

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Handbook review



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dunkirk City Council president Jesse Bivens (right) presented awards to outgoing council members Tom Johnson, Bryan Jessup and Kevin Hamilton at the conclusion of Monday's meeting. Pictured, he puts his arm around Johnson, who got a bit emotional after being presented his award for more than two decades of service. After receiving the plaque, Johnson announced that he learned earlier in the day that he is now cancer-free.

### Dunkirk City Council members ask questions about various sections of rough draft created by New Focus

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — An updated handbook took a step toward approval.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday discussed a few issues with a proposed new handbook and set a goal of voting on approval at its next meeting.

It also discussed possibilities for an ordinance to regulate golf carts in the city.

In May, council hired New Focus of Indianapolis to review the city's handbook and make updates at a cost of \$5,000. Updates were to reflect changes in ordinances and policies that have been implemented since

the last update about seven years ago.

The city received a draft of a new handbook in August and has spent the last several months reviewing it, tabling the issue several times before Monday's discussion.

Council president Jesse Bivens brought up several questions, including regarding licensing and certification tests, comp time and social media policies.

Bivens asked about current policy regarding payment for licensing tests, saying he believed the city pays for the first two and additional tests are paid for by the employee. He

asked for clarification and said he'd like the updated handbook to reflect current policy.

On comp time, he asked fellow council members Bryan Jessup, Tom Johnson, Christy Curts and Kevin Hamilton about the possibility of offering overtime to clerk's office employees instead. Council agreed that since the 2024 budget is already in place it would continue with comp time and consider a switch to overtime as part of the process of writing the 2025 budget.

Bivens also asked about social media policies for replying to criticism, including that employees should "try not to comment with another negative post." He

suggested changing the language to read "do not" rather than "try not to," but other council members questioned the legality of regulating speech in that way.

Hamilton questioned part of the handbook that indicates police do not get overtime until they have worked 43 hours, as opposed to the usual 40. Mayor Jack Robbins said New Focus has explained that 43 is the standard set for police officers by federal law, but that city policy has always set the threshold at 40 hours. Council members agreed they would prefer to stick with 40 hours as the standard for overtime.

See Review page 2

## Board looks at ideas for lighting, police

Votes on project, MOU are expected at December meeting

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay School Board will have some decisions to make next month.

Jeremy Gulley, superintendent of Jay School Corporation, presented information to the board Monday about the possibility of installing lights at the Jay County Junior/Senior High School baseball and softball fields in 2024 and employing off-duty police officers as part-time employees.

Decisions on both are expected at the board's Dec. 18 meeting.

Gulley explained that while previous plans had called for installing baseball lights in 2024 and softball lights later, it may make more sense to do both projects at the same time. He noted that Mid-States Construction of Redkey will already be on site working on the new locker room, restroom and concession facility for the football field and would be available to run the electrical service needed from that area to the baseball and softball fields.

The cost to install the lights at both fields is estimated at \$500,000.

Mark Lusch of Musco Sports Lighting attended the meeting remotely and explained to the board that the lights would be designed based on Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) standards. He said his company has about 85% of the market share for such projects and has installed lighting at most of the other Allen County Athletic Conference schools. The lights would have a 25-year warranty.

See Board page 2

## Commissioners consider board for facility

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Changes may be coming for Jay County Country Living.

Jay County Commissioners discussed creating a board for the residential facility during their meeting Monday.

They also heard former director Melissa Blankley, who has been filling in the role since submitting her resignation in June, will be leaving the department next month.

Jay County officials recently created a feasibility committee to review the facility's finances and determine whether it would be feasible for the county to continue operating.

Jay County Council president Jeanne Houchins explained the committee has met three times so far, and its members have talked about creating an official board

### Proposed group would oversee operations at Jay County Country Living

to line up with Indiana Code 12-30-3-10. Per the state statute, she added, a board is only required for communities with more than 235,000 residents.

Houchins explained the board would oversee Jay County Country Living's operations as well as its director. According to Indiana Code, boards for county retirement homes are in charge of fixing the facility's salaries, super-

vising maintenance, operation and services as well as safeguarding the health, safety, welfare and the comfort of residents, reviewing and approving the facility's annual budget, adopting rules and regulations for admissions to the facility subject to approval from commissioners, recommending to commissioners necessary repairs and improvements to the building and

grounds, and other responsibilities. (Houchins clarified that the board would aid in creating the budget, but the ultimate decision would be up to council.)

Commissioner Brian McGalliard suggested getting county attorney Wes Schemenaur involved. Schemenaur noted that because the county does not meet the number of residents that would require a board, it doesn't need to follow all of the guidelines but it could use Indiana Code as a template.

Commissioner Rex Journey asked how the board would impact the feasibility committee, with Houchins explaining the goal would be for the board to replace the committee and continue its work. She pointed out there are seven people on the committee currently, and Houchins has found seven individuals

(three Democrats, four Republicans) interested in joining the board. They are Chris Nixon, Bob Ford, Nancy Cline, Becky Thornburg, Virginia Burkey and council members Harold Towell and Cindy Bracy. (Houchins recommended Bracy as president of the board.)

Jay County Country Living has 27 paying residents as of Monday.

"Since Melissa's been in there, she's really turned things around," said Aker. "I guess the outpouring from the community, we're getting a lot of donations out there. I'm hearing a lot of support out there ... you've got the ones that want to close it down. I'm hearing more people want to keep it open. But you've got to realize too, that's peoples' homes out there."

See Consider page 2

#### Deaths

- Patricia Call, 84, Washington Court House, Ohio
- Penny Ashcraft, 66, Dubois, Idaho
- Carolyn Turner, 80, rural Dunkirk
- Agustin Duran, 49, rural Bryant
- Scherlene Brown, 85, rural Union City
- David Girod, 48, Geneva  
Details on page 2.

#### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 61 degrees Monday. The low was 36.  
Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the upper 30s. Expect mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 60s Thursday before temperatures cool and rain moves in Thursday night.  
See page 2 for an extended forecast.

#### In review

The Portland Foundation is now accepting applications for its winter grant cycle, the Pennville Endowment Fund grant, winter teacher creativity mini grants and scholarships. Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. For more information, email jcook@portlandfoundation.org or call (260) 726-4260.

#### Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball game against Oak Hill.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



# Obituaries

## Patricia Call

Oct. 11, 1939-Nov. 11, 2023  
Patricia A. Call, age 84, formerly of Portland passed away on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Court-house Manor in Washington Court House, Ohio.



Call

She was born in Portland on Oct. 11, 1939, the daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Nelson) Pensinger. She was married on June 23, 1983, to Harold Call and he passed away on Aug. 28, 1998.

Patty was owner of The Spot Restaurant in Portland, was a realtor and worked for Emergency Management retiring in 2003. She was a Portland High School graduate.

Surviving are one daughter, Kimberly Jenkins of London, Ohio; one grandson, Cody Kemmerling and one great-granddaughter, Kenlie Peyton.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Bob Pensinger; and a sister, Barbara Wherry.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Joe Boggs presiding. Burial will be in the IOOF Cemetery in Pennville. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Penny Ashcraft

Oct. 30, 1957-Nov. 7, 2023  
Penny was born on Oct. 30, 1957, at Jay County Hospital in Portland, Indiana, to Kenneth Leon Ballard and Ruth Evelyn Hess Ballard.

She graduated from Jay County High School in 1976, then worked at many companies during her years including Jay Randolph Developmental Services, Youth Service Bureau, one

trucking company and in several accounting positions.

Penny married Joseph Bishop in 1989 and had one son with him, Mark Joseph (Joey) Bishop Jr., who was born in 1991. She later divorced Joseph and met Garth Ashcraft in 1998. Garth and Penny courted and were married in January 2000.

Penny loved her cats and dogs. She enjoyed selling produce out of the back of her car. Penny had a gift for taking care of her beloved indoor flowers and reveled in gardening. She loved car rides with Garth, even when he scared her half to death with his choice of destinations. She found much joy in visiting and ministering to people in her ward. She loved cooking and candy making, as well as arts and crafts. She was a friend



Ashcraft

to all. She was loving, a kind soul, firm but gentle, humble, artistic and a creator.

Penny passed away on Tuesday evening, Nov. 7, 2023, in Idaho Falls, Idaho, due to health complications.

Penny was preceded in death by her parents Kenneth and Ruth; brothers Darrell Ballard and David Ballard; and stepson Kimball Ashcraft.

She is survived by her husband; a son; two brothers; two sisters; one granddaughter; and a daughter-in-law.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 13, in Dubois, Idaho. Services may be viewed by visiting flammfh.com and going to the link under her obituary.

Interment will be in the Small Cemetery.

**Carolyn Ann (Bishop) Turner**, rural Dunkirk, Feb. 10, 1943-Nov. 12, 2023. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Walker & Glancy

Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

**Agustin Duran**, rural Bryant, March 23, 1974-Oct. 26, 2023. Services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St., Bryant.

**Scherlene J. Brown**, rural Union City, May 4, 1938-Nov. 8, 2023. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

**David S. Girod**, Geneva, Dec. 29, 1974-Nov. 13, 2023. Services will be at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Samuel E. Girod residence, 9676 S. 50 East, 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				
Thursday 11/16	Friday 11/17	Saturday 11/18	Sunday 11/19	Monday 11/20
<b>64/46</b>	<b>55/28</b>	<b>47/27</b>	<b>46/28</b>	<b>47/37</b>
Sunny on Thursday, when the high will be around 64 degrees.	There's a 70% chance of showers on Friday before the afternoon. The low at night may be in the 20s.	Sunny skies are expected Saturday, when the low at night will drop to 27.	Another day of sun is in the forecast for Sunday. The high will be around 46.	Monday looks to be mostly cloudy, with the high staying in the mid to upper 40s.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Monday 24-33-35-37-42 Power Ball: 21 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$255 million	Daily Four: 1-9-9-9 Quick Draw: 2-5-6-15-17-18-25-27-32-33-35-39-45-47-50-57-61-63-75-80 Cash 5: 4-19-23-27-37 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$245 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-4-6 Pick 4: 7-2-7-6 Pick 5: 1-8-1-4-8 Evening Pick 3: 7-3-1 Pick 4: 8-6-7-9 Pick 5: 3-9-3-4-8 Rolling Cash: 21-24-25-30-35 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-5-4 Daily Four: 8-3-2-1 Quick Draw: 5-8-14-16-18-20-29-30-33-42-55-56-61-63-64-68-72-74-76-77 Evening Daily Three: 9-0-1	

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.34 Dec. corn.....4.49 Wheat.....4.84	Dec. beans.....13.61 Wheat.....5.38
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.39 Dec. corn.....4.74 Jan. corn.....4.85	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.49 Late Nov. corn.....4.49 Beans.....13.40 Dec. beans.....13.60 Wheat.....5.38
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.34 Dec. corn.....4.64 Beans.....13.36	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.34 Dec. corn.....4.49 Beans.....13.25 Dec. beans.....13.30 Wheat.....4.98

## Today in history

In 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

In 1972, Portland Park Board outlined its 20-year plan that included more neighborhood parks, picnic areas, volleyball/badminton courts, basketball courts, softball fields, a lighted ice skating rink and a public golf course.

In 2021, Jay School Board agreed to donate the former Judge Haynes Elementary School building to The Portland Foundation if a county effort to create a child care facility moved forward. After it stalled, the foundation purchased the building for \$35,000 in August 2022.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Today**  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North

**Thursday**  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.  
4:20 p.m. — Portland Board of Works special meeting, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.  
5 p.m. — Portland Economic Development Tax (EDIT) Advisory Committee, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.  
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

# Review ...

Continued from page 1  
They decided to send the questions of legality to city attorney Wes Schemenaur, who was not at the meeting, for his review and advice with plans to vote on the handbook at their Dec. 11 meeting.

Council also discussed options for an updated golf cart ordinance Curts and Bivens reviewed ordinances from other municipalities. They suggested the basics would be that carts must be registered with the city and checked to make sure they have insurance, working lights and a slow-moving vehicle sign. The city could choose to have a registration fee

and fines for those who violate rules.

Bivens and Curts suggested that the need for registration be waived for special events such as rummage sales, Glass Days and Feel the Warmth of Christmas.

Robbins asked that police chief Dane Mumbower be brought into the conversation and council tabled the issue.

In other business, council:

- Presented plaques to outgoing council members Johnson (23 years), Jessup (eight years) and Hamilton (four years).
- Approved the following: payment of claims totaling

\$59,222.81; a water bill adjustment of \$147.53 for 111 Orange Ave.; and a \$100 sponsorship for Youth Service Bureau.

- Was reminded that their meeting scheduled for Nov. 27 has been canceled. The city's Feel the Warmth of Christmas celebration is scheduled for that evening.
- Learned from Robbins that the two new detention basins on the southeast side of the city are complete. They are part of an \$835,647 project that also included storm sewer work in the area.
- Was encouraged by Robbins to attend training for city council members Jan.

15 through 18. Three new council members will start in January.

- Heard from Robbins that the city's Christmas lights are up.
- Were reminded that the city's annual turkey drop event is scheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 18 in the parking lot at the intersection of Washington and Main streets.
- Heard a reminder from Robbins that the city was approved for a \$132,093.75 Community Crossings grant for the entirety of Hart Drive, Merry Court and Shrack Lane and Washington Street between Indiana Street and the railroad tracks.

# Board ...

Continued from page 1  
Jay County Junior-Senior High School athletics director Steve Boozer noted that there could be some cost savings in bringing in the baseball outfield fence slightly — from the current 380 feet in center field to about 370 feet — that would reduce the number of poles needed from eight to six.

Gulley asked the board to review the proposal with plans to bring it to a vote next month. (If approved, the work would be completed following the 2024 baseball and softball seasons.)

The superintendent also noted that architectural and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa, which has worked on various projects with the school corporation including the current football field work, has been asked to do an overall facilities study to make recommendations for future needs. A report is expected next month.

Gulley also presented a draft of a memorandum of understanding for hiring off-duty police officers as part-time employees. The intention is to expand the police presence in local schools without hiring an additional school resource officer.

Officers working part-time for the

school corporation would be required to follow the regulations of both the schools and the police department for which they are employed. They would also have to maintain full-time status with their law enforcement agency, attend all required training, wear a police uniform and have a police vehicle. They would go through the same process of background checks through the hiring process as other part-time employees, such as substitute teachers.

The proposed pay rate is \$27.87 per hour, with no additional benefits.

Gulley said he would also seek action on that proposal next month.

In other business, the board:

- Heard a presentation about adding more employability skills into the junior/senior high curriculum including implementation of the Xello college and career readiness program and FoolProofMe financial literacy program. The work-based learning program has also been revised to comply with changes made by Indiana Department of Education
- Approved the following: the hiring of Spencer Tonner to continue as the junior/senior high athletics trainer and JROTC instructor Robert Moore;

the transfer of 15% of the education fund to the operations fund for 2024; leaves of absence for teachers Ava Kahlig, Kayla Nietfeld and Heather Keller; the hiring of junior high archery coach William Bice; disposing of surplus tables and chairs to non-profit organizations in the community; year-end transfers to ensure that no accounts have a negative balance at the end of the year; continued participation in a fuel budgeting program through Indiana Bond Bank; bus driver contracts that conform with the pay rates the board approved last month; and new courses for 2024-25 including natural resources, personal finance and banking, and jazz ensemble.

- OK'd the 2024-25 school calendar, which has a start date of Aug. 8, fall break from Oct. 16 through 18, winter break Dec. 23 through Jan. 3, spring break March 24 through 28 and the last student day on May 23. Also decided to implement an E-learning day April 4, when there will be a total solar eclipse in the mid-afternoon.
- Accepted the retirement of bus driver Sidney Rene Denton.
- Terminated West Jay Elementary School instructional assistant Karen Rappley.

# Consider ...

Continued from page 1  
Commissioners accepted more than \$700 in donations to Jay County Country Living received from the haunted house attraction on the grounds in October.

In related news, commissioners heard Blankley has been training part-

time housekeeper Kristie Delaney to take over her responsibilities, specifically finances for Jay County Country Living. Blankley said she's willing to stay until Dec. 22, at which point she plans to leave the facility.

Aker said the county would need to advertise for

the position, but he suggested the Jay County Country Living board could decide who to hire once it is created. Regardless, he added, the facility will need someone trained to handle Blankley's duties.

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For additional news

from the commissioners' meeting, see Thursday's edition of *The Commercial Review*.

## SERVICES

### Thursday

**Girod**, David: 9 a.m., Samuel E. Girod residence, 9676 S. 50 East, Geneva.

**Call**, Patricia: 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

### Friday

**Turner**, Carolyn: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

**Brown**, Scherlene: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

### Saturday

**Duran**, Agustin: 4 p.m., Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St., Bryant.

Service listings provided by

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# OPEN HOUSE

Saturday November, 18th from 1:00 until 5:00 pm.  
2786 S Butternut Creek Dr Portland, IN



**Jack Houck Real Estate**

1415 W Votaw St., Portland, IN  
260-729-2164 jackhouck2012@gmail.com



Photo provided

## Elementary respect

East Elementary second graders were recently awarded for showing respect. Pictured above, front row, are Archer Nichols, Eliza Petro, Bridgette Kahlig and Henry Warvel. In the back row are Tanner Fisher, Paisley Chapman and Harvey Hemmelgarn. Not pictured is Kyler Carrigan.

# Coworker still hasn't retired

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old gay man. I recently started a new job in which I thought I'd be replacing an aging coworker who is supposed to be retiring "in a year." Every time I have mentioned anything to her about her retiring, she has corrected me, saying she's only going to cut back to a day or two a week. When I was hired, I was told she'd be gone in a month. I'm uncomfortable because she is politically conservative, deeply religious and sometimes moody, which makes her difficult to be around.

I have kept my mouth shut since I have been here only a month, whereas she has been here more than 20 years. I recently found out two other people had been hired for my role before I was, and both quit within six months. Should I stay and wait it out or follow the possibility of happiness elsewhere? — HOT AND BOTHERED IN INDIANA

Dear Abby



**BOTHERED:** Talk with your employer about the circumstances under which you were hired. You were told you would replace this woman and she'd be gone in one month. Exercise a little patience for another month or so and, if she's still there, ask your employer if something has changed because she's telling you she's not quitting. You deserve a straight answer if circumstances have changed. If that's the case and the job is no longer what you thought it was going to be, then "follow the possibility of happiness elsewhere" AFTER you have found a new job.

DEAR HOT AND

# Fort Recovery High School releases honor roll

Fort Recovery High School recently named students to its first quarter honor roll.

Making the list with all A's were seniors Katie Bruns, Natalie Brunswick, Chloe Bubb, Alex Dues, Alex Evers, Megan Evers, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube, Paige Guggenbiller, Reece Guggenbiller, Trevor Heitkamp, Troy Homan, Addy Jenkins, Autumn Jutte, Lydia Kahlig, Ella Kremer, Drew Lan-

genkamp, Joscelyn LeFevre, Saige Leuthold, Rex Leverette, Mara Pearson, Matthew Romer, Libby Schlarman, Cole Shoemaker, Olivia Smith, Brynn Stammen and Ellie Will.

Seniors on the list with all A's and B's were Lucas Acheson, Wes Bechtol, Myah Breen, Isaac Brockman, Kensey Clark, Kenadie Ervin, Gavin Faller, Kensey Gaerke, Jenna Hart, Liz Hartings, Aidan Heitkamp, Nate

Jutte, Conner Kaikala, Abby Keller, Allison Knapke, Christian Marchal, Liberty Pohlman, Marissa Schoen, Tiffany Taft, Britney Tebbe, Riggs Tobe, Sage Wendel, Ella Westgerdes and Brooklyn Weyerick.

Juniors honored for getting all A's were Drew Backs, Layla Bihn, Nicole Braun, Cassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Gavin Evers, Marlee Fiely, Ava Grisez, Caden Grisez, Brooke Hart, Kayla

Heitkamp, Kyle Huntsman, Eva Kahlig, Cody Klenke, Gabe Knapke, Emily Lauber, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen, Bella Taft and Emma Will.

Joining the list with all A's and B's were juniors Alivia Bergman, Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Tucker Brockman, Kaleb Coleman,

Saidy DeRoo, Mason Diller, Brennan Dues, Gavin Dues, Jake Fortkamp, Sarah Fritz, Riley Grieshop, Ethan Hartnagel, Joelle Kaup, Lindsey Knapke, Norah Meyer, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Aleigha Overman, Briggs Overman, Kylie Post, Olivia Rammel, Zach Schoenlein, Kruiise Siefing, Victoria Tchelidze, Reid Timmerman, Eowyn Vela, Mara Wenning and Gage Zehringer.

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Thursday

**STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB** — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

**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.

**EN AVANT CLUB** — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

**ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP** — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

**JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY** — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

**MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at Jay County Historical Museum. Shirley Wagaman will present about communications in Vietnam. For more information, call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Susan Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

**PORTLAND LIONS CLUB** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

### Friday

**DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

**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.

**CINCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will meet at noon Friday, Nov. 17, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

### Saturday

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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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# Personalization just isn't harmful

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Nov. 17, 2004. Jack would still be happy with the personalization of The CR office. Looking around today I see posters of Hannah Williams and Tyler Rigby that have been above my desk for pushing two decades, an anime print over Bailey Cline's desk and a whiteboard list of basketball games leaning on the desk of the college hoops-crazed Andrew Balko.*

**By JACK RONALD**  
The Commercial Review

Something was missing. As I sat down for a haircut, I knew something was wrong. Instead of the usual pictures propped up against the mirror — pictures of little girls whose progress through school I'd been following for a couple of years — there was nothing. Absolutely nothing. The hair stylist's work station was as bare and sterile as an operating room. And just about as inviting. "Let me guess," I said, "some-

## Back in the Saddle



one at the corporate level sent down an order."

All of the hair stylists nodded. "How stupid can you get?" I asked. "Doesn't Management 101 teach these people to keep their employees happy? And that the cheapest way possible is to allow a bit of personality in the workplace?"

Apparently not. Somewhere along the line, Frank Burns was put in charge. You remember Frank Burns, don't you? He was the supercilious officer on M\*A\*S\*H on TV who would issue ridiculous orders like having a bunch of rocks painted white. Why should they be painted white? Because he said so.

Logic had nothing to do with it. Authority had everything to do with it.

Now, here I was, getting a haircut and running into that same know-it-all, don't-confuse-me-with-the-facts sort of nonsense.

As scissors clipped around my ears, I tried to put myself into the shoes of the person who had issued the "no personalization of the workstation" order.

My assumption was that the person was new to authority and insecure, someone who had seldom been in the position to give orders and thought that real power came from bossing people around.

In other words, I gave them the benefit of the doubt. They didn't realize they were behaving foolishly because it was their first time down this path.

How, I wondered, could I change their minds?

I could start by pointing out that getting one's hair cut is about as intimate and personal a commercial transaction as is allowed by law.

I could then point out that when a customer is in that sort of transaction it helps to develop a sense of connection with the other party involved in the deal. In other words, you'd like to know who's cutting your hair.

So, I might argue if trying to change the mind of someone at the corporate level, rather than being a negative, the little personal touches at an employee's workstation are actually positives. When I look out and see pictures of kids gathered around a Christmas tree, I want to ask about the kids. I want to take my relationship with the person cutting my hair half a step further.

Maybe that's self-serving on my part. (If she thinks I care about her kids, she's less likely to cut my ear.) But mostly it's a human transaction, person to person.

And at a time when commercial relationships are often all too formal and all too sterile, human contact is important.

Would that convince the corporate authority who sent down the silly order?

I wasn't sure, so I wandered through my own company on a day when we were closed to business, wondering how much personal "branding" of the workplace mattered.

What did I see? Family pictures, keepsakes, mementos, personalized screen savers for favorite NFL teams, holiday decorations.

Phrased another way, I also saw clutter and junk, targets for a "Frank Burns" character to remove and eradicate.

But did I see one thing that reduced productivity? No.

Did I see one thing that compromised worker performance? No.

Did I see anything that got in the way of our relationship with the customer? No.

Did I see things that made the long workday easier, more fulfilling, and more comfortable for the people who work for me?

You bet I did. Now if I can only get that message across to the bosses of the great people who cut my hair.

# Decision could open floodgates

**New York Daily News**  
Tribune News Service

Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that aims to undo a federal prohibition on people with domestic violence restraining orders from owning firearms on the argument that even these individuals have an unabridged constitutional right to deadly weapons.

It's a farcical line of reasoning that's only being given a serious hearing because of the court's already irresponsible jurisprudence on guns, which has thrown open the door to challenges like this one and an upcoming case on the use of bump stocks, which make some semi-automatic weapons fire automatically. Fortunately, it seems like Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar is coaxing the justices towards the right ruling, if only by convincing them that the limitation fits into the court's reckless and ahistorical guidelines for appropriate firearm restrictions.

Even if Prelogar's herculean efforts manage to shoehorn the domestic abuser ban into the court's new standard for gun restrictions to fit within its hazy and subjective understanding of the "history and tradition" associated with the 1789 Second Amendment, this is a ridiculous standard.

It goes beyond even the reasonable tenet that restrictions should take into account social and legal precedent and engage with the meaning of law as it was enacted, instead practically forcing the government to conform to the specific understanding of small-arms regulation from an era when flintlock muskets were cutting edge — and before the contemporary concept of domestic violence functionally existed.

There's a reason we don't expect modern health regulations to ascribe to our conception of the "history and tradition" of medical regulations. Health care is both infinitely more complicated and better understood than it was 200 years ago, just as firearms are far more advanced and numer-

## Guest Editorial

ous, their need negated by sizable police departments and one of the world's largest standing armies and the grave consequences of their proliferation more acutely apparent.

Of course, while we certainly don't consider health care to be a constitutional right, the right to bear arms is, making this a thornier question by default.

Nonetheless, this notion that proactive limitation of access to practically the only commercially available tools designed specifically to kill is inherently a constitutional violation is actually a recent narrative that flies in the face of more than a century of legislation. That legacy included the very New York law that the Supreme Court eviscerated last year in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*, setting off this anti-regulation frenzy, ironically counter to the "history and tradition" standard the court itself created.

If that seems bizarre, the explanation is simple: the court's conservative majority has been keen on tailoring the law to their ideological ends. Perhaps, in the time between Bruen and now, the additional drumbeat of additional stories about people around the country losing their lives to preventable gun violence and the frequent shock of mass shootings — with many shooters having previously exhibited red flags including, often, domestic violence — has pushed the justices to reconsider their position.

Many of the court's decisions are very consequential, of course, but in this case opening the floodgates further would quickly, directly and proportionally lead to more deaths; that's not an opinion, it's an indisputable fact. The damage they've done is already done, but the justices must now staunch the bleeding.



# We need better understanding

**By COLYN RITTER**  
Tribune News Service

As our country reflects on the decisions made to close schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe damage it did to students' academic progress, it would be easy to assume students being out of school is a problem of the past.

It would be easy, but it would also be wrong.

As it turns out, while schools have reopened and returned to normal, millions of students are missing.

According to a recent report from Stanford University, chronic absenteeism, defined as when students miss roughly 18 days of school year, is on the rise in 40 states across the country. In the 2021-22 school year, there were 6.5 million more students chronically absent than in the 2018-19 school year, an increase of roughly 14%.

The problem does not appear to be going away anytime soon. In fact, initial estimates from 2022-23 data imply chronic absenteeism will remain extremely high. An analysis from Attendance Works and the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University forecasts chronic absenteeism in 2022-23 to be roughly 28%, nearly double the pre-pandemic rate.

But it isn't just the rate of change that is different, it is also the populations of students who are chronically absent.

Historically, students with learning disabilities and students living in poverty were more likely than other students to be chronically absent. As chronic absenteeism has grown massively post-pandemic, it has become more frequent among minority and LGBTQ teens, according to a recent survey of teens conducted by

EdChoice and Morning Consult. When surveyed in August, an alarming 19% of teens self-reported missing more than 15 whole days of school. But among Black teens, as well as those from the LGBTQ community, 25% reported missing more than 15 whole days of school in the past school year. It's important to note that these are snapshots of data at a single point in time. It is still very concerning, however, and we desperately need more data parsing out which groups of students are chronically absent.

Mental health appears to be playing a role as well. According to a recent student survey from the EdWeek Research Center, 16% of students who were absent for at least one day in the past year (for reasons other than physical illness) said they didn't attend because of anxiety. Another 12% reported feeling too sad or depressed to attend school. Anxiety was the second most common reason among students for missing school, trailing only bad weather as the top reason.

Recent EdChoice and Morning Consult polling supports this as well. For example, 27% of teenagers feel their school harms their personal happiness. One-fourth of teens indicated they are feeling "overwhelmed." When asked whether they

feel their mental health is supported by their school, only 37% of teenagers felt supported.

There is no playbook to rely on to address an extremely high rate of chronic absenteeism coming out of a pandemic. Identifying effective solutions can't happen without necessary information regarding the "who" and the "why" of chronic absenteeism.

As abundant data exist showing students' mental health and academic success have eroded as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be naïve to ignore the possibility that these realities have a role to play in the increase of chronic absenteeism rates. Early detection and increased engagement are some of the solutions in the past that have shown positive effects in curbing chronic absenteeism. But, as the problem has grown to an unprecedented level, it is fair to wonder whether the tools used in the past are still effective. That is one reason why this new reality is so worrisome.

The problem of chronic absenteeism is unlikely to improve anytime soon. The approaches relied upon in the past to fight chronic absenteeism are almost certainly not going to suffice given the growth of the problem. There is no world where the proper academic recovery can begin without a serious understanding of, and proactive approach to curbing, chronic absenteeism. Every second counts.

Ritter is a research associate at EdChoice, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, non-partisan organization working to advance educational freedom and choice for all students as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society.



Colyn Ritter

# The Commercial Review



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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

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**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

## An 'unsafety play'

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 5 4 3  
♥ 10 9 2  
♦ A Q J 8  
♣ A 5

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

**EAST**  
♠ —  
♥ A K J 8 7 6  
♦ 7 6 4 2  
♣ 10 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 7  
♥ Q 3  
♦ K 9 5  
♣ K Q 8 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♥  
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead — five of hearts.  
"Safety play" is an ambiguous term that means different things in different circumstances. Declarer made a play in this hand that he thought was a safety play, but it would be more correct to characterize it as an "unsafety play."  
West led a heart, East winning the first trick with the king and continuing with the A-J. Declarer realized that West had no more hearts, so he ruffed the third heart with the jack to prevent an overruff.  
This precaution proved terribly

expensive, because when South next cashed the ace of spades, East showed out, and the jig was up. Declarer had to lose two trump tricks and go down one.  
South was certainly correct to trump the third heart, but he should have trumped with the seven! He was wrong to focus his thoughts exclusively on the possibility of an overruff by West. If that occurred — which seemed likely — it would have spelled the end of the line for the defense. Declarer would still have had the four highest trumps left to draw the four remaining trumps, after which he had the rest of the tricks.  
It is true that South made a safety play of sorts to avoid the loss of a trump trick. He would have gained a trick — an insignificant 30-point trick — had the spades been divided 3-2. His play would surely have been right if, for example, he had needed all the remaining tricks to make the contract.  
South's primary concern should have been to make four spades, not five, and all his plays should have been geared to that goal. He was certainly unlucky to run into a 5-0 trump division, but it was this very possibility that he should have protected against by ruffing the third heart low.

Tomorrow: Once, maybe — twice never.  
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11-15 **CRYPTOQUIP**

HTYD RTY RHU JLKVKDQ  
MZA AKYJ' JWL VV MULR  
UOYGRZGDYA EGW TYLOB HLOYJ,  
RTYB TLA L ELVVKDQ-UZR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE BEEN USING THIS MAKESHIFT BOOKEND FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I SHOULD BUY A PROPER PROPPER.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals L

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- |                                |                               |                                    |                                    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                  | <b>41</b> Carpet type         | <b>2</b> Scarf material            | <b>23</b> Scottish skirts          |
| <b>1</b> Barn birds            | <b>43</b> Make numb           | <b>3</b> Links org.                | <b>25</b> Kitten's cry             |
| <b>5</b> "Terrific!"           | <b>46</b> Leveling wedges     | <b>4</b> Avoid a trial             | <b>26</b> Khan title               |
| <b>8</b> Big swig              | <b>50</b> Nick and Nora's pet | <b>5</b> Tall tree                 | <b>6</b> High card                 |
| <b>12</b> Block-head           | <b>51</b> Team leader         | <b>7</b> Wait                      | <b>7</b> Li'l Abner's locale       |
| <b>13</b> Here (Fr.)           | <b>54</b> Craving sign        | <b>8</b> Dutch cheese              | <b>29</b> Screen material          |
| <b>14</b> Draft status         | <b>55</b> Victory sign        | <b>9</b> Winner in an upset        | <b>31</b> Melody                   |
| <b>15</b> Super exhausted      | <b>56</b> Member-ship         | <b>10</b> Some July babies         | <b>32</b> Org. with a style manual |
| <b>17</b> Japanese noodle      | <b>57</b> Man-hattan area     | <b>11</b> Huff and puff            | <b>34</b> Quaker pronoun           |
| <b>18</b> Bed boards           | <b>58</b> Verily              | <b>16</b> British verb ending      | <b>40</b> The Gem State            |
| <b>19</b> Firstborn            | <b>59</b> Makes lace          | <b>20</b> Lane of The Daily Planet | <b>42</b> Fire sign?               |
| <b>21</b> Faucet problem       | <b>DOWN</b>                   | <b>22</b> Paki-stan's continent    | <b>43</b> Lectern locale           |
| <b>24</b> Skull tool           | <b>1</b> Prob-ability         |                                    | <b>44</b> Spanish for "this"       |
| <b>25</b> Con-structed         |                               |                                    | <b>45</b> Dark blue                |
| <b>28</b> — Valley, Calif.     |                               |                                    | <b>47</b> Notion                   |
| <b>30</b> Weir                 |                               |                                    | <b>48</b> Castle defense           |
| <b>33</b> Swelled head         |                               |                                    | <b>49</b> Pvt.'s superiors         |
| <b>34</b> Scrabble pieces      |                               |                                    | <b>52</b> Country music star       |
| <b>35</b> Tin Man's need       |                               |                                    | <b>53</b> Pot pie morsel           |
| <b>36</b> Witty one            |                               |                                    |                                    |
| <b>37</b> Sombros and fedoras  |                               |                                    |                                    |
| <b>38</b> Taj Mahal city       |                               |                                    |                                    |
| <b>39</b> Thank-giving dessert |                               |                                    |                                    |

Solution time: 23 mins.

MEAD AMI TACT  
ALDA PAS ETAS  
CLAMPETT MOMA  
SIX HOPPER  
OCTET BANE  
ARAL PATCHETT  
ROD ARTIE MEA  
SCARLETT QUAD  
EBAY HUSKS  
BALSAM OUT  
OBOE BARTLETT  
ALOT LIZ LEEK  
REPS EDO SLAT

Yesterday's answer 11-15

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**

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**Agnes**

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**Hi and Lois**

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**ATTENTION! LOST A PET** Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

**40 NOTICES**

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER.** Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Plan now to attend November 23, 2023, 1:00 pm. Asbury UM Church. All Jay County welcome. No charge for the meal.

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

**60 SERVICES**

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

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

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**60 SERVICES**

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

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

**PUBLIC AUCTION** Located : 822 S 500 W, Portland, IN. Friday Morning, NOVEMBER 17, 2023 10:00 A. M. EQUIPMENT—DUMP TRUCK—CLUB CAR Bobcat T870 2 Speed Track Loader, 2021 Kubota KX080-4S2R3A Excavator, Include Angle Blade, Power Factory Thumb and 24" GP Bicket; 2023 Bobcat Toolcat UW56 – 4X4 Diesel, 2018 Enduraplas Field Boss XTREAM UTV Sprayer with 12' Booms, 50' Hose Reel, and Honda Motor; 2021 EZ GO L6 – 6 Passenger Gas Club Car.

**TOOLS** Hobart Stick Mate LX Welder on cart; Bed-scraper Trencher; Stor-Loc Modular Drawer System Tool Bench; Mats; Dog Cage; Clay Targets; Tannerite; Stihl Safety Helmet, Pants, and Chaps; Propane Burner; Shop Vacs; Come Alongs; and other items not listed. **AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** EQUIPMENT, TRUCK AND CLUB CAR WILL BE SOLD VIA LIVE AND ONLINE BIDDING THRU EQUIPMENT-FACTS. 3% CONVENIENCE FEE FOR ONLINE BIDDING. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GARY LOY, AUCTIONEER AT (260) 726-5160. **MYRON FARMING MANAGEMENT LLC & MYRON TERRAIN MANAGEMENT LLC** Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auction-

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**

City of Portland, Indiana  
Wet Weather Pump Station, Contract No. 4A  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bid packets for the construction of a Wet Weather Pump Station, Contract No. 4A. Sealed bids must be received by the Clerk Treasurer no later than 10:00 AM (local time) on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the City of Portland, Indiana; 321 N. Meridian Street 47371. Bids received after such time shall be returned unopened. Bids received prior to 10:00 AM (local time) shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the public meeting scheduled at the Portland Fire Station / Council Chambers, 1616 North Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana at 10:00 AM (local time). A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in at the Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1315 Shadeland Lane, Portland, Indiana at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. All prime contractors, subcontractors, small, minority or women owned enterprises and other interested parties are invited to attend. In general, the work consists of the construction of a new 4.7 mgd Wet Weather Pump Station to feed the new EQ Basin, a 4.7 integral pump station to feed the WWTP, as well as screening and grit removal facilities in the pump station. The issuing office is Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., 2420 Coliseum Blvd. N., Ste 214, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined at the Owner's office listed above or the issuing office, without charge. Technical questions regarding the project should be e-mailed to the Project (Philip Teague, pteague@jheng.com at Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd. Copies of Bidding Documents and Contract Documents may be obtained electronically from www.jhplanroom.com. There is no charge to download from the digital print-room, however, registration is required. If hard copies of the bidding documents are needed, they can be ordered from the print-room for a fee. If you have any problems using the digital print-room, you are encouraged to contact either the Engineer's Project Manager, or Eastern Engineering at 419-661-9841. Neither Owner nor Engineer has any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or sufficiency of any bid documents obtained from any source other than the source indicated in these documents. Obtaining these documents from any other source(s) may result in obtaining incomplete and inaccurate information. Obtaining these documents from any source other than directly from the source listed herein may also result in failure to receive any addenda, corrections, or other revisions to these documents that may be issued. Bids must be submitted on the forms bound herein, must contain the names of every person or company interested therein, and shall be accompanied by either a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in the amount of 10% of the amount bid with satisfactory corporate surety, or by a certified check on a solvent bank in the amount of not less than 10% of the amount of the Bid, subject to conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Maintenance and Guarantee Bond in the amount of 100% of the Bid. Issued for Bid Award will be made to the low, responsive, responsible bidder. The low, responsive, responsible bidder must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise be excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally assisted programs under Executive Order 12549. All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout. The successful Contractor will be required to enroll in and verify the work eligibility status of all employees hired after the date of this Contract through the E-Verify program. The Contractor will also be required to sign an affidavit concerning employment of unauthorized aliens. A copy of the affidavit is included in the Bid Documents. The successful Contractor will also be required to sign a certification regarding no investment activities in Iran. Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Specifications. Bids shall include all information requested by Indiana Form 96 (Revised 1987). The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein. Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid. Wage rates on the project shall not be less than the federal wage scale published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with the provisions of the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The Bidders shall also comply with the requirements of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 entitled Construction Contractors - Affirmative Action Requirements. A copy of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 may be found in the Supplemental General Conditions of the Contract Documents and Specifications. The Bidders attention is also called to the "Minority/Women Business Participation" requirements contained in the Project Specifications. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has adopted a State goal of 10% participation for minority and women owned businesses for construction related or purchase related contracts for the work. The Contractor must meet guidelines and practices established by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and appropriate federal regulations including: 1) Executive Order 11246, 2) Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, as amended, 3) Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities, 4) OMB Circular A-102, 5) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 6) Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 7) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 8) Executive Order 12138, 9) Conflict of Interest Clause, 10) Retention and Custodial Requirements for Records Clause, 11) Contractors and Subcontractors Certifications, and others that may be appropriate or necessary. Contract procurement is subject to the federal regulations contained in the OMB Circular A-102, Sections B and O and the State of Indiana requirements contained in IC-36-1-9 and IC-36-1-12. Any contract(s) awarded under this Advertisement for Bids are expected to be funded in part by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Neither the United States nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or any resulting contract.

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

eers  
Gary Loy  
AU01031608  
Travis Theurer  
AU11200131  
Aaron Loy  
AU11200112

**PUBLIC AUCTION** SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023 9:00 A.M.

LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 ½ miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South. **FARM TRACTORS—FARM EQUIP.—CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.—TRUCKS—TRAILER-VEHICLES—RIDING MOWERS—ATVS—ATTACHMENTS—MISC. NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL 5p.m. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023.** Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad. **TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NO SHOWS** **AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction. **AREA CONTRACTORS & FARMERS OWNERS AUCTIONEERS** Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 www.auctionzip.com – Auctioneer ID #4243

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN Saturday Morning NOVEMBER 18, 2023 9:30 A.M. **HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS**

(2) Oak desks (came from 1 st National Bank in Portland); Whirlpool upright freezer; Frigidaire Bronze color electric stove; retro yellow color table with 6 chairs; mantel clock;

**90 SALE CALENDAR**

Willow Tree figurines; Syracuse china; Pink Depression; Longaberger baskets; linens; antique glassware; Homer Laughlin dishes; globe on stand; Lawn Boy push mower with bagger; wheelbarrow; lawn chairs; gas cans; and many other items not listed.

Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

**100 JOBS WANTED**

**AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR** any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

**110 HELP WANTED**

**CDL OTR DRIVER-FLEXIBLE** home times, home 3 out of 4 week-ends. FLT Coronado 13 spd. Can get \$91000 yearly/ \$.70/Mile including drop wages. 3 yrs. CDL exp. req. RGN, SD exp. helpful. All miles, drops, downtime, and weekends are paid if out. Interested? 260-273-1245

**SEEKIN FT LABORER** Water Dept., Dunkirk. Applications @ City Building And accepted till Nov. 16th.

**LOOKING FOR A CDL DRIVER** Class A with a tanker endorsement, part time and full time hours. Call Allen at CJR trucking 260-726-5522

**110 HELP WANTED**

**HIRING PART-TIME INSERTER** Hours vary each week. Apply at The Graphic Printing Company • The Commercial Review 309 West Main Street • Portland, IN 47371 Office Hours: 10 am - 4 pm, Tuesday - Friday **NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.** Equal opportunity employer.

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**PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE** Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

**ALUMINUM SHEETS** 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

**190 FARMERS COL-UMN**

**AG RENTAL Spreaders:** BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

**200 FOR RENT**

**LEASE SPACE** available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

**250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Notice**

City of Portland, Indiana  
EQ Flow Control Basin, Contract No. 4B  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bid packets for the construction of an EQ Basin Flow Control, Contract No. 4B. Sealed bids must be received by the Clerk Treasurer no later than 10:00 AM (local time) on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the City of Portland, Indiana; 321 N. Meridian Street 47371. Bids received after such time shall be returned unopened. Bids received prior to 10:00 AM (local time) shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the public meeting scheduled at the Portland Fire Station / Council Chambers, 1616 North Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana at 10:00 AM (local time). A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in at the Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1315 Shadeland Lane, Portland, Indiana at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. All prime contractors, subcontractors, small, minority or women owned enterprises and other interested parties are invited to attend. In general, the work consists of the construction of a 12-MG earthen wastewater flow control basin lined with an LLDPE-R geomembrane liner along with the associated earth work, piping and submersible pumps. The issuing office is Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., 2420 Coliseum Blvd. N., Ste 214, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined at the Owner's office listed above or the issuing office, without charge. Technical questions regarding the project should be e-mailed to the Project (John Magsam, jmagsam@jheng.com) at Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd. Copies of Bidding Documents and Contract Documents may be obtained electronically from www.jhplanroom.com. There is no charge to download from the digital print-room, however, registration is required. If hard copies of the bidding documents are needed, they can be ordered from the print-room for a fee. If you have any problems using the digital print-room, you are encouraged to contact either the Engineer's Project Manager, or Eastern Engineering at 260-482-1920. Neither Owner nor Engineer has any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or sufficiency of any bid documents obtained from any source other than the source indicated in these documents. Obtaining these documents from any other source(s) may result in obtaining incomplete and inaccurate information. Obtaining these documents from any source other than directly from the source listed herein may also result in failure to receive any addenda, corrections, or other revisions to these documents that may be issued. Bids must be submitted on the forms bound herein, must contain the names of every person or company interested therein, and shall be accompanied by either a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in the amount of 10% of the amount bid with satisfactory corporate surety, or by a certified check on a solvent bank in the amount of not less than 10% of the amount of the Bid, subject to conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Maintenance and Guarantee Bond in the amount of 100% of the Bid. Award will be made to the low, responsive, responsible bidder. The low, responsive, responsible bidder must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise be excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally assisted programs under Executive Order 12549. All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout. The successful Contractor will be required to enroll in and verify the work eligibility status of all employees hired after the date of this Contract through the E-Verify program. The Contractor will also be required to sign an affidavit concerning employment of unauthorized aliens. A copy of the affidavit is included in the Bid Documents. The successful Contractor will also be required to sign a certification regarding no investment activities in Iran. Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Specifications. Bids shall include all information requested by Indiana Form 96 (Revised 1987). The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein. Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid. Wage rates on the project shall not be less than the federal wage scale published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with the provisions of the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The Bidders shall also comply with the requirements of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 entitled Construction Contractors - Affirmative Action Requirements. A copy of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 may be found in the Supplemental General Conditions of the Contract Documents and Specifications. The Bidders attention is also called to the "Minority/Women Business Participation" requirements contained in the Project Specifications. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has adopted a State goal of 10% participation for minority and women owned businesses for construction related or purchase related contracts for the work. 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Lori Phillips  
Clerk Treasurer

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**WE PAY CASH** for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Scrimmage shot

Fort Recovery High School senior Reece Guggenbiller releases a three pointer from the left corner during the Indians' scrimmage against Greenville on Monday. Fort Recovery will open its season on Dec. 2 when it hosts the Jay County Patriots.

# Here's how Harbaugh learned of his suspension

By ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS

The Detroit News  
Tribune News Service

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said he learned Friday of his three-game suspension imposed by Big Ten commissioner Tony Petitti as they landed at State College, Pennsylvania, when someone reached over his shoulder to show him a cell phone screen with a social media post with the news.

Lawyers representing Harbaugh and those representing the University of Michigan Board of Regents attempted to block the suspension with a temporary restraining order issued Friday. Harbaugh did not accompany the team to Beaver Stadium to play Penn State last Saturday and learned just hours before kickoff there would be no ruling on the order.

The Big Ten's action is related to an NCAA investigation confirmed Oct. 19 into an alleged sign-stealing scheme within the Michigan football program. Connor Stalions, a low-level staffer, was named the next day as the central figure of the sign-stealing allegations and was immediately suspended with pay. He has since resigned and through a statement from his attorney, Stalions said that to his knowledge, none of the Michigan coaches told anyone to break rules or were aware of improper conduct when it came to advance scouting.

Harbaugh did not coach Saturday's game; instead, he watched on television from the team hotel. Offensive coordinator/offensive line coach Sherrone

Moore was acting head coach and will remain in that role for the final two regular-season games for unbeaten Michigan, if Harbaugh does not win the next step in court. Harbaugh's lawyers and UM representation are seeking a preliminary injunction Friday in a hearing before Judge Timothy P. Connors at 22nd Circuit Court on the eve of the Wolverines' game at Maryland.

During his weekly news conference on Monday, Harbaugh was asked if he had expected to hear the decision directly from the Big Ten. Michigan landed at University Park Airport about 20 minutes after ESPN broke the suspension news.

"Warde was pretty upset. He was on a plane too," Harbaugh said, referring to Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel. "He was pretty upset that he heard it through social media and not through the Big Ten office."

Manuel released a fiery statement Saturday morning regarding the Big Ten's decision, saying the conference made a decision without "knowing all the facts."

"I find that completely unethical, insulting to a well-established process within the NCAA, and an assault on the rights of everyone (especially in the Big Ten) to be judged by a fair and complete investigation," Manuel wrote.

Harbaugh spoke Monday of the backing he has received from Manuel, University of Michigan president Santa Ono and the Board of Regents.

"Tremendous support," Harbaugh said, when asked his reaction to

Manuel's statement. "Warde has been 10 toes down. He's standing right here with us. His support, president Ono's support, the Board of Regents.

"Our team is already galvanized. They're already connected. They're together. Boy, I'm feeling a galvanized Michigan. A university alumni network and all the alums, largest living alumni body in the world for any school, and the fan base, which goes coast to coast and, and worldwide, really being galvanized. And that's a tremendous thing. That's a monumental thing when you think about it, everybody fighting like the team we're supposed to be, and that's gonna be tough to beat."

But can Harbaugh win in court Friday so he can be on the sideline Saturday at Maryland?

The Wolverines then return to Michigan Stadium the following week to play arch-rival Ohio State, ranked No. 1 in the College Football Playoff rankings, while Michigan is No. 3. The new rankings will be released Tuesday.

"(I want to) talk on Friday," Harbaugh said of speaking in court Friday. "Just looking for that opportunity. Due process. Not looking for special treatment, looking for a popularity contest, just looking for the merit of what the case is. (As a senior in high school, I had a civics class and talked about government, justice, and what I took away from that class was that you're innocent until proven guilty. That was 40 years ago, but like that opportunity."

## Schwieterman leads Junior High

The Schwietermans have had a strong hold of Jay County girls basketball.

Renna holds the school record in career points. Hallie has gotten off to a strong start for her freshman season on varsity. Karsyn isn't far behind in making a name for herself as well.

Karsyn Schwieterman broke out for a huge first junior high basketball game for the Jay County Junior High basketball team on Monday. She led the seventh grade Patriots to a 33-25 victory over the Norwell Middle School Knights while the eighth

grade team fell to the Knights 43-29.

Schwieterman had over half of the Patriots' (1-0) points as she poured 20 into the basket.

Following her was Charlee Peters with seven, Claudia Dirksen with four and Kaddy Stout with two.

The eighth grade team (0-1) had a more even distribution of points. Gabi Petro led the way with seven points. Right behind her were Raylin Hummer and Natalie May with six apiece. The final 10 points came from Elizabeth Brunswick and Amelia Heath who each scored five.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Tri — 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling at Columbia City — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Columbia City — 6 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball scrimmage at Van Wert — 5:15 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball scrimmage at Fort Loramie — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
4 a.m. — U17 World Cup: Burkina Faso vs. United States (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Albany at Seton Hall (FS1)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Merrimack at Ohio State (BTN)  
7 p.m. — College football: Buffalo at Miami (OH) (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Carolina Hurricanes (TNT)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Georgetown at Rutgers (FS1)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at PLos Angeles Lakers (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHL: New York Islanders at Vancouver Canucks (TNT)

**Thursday**  
4 a.m. — U17 World Cup: Spain vs. Uzbekistan (FS1)  
2 p.m. — College basketball: Saint Louis vs. Wyoming (ESPN2)  
4 p.m. — College basketball: Dayton vs. LSU (ESPN2)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Houston vs. Towson (ESPN2)  
6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at UConn (FS1)  
7 p.m. — College football: Boston College at Pitt (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Wright State at Indiana (BTN)  
8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at UConn (FS1)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Missouri at Minnesota (BTN); Auburn vs. Notre Dame (ESPN2)  
9 p.m. — CONCACAF Nations League: Trinidad and Tobago at United States (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at San Jose Sharks (Bally Indiana)  
10 p.m. — De Los Santos vs. Stevenson (ESPN)  
11:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)

3 a.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
4 a.m. — U17 World Cup: Argentina vs. Poland (FS1)  
2:45 p.m. — Euro Qualification: Malta at England (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Butler at Michigan State (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA in-season tournament: Sacramento Kings at Toronto Raptors (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Villanova (FS1)  
9 p.m. — College football: South Florida at UTSA (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA in-season tournament: Phoenix Suns at Utah Jazz (ESPN)  
10:30 p.m. — College football: Colorado at Washington State (FS1)  
11:59 p.m. — College basketball: Washington vs. Xavier (ESPN2)

**Saturday**  
3 a.m. — Formula 1: Las Vegas Grand Prix (ESPN)  
4 a.m. — U17 World Cup: Venezuela vs. Germany (FS1)  
7 a.m. — U17 World Cup: France vs. United States (FS1)  
9 a.m. — Euro Qualification: Wales at Armenia (FS1)  
12 p.m. — College football: Louisville at Miami (ABC); SMU at Memphis (ESPN2); Michigan at Maryland (FOX); Rutgers at Penn State (FS1); Oklahoma at BYU (ESPN); Michigan State at Indiana (BTN); Purdue at Northwestern (BTN)  
1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois at Notre Dame (NBC)  
3:30 p.m. — College football: Wake Forest at Notre Dame (NBC); North Carolina at Clemson (ESPN); Georgia at Tennessee (CBS); Illinois at Iowa (FS1); UCLA at USC (ABC)  
4 p.m. — College football: Minnesota at Ohio State (BTN); Oklahoma State at Houston (ESPN2); Oregon at Arizona State (FOX)  
7 p.m. — College football: Kansas State at Kansas (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — College football: Washington at Oregon State (ABC); Florida at Missouri (ESPN); Nebraska at Wisconsin (NBC)  
8 p.m. — College football: Texas at Iowa State (FOX); Georgia State at LSU (ESPN2)  
10:30 p.m. — College football: New Mexico at Fresno State (FS1)  
10:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Los Angeles Kings (Bally Indiana)

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

Friday

Advertise in  
**GRAPHIC**  
PRINTING  
NEWSPAPERS

**FOR**

# FALL

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

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

Ads must run in November  
Rates do not apply to The CR's Nov. 22 Thanksgiving edition.

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

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