

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

School board hires Corwin

JCHS grad will be new transportation director

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review
Jay School Corporation has a new leader for its transportation department.

Jay School Board during a special meeting Thursday morning approved the hiring of Mitch Corwin as transportation director.

The 1992 Jay County High School graduate will take over for Melissa Stephen, who submitted her resignation earlier this month. Her last day will be today.

"This is a big win for the schools here," said Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley. "Our transportation is complicated and it's getting more so ... We need good people out there."

He touted Corwin's experience both as the current assistant transportation director for New Albany-Floyd County School District and as a former Jay School Corporation employee. He served as a bus technician for Jay Schools from 2011 through 2018.

Corwin's first day in his new position will be Oct. 23. Josh Nibarger will fill in as interim transportation director between Stephen's departure and Corwin's arrival.

In addition to his work the last four years for New Albany-Floyd County, Corwin has also been an adjunct instructor for Ivy Tech Community College and a parts manager for AutoZone.

See **Hires** page 2

Budget advances

Spending progression

Below is a look at the Jay County budget, as approved by Jay County Council, from 2022 through 2024. (Jay County Council approved the 2024 budget on first reading Wednesday. It will need to be approved on second reading next month.) All numbers are in millions.

Fund	2022	2023	2024
General	\$9.44	\$9.7	\$10.7
Highway (total)	\$4.54	\$4.53	\$4.85
Commissioners	\$2.69	\$2.95	\$3.32
JEMS	\$2.52	\$1.75	\$1.85
Jail	\$1.44	\$1.46	\$1.76
Sheriff's office	\$1.07	\$1.2	\$1.29
TOTAL	\$20.2	\$20.8	\$22.5

The Commercial Review graphic/Ray Cooney

Council approves on first reading

By **BAILEY CLINE**
The Commercial Review

The county is one step closer to finalizing its budget for next year.

Jay County Council approved its 2024 budget on a first reading and approved an ordinance modifying local income tax rates Wednesday. (Taxpayers will not see an increase in taxes taken out of their paychecks.)

The 2024 budget comes in at just under \$22.5 million, up by nearly \$1.64 million for the current year. It includes \$10.7 million in the general fund, which increased about \$1 million from this year's general fund total.

Other major fund totals are listed at \$3.32 million for Jay County Commissioners, \$3 million for Jay County Highway Department — the department also had an additional \$1.85 million from the state in the Local Motor Vehicle Highway restricted fund — \$1.85 million for Jay Emergency Medical Service, \$1.76 million for Jay County Jail and \$1.29 million for Jay County Sheriff's Office.

Increases to next year's budget are largely because of inflation, raises and small changes across the budget.

Around \$500,000 of the increase is designated for rais-

es, which include the addition of two new positions at Jay County Health Department for about \$92,000. (Jay County Health Department is receiving enhanced state funding next year. Environmentalist and administrator Heath Butz budgeted \$209,000 from the state funding for 2024.)

Raises are mostly set between 2% and 8% with the following outliers: the health department's food inspector at a 25% raise, council members at a 20% raise and commissioners, the coroner and veterans affairs officer at 10% raises. (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 made a few cuts during the budgeting process this year, namely \$340,000 from the commissioners' budget. Council members agreed to cut \$300,000 from the commissioners' fund for contractual services Aug. 23 and another \$40,000 — council vice president Faron Parr dissenting — from the same fund Sept. 13.

See **Budget** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Swing to ring

Anni McClung of Portland tries her hand at ringing the bell at the attraction hosted by Pete Vogler on Sunday at Jay County Historical Society's Heritage Festival.

Stockpile considered

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana is "seriously considering" creating its own stockpile of critical medical supplies after struggling to get stock from the Strategic National Stockpile during the Covid-19 pandemic, former State Health Commissioner Kris Box said Wednesday.

And Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said he lost no sleep over his pandemic-era policy choices — mitigation measures that earned him praise from other states' health and political leaders Wednesday but backlash from some Hoosiers concerned about government overreach.

Box, Holcomb and other key figures spoke during an Indianapolis meeting of the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense. The group formed in 2014 to assess and improve the nation's capacity to defend itself from biological threats.

There's a new vaccine available for the latest variant of Covid-19, and a new

Indiana is looking at keeping its own cache of critical medical supplies

round of free, rapid at-home tests — courtesy of the federal government — to go along with it. Holcomb received his flu and Covid-19 shots Wednesday, according to his official X account.

But for Box, who led Indiana's health apparatus for more than five years until this May, the tests are a reminder of one way Indiana struggled during the pandemic.

"I think it's a perfect example of where the federal government decided to amass those quick tests at the federal level so that they would be able to push them out," Box said. "... And we were using them to screen people at these mass-testing sites, and the

sites that we had all over. And all of a sudden, our suppliers could no longer give them to us because so many were going to the federal government."

That forced the state to run more lab tests — results take days rather than minutes — which Box said delayed quarantines and medication referrals. She also said Indiana struggled to get swabs, viral transport medium and other supplies.

When Indiana did receive equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile, it was "oftentimes" out-of-date, according to Box — although she noted, "We used it anyway, of course."

See **Considered** page 2

Deaths

Beulah Galloway, 102, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered in the low 60s Wednesday.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s. Patchy fog is expected Saturday morning followed by mostly sunny skies with a high in the upper 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland Municipal Airport will host a Young Eagles event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday during which those 8 to 17 years old will be able to take free plane rides. Those who would like to participate can register in advance at yeday.org.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's JCHS football game at South Adams.

Tuesday — Photos from this weekend's events, including Glass Days in Dunkirk.



Budget ...

Continued from page 1
Council member Matt Minnich noted earlier this month the cuts would put \$240,000 in the fund for next year, giving \$140,000 for a contract with Jay County Development Corporation and \$100,000 for a contract with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District.

ers' fund. He dissented in votes associated with employee raises and increasing the fund for animal control with Jay County Humane Society to \$66,325. He also voted in favor of cutting Jay County Country Living's budget in half, but the motion did not pass.)
Council also approved an ordinance Wednesday adjusting local income tax rates.

fiscal bodies that provide emergency medical services for all local units in the county and pay 100% of the costs to provide those services.
Also, per state law, the county had to adjust its property tax credit allocation categories and remove the qualified residential property tax credit. In an effort to keep tax credits nearly the same, the county put approximately 60% of the proposed revenue for property tax credits into the 1% allocation type category and 40% into the residential property category.

temporary solution to the county's deficit budget. (Several funds are continuing to operate in deficit in 2024, including the county general fund at more than \$391,500 deficit.)
"That allows us to operate on less of a deficit, which is nice, but we still don't have a solution for making more money yet, right?" she asked.
Council president Jeanne Houchins said Jay County would need to raise its assessed value. Bracy added the county would benefit from having more residents and more people working here and paying taxes.
Franks added the adjustment "gets (Jay County) over the hump."

Obituaries

Beulah F. Galloway, Geneva, March 18, 1921-Sept. 26, 2023. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.
The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Saturday 9/30, Sunday 10/1, Monday 10/2, Tuesday 10/3, Wednesday 10/4. Includes weather icons, high/low temperatures, and brief weather descriptions.

Lotteries

Powerball: 1-7-46-47-63, Power Ball: 7, Power Play: 3, Estimated jackpot: \$925 million
Mega Millions: Estimated jackpot: \$267 million
Hoosier: Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 5-6-8, Daily Four: 6-1-3-2, Quick Draw: 8-9-17-19-21-23-26-27-29-30-38-39-44-54-55-60-66-68-72-80, Evening Daily Three: 5-4-9

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery: Corn 5.42, Oct. corn 5.37, Wheat 4.74
POET Biorefining Portland: Corn 5.47, Oct. corn 5.32, Oct./Nov. corn 4.72
The Andersons Richland Township: Corn 4.62, Oct. corn 4.87, Beans 12.54

Today in history

In 1789, Congress passed "An act to recognize and adapt to the Constitution of the United States, the establishment of the troops raised under the resolves of the United States in Congress assembled" at the close of the final day of its first session.
In 1833, 2-year-old Isabella II was proclaimed queen of Spain following the death of her father King Ferdinand VII.

Citizen's calendar

Monday: 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
Tuesday: 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Capsule Reports

Drive safely: Indiana State Police this week issued a reminder regarding driving safety during the harvest season.
Comments requested: The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor is accepting public comments on Indiana Michigan Power's pending rate increase.

Hires ...

Continued from page 1
Prior to his seven years with Jay Schools, he was a heavy truck technician for Moser Motor Sales for about a year and assistant pastor at Fellowship Baptist Church for four years.

Considered ...

Continued from page 1
Box said Indiana is "seriously considering" launching a state-level stockpile. Hoosier leaders, she added, have had "significant discussions" about the prospect.

Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Comments should include the consumer's name and a reference to either "IURC Cause No. 45933" or Indiana Michigan Power rates.
There will also be public hearings, including at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Walb Student Union Classic Ballroom, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne. The deadline is Nov. 8.

She has held the position for about five years.
Also Thursday, Gulley asked board members to plan for an executive session Oct. 16 prior to its 5 p.m. regular meeting and a special meeting Oct. 23 to discuss and then vote on an agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association.

Holcomb said he was "very comfortable" with his choices, adding, "(I) slept well every night — even though it was a very heavy time for our state."
Holcomb cited high Hoosier single-family house building permit issuances as one reference point, above more populated Midwest states like Illinois and Ohio.

SERVICES
Friday: Olvey, James: 2 p.m., Hillcrest Cemetery.
Monday: Galloway, Beulah: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Vote FOR...
We're offering the following advertising packages in The Commercial Review for all individual candidates running for office in the Nov. 7 general election.
Package A: One half-page ad, one quarter-page ad and four 3x5 ads for \$1,000.
Package B: One quarter-page ad and five 3x3 ads for \$500.

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American Red Cross experiences shortage

The American Red Cross has a blood and platelet shortage.

In order to incentivize blood donations, the Red Cross is offering \$15 Amazon.com gift cards to those who donate between Oct. 1 and 20.

Red Cross blood drives are scheduled for 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at Crown-Pointe Assisted Living, 745 Patriot Drive, Portland. Schedule an appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross app or calling (800)

Taking Note

733-2767. Other blood drives in the area include 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at First Presbyterian Church, 215 E. Dustman Road, Bluffton; 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at Lehman Park Pavilion, 212 Park Ave., Berne; and noon to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 19, at South Adams Senior Center, 825 Hendrick St., Berne.

For more information, visit redcross.org.

Paintings on display

Ball State University's David Owsley Museum of Art is displaying paintings from New York artist Debbie May through Dec. 21.

The exhibit will feature more than 50 paintings. The abstract works display an imaginative use of black and white or muted tones over marble dust.

"I invite everyone to discover Debbie Ma's mesmerizing works, which were first pointed out to me by the museum's namesake benefactor," Robert G. La France, director of the David Owsley Museum of Art, said.

"A man of few words and a decisive collector of action, David T. Owsley instinctively responded to the perfect arrangement of shapes and complex interactions between visual elements in Ma's marble dust paintings. I

think that our visitors will, too."

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Updating passport

Indiana Destination Development Corporation and Indiana Arts Commission announced recently that they are updating and relaunching the Indiana Arts and Culture Passport.

Those who currently hold passports will need to

sign up for a new one at visitindiana.com. The passports encourage visitors to discover new creative places in Indiana.

"From music venues and theaters, to museums and more, communities across Indiana are using art as a way to come together and build a sense of place," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch in a press release. "All of these attractions reflect the values of Hoosiers and create an identity for residents to enjoy and visitors to experience."

Daughter refuses to communicate with grandmother

DEAR ABBY: My 23-year-old daughter, "Chloe," lives with me and refuses to acknowledge her grandmother's emails and letters, which are delivered to our home. It has been four years since my mother has even seen Chloe. My mother is growing increasingly disappointed and is grieved by Chloe's apparent distancing. (We live 20 miles apart.)

Over the past year or so, I have calmly asked Chloe to reply to her grandmother's kind emails and letters. She generally hears me out and then turns and walks away. I have a close and loving relationship with my mother. To me, she's the world's greatest mom and grandmother. I also have a warm and loving relationship with my daughter. There's little that I wouldn't do to ensure her a safe and comfortable home, a good education and, in general, items that aren't unreasonable.

My problem is, I am starting to feel caught in the middle of this widening communication gap.

Dear Abby



It's embarrassing when I'm at family get-togethers because Chloe stopped attending any family gatherings years ago. Obviously, something has driven my daughter to refuse to acknowledge her grandmother, and for that matter, the rest of our extended and very large family. How do I break this proverbial ice? — DAD IN THE MIDDLE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DAD: Your daughter is an adult. She, not you, is presumably responsible for her own behavior. I don't know what happened four years ago that caused Chloe to withdraw, not only from

her grandmother but also the entire clan, and neither do you (or you would have mentioned it). Step out from the middle, Dad, and let your daughter deal with the fallout from having excommunicated the entire family. You can't fix this. Only Chloe can do that.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, my wife was diagnosed with a life-threatening health issue. We both rebounded from it and have had a good run. Over the last three years, though, her health has turned south again. She has heart, lung, liver and stomach issues that prevent her from being active. Most of her time now is spent just sleeping or sitting. She cannot walk farther than 20 feet without becoming exhausted, and this is with supplementary oxygen. She has other issues as well.

When people ask me how my wife is doing, I tend to respond,

what I consider to be humorously but also pragmatically, "Well, I haven't buried her yet." But when I do, people become offended. Most of them don't realize we deal with this every day, and I have no desire to recount every detail of her problems to satisfy their curiosity. At the same time, I realize most are asking out of genuine concern. Is there a better answer? — WISE GUY IN FLORIDA

DEAR WISE GUY: I think so. Try responding, "She's doing as well as can be expected," or "Her condition hasn't changed; I will tell her you asked after her," and then change the subject.

DEAR ABBY: Is there a rule of etiquette for changing seats in a bar setting? I enjoy going out to eat occasionally and, when I do, I like to sit at the bar and eat while having a drink. It seems lately, more often than

not, I'm asked to move down a seat or two to accommodate another two or three people. Depending on my mood, I may or may not do it. Since this happens to me quite frequently, I am declining more and more often. Either way, I think it's rude to ask a stranger to move just so the other party can have enough seats. By the way, I have moved out of courtesy if I am not eating, but to ask me to move while I'm eating is unacceptable. Your thoughts? — IN PLACE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR IN PLACE: I realize that some people may not agree, but I don't regard politely asking someone to move down a couple of stools at a bar as an unforgivable intrusion. The gracious response to that request would be to accommodate the larger party, as long as you are not required to move away from the bar. I would have no problem doing it.

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 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 - 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.

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

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

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 or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

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.

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

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

GAMMA ALPHA CHAPTER OF PSI IOTA XI — Will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Members should check their email or text messages for more information. Contact Rachel Benirschke or Jane Switzer to cancel.

Tuesday

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.

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 Wellness Pavilion in Berne.

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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Use data to negotiate drug prices

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The Inflation Reduction Act, passed last year, gave Medicare the authority to negotiate drug prices for the first time. The government will start with 10 medications, which were announced last month. Now it just needs to figure out how much they should cost.

When Congress created Medicare's prescription-drug benefit in 2003, it prevented the government from haggling with drugmakers — a coup for the industry. Medicare's new powers are forecast to reduce out-of-pocket costs for seniors and save nearly \$100 billion over a decade. For consumers accustomed to paying the highest drug prices in the world, that's unequivocally good news.

Yet the government needs to strike a careful balance. The goal should be to push prices down while preserving incentives to develop new and better treat-

Guest Editorial

ments. With this in mind, the law directs Medicare to find the "lowest maximum fair price" while "appropriately rewarding innovation."

Officials have spent months laying out in painstaking detail how the negotiations will proceed. Nowhere do they explain how Medicare will come up with a "fair price."

Many other countries have solved this dilemma using what's called cost-effectiveness analysis, a quantitative method applied regularly within the pharmaceutical industry and by government negotiators to determine how much a drug should cost. Cost-effectiveness seeks to weigh the

health benefits of a treatment against its price. It can help health officials with limited resources answer difficult questions such as how much a vaccine should cost during a pandemic, or whether a new Alzheimer's treatment is worth its \$26,500 price tag. For the coming negotiations, it would determine if a drug delivers sufficient health benefits for seniors while offering taxpayers good value for their money.

One might think such an objective would be central to the IRA. In fact, the law explicitly bans the most common cost-effectiveness metric — so-called quality-adjusted life years, or QALYs — from negotiations. Certain interest groups had complained that QALYs discriminate against people with long-term illnesses or disabilities (on the dubious rationale that "sick" years are assigned lower scores than "healthy" ones). The pharmaceutical industry, for its part, doesn't like the government using QALYs

to meddle in the business of pricing drugs. Most other markets don't need regulators armed with formulas to determine how much products should cost, the argument goes.

Yet the prescription-drug market is different. Patients and providers don't make decisions about whether a treatment offers good value — middlemen do. These intermediaries, which design prescription-drug coverage and negotiate discounts for health plans, get bigger fees for more expensive medications.

As a result, payers like Medicare can't be sure they're getting a good deal. Other countries including Australia and the U.K. don't have such middlemen because a single negotiator — the government — can press manufacturers for discounts. They regularly use cost-effectiveness assessments and, unsurprisingly, their prescription-drug spending is a fraction of the U.S.'s.

Unfortunately, the process for

Medicare won't be so straightforward. With QALYs banned, it will need to use other (less tested) methodologies. Even so, effective alternatives exist, including some that have been developed to minimize the disparities that disability advocates cite. Medicare should embrace these metrics and be transparent with the public about its pricing methods. A quantitative framework is the clearest, most predictable way to achieve the IRA's goals, not least because it rewards innovation by giving high marks to expensive yet very effective drugs.

It could also minimize rising legal objections to the concept of a "fair price." The provision to negotiate drug prices could be one of the most valuable parts of the IRA, but it will only work if drugmakers and taxpayers trust the results.

A more data-driven, transparent process is critical to making that happen.

Arguments have become too long

By **CHAD FLANDERS**
The Baltimore Sun
Tribune News Service

Supreme Court oral arguments have gotten too long. How do I know this? It used to be that during one of my longer morning runs, I could listen to an entire Supreme Court oral argument. Now, that's getting harder and harder to do. I end my run, and the argument is still going. So I listen to it while I make breakfast. Then I listen to it on my way to work. And if there's still time left to go — and there often is — I listen to it as I fall asleep that night. As a result, Justice Samuel Alito's questions sometimes haunt my dreams.

We are far from the days of the one-hour oral argument, the rigidly-adhered-to standard of the Rehnquist Court and the default of the early years of Chief Justice John Roberts. There are some obvious reasons why oral arguments have gotten longer: COVID-19 led to the rise of sequential questioning. To avoid justices cutting one another off over the phone, Justice Roberts would call on justices down the line, in order, and each would have their say. Then there was the (probably justified) worry that male justices were interrupting female justices, and this may also have led to more calling on people and going one by one, so no one's question got left unasked.

But the sequential questioning stayed on post-COVID and through the return to in-person oral argument, and the increased activity by women justices (in the first three months of the current term, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was the most active justice, according to an analysis published on Scotusblog.com). We now have arguments that routinely last much longer than an hour, up to the marathon affirmative action cases: Each took longer than two hours, and they totaled nearly five hours of oral argument. But even smaller cases regularly push the two-hour mark. So too with many cases that end up with unanimous decisions.

No one should deny that these are important cases, and they merit careful consideration by the justices.

Chad Flanders



But it is not as if the increased time has led to obviously better arguments. Rather, it leads to going down more rabbit holes as justices pursue their pet theory, or end up addressing other justices rather than the lawyers on both sides. The sequential questioning is irresistible to justices who already like to hear themselves talking. And all too often it seems like justices are increasingly not speaking to the argument being made in front of them but to the public, in a bad way. The justices aren't trying to make their positions better understood, but posturing to score points. This is not what oral arguments should be about.

When the arguments go on too long, people (especially my students) stop listening to the whole thing. They may just listen to the argument of one side and rely on sound bites picked out by the media and by partisans for the rest. But context is important, and listening to the arguments of both sides is important, especially these days.

And keeping oral arguments to an hour had the upshot of focusing the advocates and the justices. You had to get to the heart of the matter, because the clock was running. And frankly, I am less likely now to tell my students to "listen to the oral argument" to help them better understand the case, because they don't have the time, and the arguments and questions now seem rambling and digressive. I too am starting to give up on oral arguments when they keep me listening past breakfast.

We need to get back to the hour-long oral argument. The time expectations were fixed, and both advocates and justices had to work as best they could within that time. And I could sleep better.

.....
Flanders teaches constitutional law and criminal law at Saint Louis University School of Law.



Schools can help with transition

By **LISA HOYOS**
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

Children across the country returned to school this year after enduring the hottest summer in recorded history, one punctuated by extreme heat and wildfire smoke that kept millions shuttered indoors for days, even weeks, on end. As parents and families seek solutions to the mounting climate crisis, they should embrace the important role that K-12 schools can play in the clean energy transition.

Schools are huge energy consumers. The more than 130,000 K-12 schools in the United States sit on 2 million acres of land and consume about 9% of all the energy used by commercial buildings. Transitioning all schools to 100% clean energy would cut as much carbon pollution as retiring 18 coal-fired power plants.

School buildings can also help communities build resilience to climate-driven disasters. Their gyms and cafeterias are increasingly used as emergency shelters. Pairing solar panels with battery storage can ensure that these shelters are able to maintain power and light, as well as heating or cooling, when power grids fail.

As a climate justice advocate and a mom, I've worked with students and parents from Seattle to Salt Lake City on campaigns to get school boards to shift to 100% clean energy. Many school board members thank us for highlighting all of the ways that their districts can benefit from renewables, including reducing their carbon footprints, saving money on energy bills and preparing for future crises.

Nationally, K-12 schools spend \$8 billion a year on energy costs, their second-highest expense after person-

nel. When school districts invest in clean energy, the money they save can be redirected to students and classrooms. U.S. schools can net \$2 billion a year just on energy efficiency measures alone. In addition, these upgrades often result in improved lighting, indoor air quality and comfort in classrooms, which in turn enhance student learning.

Some forward-thinking school districts and independent schools have already made major gains in switching to clean energy. But as a whole, K-12 schools and districts must do more to address the climate crisis. According to a nationally representative survey conducted by EdWeek, only 30% of district leaders report having a facilities plan that factors in climate change, and a disappointing 4% have set targets to reduce their district's carbon footprints.

Schools exist to help prepare young people for their futures. It is indisputable that the climate crisis our children are facing will be even more bleak if the United States fails to meet its target of cutting emissions by more than half of 2005 levels in the next seven years — in parent-speak, by the time today's kindergartners are in sixth grade. The school sector can play an important role in helping to meet our nation's climate goals, while simultaneously educating young people about climate solutions.

To be sure, school districts are gen-

erally underfunded, and while clean energy saves money in the long run, financing the upfront costs associated with installing solar panels or making buildings more energy efficient can be a barrier.

Fortunately, two federal laws are investing billions of dollars to spur the clean energy transition.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), schools can receive direct cash payments to finance up to 60% of clean energy infrastructure projects, from solar arrays to geothermal to fossil-fuel-free heating and cooling through heat pumps. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes \$5 billion to help electrify U.S. school buses, which constitute the nation's largest mass transit fleet.

The U.S. Department of Education has an essential role to play in ensuring that K-12 schools have the information they need to harness the financial resources newly available to them to transition their buildings and buses to clean energy. The agency has relationships with school governance bodies throughout the country and should make sure no stone is left unturned.

There may be tough decisions to make in the clean energy transition, but this isn't one of them. The Department of Education and school leaders in the K-12 sector can demonstrate to young people that their schools will invest in safeguarding their futures.

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Hoyos is the National Climate Strategy Director for the League of Conservation Voters and a Public Voices Fellow on the Climate Crisis with The OpEd Project and the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

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Rice restoration

Anishinaabe are trying to bring back crop to the Great Lakes

By SHERI MCWHIRTER
mlive.com
Tribune News Service

BRIMLEY, MI — Wild rice soaked in lake water smells pungent, especially hundreds of pounds of it.

The odor is so earthy it's almost muddy, even a bit reminiscent of barnyard manure.

Yet that smell was no matter to the Bay Mills Indian Community's Biological Services workers and volunteers who spent two consecutive mornings in mid-September slinging handfuls of the rice into either Spectacle Lake on the tribe's reservation, or into Waishkey Bay on Lake Superior.

"Mmmm, that smell, can't you smell that smell," sang Wes Parish, followed by laughter at his own singing of the Lynyrd Skynyrd tune.

Parish, tribal invasive species expert and Bay Mills citizen, was in a kayak on the inland lake Sept. 20, where his technique for spreading the rice proved impressive both visually and by weight class.

"Usually, we don't have this breeze and you can use it for your benefit. What I was doing was I was paddling out there and then the wind would push my canoe and I didn't have to paddle. So, I



Tribune News Service/MLive.com/Sheri McWhirter

Molly, 11, and her mother, Tiffany Escherich, throw manoomin into Spectacle Lake on Sept. 20 to help reseed the wild rice beds damaged by Canada geese in the spring.

was throwing it up into the wind and the winds spread and disperses it even more," Parish said.

He went through more of the 100-plus-pound sacks of unprocessed rice than anyone else on the water that morning. The goal was to spread the raw seed harvested from wild rice beds by tribes in Wisconsin and Minnesota to help rebuild those at Bay Mills.

The individual grains of rice are shaped like a torpedo, designed to plummet through the water to the lake bottom and sprout another plant in the spring. Handfuls of rice dropped into the water almost resemble little schools of tiny fish quickly swimming in downward direc-

tions. Wild rice is known as manoomin or mnomin in Anishinaabemowin, the native language of the Indigenous Anishinaabe people of the Great Lakes, which includes Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and more tribal nations across both the United States and Canada. The word means "good seed" or "good berry."

Manoomin is a keystone aquatic plant that is integral to the Anishinaabe migration story, and the species once grew widespread across Michigan and the entire Upper Great Lakes. But hundreds of years of European settlement removed it from much of the landscape as settlers

trenched and drained natural waterways, destroying countless acres of natural habitat.

Now Great Lakes tribes like Bay Mills are working to restore wild rice to the ecosystem not only to reclaim cultural heritage but also to build thriving beds of the native species for the future.

Tribal people across Michigan are more frequently seeding, harvesting, processing, cooking, eating, and sharing the wild-grown food at community events and educational sessions as part of a growing native food sovereignty movement.

And Bay Mills was making good progress with its expanding wild rice beds in recent years. That is, until the Canada geese

noticed. Several consecutive years of seeding manoomin at Bay Mills proved productive with more than 15 acres of the rice on Spectacle Lake alone. But large numbers of Canada geese began to eat the tender plants in the spring before they ever pollinated.

That means there is no manoomin harvest this season at Bay Mills.

"It's an annual plant and needs that seed bank. But what we had was three or four years of goose browse where they basically knocked down every single plant, so nothing went to the seed. So that 15 to 18 acres reduced to about seven acres," said Frank Zomer, Bay Mills fisheries biologist and manoomin program leader.

Wild rice grows in the most pristine waters in Michigan and the Upper Great Lakes region, but only under certain conditions. The species remains susceptible to damage across its life cycle.

Manoomin is a delicate plant,

particularly in spring during its most vulnerable "floating leaf" phase when the plants only have a single tap root holding them to soft bottom sediments in 6 inches to 3 feet of water.

Zomer said the program's goal is to build up the Bay Mills rice beds large enough that migrating geese and even spawning carp in Lake Superior don't have overwhelmingly destructive impacts on the manoomin beds.

"If we've got a big enough stand of manoomin you can have geese being able to hit the edges, but they just won't get into it. But it's like trying to get up over that hump, right? Trying to throw enough seed to get to that stage," Zomer said.

The group collectively spread 3,200 pounds of manoomin during the two-day seeding event: 1,400 pounds in Spectacle Lake and 1,800 pounds in the northern part of Waishkey Bay.

Kayla Perron Assinewe, enrolled citizen and cultural coordinator for Bay Mills, said the Anishinaabe people started on the East Coast of North America, but migrated west to the Great Lakes because that's where manoomin grew in such abundance.

"When we were told to travel west, we were told to travel 'til you find that food that grows on water. So, I mean, that is kind of how our entire existence in this area began, right? We were traveling to find that food. And then over time we lost it," she said.

"So, to bring that back to our communities ... it's not just bringing back a food source. It's bringing back all the teachings that go with it and the jobs for each person in the community, like our women are dancers and, you know, all of that is coming back with it, that history and teaching."

Soil sampling program is open

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) to develop a no-cost program with a focus on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit farm operations. The program, titled Indiana's Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program, is open now for applicants.

"Hoosier farmers care deeply about the land and work hard each year to keep their soil healthy," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This free program is a great way for farmers to test their soil and ensure the proper nutrients are being utilized on their fields."

ISDA promotes the importance of nutrient management and the principle of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework. The 4R framework incorporates using the "Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place" to achieve cropping system goals. The new program focuses on soil sampling and testing because it is a key component, and first step, of developing a plan for nutrient management.

Soil sampling provides an assessment of the soil's fertility which can be used for making fertilizer application recommendations, assessing available nutrients over time, increasing farmer profitability and enhancing environmental protection by reducing the risk of nutrient loss. This project was developed to help further Indiana's State Nutrient Reduction Strategy efforts.

"This free program for farmers will help them assess their land so they can continue to produce as much food as possible with fewer fertilizer inputs. As a farmer myself, I know how critical that is," said Don Lamb, ISDA director. "This program would not be possible without a few incredible partners whose top priority is assisting Hoosier farmers and keep-

ing Hoosier land in great shape."

This program includes row crop fields, pastures and specialty crops located within Indiana's portion of the Mississippi River Basin.

Participating landowners will be prioritized by fields that have never been soil sampled and fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., within the last 3-4 years). Further prioritization may be implemented based on interest in the program. This program excludes hobby gardens and private lawns. Interested farmers can sign-up online at ISDA's website or by reaching out to soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

Sign-ups are now open and ISDA is accepting sign-ups until April 17, 2024.

Paul Hodgen, president of the Indiana Corn Marketing Council, is excited to bring this program to fruition. Hodgen is well versed in soil fertility with a bachelor's degree in agronomy, a master's degree in soil science and a doctorate degree in agronomy and soil fertility.

"Regular soil sampling and testing is a critical part of a nutrient management plan to economically produce a crop," Hodgen said. "We look forward to working with ISDA and other partners to help Hoosier farmers continue to make informed decisions on nutrient management. Soil testing is a keystone to sustainably producing a crop. This effort will further our goals for nutrient management stewardship across Indiana. This will help us make smarter decisions about where to apply nutrients and to spread that data across more acres. This program will be a great way to increase the number of farmers who better understand their soils, and it will allow them to make improve management decisions based on good data."

This program was made possible thanks to ISDA, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA), Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) members, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, farmers and Certified Crop Advisors.

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Check-up ...

Continued from page 8
The Cougars finished with 597 points to place 20th out of 37 teams. Augustana University placed first with 80 points. The Cougars' top runner was Alex Ebetino, who finished 23rd. Ella Dubs took the final scoring position for St. Fran-

Whitley Rammel
FRHS — 2022
Recorded six blocks in the East Tennessee State University volleyball team's 21-25, 25-19, 25-20, 22-25, 15-7 loss to the West-

ern Carolina Catamounts on Sept. 21. Along with the five assisted blocks, Rammel had seven kills through the five sets to be responsible for 9.5 points. She also had a dig in the contest. Rammel only recorded one dig while playing one

set during the Buccaneers' 23-25, 15-25, 25-20, 27-25, 15-4 loss to the Furman Paladins on Saturday. **Anhely Montes Jay County — 2020**
Played 135 minutes in a 1-0 loss and a 1-1 tie for the Anderson University

women's soccer team over the past week. The loss came to Wilmington College. Alex Wilson scored the only goal 19:08 into the game. The Ravens (3-3-2, 0-0-1 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference) opened up conference play with a 1-1 tie against Franklin

College. The Ravens scored first when Kennedy Hurst found the net 13 minutes into the contest. Anderson couldn't hold on as Maddison Claybrooke scored a goal to tie the game with only 33 seconds left to play. Montes didn't take any shots during the games.

For the score

Jay County High School's Brayden Collins takes a shot to score a goal during the Patriots' 8-0 over Blackford on Tuesday. Collins' score came with 21:10 left in the first half, when he dribbled the ball all the way from the midfield on a fastbreak.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

New ...

Continued from page 8
The problem was further recognized Oct. 29, 2021, in a playoff game against Monroe Central that has since been named the "Mud Bowl" because players were covered with mud from head to toe because rainy weather and poor drainage.

After that game, the school knew they needed to do something about the field, either tearing it up and replanting it or installing artificial turf. With Moser, Clouser-Penrod and athletic director Jason Arnold pushing for

artificial turf, the school board approved. The project moved along quickly, with construction starting in June and the field being finished last week. Before South Adams could work specifically on the artificial turf, it had to fix all of the drainage issues and then work on other parts of the project like sidewalks that go around the campus alongside the field. "To the naked eye, everybody sees the turf," Clouser-Penrod said. "But there's so much more that we've improved, that peo-

ple won't even remember what it was like before and we're just really thankful for that improvement as well." The team got to practice on the field for the first time Sept. 21 and Moser brought out some of the youth athletes to join the varsity squad on the field for the first practice. "The first taste was awesome," Moser said. "Especially the youth parents messaging me and texting me about how cool it was and that the kids can't stop talking about it." The Starfires have two

home games remaining on their schedule — tonight against Jay County and Oct. 13 against Southern Wells. With the home opener, homecoming and a projected close game — calpreps.com projects Jay County (4-2, 2-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) to win by one point while John Harrell has the Starfires (3-3, 0-3 ACAC) as a one-point favorite — Moser is expecting a great atmosphere for the game. "It's like what you see in the movies with the small, tight knit community that

and the town closed down on Friday nights," Moser said. "It's going to be an electric atmosphere with a packed house and a good game. They are on the rise and we are trying to maintain (our success) ... so it's a huge game for us as well." With the installation at South Adams this year and Jay County following suit with its own project to begin after the school year, five out of the seven ACAC schools will have artificial turf football fields. (Bluffton, Heritage and Woodlan already have artificial turf.)

While the use of artificial turf is growing, South Adams is still proud of the uniqueness it brings them at the Class 1A level and from the checkered pattern on the sidelines (which represent the cross country and track athletes). "We are one of the few 1A schools that have turf," Moser said. "That's pretty unique to us. ... "That's not something that you see on a lot of turf fields, in high school especially, the checkerboard, so that's pretty neat and unique."

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Football at South Adams — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football vs. Marion Local — 7 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Cross Country at Winchester Invitational — 9 a.m.; Volleyball Patriot Volleyball Invitational — 9:30 a.m.; Boys soccer vs. Oak Hill — 10 a.m.; Potential boys tennis sectional championship — 11 a.m.; Junior High volleyball Invitational — 9:30 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Volleyball at Lady Knight Invite — 9 a.m.; JV football at Marion Local — 10 a.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 10 a.m.

TV sports

Today
1:30 a.m. — 44th Ryder Cup Matches (USA)
7 p.m. — College football: Louisville at N.C. State (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Connecticut Sun (ESPN2)
8:15 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

9 p.m. — College football: Utah at Oregon State (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — WNBA: Las Vegas Aces at Dallas Wings (ESPN2)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Cincinnati at BYU (ESPN)

Saturday
1:35 a.m. — 44th Ryder Cup Matches (USA)
3 a.m. — 44th Ryder Cup Matches (NBC)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion at Aston Villa (USA)
10 p.m. — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Manchester United (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Penn State at

Northwestern (BTN); USC at Colorado (FOX); Florida at Kentucky (ESPN); Clemson at Syracuse (ABC); UAB at Tulane (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Liverpool at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Georgia at Auburn (CBS); Michigan at Nebraska (FOX); Kansas at Texas (ABC); Indiana at Maryland (BTN); Baylor at UCF (FS1)
4 p.m. — College football: Boise State at Memphis (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College football: Iowa State at Oklahoma (FS1)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at Baltimore Orioles (FOX); Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis

Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Notre Dame at Duke (ABC); Michigan State at Iowa (NBC)
8 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at TCU (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Nevada at Fresno State (FS1)

Local notes

Turkey Trot sign-up open
Cooper Farms will be hosting its 16th annual Turkey Trot Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant in St. Henry, Ohio.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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October 7th, 2023
9:30 A.M.
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size beds; bicycle kiddie
cart; school desks; lawn
furniture; fiberglass double
tubs; dog crate; Car-
nival glass; Roadmaster
boys bike; Huffy boys
bike; several pieces of
furniture that have been
thru a fire and would
make a good project to
paint and/or refinish; and
many other items not
listed.
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blower; Honda blower
on Wheel Horse tractor;
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Craftsman air compres-
sor; Craftsman 12V –
210PSI compressor;
wrenches; level; hand
sprayer; leaf blowers;
hedge trimmers; and
many other items not
listed.
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Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY SEPT-
EMBER 30, 2023 TIME
10:00 A.M.
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condition. 10'x12' utility
shed. To be moved.
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720 Grasshopper mower
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refrigerator with bottom
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New look



Special to The Commercial Review/Mark Wynn

Pictured is an aerial view of South Adams High School's new football field. The field has turf and will be used by the football and soccer teams as well as physical education classes.

South Adams football will play first home game on new turf today against Jay County

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

BERNE — Today marks week seven of the high school football season.

It also marks the first home game for the Starfires this year.

The Jay County High School football team's visit to South Adams tonight will mark the Starfires' homecoming

and their first game on their new home artificial turf in 2023 following the completion of a renovation of their field.

Through the first six weeks of the season, South Adams was scheduled to play two home games — Aug. 25 against Belmont and Sept. 8 against Heritage. For those two games, the Starfires had to make the

12-minute trip north to Adams Central High School in Monroe.

"That was definitely frustrating," SAHS coach Grant Moser said. "But what I told (South Adams Schools superintendent) Michelle Clouser-Penrod was if we're gonna get turf, I don't care if we miss some home games." South Adams didn't

initially expect to replace its football field. Two years ago, the school was working with engineers to solve drainage problems near the field, the outfield of the baseball diamond to the north and surrounding areas.

That process helped them uncover a lack of drainage under the football field.

See New page 7

FRHS grads square off

In 2020, they were playing together at Fort Site Fieldhouse. On Sept. 22, they faced off against each other.

Paige Fortkamp and Allysen Fullenkamp — both graduates of Fort Recovery High School — squared off as the Indiana Wesleyan University volleyball team beat the University of St. Francis 25-20, 25-13, 25-23.

Fortkamp had eight kills and a block. She recorded a .227 hitting percentage. She also had nine digs and 12 assists.

Fullenkamp played in two of the three sets, recording one dig.

Fortkamp also played in a pair of losses to Marion and Spring Arbor. She recorded seven kills and four blocks against Marion.

She tied with three other players for a match-high 12 kills against Spring Arbor.

With only five errors on 36 attempts, she earned a .194 hitting percentage. She also had 11 assists and nine digs.

Jayln Bruns FRHS — 2022

Finished third as an individual in the River States Conference Fall Preview at Glade Springs Resort on Monday.

Brun did not compete as a part of the IU-East Red Wolves, but rather as an individual during the

Collegiate Check-up

first round Monday while Lainey Jackson competed in the second round Tuesday.

She shot an 87, which was 15 strokes over par, to finish third in the competition.

Jackson placed first while shooting an 83.

Payton Schechter of Midway University shot the best score of players who competed in both rounds, shooting a 158 (14 over par).

Lindy Wood Jay County — 2022

Crossed the finish line in 27 minutes, 30.9 seconds, at the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 22 at Les Bolstad Golf Course at the University of Minnesota.

The time earned her a 279th-place finish, scoring 194th for the St. Francis University women's cross country team.

She didn't score, but was the sixth runner for the Cougars to cross the finish line.

Gianna Bomarito of Sonoma State University won the event, running a time of 21:44.2.

See Check-up page 7

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