45 Sault — Marie       |
| 35 Till bills             |                           |                            |                        |

Solution time: 25 mins.

STEP	LAT	PHAT
COPA	IDA	RANA
AMIR	BAT	UBER
NECTAR	TADA	
AHAMOMENTS		
RICKI	IOS	EEK
ASHE	ANS	CRAY
MSU	TLC	ROOMS
SACRAMENTS		
KONA	ESTATE	
WELD	NPR	NEAR
ICEE	ATV	ERGO
TODO	CAY	ROSS

Yesterday's answer 9-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15		16						17		
		18					19			
20	21				22	23				
24				25				26	27	28
29				30				31		
32		33					34			
		35				36				
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	
46				47				48		
49				50				51		

**Little JJ's Tree Service**  
Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding, Firewood available  
765-509-1956

**GABBARD FENCE**  
FARM • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • VINYL  
"SINCE 1967"  
rgfence@yahoo.com  
(765) 546-8801

**SCHWARTZ HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC**  
All types of construction  
✓ New Homes ✓ Garages  
✓ Additions ✓ Post Frame Barns  
Exterior Finishing  
• Roofing  
• Siding  
• Windows  
• Doors  
Leave Message  
260-301-1805

**ROD PENROD, LICENSED AGENT**  
**TURNING 65?**  
Call me for all of your insurance needs.  
Medicare Supplements  
Medicare Drug Plans  
Medicare Advantage  
Senior Life Insurance  
Local Agent  
260-418-9492 rpenrod@cgnaz.org

**BAIL BONDS**  
Travis Weaver  
260-726-3189  
across street from Jail

✓ **Out The CR**  
Classifieds  
www.thecr.com

**Dave's Heating & Cooling**  
Furnace, Air Conditioner, Geothermal Sales & Service  
260-726-2138  
Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

**BOOLMAN'S**  
Auto Sales & Service, Inc.  
Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana  
260-251-9735

✓ **Out The CR**  
Classifieds  
www.thecr.com

**Bricker's Flowers & More**  
414 N. Meridian St. Portland  
Call or text to order 260-703-0304  
Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday  
9:30-3:00 Saturday

**Emanuel Schwartz Construction**  
**BARN RESTORATION**  
Specializing in metal roofs, decks & more  
FREE Estimates  
260-301-1777

**SCHWARTZ CONSTRUCTION**  
Pole Barns  
Roofing  
Siding  
Garages  
Custom Buildings  
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE  
(765) 227-9499  
Call 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**40 NOTICES**  
**PLEASE NOTE:** Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one day incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

### 60 SERVICES

**J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC.** Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

**"SEAMSTRESS NAN" HOMEMADE** Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

**WICKEY CONSTRUCTION** Free Estimate. Metal roofing & more. 260-273-9776

**GOODHEW'S ALL SEASON** Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

**Wendel's**  
Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning  
Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning  
For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial  
Green Seal Approved  
Dave Wendel  
Ph. 260-726-4520  
Cell 260-729-2797



# Sports

## 'Let's go find out'

**Patriots relish the opportunity to measure themselves against the best of the Allen County Athletic Conference**

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Back-to-back Allen County Athletic Conference champions.

An average of 11.5 wins per year since 2015.

The state runners-up in Class 1A in each of the last two seasons.

Being 3-0 for the first time in nearly four decades is enough to make for a big game.

Facing a team the caliber of Adams Central takes it to a different level.

Jay County High School's football team is relishing the opportunity as they prepare to host the Class 1A No. 2 Jets on Friday night.

"I'm excited about it and the players are too," said JCHS coach Grant Zgunda while walking off the practice field Wednesday. "It's like, 'Let's go find out.'"

The Patriots, who are 3-0 for the first time since 1985, know they are going to learn a lot about themselves in their next couple of games. (After Adams Central, they host Class 2A No. 5 Bluffton next weekend for homecoming.)

The first three JCHS opponents are a combined 1-8 through the first three weeks. The Jets, meanwhile, have won 19 consecutive regular season games.

"They're where you are trying to get to — where you don't make mistakes offensively, you execute; defensively you play good, hard, aggressive football," Zgunda said. "And then they have good special teams. That's why they are who they are."

"They're well-coached. They don't hurt themselves at all."

See Find out page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School football coach Grant Zgunda shows the offense a play during practice Wednesday evening. The Patriots, who are 3-0 for the first time since 1985, were preparing for their biggest challenge of the season thus far as they will host the Class 1A No. 2 Adams Central Jets at 7 p.m. tonight.

What's so special about  
**September?**

It's the **GATEWAY** into the busy season!

Pick your perfect Advertising Package with the Graphic Printing Newspaper CO., spanning across

**Randolph, Jay, & Blackford Counties!**

Run a 1/4 page color ad in:

**\$745** \*The Commercial Review  
\*The News-Gazette  
\*The News Times  
\*The News and Sun  
(67% off regular price)

Or run a 1/4 page color ad in the publication(s) of your choice:

\*The Commercial Review – \$325  
\*The News-Gazette – \$300  
\*The News Times – \$270  
\*The News and Sun – \$270



Ads must run in September

Rate does not apply to special sections

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

## Montes scores first for Ravens

**Jay County graduate nets first goal of season**

Anhely Montes came out firing for the Anderson University girls soccer team and it didn't take long to pay off.

The 2020 graduate from Jay County High School scored the first goal of the season for the Ravens after nearly 27 minutes of play on Saturday.

Montes only took one more shot at the goal in the 4-1 win over the Spalding Eagles. Her first shot came at the 6:23 mark.

The forward was held scoreless in a 0-0 draw against St. Mary-Woods on Wednesday. In 64 minutes played, Montes took five shots against the Pomeroy's two of which were saved and three were wide of the goal.

**Jayla Bruns FRHS – 2022**

Shot the best score for the IU-East girls golf B team at the IU-East Fall Invitational over the weekend at Highland Lake Golf Course.

In the first round, Bruns shot an 85 to tie Trine's Cally Ruff for the 17th-best score out of 42 golfers.

She matched her score in the second round of the invitational to finish with 170 strokes, good for 18th-place. She tied with fellow Red Wolf Josalyn Lewis, who had the fifth score for the A team.

Other golfers on the B team placed 22nd, 36th, 39th and 42nd for a team score of 720. They beat Concordia Ann Arbor (742) while IU-East's A team won the invitational with 637 strokes.

**Lindy Wood Jay County – 2022**

Ran a time of 22:13.5 to finish 28th at the Mastodon Opener at the

## Collegiate Check-up

University of Purdue – Fort Wayne to open the season.

Wood finished behind Trine's Piper Barker who crossed the finish line at 21:53.2. Madison King of Purdue – Fort Wayne won the meet with a time of 17:16.7.

Wood finished seventh among the University of Saint Francis (Ind.), taking up 23rd place. Alex Ebetino paced the Cougars runners, finishing fourth with a time of 18:20.6. Other Cougars finished 10th, 18th, 19th and 21st for the team to rack up 71 points and finish third out of four teams.

St. Francis beat Lourdes (110) while falling to Purdue – Fort Wayne (21) and Trine (50).

**Paige Fortkamp FRHS – 2021**

Cooled off as the University of Saint Francis (Ind.) volleyball team was swept 3-0 in all five matches this week.

After racking up 28 kills in a single match against William Woods on Aug. 25, Fortkamp only managed 28 kills total over the past five contests.

With 21 errors and 109 hitting attempts, Fortkamp only had a 6.4% hitting percentage.

Fortkamp now sits third in the Crossroads League in kills with 130. Taking over first and second place were Haley Kruse of Huntington (144) and Taylor's Gracie Conway (132).