

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Bringing in corn

A farmer harvests corn in a combine Tuesday morning in front of a couple of wind turbines that are part of Bitter Ridge Wind Farm in a field on the north side of county road 650 South, just east of county road 550 West. The weather was good for harvesting Tuesday with sunny skies and the high climbing to near 80 degrees.

Raises, contract are OK'd for staff, teachers

Board approves increases at minimum of 5%

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The contract for teachers has been approved.

They, and all Jay School Corporation employees, will be getting raises.

Jay School Board on Monday approved its contract with Jay Classroom Teachers Association. Memorandums of understanding with administrators and support staff, and pay increases for substitutes.

The agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association, which was presented to the board during its regular meeting last week, calls for average raises of 7.5%. The lowest raise comes in at 5.5%.

Starting teacher pay is also being increased by 7.5% to \$43,003. Teacher salaries range up to \$67,003 for those with 30 years of experience. Teachers who have a master's degree get an additional increase.

Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Phil Ford, Jason Phillips, Vickie Reitz, Chip Phillips and Marcie Vormohr unanimously approved the contract.

The teachers association had already approved the contract earlier this month.

"We're all blessed to have a great relationship between our administration and our teachers association," said Jay Classroom Teachers Association president Abby Homan. "This year's bargaining session was friendly and collaborative."

Gulley noted in data provided to the board Monday that the raise is the largest Jay School Corporation teachers have seen in years. It surpasses the 5.5% average from a year ago. Previous raises for teachers averaged 2% in 2018, 3.5% in 2019, 4% in 2020 and 4.3% in 2021.

See **Raises** page 5

Ambulance will get load system

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

One of the county's ambulances will have a new perk soon.

Jay County Commissioners OK'd a \$223,854 purchase Monday to remount a Jay Emergency Medical Service vehicle and equip it with a power load system.

Jay Emergency Medical Service director Gary Barnett explained an ambulance is due for a remount, which involves replacing the chassis on the vehicle. Braun Custom Appliances and Penn Care proposed remount service with addition of a power load system from Stryker and a new power cot.

The Stryker Power Load system is built into the floor of an ambulance. It uses a hydraulic arm and track to lift the cot, patient and equipment into or out of the truck.

Hydraulic arm lifts cots, equipment, patients into vehicle

Kyle Gerlach, also a director for Jay Emergency Medical Service, explained he utilized the equipment while he was director of Mercer County Emergency Medical Service, which he said outfitted all its ambulances with the system eight years ago.

"These systems are a huge relief when it comes to lifting patients into the back of an ambulance," said Gerlach.

Having a load system in place,

Gerlach and Barnett noted, would reduce the likelihood of back injuries with EMS employees. They referenced responding to 911 calls in which patients weighed more than 400 pounds, requiring additional personnel to lift their cot into the ambulance.

"Most of us are getting older, and our patients are not getting any smaller," Gerlach said.

The system is also transferable

between ambulances if the vehicle is damaged.

Braun Custom Appliances and Penn Care proposed remounting the ambulance with a power load system and new power cot for just under \$251,000. Barnett suggested paying for the remount service and installation of the power load system, noting they could buy a refurbished cot later.

Commissioners OK'd the purchase, which will come out of Jay Emergency Medical Service budget in 2024. Hopes are to have the equipment sometime next year.

Also, commissioners hosted a public hearing for the county's application to Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for \$1 million from the Community Development Block Grant program.

See **County** page 5

Cursed on the stage

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Witch, check.
Curse, check.
Murder, check.

"Salem's Daughter" is not purely a Halloween story, but it hits the right notes for the spooky season.

Jay County Junior-Senior High School's drama club's production of the Craig Sodaro play opens with a performance at 7 p.m. Friday in the school's auditorium. Additional shows are set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

"We're doing it because it kind of has that Halloween theme," said director Cain Bilbrey. "We're doing it the weekend before Halloween.

JCHS production of 'Salem's Daughter' will open Thursday

That's kind of why we chose it."

The show opens in 1691, approximately the era of the Salem witch trials, with a woman being falsely accused of being a witch. Sentenced to hang, she curses anyone who would "disturb her rest."

It then shifts to present day and focuses on a small party being held at

the home of a teenager named Heather. Her house was built on the hill where the witches were buried.

"Long story short, they do a little bit of excavating and wind up digging up her bones," said Bilbrey. "Of which Heather and her family put in a paper bag in the garage."

See **Stage** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The cast reacts to the death of Sarah Brooks, portrayed by Labibah Awliya, during Monday's rehearsal for the Jay County Junior/Senior High School drama club's production of the play "Salem's Daughter." Performances of the show are scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the auditorium at the junior/senior high school. Admission is \$5 and tickets will be sold at the door.

Deaths

Richard Monroe, 92, Pen-ville
Details on page 2.

Weather

The corn maze at Jay County Fairgrounds will be open from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday as part of the fair board's Spooktacular Halloween Party. The event will include costume contests, a DJ and a food truck. The corn maze will be enhanced with creatures and features to scare those who attempt to conquer it.

In review

Jay County had a high temperature of 64 degrees Monday. The low was 32.
Tonight's forecast calls for a chance of showers with a low in the upper 50s and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Conditions will be cloudy and windy Thursday with a high in the mid 70s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Coming up

Thursday — Preview of the FRHS cross country runners at the regional meet.

Saturday — Coverage of Friday's Portland Board of Works meeting.



Obituaries

Richard Monroe

May 5, 1931-Oct. 22, 2023
Richard "Dick" D. Monroe, age 92, of Pennville, passed away Sunday morning Oct. 22, 2023, at his residence.

He was born in Portland on May 5, 1931, the son of Orville and Donna (Kile) Monroe. He was married on Sept. 9, 1951, to Clista Mae Dunn and she passed away on Dec. 10, 1996. He later married Carolyn Bailey, who passed in 2010, and Phyllis Mar-

tin, who passed in 2022.

Richard worked as a crane operator for GM and also was a farmer. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a 1949 Bryant High School graduate. He was a member of American Legion, IOOF and Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association, and served in the National Guard.



Monroe

Surviving are his son Richard "Doug" Monroe (wife: Tressie) of Portland; and daughter Lesa Kirby (husband: Gary) of Pennville; one brother, Gary Monroe of Sharpsville, Indiana; five grandchildren, Brandyn Towell (husband: Chad), Gail Solesher (husband: Kenton), Cody Monroe and Callie Holliday (husband: Dakota); and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Skylar Kirby; and

siblings Irma Hierholzer, Gloria Johnson, Grace Walter, Mary Smith, and James and Jerry Monroe.

Funeral services will be Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Harris presiding. Burial will follow in the IOOF Cemetery in Pennville with military graveside rites by American Legion Post #211. Visitation will be Friday from noon to 3 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the

Jay County Cancer Society or choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 10/26	Friday 10/27	Saturday 10/28	Sunday 10/29	Monday 10/30
74/63	77/56	65/51	61/44	54/29
Mostly cloudy skies on Thursday, with wind gusts reaching as high as 20 mph.	More rain is possible later in the day Friday, when the high will climb to the mid to upper 70s.	Saturday's forecast shows a 50% chance of showers and a thunderstorm.	Rain will likely continue through the night into Sunday, when the low will be 44.	Another day of rain is expected Monday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high of 54.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 2-27-31-44-64 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$49 million	Daily Four: 7-2-0-3 Quick Draw: 8-10-11-15-20-23-28-32-35-37-42-47-50-53-56-62-63-73-77-80 Cash 5: 4-10-11-19-22 Estimated jackpot: \$589,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$69 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-5-7 Pick 4: 7-1-8-7 Pick 5: 9-6-1-8-6 Evening Pick 3: 8-1-7 Pick 4: 8-7-1-8 Pick 5: 2-6-8-3-6 Rolling Cash: 5-10-15-20-21 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 7-8-1 Daily Four: 2-8-5-5 Quick Draw: 3-7-9-10-11-15-16-23-24-33-39-47-48-52-53-62-72-78-79-80 Evening Daily Three: 0-2-0	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.87 Late Oct. corn.....4.72 Wheat5.65	Dec. beans12.88 Wheat 4.98
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.86 Oct./Nov. corn4.66 Dec. corn4.81	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.59 Nov. corn4.63 Beans12.53 Nov. beans12.58 Wheat5.41
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.62 Dec. corn4.72 Beans12.46	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.43 Jan. corn4.66 Beans12.36 Nov. beans12.39 Oct. wheat4.99

Today in history

In 1415, King Henry V led the English army to victory over French forces at the Battle of Agincourt during the Hundred Years' War.

In 1881, artist Pablo Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain. He became one of the most influential artists in the 20th century and was one of the creators of Cubism.

In 1940, basketball coach Bob Knight was born in Massillon, Ohio. He coached Indiana University to national championships in 1976, 1981 and 1987 and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1991.

In 1955, the first microwaves went on sale to the public.

In 1975, Ridgeville's

annual Halloween Festival featured races and rides following a parade. William Bellis, commander of the Ridgeville American Legion, served as the festival's chairman.

In 1983, the U.S. military invaded Grenada on the orders of President Ronald Reagan. The invasion followed a military coup, overthrowing coup leaders and returning power to governor-general Sir Paul Scoon.

In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved the use of \$84,647.30 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to purchase and install a new liner, life-guard stations and grates for the city pool.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Service Center, 1331 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council executive session, auditorium, courthouse.	120 N. Court St., Portland. Thursday 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. Friday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
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WJCC is ready to celebrate

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review
DUNKIRK — West Jay Community Center is ready to celebrate.

Pam Robbins, the community center's administrator, visited Dunkirk City Council on Monday to report that the facility will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8.

West Jay Community Center will be showing off its new flooring as well as other improvements that have been made.

The event will include remarks by community center board president Derek Rodgers at 6 p.m. Dunkirk native Mark Hardwick will be the featured speaker.

Hardwick, CEO of First Merchants Corporation, is a 1989 Jay County High School graduate famed for hitting the game-winning shot in the Patriots' upset of top-ranked Richmond. He went on to play at Ball State University, averaging 9.4 points per game and shooting 44% from long distance during his senior season.

In July, Hardwick was selected as part of IJB Media's Indiana 250. The list recognizes the state's "most influential and

Hardwick will be speaker for open house on Nov. 8

impactful business and community leaders, representing public and private companies, law firms, universities, not-for-profits, government and community organizations."

"We hope everyone will come and visit our facility," said Robbins, noting that there will be some giveaways and light refreshments will be served.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also reported that Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation has sold the property at 102 through 108 N. Main St. to Glass Capital Chrysler. The organization took control of the property in late 2021 after the roof of the building that previously stood there collapsed. It is now an empty lot.

Robbins said Glass Capital has already started work at the site. He added that the dealership plans to pave the lot and install lighting in order to make it the stag-

ing site for its pick-up trucks.

In other business, council:

•Heard from Jay County community coordinator Nate Kimball that households will be able to apply for up to \$25,000 through the county's owner-occupied rehabilitation program, which is being funded with the \$1 million the county is receiving through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for being a part of the state's Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) that assisted with planning for how to spend federal coronavirus relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. He said the application has been sent back to Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for final approval. The application is expected to be open in mid-November.

•Learned from Robbins that a firm that expressed

interest in rehabilitating the city's trailer park on Ohio Street has backed out of the project. Griffin Schermer had visited council's Sept. 25 meeting to present initial plans, but Robbins said that effort has since fallen through.

•Heard from Brock Farmer of the city's wastewater department that a softball tournament Saturday brought in more than \$1,200 for Toys for Tots in addition to two truckloads of toys. "The entire concession stand is completely filled with toys right now," he said. Council thanked Farmer for his efforts.

•Tabled proposed changes to the city's handbook on Bivens' request.

•Approved a sponsorship of \$100 for Dunkirk Community Food Pantry.

•Heard from clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott that a certificate of deposit for the wastewater department was kept at Citizens Bank with a new interest rate of 5.2% for 12 months. Council last month approved allowing Elliott to seek a better interest rate for the CD.

•Approved payment of claims totaling \$842,340.35.

Capsule Reports

Turning crash

A Ridgeville woman's vehicle struck a vehicle driven by a Geneva woman at the intersection of county roads 250 West and 800 South about 5 a.m. Oct. 15.

Tamara K. Mason, 55, Ridgeville,

was driving her 2008 Buick Enclave and stopped on county road 250 West at its intersection with county road 800 South. Dora M. Kahn, 58, Geneva, was also driving her 2007 Chevrolet Impala on county road 800 South and approaching the intersection.

Mason drove in front of Kahn, according to an accident report from Jay County Sheriff's Office, hitting the driver's side door on Kahn's vehicle. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

See page 5

Felony courts

Dismissed

Indiana v. Cassandra N. Richman, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Marquis Fitzpatrick, Level 4 felony

\$185 in court costs and ordered to pay \$1,350 in restitution.

Pointing firearm

A Pennsylvania man was sentenced to prison for pointing a firearm at another person.

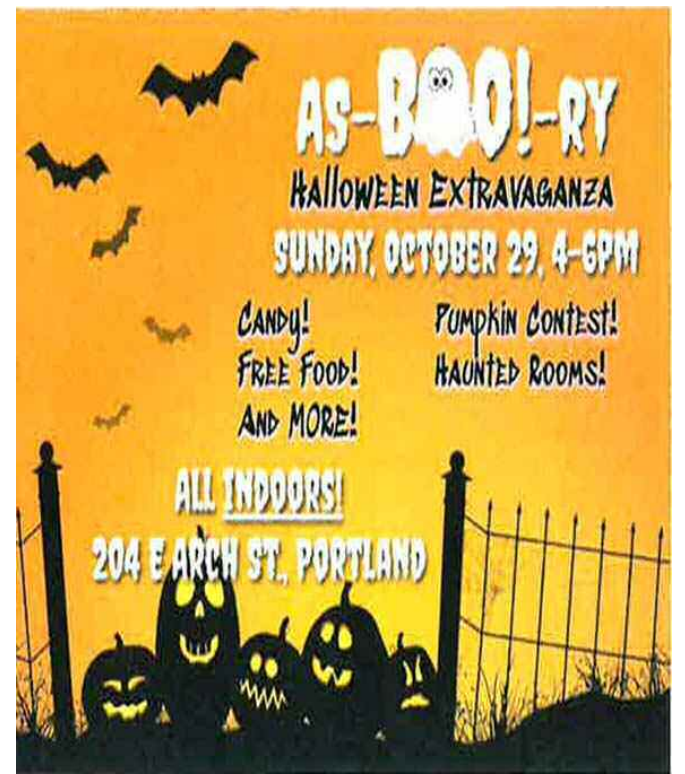
Vernon R. Shirk, 24, 263 Chestnut St., Mifflinburg, pleaded guilty to the Level 6 felony in Jay Circuit Court. He was sentenced to 18 months in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 32 days suspended and given 32 days credit for time served. Shirk was placed on probation, fined \$25 and assessed \$185 in court costs.

Criminal mischief

A Portland man pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to criminal mischief, a Class A misdemeanor and a lesser charge than filed in court.

Jake Boolman, 23, 1610 E. Division Road, had a Level 6 felony for residential entry dismissed as part of his plea agreement. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given two days credit for time served.

Boolman was assessed



SERVICES

Wednesday

Landis, Mary: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Thursday

Pogue, James: 10 a.m., Goodwin Funeral Home, 200 S. Main St., Frankfort.

Vance, Phyllis: 11 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 31 Douglass St., Cartersville, Georgia.

Friday

Monroe, Richard: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Gibson, Betty: 4 p.m., Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 Center St., Auburn.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE

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Jay County Solid Waste Management District

New Cardboard Recycling Program



New Cardboard Recycling Program Thanks to a generous grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management our District now has a new service available for Jay County Residents.

The Jay County Solid Waste Management District now has a new cardboard baler on site at the District Office to help with the rising cost of recycling and the over crowding of our recycling containers. If you have CLEAN, DRY cardboard that you would like to have recycled please give us a call at 260-729-5071 to make an appointment today! With our combined efforts we can save space in our containers and save funding that will be used to expand our services to our Jay County Residents!

District Recycling Programs and Services
Normal Household Recycling, Electronics & Battery Recycling, Lightbulb Recycling, cardboard

Recycling, Confidential Document Shredding
TOX AWAY DAY and 2 FREE Landfill Visits for our Residents
5948 W State Road 67 • Portland, IN 47371 • 260-729-5071



Photo provided

Author visit

Sharon Short, an author pictured above who writes under the pen name Jess Montgomery, visited the Fort Recovery Public Library on Oct. 16 for a book club discussion on her novel, "The Echoes." It's the fourth book in Kinship Historical Mysteries, a series set in 1920s Appalachian Ohio and inspired by Ohio's true first female sheriff. Short also writes "Level Up Your Writing (Life)" column for Writer's Digest and teaches for Writer's Digest University.

Ministry leader dislikes husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married nine years. We are active in our church. I am very involved with our women's ministry, but my husband has an issue with our leader, "Nedra." Nedra has bad-mouthed my husband to my face. I went to my pastor with the issue, and I am, basically, waiting on God to fix it.

Dear Abby



acceptable compromise can be reached.

Our WM team meets multiple times a week, which means I leave my husband home alone for dinner on those nights. (I always make sure he has dinner when I'm not home.) Our meetings can go on for an hour and a half to two hours, and my husband is always upset when I get home from them.

I don't know what to do. He's not upset that I'm going to the meetings; he's upset at how long they last. Nedra doesn't like him, and he doesn't like her, especially since he knows what she said about him. I feel stuck. What do I do? — LADY OF FAITH IN TEXAS

DEAR LADY: If these meetings occur more than twice a week, your husband may have a point. Whether he and Nedra like each other is beside the point, unless what he resents is that you are with that "witch." He may feel it encroaches on time you should be spending together. It's time you and your husband have a calm discussion about the frequency and length of those meetings so an

DEAR ABBY: I'm a cross-dresser who is able to enjoy wearing women's clothes in private at home. With Halloween around the corner, I want nothing more than to be fully dressed as a woman and go outside to experience how it feels.

My wife knows I enjoy dressing up and tolerates it. But she's unwilling to let me express myself out of the house or help me with the process. How can I get her to help me get dolled up and experience being a woman for one night? I feel so deprived not being able to be who I want to be. — DRESSED AND READY

DEAR DRESSED: Halloween is the one night of the year when many people, yourself included, can decide to dress up and become who they really are (or would like to be). Because your wife won't assist you, consider visiting a makeup counter and asking one of the salespeople to help with your makeup that night. And, if nothing in your closet suits the real you, rent or buy an outfit. You do not need anyone's "permission."

Birth announcements

Gonzalez-Cruz

Annalise Joel, a daughter, was born Oct. 19 at St. Vincent Randolph to Ashlyn Hudson and Andres Gonzalez-Cruz II of Portland.

She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce. Grandparents are Leslye and Rodney Hudson of Portland. Great-grandparents are Sue and Ellis Hudson of Portland and

David and Roseanna Muth of New Weston, Ohio.

Poling

Karson Allen, a son, was born Oct. 18 at St. Vincent Randolph to Kirsten Martin and Brenden Poling of Winchester.

He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. Grandparents are Kristie Banks

of Winchester, Greg Poling of Portland, Matthew Martin of Union City and Heather and Shannon Mackey of Winchester.

Great-grandparents are Diana and Richard Manson of Winchester, Judy and Jim Auker of Portland, Scott and Anna Cross of Winchester, Helen Kiser of Winchester, Jimmy Martin of Winchester and Kerri Ludy of Winchester.

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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

6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public

Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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

Friday

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

Saturday

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.

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will

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

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.



Swiss Village

FRONT DESK ATTENDANT

Arthur & Gloria Muselman
Wellness Pavilion

Part Time: Fridays from 1pm-6pm and occasional weekend hours

The front desk attendant is responsible for building and maintaining customer relations while placing an emphasis on excellent membership services. This position is responsible for providing knowledge of operations and programs provided by the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion.

Apply in person, online at www.swissvillage.org, or send Resume to brianae@swissvillage.org.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Cat could not be blamed for keys

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Oct. 22, 2003. The only surprising thing about this column is that Jack didn't mention anything about spending some of his waiting time watching birds. That activity would have been a nice bookend for a day that started with ducks and a heron.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

The black cat crossed my path in Markle. It had been a beautiful day up to that point. I'd set out about 7 a.m. for North Manchester, fulfilling a commitment to lead a workshop discussion at Manchester College about free press issues in the former Soviet Union. On the way up, I passed through the Loblolly Wetlands Preserve, seeing hundreds of ducks and spotting a Great Blue Heron. I figured the heron was a good enough omen to ward off whatever

Back in the Saddle



er Halloween bad luck the black cat might send my way. And for a while the day went well. I survived the workshop, then came home by way of Fort Wayne, stopping at the Journal-Gazette office in hopes of running into a couple of friends. It wasn't until I pulled into the drive about 2:30 p.m. that I remembered the black cat. That was at the instant I remembered that my house keys were safely tucked away in the left hand pocket of the leather jacket I wore when shooting side-

line pictures at Friday night's Patriot football game. And that was the instant I suspected the house was locked. Connie and Sally had indefinite plans for the day, so I had no clue where they might be. I tried the front door. Locked. I tried the doorbell. That only served to wake up the dog, who was hopelessly confused. If your brain were the size of a walnut, you'd be confused by a doorbell too. I walked around back, noting that Connie's Jeep was gone, and tried the back door. Locked. It's not that we expect high crime to be rampant on the west side of Portland. It's just that after living in a big city apartment for several years, we got used to locking our doors. Most of the time, it's no problem. But when your keys are in your left hand jacket pocket and

you know your jacket is hanging in the hall closet inside a locked house, it's a problem. I hauled my briefcase and trenchcoat to the patio, grumbling all the way. It was now 2:30 p.m., and my day had started at 7 a.m., so I did the only natural American thing. I went to McDonald's. With a burger and a Diet Coke, I headed back to the patio to wait. Hauling a chair from the garage, I found a place in the sun and chowed down. Half an hour later, I'd run out of food and was beginning to run out of patience. Fortunately, the U.S. Postal Service came to call. Unfortunately, the only things delivered were catalogs which will soon be recycled and bills that will soon have to be paid. An hour in, I remembered that my daughter Sally had hung a new dartboard in the garage.

Twenty minutes later, I came to the conclusion that there's really only so long a person can play darts. For awhile, I said I'd quit after my first bullseye. Then it was after my second. After my third, I figured I should shoot for five. By now, the sun had settled low enough into the sky that the shadow of our garage covered the entire patio, making it far less inviting. To my great relief, it was about that time that my wife and daughter came home. With the keys. They were sympathetic about my lock-out. Fortunately, the weather had been good. But the only one I could really blame was me. I was the one who left my keys in the left pocket of a jacket in the front hallway. There's no way I could pin that on a black cat in Markle. Or is there?

Dysfunction couldn't come at a worse time

East Bay Times
Tribune News Service

The nation's government is paralyzed — and it's hard to imagine a worse time. The good news is that for the third time at least 20 brave Republicans combined with Democrats to block Rep. Jim Jordan from becoming the next speaker of the House. The nation could ill-afford an ultraconservative, Donald Trump loyalist and fellow election denier leading the lower chamber of Congress or standing second in line to succeed the president.

The bad news is that the latest rejection of Jordan extended the House dysfunction for an 18th day on Friday following the unprecedented ouster of Kevin McCarthy on Oct. 3. For 2 1/2 weeks, and counting, the nation has watched this slow-motion trainwreck.

Surely, it wouldn't last, we thought. But it's now becoming apparent that this could go on for a long time. It's already lasted far too long. The government again faces a shutdown if Congress can't pass a spending bill by Nov. 17, when the short-term budget deal President Biden signed at the end of September expires.

The lack of a leader in the House, and the resulting breakdown of our legislative process and absence of a budget accord, threatens domestic social programs and undermines our role in preserving world order.

Ukraine, the buffer between Russia and the NATO-aligned nations of Europe, is fighting for survival and to preserve its democracy. The Middle East is on the precipice of a multi-faceted conflagration, triggered by Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel countered by an assault on and displacement of the people of Gaza that is becoming a humanitarian crisis.

Biden has shown statesmanlike leadership with unwavering support for Ukraine, backing for Israel coupled with appropriate words of caution to not overreach, and efforts to break the Gaza stalemate to allow at least some aid to reach displaced Palestinians.

There should be no illusions that a lasting peace in the Middle East can be reached in the foreseeable future. But that must be the end goal. Moreover, any

Guest Editorial

hope for the survival of Ukraine or for keeping the Middle East from spiraling out of control requires leadership and money from the United States. Yet, our own democracy is in crisis. The government of the wealthiest and most powerful nation will shut down in less than a month if there is no budget deal.

Why? Because the Republican Party is in shambles. Hard-right conservatives engineered McCarthy's ouster with little thought about a succession plan that could succeed. For them, bipartisan compromise is simply off the table. Indeed, it was such compromises by McCarthy, which kept the country from financial breakdown, that led to his ouster.

That most members of the GOP pressed so hard for a divisive member like Jordan to lead the House, that they threatened hold-out members of their own party for not backing him, demonstrates how far right most elected Republicans have migrated, how ugly the internal party politics have become and how hard it will be to reach compromise.

Even five California members from heavily competitive districts in the Central Valley and southern part of the state — David Valadao, Michelle Steel, Mike Garcia, John Duarte and Ken Calvert — stood by Jordan through three rounds of voting. Loyalty to the Trump wing of the party, and the fear of a primary challenge from the right, are driving a wedge between Republican members of Congress and representation of their diverse constituents.

At least until the next election, this is the band of leaders the nation has been dealt. Unless Republicans can bridge their differences and land on a unity candidate, who has yet to surface, for speaker, the only hope seems to be a deal between moderates of both parties.

That would be a good outcome for Congress and the nation. But, for now, it's just wishful thinking.



Address educational crisis

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

When I was growing up, going to school was not optional. Unless I had a fever and couldn't get out of bed, I went — no "Price Is Right" on the couch for me. Schools made a big deal out of showing up, even giving away free bikes for perfect attendance.

But the data is clear now: parents are more permissive with their children's attendance. And that hurts kids.

The Indiana Department of Education shocked many when it recently released data showing that about 40% of Hoosier students missed 10 or more school days last year, and nearly one in five were absent for at least 18 days.

The chronic absentee rate in the 2018-19 school year was just 11.2%. But it rose to 18.5% in 2020-21 — the first year after the pandemic — and topped out at 21.1% in the 2021-22 school year, according to state data.

The 2022-23 data indicates that 19.3% of students were chronically absent from school.

To put those percentages into raw numbers, roughly 221,000 Hoosier students were considered chronically absent during the last academic year.

More than 400,000 students missed at least 10 days of school — which, per Indiana statute — made them "habitually absent."

And it's not just in Indiana. The national chronic absenteeism rate has skyrocketed since the pandemic, from 16% in 2019 to an estimated 33% in 2022. This is the highest rate since the U.S. Department of Education released its first national measurement of chronic absenteeism in 2016.

Reasons

So, the question is 'why?' There are always barriers, especially for children in poverty. Transportation is one area that is increasingly problematic, as bus driver shortages mean last-minute cancellations and parents with no backups.

But there is a clear correlation to the pandemic, when kids were sent home for much of the school year in 2020. At the time, it was the right call. We have lots of hindsight now, but back then, COVID-19 was a novel virus that no one had experience with, and officials did the best they could with limited and changing information.

Schools quickly set up remote instruction and students, parents and educators muddled through. But somehow, parents and students took away from that pandemic that it's not a big deal for their kids to miss school. They email; they receive assignments and send them back. Even snow days are now e-learning.

Technology is a supplement that should be used sparingly. Being in the classroom has a direct correlation to success. A White House release last month said research shows that school absences take a toll on grades and performance on standardized tests. Beyond test scores, irregular attendance can be a predictor of high school drop-out, which has been linked to poor labor market prospects, diminished health, and increased involvement in the criminal justice system.

What's next
It's clear schools need to do more to encourage attendance, starting with direct outreach to parents. One suggestion from the U.S. Department of Education is "nudging" — a type of communication technique that could include "sending families a periodic postcard with student attendance records and/or encouragement to strive for consistent attendance to reduce absenteeism, or sending weekly updates on missed assignments or absences."

I do think maybe sometimes parents don't track the absences in their mind and could be surprised by the high number when confronted with it. Anecdotally, I know parents more often now take children out of school for vacations more than in the past. They should strive to do that as a last resort. My daughter had plenty of days off for us to plan family fun.

Education officials should delve into whether transportation shortages are causing some of these absences and make recommendations for lawmakers for the 2024 session. I think the state could also incentivize attendance with scholarships or grants. Everything should be on the table, even if it costs money. Unfortunately, police and prosecutors also have a role to play. I couldn't find data on whether law enforcement is focusing more or less on truancy, but there are laws regarding parental responsibility and they should be enforced. School resource officers that already exist in many schools could be a place to start interacting with parents about attendance. And all this should happen fast — before the learning losses compound even more.

Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

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VOLUME 150—NUMBER 121
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

www.thecr.com

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days - \$3; Monthly auto-pay - \$10; 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108.
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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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County ...

Continued from page 1
Jay County should receive the funding, which was offered as an incentive for communities allocating their American Rescue Plan Act dollars through OCRA's Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP). It requires an \$88,000 match in American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Using the funding, the county is planning to create an owner-occupied rehabilitation program for low to moderate income Jay County residents to make home improvements, such as a new roof, furnace or air conditioning unit. The program would allow up to \$25,000 per person. Applications are expected to open sometime in November.

Commissioners also heard from Redkey Town Council member Gary Gardner and Redkey town employee Randy Young about the combined sewer overflow (CSO) that runs south from a rural part of the county into Redkey.

Gardner noted the town has until the end of the year to come up with a plan to eliminate the CSO, which is in violation of Indiana Department of Environmental Management regulations. Jay County Health Department administrator and environmentalist Heath Butz suggested meeting with Redkey officials to discuss how to tackle the issue.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard from Jessica Clayton of insurance broker One Digital. If Jay County renews its agreement with Physicians Health Plan, it would see a 4% increase next year. Employees would see a 6% increase in dental insurance and a higher deductible with the high deductible plan — it would jump from \$4,000 to \$6,000 — but would have the option to open a Health Savings Account.

- Agreed to raise buggy plate renewal fees to \$120 per year and enact a \$25 late fee. (The rates had been \$60 annually.) Aker noted Adams County's rate is currently \$120 and is expected to increase soon.
- Approved a work permit for Indiana Michigan Power to have the right-of-way for work on several roads, including county roads 1150 West, 1000 West, 500 South, 800 West, 700 West, 600 West, 550 West, 650 West, 450 West, Como Road, 700 South, 325 West, 250 West, 175 West and 100 West.

- Heard from Aker that the bridge replacement project on Indiana 26 (Water Street) on the east side of Portland should be finished by Nov. 1.

- OK'd a letter of support for plans to build an inpatient mental health facility in Delaware County. It would accept patients from across the region, including Jay and Blackford counties.

- Gave Jay County surveyor Brad Daniels permission to purchase a Komatsu excavator from Brandeis Machinery for \$200,410, put a \$50,000 down payment on the equipment and secure a five-year loan from First Financial Bank for the remainder at an interest rate of 6.16%.

- Signed a \$55,405 claim from Glass Capital Motors of Dunkirk for a new Dodge 2500 Tradesman pickup for Jay County Highway Department.

- Selected a \$3,520 quote from Progressive Del Toro for paper.

Stage ...

Continued from page 1
The story progresses from there, with Heather and her friends dealing with the consequences of disturbing the "witch's" bones.

They then must work through the implications of their own actions. "We have drama," Bilbrey said. "There's some comedy as far as teenage angst. And hopefully it keeps the audience thinking."

The cast features Aeroelett Cooke as Heather. Sammie Sager, Alivia Toney, Cheyenne Ladewig, Allie McAbee and Tessa Miller play her friends Jennifer, Jeannie, Marcy, Dottie and Toni, respectively. The rest of the cast includes Lane Stephens, Labibah Awliya, Natalee Hough, Lucy Smith, Ava Smith and Maley Recker.

Amongst the group, Miller and Sager are the lone seniors. Bilbrey is hopeful that the show can serve as something of a re-launch for the school's drama program, which has not put on a full-length show in two-and-a-half years.

Its last full production was the comedic murder mystery "Offed at the Bake-Off" in spring 2021.

Tickets for the show are \$5 and will be available at the door.

"We have a lot of talented kids here," said Bilbrey, encouraging the community to come out and support the students. "We've not had a show here for a while. And I really want this program to succeed."



Artisan effort

Teresa Kelly works on her lathe Saturday at Pennville Park. The rural Portland resident sold various wooden bowls and other handcrafted items during the Pennville Pumpkin Festival.

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2

Looked off road
A Crawfordsville man drove off Industrial Drive in Portland and hit guardrails along the road about 10:46 a.m. Thursday.

Jesse Bone, 75, was driving a 2023 Freightliner semi north on the road near its intersection with Lafayette Street when he bent down to pick up a cigarette, according to a Portland police report. When he looked back at the road, he had driven off the side, and he couldn't stop from striking the guardrails.

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000. The semi — it's registered to Quality Carriers of Joliet, Illinois — was towed.

Lost control

A Middletown man lost control of his vehicle, causing him to spin into another lane on Indi-

ana 67 and collide with oncoming traffic about 11:16 a.m. Thursday.

Andrew T. Skinner II, 20, was driving his 2010 Dodge Charger south on the highway when he lost control of it, causing his vehicle to spin into the northbound lane. Skinner's vehicle crashed into a 2013 Ford Focus driven by 34-year-old Miranda L. Peterson of Dunkirk, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.

Peterson sustained a bruise on her neck from the accident, and her passenger, 47-year-old Debra L. Edwards of Dunkirk, complained of abdomen pain.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Intersection crash

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Portland woman's vehicle crashed into a Portland man's car at the intersec-

tion of Commerce and Main streets about 2:45 p.m. Oct. 14.

Dawn Keller, 53, told Portland police she was driving her 2011 Toyota 4Runner south on Commerce Street and approached the intersection with Main Street. As she continued through the intersection, an eastbound 2013 Chevrolet Cruze driven by 20-year-old Jose A. Mendez-Alvarez drove through the intersection and struck her car, according to a report from Portland police. Mendez-Alvarez told police he didn't see the stop sign as he drove through the intersection, causing him to strike Keller's vehicle.

Both vehicles were towed.

Wide turn

A Portland man turned his car into another vehicle on Votaw Street about 8 p.m. Oct. 14.

Pedro Cuplay, 41, was driving his 2000 Honda Civic on Franklin

Street when he turned west onto Votaw Street. He told Portland police he turned too wide and struck an eastbound 2007 Ford F-150 driven by 63-year-old Chris A. Roser of Portland.

Cuplay was cited with infractions for driving without a valid license and driving without financial responsibility.

Around curve

A Portland man lost control of the vehicle he was driving near the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 67, causing an accident about 11 a.m. Friday.

Nicholas J. Steed, 29, Portland, was driving northwest on Indiana 26 just north of Indiana 67 when he lost control of the 2005 Cadillac CTS he was driving. Steed went off the north side of the road and hit a tree.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Raises ...

Continued from page 1
"I'd like to thank the board officers for participating in the process, as well as the association for its continued partnership," said Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley. "I've seen the teacher situation improve year over year. I like the direction it's going."

Laux, Geesaman and Ford all made positive comments about the negotiations process, with Geesaman calling it "refreshing."

The smooth negotiating process — an agreement was reached in just two meetings — comes 10 years after an impasse between the school corporation and the teachers association. The dispute ended up going all the way to the Indiana Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the school corporation but also set aside an Indiana Education Employment Relations Board decision to strike a contract provision that called for additional pay for teachers working outside of their contracted duties.

Asked after Monday's meeting, Gulley said he feels the recent positive relationship between the school corporation and its teachers stems from a consolidation process that has allowed more money to go into the classroom and a relationship of trust.

"We've always told the truth," he said. "And over

time, that trust builds a better process and a better outcome."

Also approved Monday were memorandums of understanding with administrators and support staff as well as pay increases for substitutes. The votes were unanimous with the exception of Ford dissenting on the memorandum with administrators. (He declined to comment on his vote.)

Raises for administrators came in at 5%, pushing salaries to \$143,249 for the superintendent, \$120,081 for the assistant superintendent and the special education director, \$118,701 for the junior/senior high principal, \$102,594 for the high school assistant principal/athletics director and \$98,700 for the business manager. Other administrative salaries include \$94,339 for elementary school principals as well as the junior/senior high assistant principal for curriculum and \$82,000 for assistant elementary principals and the director of e-learning.

All support staff will receive at least a 5% raise with a minimum increase of \$1 per hour.

Substitute teacher pay was increased by 6%, with certified substitutes moving to \$111 per day and non-certified to \$95 per day. Rate increases of between 6% and 15% were implemented for other substitutes.

The Commercial Review

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GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly
FROM THE GENTLEMAN AT THE END OF THE BAR.
AGAIN.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane
10-25
"well, you just wait till I grow up and I'm your BIG sister."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The magic number

East dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH
J 7 3
A K J
A K 6 4
9 7 2
WEST
8 2
4
1 9 7 5
K Q 10 6 4 3
SOUTH
Q 10 9 6 5
9 7 6 5 3 2
8
J
The bidding: East 1 NT Pass West 4 NT North Pass 4 NT
Opening lead — king of clubs.
The number 13, regarded by many as unlucky, is, without question, the single most important number in bridge. Hardly a deal goes by where an experienced declarer or defender does not take advantage of the knowledge that each suit contains 13 cards and that each player is dealt 13 cards.
Consider this case where South wound up in four notrump. North's raise to four notrump asked South to continue bidding toward slam if his one-no-trump opening was based on 16 or 17 points, and South declined the invitation.
West led the king of clubs, East playing the jack, and continued with the queen of clubs, taken by South with the ace. Anticipating no difficulty at all, declarer next cashed dummy's A-K of diamonds, but when East showed out on the second diamond, South unexpectedly found himself with only nine tricks.
Unfazed by this development, he made the necessary adjustment and came up with another way to score a tenth trick. He cashed the A-K-Q of hearts and A-K of spades, reducing all hands to four cards. At this point, West was known to be holding the J-9 of diamonds and 10-6 of clubs, while South's last four cards were a spade, a club and the Q-10 of diamonds.
Declarer next led a club, and after West collected his two club tricks, he was forced to lead a diamond into South's Q-10.
In effect, West's distribution was an open book after the first six tricks had been played. At trick two, it became known that West had started with six clubs. At trick four, South learned that West had also started with four diamonds, and at trick six, South learned that West had started with precisely one heart. West's two unknown cards therefore had to be spades, and all South had to do while cashing his remaining heart and spade winners was to keep an eye on West's discards.

Tomorrow: The trump echo.
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10-25 CRYPTOQUIP

FC KLNKZL RYG RXNNPL YGU
PXFKKFGI RYPLP EXYE EXLU
KJLCLJ, XYDL EXLU WLLG
IFDLG RJYEL WZYGRXL?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MEDIUM-SIZED, SHORT-LEGGED PET LIZARD KEPT IN AN ENCLOSURE ON A COUNTERTOP: THE KITCHEN SKINK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Hey, you!"
5 — choy
8 Canadian gas brand
12 Tennis apparel brand
13 Historic period
14 Hotel worker
15 Prying tools
17 Concerning
18 Official seal
19 Not as easy
21 "Certainly!"
22 Melville captain
23 Actress
26 Texter's "More than I need to know!"
28 Arcade pioneer
31 Rocky outcrop
33 Recede
35 Cupid's alias
36 Pricey violin
38 Ryan of "Top Gun"
40 "Get comfy"
41 Disparaging remark
43 Boater, e.g.
45 White rat, e.g.
47 Showy shrub
51 Repast
52 Seedy watering holes
54 Stallion's mate
55 Chemical suffix
56 Ovid's
57 Guesser's words
58 Refusals
59 Story lines
23 Mac alternatives
24 Louvre treasures
25 Some Halloween candies
27 "Big Blue"
29 King, in Cannes
30 Follower (Suff.)
32 Italian astronomer
34 Toes the line
37 Press for payment
39 Fixed look
42 "The Thinker" sculptor
44 Hand drums of India
45 Bullets
46 Shakespearean king
48 Hide-away
49 Idle of Monty Python
50 Tag sale words
53 Altar vow

Solution time: 23 mins.

Crossword grid with letters: FLOP HBO SALT IAGO AER CLUE SCRIBBLE ROLL TEE OIL TITTLE SAT LIP NARCS WILTING BARR HAS UBER CASINOS ARMOR VIP NNE INDEX SET AVA BOON SCRIABIN ISLE PAD HELD SEER AMY STAY

Yesterday's answer 10-25

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 52 53
54 55 56
57 58 59

Peanuts
BOY, WHAT A FIGHT!
HEY, CAT! HOW DO YOU LIKE LOSING?
SLASH!

Rose is Rose
I'LL BE EXTENDING MY STAY AT THE JACK-O'-LANTERN LODGE.

Agnes
THERE IS BUT ONE THING I HAVE YET TO MASTER: THE JUMP-ROPE. YOU HAVEN'T MASTERED ANYTHING.
HA! I HAVE MASTERED MANY THINGS. NAME ONE.
FOR INSTANCE, I'VE MASTERED IGNORING MOST PEOPLES STUPID CRITERIA FOR BEING CONSIDERED A MASTER. HERE'S A JUMP-ROPE. TRY NOT TO DIE.

Hi and Lois
SEE IF YOU CAN COLOR WITHIN THE LINES, TRIXIE. FORGET THAT...
ALL I CAN DRAW IS LINES.

Between Friends
HAVE YOU TOLD STEVE YOU'RE MOVING TO PARIS FOR SIX MONTHS? WHY WOULD I DO THAT? WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN MONTHS... IT'S OVER.
YEAH... IT HAS BEEN A WHILE... I GUESS MOVING TO PARIS REALLY MEANS YOU'VE MOVED ON.
I'M MOVING "TO"... VERY DIFFERENT THAN MOVING "ON"...

Blondie
ALL THIS READING BEFORE BED IS MAKING ME HUNGRY! DEAR, EVERYTHING MAKES YOU HUNGRY.
WELL, SHE'S GOT ME THERE.

Snuffy Smith
DAISY AN' DAN WENT AN' DID A TRIPLE ADOPTION !! NO !!
YEP--THEY DECIDED T'GIT IT ALL DONE AT ONCE !!

Beetle Bailey
HELP! OTTO TO THE RESCUE!
NOW WHAT?
HELP! AND HELP!

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Tribe falls in three

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

KALIDA — The Indians knew it would be a tall task to get to the district championship.

They kept up in the first set, but slowly lost energy and let things slip away in the second and third.

No. 3, second-seeded St. Henry dominated the service line as it beat the No. 11, third-seeded Fort Recovery High school volleyball team 25-20, 25-11, 25-16 in the OHSAA Division III Northwest 3 district opener on Monday night at Kalida.

“St. Henry’s a good

team,” FRHS coach Travis Guggenbiller said. “They took control of the service line and served aggressively and we were out of system a majority of the game.”

The Indians (17-7) were hanging with St. Henry (21-3) to start the second set. Things didn’t start to go downhill until Chloe Gels started to serve.

Gels was serving at the end of the first set when St. Henry went on a four-point run that helped seal the game. In the second, she served during a five-point run that led to a 11-4 lead. Fort Recovery would slowly battle back,

but another five-point run that included two aces from Morgan Baumer cemented St. Henry’s control of the set.

“I think it was the service game,” St. Henry’s coach Tricia Rosenbeck said. “We just kept getting them out of system. When we get people out of system and we’re getting some easy balls, we’re just able to run everyone. We can kind of spread it out and it makes it really hard for the other team’s blockers and I thought we were able to do that tonight.”

See **Tribe** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery senior Teigan Fortkamp goes up to hit against three St. Henry defenders during Monday’s district opener.

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