

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## County jail is lacking in staff

*Most recent study was completed in 2014*

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review  
Staffing needs could turn into a liability for the county.

Jay County Commissioners heard Monday from Sheriff Ray Newton, who talked about the need to hire and retain more officers at Jay County Jail.

Newton explained the state jail inspector requested Jay County Jail undergo a staffing study, which was recently completed. Prior to this year, the jail last had a staffing study in 2014 at the end of Newton's term as sheriff. (He has served two stints as sheriff, from 2007 to 2014 and from 2023 to the present.) At that time, noted Newton, the study indicated the department needed an additional nine correctional officers to safely staff the jail. Newton said Bill Wilson, Jail Services Coordinator with Indiana Sheriffs' Association, has expressed the department still needs another nine correctional officers.

Plans are for Wilson and Newton to attend Jay County Council's meeting Wednesday to discuss the matter in more detail.

Newton pointed out he doesn't plan to ask for a budget increase to pay for a full nine new positions at the jail, but he will ask for additional funding. Newton explained the department will attempt to gradually add on the new positions over the next few years.

"We're going to have a plan, you know," he said. "I'm not asking for nine additional people in one year, (we) can't do that, I know that. So, just something we want to look at and hopefully we can have a plan for the next couple years to try to get more people."

Commissioner Rex Journey asked what the jail is lacking on, requiring more staff. Newton referenced different criteria the jail is unable to meet with the staffing shortage, such as having an officer in the booking area at all times and watching inmates on the floor. As more regulations are added to jail management over time, he continued, more staff is needed.

"We don't have a choice, we have to do it," he said. "It's just a lot of things the state and the federal government is doing that make it very difficult for jails to be running, so, it's just something we have to do or it comes down to liability, and we don't want to get sued."

Commissioner Chad Aker noted the topic will likely go to Jay County Personnel Committee for its recommendation before Jay County Council puts together the budget for 2025.

See Jail page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Taking flight

Jay County High School held its spring band concert, silent auction and cookie reception that featured performances by the concert band and the winter guard. An online auction in support of the band program is open this week at [brickerauctioncompany.hibid.com](http://brickerauctioncompany.hibid.com). For more photos, see page 2 and visit [thecr.com](http://thecr.com).

## Commission on shortage created

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
[indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com)

Indiana Supreme Court on Friday announced a new commission tackling the state's "critical" attorney shortage.

Nearly all of Indiana's 92 counties have fewer lawyers per capita than the national average, according to Chief Justice Loretta Rush's order. Rural and poor communities face an "especially acute shortage," as do public service roles.

Lawyers, lawmakers and others have long sounded the alarm: the scarcity has left hundreds of

Hoosiers without representation in court and overburdened the attorneys still working.

But Indiana's shortage has persisted.

The court convened a wide-ranging group — representatives of the judicial, executive and legislative branches; practitioners, legal education experts — on

March 25. But, Rush wrote, "it became clear" then that the court should create a body dedicated to further study and recommendations.

"As the body charged by the Indiana Constitution with the exclusive authority to regulate the practice and profession of law, this Court is responsible for addressing this challenge," she wrote.

The Commission on Indiana's Legal Future is split into five working groups, each with its own assignment:

See Shortage page 2

*Nearly all Indiana counties have fewer lawyers per capita than the national average*

## Officials express optimism on talks

*Foreign minister indicates progress*

By ETHAN BRONNER

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Senior Israeli officials said progress has been made in negotiations for a cease-fire in Gaza that would include the release of hostages and Palestinian prisoners, a move that drew criticism from far-right ministers who threatened to bring down the government.

"We've reached a critical point," Foreign Minister Israel Katz told Army Radio on Monday. "If matters work out, a large number of hostages will return home and then, in stages,

everyone. But remember that we are dealing with Hamas and there is not a lot of time. I am more optimistic than I was."

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told military recruits that progress in the war has allowed Israel "to make difficult decisions to return the hostages. I think we are at an appropriate point."

The comments were the most positive in months from top officials on the talks between Israel and Hamas, which have been mediated by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar.

Just last week, Israeli officials said large gaps remained between the two sides, with the Iran-backed militant group demanding a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza before any hostages would be freed.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Twirling Tisha

Tisha Gierhart brings up a song request and tip to Dueling Pianos International player Dan Louisell during Jay County Cancer Society's benefit show Saturday at Jay County Fairgrounds.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 61 degrees Sunday. The low was 50.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 40s with a 40% chance of rain. Skies will be mostly cloudy

Wednesday with the high climbing into the mid 60s. Rain is expected Wednesday night with a low in the lower 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Bloomfield Elementary School will hold its spring program at 6:30 p.m. tonight at East Jay Elementary School.

### Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the Fort Recovery baseball game against Versailles.





# Jail ...

Continued from page 1  
“Like you said, it’s a matter of safety,” he said, noting the department has also had difficulties keeping fully staffed. “At least, if we’ve got those positions available in our budget, that covers us from the jail inspection point.”  
“The jail is the biggest liability

that the county has,” added Aker.  
Newton again highlighted the liability aspect with understaffing at the jail. He pointed out Jay County Jail is currently down four correctional officers.  
“It’s something that needs to be done, there again, can we find them? I don’t know,” he said.

“It’s just something that we’re going to have to work at, trying to get more money for them and competing with other counties. If we get our salaries up, we’ll start drawing people from other counties.”  
“It’s about money,” he added.  
In related business, commissioners heard Jay County Sher-

iff’s Office is looking for a new security officer for Jay County Courthouse. Dillon Mosier, who had worked in the position since 2021. (He worked as a jailer the previous year at Jay County Jail.) Mosier left the department April 1 for a position with Dunkirk Police Department. Newton pointed

out Mosier cited health insurance as the largest reason for his departure.  
Also Monday, commissioners OK’d Newton to purchase two laptops for \$2,319.32 from Dell Technologies.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
For more commissioners’ news, see Wednesday’s newspaper.

## CR almanac

Wednesday 4/10	Thursday 4/11	Friday 4/12	Saturday 4/13	Sunday 4/14
<b>65/52</b>	<b>60/43</b>	<b>56/41</b>	<b>65/52</b>	<b>73/52</b>
There’s a slight chance of showers with a high chance of rain at night. Mostly cloudy.	Rain will continue into Thursday with a 90% chance of showers and thunderstorms also possible.	There’s a 50% chance of rain on Friday, when the high will be in the mid to upper 50s.	Sunny skies are in the forecast for Saturday, when the high will be in the mid 60s.	Sunday’s weather looks to be mostly cloudy with a high in the low 70s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	56-60-61-65-66-73-79-80 Cash 5: 2-7-15-18-41 Estimated jackpot: \$487,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$97 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 2-7-2 Pick 4: 7-0-1-5 Pick 5: 7-7-9-2-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-3-4 Pick 4: 8-9-2-5 Pick 5: 5-0-5-9-0 Rolling Cash 5: 3-13-26-34-39 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 2-3-9 Daily Four: 0-9-2-8 Evening Daily Three: 2-7-9 Daily Four: 3-4-2-6 Quick Draw: 3-12-17-24-26-27-31-34-35-36-41-44-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.37 May corn .....4.37 Wheat .....4.51	May beans .....11.79 Wheat ..... 5.45
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.43 May corn .....4.43 June corn .....4.48	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.16 May corn .....4.20 Beans .....11.71 May beans .....11.74 Wheat .....5.41
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.22 May corn .....4.22 Beans .....11.79	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.31 May corn .....4.33 Beans .....11.56 May beans .....11.61 Wheat .....5.06

## Today in history

In 1860, French inventor Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville creates the world’s first recording of the human voice using his phonograph, an early sound recording device. He recorded himself singing “Au clair de la lune,” a French folk song.  
In 1865, Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union forces. Lee and Union general Ulysses S. Grant met in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, that day. It signaled the fall of the Confederacy, with its forces surrendering over the coming weeks.  
In 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway in an effort to secure access to Swedish iron ore.  
In 1965, the first indoor baseball game began at the Astrodome in Houston, Texas. The facility was the world’s first domed and air-conditioned indoor stadium.  
In 2001, American Airlines became the world’s largest airline after acquiring Trans World Airlines.  
In 2003, United States forces overcame Baghdad. The conflict, in relation to the Iraq War, led to plans to oust Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.  
— The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<b>Today</b> 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.	<b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Monday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.	<b>Friday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council regular meeting, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Spring concert

Alexander Smith plays the flute Sunday afternoon during the Jay County High School band concert. For more photos, visit thecr.com.

# Shortage ...

Continued from page 1  
•The first will find ways to improve the law firm business model and professional regulations, including a look at alternative licensure models.  
•The second will consider “alternative pathways to legal practice” and ways to strengthen connections between Hoosier high schools, undergraduate programs and law schools.  
•The third will look to incentivize legal practice in rural areas: how to connect law students and legal professionals to opportunities within those communities.  
•The fourth will study how to promote public service work in the criminal justice system, family services, civil legal aid, government and more.

•The fifth will examine emerging technologies — like generative artificial intelligence or online dispute resolution — and consider how to “safely and ethically” use them to fill gaps in legal representation.  
The commission is tasked with providing recommendations involving legal changes or funding asks to interim legislative committees by August 1.  
Other proposals are due to the court as they’re completed, with a final report expected by July 1, 2025.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

## Capsule Reports

**Campaign launched**  
The Town of Pennville has launched a crowd-funding campaign for the first phase of its park revitalization project.  
The town is seeking to raise \$50,000 by May 31 in order to be eligible for matching funds through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority’s CreatiNG Places program. Those interested in donating can do so at bit.ly/PennvillePark24.  
“Maintaining viable

recreation opportunities is important to the health of Indiana, and we need citizens engaged in developing these visions for their cities and towns,” said Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch in a press release. “This project for revitalization is a wonderful example of how the CreatiNG Places program can be leveraged on behalf of an entire community.”

**AG** Special Supplement in  
**GRAPHIC PRINTING**  
NEWSPAPERS

The Commercial Review (Portland)  
The News-Gazette (Winchester)  
The News-Times (Hartford City)  
The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

Publish Date: April 24, 2024  
Advertising Deadline: April 17, 2024

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

**Full-page color – \$500**  
(only one available)  
**1/2-page color – \$400**  
**1/2-page B&W – \$325**  
**1/4-page color – \$275**  
**1/4-page B&W – \$225**  
**Big business card (3x3.5) – \$100**  
**Business card (2x2) – \$60**

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

Contact Lindsey at  
**L.Cochran@thecr.com**  
or (260) 726-8141

### SERVICES

**Today**  
Cook, Kyle: 1 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

**Friday**  
Hyatt, Lydia: 11 a.m., Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 7321 E. Indiana 18, Bryant.

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Service listings provided by  
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**Due to the high risk of fires and liability issues, The Jay County Solid Waste Management District has decided to terminate all battery recycling programs currently provided by the District.**

All battery recycling drop-off sites, provided and serviced by the district, will be closed and all containers will be removed! Please do not leave batteries at any of the locations once the containers are removed.

Jay County Solid Waste Management District is working to find options for the safe storage, packaging and transporting of batteries to a recycling center. Once a revised program has been finalized, the District office will be the designated drop-off location along with our Annual Tox Away Day to recycle your household batteries. We must follow all laws and regulations to make sure we have a safe program!

**Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

**Jay County Solid Waste Management District**



# Workplace tension builds after dustup

DEAR ABBY: I'm a soft-spoken person. I work in a medical laboratory, and I am finally speaking up for what I believe in (after years of social anxiety and depression). At the last meeting, when asked by the manager for suggestions to improve the lab workflow, I spoke up.

Fast-forward to tonight. When I expressed some excitement about my idea, the site leader, a different manager, shot my idea down, saying, "It's not going to make a difference." This isn't the first time she has made me feel like my ideas are dumb or that I'm not intelligent, and I snapped. I asked her what ideas SHE had, and she looked as if I offended her, but she's done this numerous times since she came here. Meanwhile,

she has her favorite person in the lab who gets away with murder.

Was I wrong for getting upset at her? I just feel like my suggestions go unnoticed or are scoffed at, but when another person comes up with something similar, she applauds them. — HAD ENOUGH IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR HAD ENOUGH: Blowing up at the manager may have felt good at the moment**

Dear Abby



after years of silence caused by depression and social anxiety, but it was the wrong thing to do. That kind of behavior does not belong in a professional environment. Favoritism happens in many work environments, and it can be frustrating. If you can't find a way to accept it, you might be happier working at a different lab.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter has two children. She married a man who has one child, "Hayley." They have been married four years, and Hayley turned 18 last year. We have seen her only five or six times, and she seems uninterested in getting to know us. The first Christmas, I went out

of my way to give her gifts I thought she would enjoy as a teenager. The next Christmas, she didn't spend any time with the family, so I sent a gift home with her dad, but never heard a word from her.

Last year, Hayley graduated from high school and started working. Because we weren't going to see them at Christmas, I sent the other grandchildren gifts but did not include Hayley. My stepdaughter got upset because we left Hayley out. We explained that 1. She never acknowledges the gifts we send; 2. She is now an adult; and 3. We never see her. Are we wrong not to include her? — PERPLEXED ABOUT STEPFAMILY ETIQUETTE

answer to your question is yes and no. Hayley doesn't appear to be a "child" who is easy to love. She has certainly given you no reason to. However, in the interest of family harmony, it was wrong to exclude her entirely. Not knowing the young woman, it would be hard to know what she might have liked to receive. Next year, send her a coffee shop gift card with a sweet note so she won't feel she is being ignored as she has ignored you.

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: At sundown, it is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone. — LOVE, ABBY

# Daughter is light of dad's life

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

I don't know when I last slept for more than three hours at a time.

And I wouldn't change it for the world.

My last column explained that Chrissy had been having contractions for about three weeks, but a trip to the hospital resulted in nothing substantial; they weren't quite Braxton Hicks contractions, but nurses told us they weren't quite real contractions, either.

My wife could bear them, but they were a nuisance.

A few days after St. Patrick's Day, the "contractions" intensified shortly before dinner. We had been using a "Contraction Counter" app to gauge their frequency, duration and severity to help us determine if and when she would be going into labor.

After about an hour of tracking these pains — they would stop her in her tracks when walking and she was unable to eat her food if they struck during mealtime — we went to the hospital.

I grabbed our bags, which had been packed for more than a month, and made our way to the birth center. It's almost as if the universe knew what was happening: each of the 15 traffic lights on the 4.9-mile journey from our home to the hospital were green. It was a welcome relief, as every couple of minutes my bride was writhing in pain.

About 7:30 p.m., two hours after we arrived, we were admitted as Chrissy was officially in labor. It was a long night as we waited for the contractions to be more intense and frequent to signify the beginning of birth.

Parental Ponderings



Nurses and midwives came and went, checking in to see how she was doing and progressing.

The epidural coursing through her body allowed Chrissy time to conserve energy and get some sleep. I was relegated to a glorified futon and hardly slept a wink. Chrissy's mother, who was with us in the delivery room, occupied the chair and stayed awake the entire night.

As the calendar changed days, progress was slow.

But slow progress is progress nonetheless.

As the sun started to rise, it was going time.

Through most of the pregnancy, Chrissy hoped for a momma's boy. However, in the final days, she was leaning more toward a girl.

And all I ever wanted was to join the likes of Kobe Bryant and to be a girl dad.

I'm not ashamed to say I cried, twice, on my wedding day. Extreme happiness has a way of bringing me to tears.

(You might remember I also cried while watching the Detroit Lions advance to the NFC Championship game earlier this year.)

This moment, on the verge of becoming a father, is perhaps the most vulnerable I will ever be in my

life. I expected to cry. Honestly, I would have been surprised if I didn't shed tears.

Roughly 14 hours after we arrived at the hospital — 17-ish hours from when labor began and after less than an hour of my wife pushing — I got to announce through a shower of tears the delivery of our 6-pound, 11.8-ounce baby girl.

It seemed as if time stopped. The nurses, the midwife, all of them seemed to disappear and it was just me and Chrissy, together, celebrating our new family.

A few moments later, we got to hold Baby Schanz for the first time.

(To protect her privacy, we're keeping our daughter's name and photographs off of social media and out of the public realm, which will be a topic for a later column.)

I'm fortunate with my new career to be granted four weeks of paternity leave. Each and every day so far at home as a family of three has been an adventure for the better.

I'm sleeping less than I have in my adult life. I'm putting myself second, as there's now a tiny human dependent on me.

With just a few weeks as a father under my belt, it's still hard to describe the feeling from that morning in the delivery room. But I can say this: I never knew such a love could exist.

She's the most precious, beautiful, tiny human being in the world.

And she's the light of my life.

Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor embarking on a new journey as a father. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

# Community Calendar

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

**Today**  
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance

C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

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

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

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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**  
SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet Thursday, April 11, at 5 p.m. at Pizza Hut in Portland.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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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# Put our emphasis on enforcement

The Seattle Times  
Tribune News Service

The recent spate of horrendous collisions and nose-thumbing at rules should prompt some serious thinking around the laudable state and local goals of no traffic deaths in six years.

It's not always the roads. Sometimes it's the drivers.

And, as with so many other signs of societal stress, it comes down to a lack of law enforcement and weak consequences for behaviors that put the entire community at risk.

Consider the case of 18-year-old Chase Daniel Jones, charged with four counts of vehicular homicide after he drove his Audi A4 at 112 mph into a Renton intersection on March 19, killing Andrea Hudson, 38, along with three

## Guest Editorial

children of close friends who were passengers in her car: Boyd Buster Brown, 12; Matilda Wilcoxson, 13; and Eloise Wilcoxson, 12. Two of Hudson's children were severely injured and were hospitalized in intensive care.

It was the third vehicle Jones totaled in a crash involving excessive speed in less than a year, according to charging documents filed by the King County Prosecutor.

For all this, the court set Jones' bail at \$100,000. Prose-

cutors had asked for \$1 million.

Then there is Miles Hudson, aka "Belltown Hellcat," recently charged by the Seattle City Attorney's Office with two counts of reckless driving stemming from a video Hudson posted in February that showed a driver racing another car at speeds up to 107 mph.

As Times reporter Paige Cornwell noted: "Hudson said he considers himself an Instagram influencer. In one video, which has 6.6 million views, the driver films himself behind the wheel and says it's 2 a.m., then revs the engine multiple times. He told the officer who pulled him over last week that he was going to continue and that the money he made filming videos had paid for the car."

Seattle's Vision Zero, which

aims to end traffic deaths by 2030, notes that "Traffic deaths and injuries are preventable" and "Success does not hinge on individual behavior, but on the design of a safe system."

WSDOT's Target Zero campaign to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2030 is a "data-driven, long-term plan to identify priorities and solutions, create goals and develop a common understanding among the agencies working to keep Washingtonians safe."

Speaking of data, let's look at Seattle Police Department statistics for "Computer-Aided Dispatch" events — all activities that draw cops' attention.

There were 92,101 traffic-related incidents in 2019. Last year, that dropped to 42,569 — a reduction of more than half.

This is, of course, a direct function of fewer cops. Since 2019, more than 700 officers have left SPD. As of January, SPD had only 913 deployable officers, the lowest level since the 1990s. And the city's population boomed in the same period.

In a December report, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs noted the per capita rate of law enforcement officers statewide fell to 1.3 per thousand — the lowest ever recorded, again. For more than a dozen years, Washington has had the fewest law enforcement officers per capita, ranking 51st in the nation.

So, yes, we need to build safer roads. But unless we pay just as much attention to who is — and who should not be — driving on them, needless deaths will surely continue.

# All must fight misinformation

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Every day should be April Fool's Day when preparing for an election.

I don't mean the pranks and jokes, but the skepticism in assessing news and social media posts.

On April 1, everyone is wary and asking questions about online discourse.

And I think that's the best posture to have as we hit overdrive in campaign season — the first with widespread availability of generative artificial intelligence.

AI-generated audio recordings, ads, manipulated photos and more are coming.

So-called deepfakes can be used to portray a candidate saying or doing things that never happened.

For example, in February, just before the New Hampshire primary, thousands of voters in the state received a robo-call with an AI-generated voice impersonating President Joe Biden, urging them not to vote. A Democratic operative working for a rival candidate has admitted to commissioning the calls.

## Preventive measures

States are already preparing for it and so should voters.

Stateline recently reported that since the start of last year, 101 bills addressing AI and election disinformation have been introduced, according to a March 26 analysis by the Voting Rights Lab.

On March 27, Oregon became the latest state — after Wisconsin, New Mexico, Indiana and Utah — to enact a law on AI-generated election disinformation. Florida and Idaho lawmakers have passed their own measures, which are currently on the desks of those states' governors.

Indiana's effort focuses on transparency, requiring that candidates include a disclaimer when political advertising includes usage of generative AI, and it creates a path for legal action when candidates believe they are misrepresented.

But there are always going to be bad actors who don't follow laws.

Niki Kelly



That's where you come in.

## How you can help

Before you share something, check if you know the outlet, such as a newspaper or radio station. Is it reputable? If you have never heard of it, do some digging to see if it's legitimate or consider scrolling on by.

Similarly, who is the poster?

An established, trusted reporter?

A well-known academic?

A campaign strategist?

If not, you need to take extra steps to vet the accuracy of that post.

Learn how to do a reverse image search online. It's relatively simple and can identify when an original photo is being used inappropriately. We have seen old war footage used to hype up either side of a current conflict. We have seen photos manipulated to replace someone's face.

And it's not just artificial intelligence that is a concern.

As always, campaign ads do their best to spin something their way. If a candidate is maligning another, try to find original source material and read it for yourself or watch interviews to make sure they haven't been edited to be misleading. The ads usually cite the articles or interviews that make it easy for you to find.

And if they don't, then that is a concern right there.

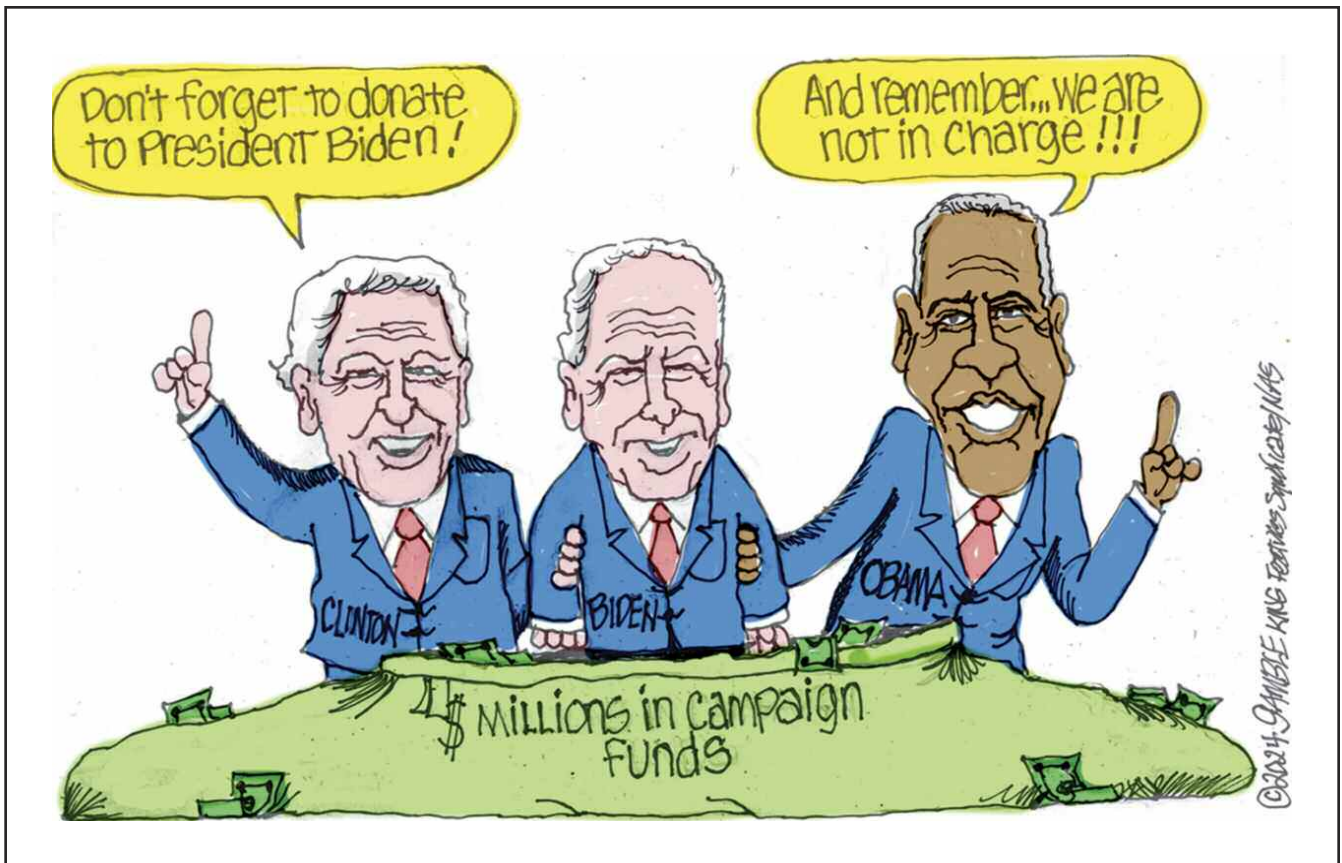
We are all part of stopping misinformation and we must do our part.

So as the governor's race is in its final heated month and congressional contests get fiery, be skeptical.

Act like it's April Fool's Day.

.....  
Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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



# Counsel made strong move

By HARRY LITMAN

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Jack Smith has had enough.

Late Monday, the special counsel responded to U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon's bizarre recent order in the classified records case against Donald Trump, which asked the parties to propose jury instructions based on flagrantly wrong legal premises. Smith's answer, in effect, was "I'm not playing."

Rather than take on Cannon's cockamamie assignment, Smith laid out accurate jury instructions based on the actual charges and law.

Cannon had ordered the parties to "engage with" the Trump team's recurrent misinterpretation of the Presidential Records Act, which has no legal bearing on the case. Her order also depended on an account of the facts — namely, that Trump may have magically converted all the classified government records at issue into his personal property as he left the White House — that has always been beyond incredible.

In effect, Cannon was ordering the Justice Department to assume that the world is flat and then map a route from Atlantis to Arcadia.

But the order wasn't just daffy; it was pernicious.

As I explained when the judge entered the order, her "Alice in Wonderland" antics seemed designed to avoid issuing a ruling that prosecutors could appeal while also setting the stage for her to adopt Trump's ridiculous claims after a jury has been impaneled.

That could be a fatal blow to Smith's case. Once a jury is selected, even a ridiculous order can bring a prosecution to a hard stop because the Constitution's double jeopardy clause precludes retrial. It would be the judicial equivalent of a perfect crime.

Along with much of the country, the special counsel has no doubt watched in frustration as Cannon

Harry Litman



has repeatedly indulged silly arguments from Team Trump while eating up weeks and months that prosecutors — and voters — don't have. She has taken a cut-and-dried case based on overwhelming evidence and made it a long shot to be tried this year, when it matters most.

Her conduct has raised the question of when and how Smith could ask the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to remove her from the case. That would be a heavy lift, and yet Cannon's earlier bungling of a search warrant in the case was so extreme that another grievous error could justify such an unusual remedy.

But Cannon has seemed to play a kind of cat-and-mouse game with the prosecution, favoring Trump with delays while avoiding definitive rulings that Smith's team could readily appeal.

The special counsel's latest filing suggests the end of the game may be near. The government's 24-page answer states flatly that the judge's "legal premise is wrong, and a jury instruction ... that reflects that premise would distort the trial." Under the usual rules of discourse between judge and litigants (and especially federal prosecutors), that's pretty cheeky.

But it was just the beginning of Smith's pushback. The special counsel proceeded to instruct the judge — again contrary to normal etiquette — that it is "vitaly important" that the court make a decision about Trump's Presidential Records Act arguments. In other words, Cannon's precious thought experiment was not only wrongheaded; it was a dere-

liction of the court's basic responsibility to rule on the parties' motions.

The Justice Department is turning the tables on Cannon by telling her to just decide the matter already. Smith's team also put the need for a speedy trial in particularly clear terms: "Whatever the court decides, it must resolve these crucial threshold legal questions promptly. Failure to do so would improperly jeopardize the Government's right to a fair trial."

The prosecution further called out Cannon's threat to issue a consequential ruling after a jury is impaneled, writing, "The Government must have the opportunity to consider appellate review well before jeopardy attaches."

The Smith team then made its most important and aggressive move by noting that when judges have issued clearly erroneous jury instructions that doom prosecutions, "courts have permitted the government to obtain writs of mandamus."

Even buried in a parenthetical as it is, the word "mandamus" jumps off the page as a threat to seek an extraordinary intervention by the appellate court. Smith has laid down the gauntlet, telling Cannon in no uncertain terms that if she doesn't move to resolve Trump's frivolous arguments well ahead of trial, he will bring a writ of mandamus to the 11th Circuit along with a motion to recuse her from the case. Providing this road map of his intentions puts Smith on firm footing to challenge the judge if she continues to dither.

For that reason, this brief is the special counsel's most important in the case since the indictment. Under the circumstances, it's the strongest possible move to speed the prosecution to a trial before the election. Either Cannon will move the case along, or the department will try to remove her from it.

.....  
Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast and the Talking San Diego speaker series.

# The Commercial Review



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

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# Comments sought on OVG increase

Ohio Valley Gas customers are invited to comment on the utility's proposed rate increase.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor is reviewing the Ohio Valley Gas request and will fill testimony to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission in mid-May.

For Jay County, the proposed increase would take consumer bills for \$45.16 for 20 therms from the current \$31.74, an increase of 42%. For 50 therms it would go to \$79.24 from the current \$79.24 (a 38% increase) and for 100 therms it would go to \$136.05 from the current \$100.54 (a 35% increase).

The company's current base rates were approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission in 2017.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so online at [in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [ouccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:ouccinfo@oucc.IN.gov) or by sending mail to Public Comments, Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, 115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

## Reusing pallets

US Aggregates and Asphalt Materials are partnering to build a program to find new ways to reuse pallets.

Asphalt Materials currently recycles pallets through an outside vendor. Instead, logistics are being worked out to transport them for use by U.S. Aggregates, which currently purchases about 4,600 pallets per year to ship from its Cloverdale location.

Both U.S. Aggregates and

## Business roundup

Asphalt Materials are owned by Heritage Construction + Materials.

### DWD wins award

The Coalition on Adult Basic Education recently honored Indiana Department of Workforce Development with the State Innovation Award for its Adult Education Programs of Excellence initiative.

The effort was created to promote the success of adult education programs in the state and encourage administrators to align with existing standards and goals. In October, Indiana Department of Workforce Development named 17 providers as the inaugural Indiana Adult Education Programs of Excellence.

"DWD's Adult Education team is committed to raising standards that benefit providers and adult learners," said Richard Paulk, the department's commissioner, in a press release. "The Programs of Excellence designation specifically shines a light on model providers who support Hoosiers as they move to the next level in education, training, and careers. These efforts lead to a stronger workforce more prepared and capable of advancing in their careers."

### Wajda honored

The National Association of Home Builders honored Indiana Builders

Association CEO Rick Wajda recently as its 2023 State Executive Officer of the Year.

The award is "designed to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding Executive Officer who has contributed to the NAHB Federation." In addition to leading the state builder's association, Wajda is chairman of the Indiana Builders PAC and serves as a spokesperson for the industry on housing-related issues.

"Building homes, enriching communities and changing lives are the key tenets of both NAHB's mission and Rick's drive in his daily work," said National Association of Home Builders CEO Jim Tobin in a press release. "Exhibiting excellence throughout his career and remaining committed to furthering the work of NAHB and the broader industry, Rick Wajda is an unquestionably qualified recipient of this award."

### Menu expands

Subway is expanding its menu with four new wraps.

The restaurant will offer homestyle chicken salad, honey mustard chicken, turkey, bacon and avocado, and Cali caprese. They will all be served in new lavash-style flatbread wraps inspired by Middle Eastern cuisine.

"Wraps have become an afterthought on restaurant menus with uninspiring choices and snack-size portions that leave you wanting more," said Paul Fabre, Sunday senior vice president of culinary and innovation, in a press release. "That insight kickstarted the process of revamping Subway's wraps. We spent

over a year creating signature recipes with unique ingredients that bring out the best in our new lavash-style flatbread, and also fuel you up without weighing you down."

### Aid offered

CVS Health on Wednesday announced improvements to its pharmacy tuition assistance program and a new scholarship for students enrolled in pharmacy schools.

The new CVS Health/American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) Community Pharmacy Health Equity Award will provide \$20,000 to 21 pharmacy students. Its tuition assistance program, which is for CVS interns, will offer \$20,000 annually as well.

"As leaders in community pharmacy, we are committed to investing in the future of pharmacy, particularly to support the next generation of students with financial assistance and hands-on experience necessary to further their careers," said Prem Shah, CVS executive vice president and chief pharmacy officer, in a press release.

### Venture launched

Ardagh Glass Packaging - Europe announced Wednesday that the new solar installation at its facility in Irvine, Scotland, is now generating renewable electricity on site.

The solar array was installed on the roofs of two warehouses at the facility. It will generate 1.58 megawatts of power annually.

"This solar installation is another step forward in enhancing the sustainability of our operations at

Irvine, as well as reducing the amount of electricity we take from the grid," said AGP - Irvine plant director Graeme Shepherd in a press release. "It shows our commitment to decarbonising the glass containers we produce, while maintaining the highest standards of quality and excellence."

Ardagh has glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

### Training scheduled

ServSafe training will be held monthly at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland through June.

Training sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays April 23, May 21 and June 18. The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

### Chamber hosting

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its Indiana HR Conference and Expo April 30 through May 2 at Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis.

The event offers a variety of workshops and sessions for HR professionals. Cara Silletto of Magnet Culture will be the keynote speaker on May 1.

"Human resources departments are at the heart of most employers' operations," said Indiana Chamber president and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders in a press release. "We're pleased to partner with so many brilliant speakers and effective

organizations to help Indiana's HR staffers be the best they can be. As we continue to focus on how we can support talent attraction and retention efforts for businesses across Indiana, we hope this conference provides needed resources and best practices for those who attend."

### Scholarships offered

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative is offering \$10,000 in scholarships.

Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors preparing to enter college or a technical program and two \$2,000 scholarships will go to students already pursuing a two- or four-year degree.

Recipients will be selected based on academic achievement, leadership, participation in school and community activities, academic honors, goals and aspirations, recommendations and work experience.

"Our scholarship program is an excellent way for us to give back to our members, invest in the future of the next generation and affirm our support for continuing education," Edge CEO Tim Trotter said in a press release. "Edge is committed to supporting our membership, empowering our youth and fostering growth within our communities."

To apply, visit [voiceofmilk.com](http://voiceofmilk.com). The deadline is April 1.

For more information, email [llaubscher@voiceofmilk.com](mailto:llaubscher@voiceofmilk.com) or call (715) 584-7117.

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*Does your business have news to share? Email us at [news@thecc.com](mailto:news@thecc.com) to be included in our weekly business roundup.*

# South Korean company invests in Indiana

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
[indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com)

South Korean company SK hynix, Inc., a supplier for Nvidia, will be spending an estimated \$3.87 billion on a West Lafayette advanced chip packaging facility, the state's largest economic development investment to date.

State leaders said Indiana beat out competing states like Arizona and Michigan for the deal with a \$685 million incentive package.

The company is considered to be one of the world's leading producers of high-bandwidth memory chips that power artificial intelligence like ChatGPT and electronics like cell phones.

"This announcement completes the missing link in building a resilient supply chain for the digital economy in the United States," said Purdue University

President Mung Chiang to the assembled crowd. "... This propels and leapfrogs our state to the forefront of AI, chips and hardware."

Chiang said the announcement at Purdue University, which partnered with the state through the Indiana Economic Development Corp. along with the federal government to attract SK hynix to the area, was nearly two years in the making.

The facility, originally reported by the Wall Street Journal last week, is expected to add 800 jobs by 2030 though company officials hinted at the potential for future growth.

"We believe that this project will lay the foundation for a Silicon Heartland or semiconductor ecosystem centered right here," said Kwak Noh-Jung, SK hynix's CEO.

The Indiana Economic Devel-

opment Corporation offered SK hynix \$3 million in incentive-based training grants, another \$3 million in Manufacturing Readiness Grants and \$80 million in conditional structured performance payments, according to a release.

Additionally, the company is eligible for up to \$554.7 million in Innovation Development District tax rebates and will be supported by \$45 million through the Industrial Development Grant Fund for infrastructure improvements in the area.

A key attraction to West Lafayette, SK hynix officials said, was the potential for collaboration with Purdue University and its engineering offerings in chip manufacturing.

"With the brilliant minds at Purdue, we will work with them on research and development that will help to change and

transform the world," said Woojin Choi, SK hynix's executive vice president, holding a chip package aloft. "The world needs a supply chain that is globally distributed and not just concentrated in one or two places. Locating it in Indiana will help not only the U.S. but the entire world."

"We want to make sure that the day never comes when our computers, our defensive systems and our cars suddenly go dark because one country has outsized control," Choi continued.

A worldwide shortage of semiconductor chips, whose production is currently concentrated in China, during the COVID-19 pandemic led to monthslong delays of technology deliveries and supply chain disruptions.

Wednesday's move was celebrated by federal officials, including key White House figures, for attracting domestic factories in a

critical technology sector. The 2022 CHIPS and Science Act, authored in part by Indiana's U.S. Sen. Todd Young, provided the foundation to pursue such semiconductor deals and bring chip manufacturing to domestic factories.

Young's bipartisan CHIPS Act allotted \$52.7 billion for American semiconductor research, development, manufacturing and workforce development, as described in a White House fact sheet.

That sum includes \$39 billion in manufacturing incentives with \$2 billion for legacy chips used in automobiles and defense systems as well as \$13.2 billion in research and development and workforce development.

Semiconductor manufacturers additionally would qualify for a 25% investment tax credit for qualified capital expenses.



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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**A signal achievement**

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 10 2  
 ♥ K 7 2  
 ♦ Q 10 8 5  
 ♣ A Q 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ 9 6 5 4  
 ♥ A J 9 8 6 3  
 ♦ A 9 4  
 ♣ —

**EAST**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ 10 5 4  
 ♦ K J 7 3  
 ♣ 9 8 6 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A Q J 8 7 3  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ 6 2  
 ♣ K J 10 7

The bidding: North 1♠ Pass South 1♥ 2♠ 3♥ 4♠

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Over time, the suit-preference signal has taken on a much wider range of applications than it had in its original form, which in essence was to tell partner what suit to return after he had trumped a trick. Nowadays, the suit-preference signal can be used in a host of situations that do not necessarily involve a ruff by either defender.

Consider this case from a team contest. Both North-South pairs reached four spades as shown, and both Wests led the heart ace.

At the first table, East played the heart four on the first trick, presumably to discourage another heart lead. West then tried the A-9 of diamonds, covered by the ten and jack. East had no way of knowing who had the missing four of diamonds (or that West was void in clubs), so he tried to cash the diamond king. South ruffed, drew trump and claimed.

At the other table, East got the defense started in the right direction by playing the ten of hearts on West's ace at trick one. Since East had supported hearts during the bidding, the ten could hardly be a singleton or the top of a doubleton, so West construed it as a suit-preference signal indicating the desire for a diamond lead. West therefore placed East with the diamond king.

West did not mechanically play the A-9 of diamonds, however. He realized that his partner could not know he was void in clubs, nor would East be able to tell whether West had a third diamond. So at trick two, West led the four of diamonds!

Declarer played dummy's ten, and when East's jack held the trick, he stopped to ask himself why West had underled the diamond ace. There could only be one answer: West had a club void and did not want to run the risk of East misreading how the diamonds were distributed. So East returned a club, ruffed by West, and a second diamond lead to East's king allowed West to ruff another club for down two and an 11-IMP pickup.

Tomorrow: The exploratory process.  
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**Hi and Lois**

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**Beetle Bailey**

**4-9 CRYPTOQUIP**

NX LCKIJCFM OWNIL CP Z  
 LKCCOB LMPBOBIONS XZJWNS  
 XCW XNO, N'F LZM OBIM'WI

OZDNPY Z WZMCP SBISD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PRINTED BOOKLET LISTING MANY STINKY PRODUCTS CUSTOMERS CAN BUY: A MALODOR CATALOG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Pugilist's weapon  
 5 Carte lead-in  
 8 Humdrum  
 12 Con  
 13 Sailor  
 14 Ore deposit  
 15 Loyal  
 17 Taxi alter-native  
 18 Still, in verse  
 19 Flushed  
 20 Drudges  
 21 Cave mammal  
 22 Rock's Ccasek  
 23 Meadow  
 26 May honorees  
 30 Beige  
 31 Wee dollop  
 32 Grooving on  
 33 Ballet legend Rudol  
 35 Velocity  
 36 Talk on and on  
 37 Two, in Acapulco  
 38 Desolate  
 41 "Levi-tating" singer Lipa

**DOWN**

42 Texter's "Wow!"  
 45 Pro-sleep  
 46 Chess-playing  
 48 You love (Lat.)  
 49 Record book suffix  
 50 Valhalla  
 51 "Alice" diner  
 52 Fleur-de-  
 53 Im-pudent  
 1 Kismet  
 2 Con-cerning

**3 Dazzle**  
**4 Dead**  
**5 Shoe-lace**  
**6 Noisy**  
**7 Rush-more**  
**8 High-quality**  
**9 Timber**  
**10 Mid-east**  
**11 Towel**  
**16 Thin**  
**20 Deep**  
**21 Earl**  
**22 Hefty**  
**23 Swamp**  
**24 Hosp-section**  
**25 Blunder**  
**26 Dallas**  
**27 Away**  
**28 Hwy.**  
**29 Turf**  
**31 Society**  
**34 Tibetan**  
**35 Shower**  
**37 Songs**  
**38 Swindle**  
**39 Hefty**  
**40 Lawyer**  
**41 Sitcom**  
**42 Shoppe**  
**43 Naturalist**  
**44 Bloke**  
**46 Costa**  
**47 Jazzy**

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 4-9

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# JCHS softball starts season off strong

The Patriots had to wait nearly a week to get their season underway.

It was worth the wait as they got off on the right foot.

After a pair of rainouts throughout the week, Jay County High School's softball team opened up the 2024 season with a pair of wins over the Blackford Bruins on Saturday 9-0, 7-1.

Mallory Winner shut down the Bruins (2-0) only allowing four hits over the seven-inning game.

The Patriots (2-0) had an offensive explosion in the third inning, aided by three Blackford errors. Jaelyn Lykins and Mady

## Jay County roundup

Fralei both hit RBI doubles in the inning. Jozey Shimp, Morgan Missicano and Carley Trinidad all drove in a run as well.

Trinidad manned the circle in game No. 2, only allowing one run on eight hits through seven innings.

Shimp fueled the offense with

a three-run home run in the sixth inning that put the Patriots up 6-1. Cali Yates also drove in multiple runs despite not getting a hit.

### Late game runs

The Jay County baseball team stumbled out of the gate as it dropped a pair of games to the Mississinewa Indians on Saturday 8-5, 11-6.

Kade Sommers only gave up one run over four innings of work in the first game, but seven runs over the final two frames gave the Indians (2-0) a commanding lead. JCHS (0-2) put up some resist-

ance in the bottom of the seventh with five runs, but it wasn't enough to overcome the deficit. Jackson Edwards, Drew Schemenaur and Sommers all drove in runs on singles in the inning.

A six-run seventh inning was the difference maker in the second game. Trailing by only two runs going into the final inning, Sam Myers surrendered the runs on a single, a double, a pair of groundouts and two errors.

### Tough start

YORKTOWN — The Jay County boys golf team finished with 372 strokes Saturday to

place 16th out of 18 teams at the Yorktown Invitational.

The Center Grove red ran away with first place after shooting a 285, which was three strokes under par as a team.

Caleb DeRome led the way for the Patriots with a score of 83 over 18 holes. Gage Sims wasn't far behind with a score of 85.

Cody DeHoff was the only Jay County golfer to finish with less than 100 strokes, as he shot a 92. Isaac Homan rounded out the scoring in his first varsity match by shooting a 112.

Liam Garringer's 117 strokes did not qualify for the team score.

# Split ...

Continued from page 8

They dropped the first game of the second match, but then traded games until it was tied at 6-6. The JCHS duo was down 6-4 in the tie breaker before they tied it at 6-6 on a backhand by Harris and eventually won 9-7 on an error by Pitts.

Again, the duo got down 8-5 during the super tiebreaker when Harris couldn't return a serve. Harris and Muhlenkamp stayed clean the rest of the match, only surrendering one more point as Pitts and Hile started to commit errors. In the end, the JCHS duo won 2-6, 7-6 (9-7), 11-9.

The first-time varsity pair talked about how their communication helped them pull out the win.

"We did a very good job talking in between each point," Harris said. "We would turn around, come together and talk about what we need to work on, while the other team was psyching themselves out a little bit. I think that worked to our benefit."

The only other victory against the Bruins came from the No. 1 doubles pair of Meredith Dirksen and Sophia Sprunger. They quickly took down Jessica Brinkerhoff and Emily Ellison 6-0, 6-1 to secure the first win of the match for the Patriots.

They also made quick work of Hagerstown's Kai-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Audrey Muhlenkamp of the Jay County High School girls tennis team hits a forehand in the match against Blackford on Saturday. Muhlenkamp and Courtney Harris – who were filling in for Zion Beiswanger and Chloe Ruiz – beat the Bruins No. 2 doubles duo in their varsity debut despite the Patriots falling 3-2.

lyn Harrison and Mary Lach 6-2, 6-0.

Last season Brenna Bailey and Chloe Wicker matched up at the No. 2 singles spot, but Wicker has since been bumped up to No. 1 singles while Bailey was filling in for Brenna Haines. In their 2023

matchup, Wicker won 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 10-8. This year, she beat Bailey 6-0, 6-0 to get the match started.

"Last year, that was her first match, so she was a little tentative at first," Smith said. "She got better as the season went on and has worked on some things

to get even better this season."

Bailey beat Avery Schartz of Hagerstown 6-1, 6-1.

Maggie Dillon beat Tigers' Morgan Williamson in a marathon match before she had to take on Meeka Stalter in the No. 2 singles match. Being worn out

from the first match, Dillon fell to Stalter 6-1, 6-2 to secure the victory for the Bruins.

The No. 3 singles match featured two players making their varsity debuts. Blackford's Evelyn Gulley ended up taking down Faith Faulkner 7-5, 6-2.

Tessa Frazee filled in the

No. 3 singles position for the Hagerstown match, losing to Addie Vinson 6-1, 6-1.

"Overall, I thought we played well for our first matches," Garringer said. "The weather was good, so we can't blame that, but I'd like to see us hustle a little bit more."

# 4x400 ...

Continued from page 8

Alig also delivered a career-best performance in the season opener. Taking over the top spot in the hurdles from 2023 graduate Isaac Kunkler, he proved to be up to the task as he won the 110-meter race in 16.03 seconds ahead of Win-

chester's Carter Campbell (16.21).

"Just an absolutely hard worker. Just a really, really hard worker," said Imel of Alig, who was also third in the long jump and fourth in the high jump. "If we had everybody like that, that's what you want on your

team all the time. I really do appreciate him."

While the final relay marked the only win of the day for the JCHS girls, the team was in the top three plenty to earn the team title. German exchange student Matilda Mende (100 dash), Morgan DeHoff (100 hur-

dles), Muhlenkamp (high jump) and the 4x800 relay team of Alexis Sibray, Paityn Wendel, Willow Hardy and Muhlenkamp all finished second. Third-place finishes came from Cash Hollowell (100 hurdles), Jordyn Hutzler (discus) and the 4x100 relay team of Jenna Dues,

Narora Zugasti, Mende and DeHoff.

Joseph Boggs was in on the other top finishes for the Patriot boys as he teamed with Caleb Garringer, Brayden Collins and Dylan Marentes for third in the 4x800 relay and placed fourth individually in the 1,600 run.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Baseball at Eastbrook — 5 p.m.; Softball at Eastbrook — 5 p.m.; Track at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high track at Northside — 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Track at St. John's — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Versailles — 5 p.m.; Softball at Versailles — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Versailles — 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
6 p.m. — College softball: Michigan at Michigan State (BTN)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Charlotte Hornets (ABC); Indiana Pacers at Toronto Raptors (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Detroit Red Wings (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at

Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

## Wednesday

1:15 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)  
3 p.m. — The Masters: Par 3 Contest (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: Barcelona at PSG (CBS)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Miami Heat (ABC)  
8 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)  
8:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Herediano at Pachuca (FS1)  
8:30 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Denver Nuggets (ESPN)

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## Local notes

**Challenge set**  
The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County. The cost to register for the challenge

is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award.

Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well.

To sign up or for more information, visit [www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com](http://www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com).

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BRANDY RUCHELLE COFFEY  
Plaintiff(s)  
v  
ROBERT STEVEN SOWDER  
Defendant(s)  
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**Softball sweeps Bruins to open season, see story page 7**

**Jay baseball and softball play Eastbrook today, see Sports on tap**

# Sports

## 4x400 for the win

*Murphy comeback lifts Jay to victory at Wapahani Raider Relays*

**By RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review  
SELMA — With more than a third of the sectional field on hand, the Patriots had not won a single event.  
In the final race of the day, they were sitting third with one lap to go.  
Then Makinsey Murphy took the baton.  
The senior who returned to the team after taking a year off locked up the championship for the Jay County High School girls track at the Wapahani Raider Relays team as she fought back to give the Patriots their only victory in the 4x400-meter relay.

That lone win broke a tie at the top of the standings and lifted the Patriots (99.5 points) over sectional rivals Winchester (94.5) and Wapahani (88). The seven-team field also included sectional foes Monroe Central and Cowan.  
"I feel like it was a really total team effort," said JCHS coach Joe Imel, whose squad placed two in the top four in four individual events. "It was just a real well-rounded effort. We didn't win a ton of events, but we scored well — second, third, fourth. When you do that, you've got a pretty strong team."

Jay County's boys got event victories from Austyn LeMaster and Adam Alig as they placed third with 71.5 points. The host Raiders earned the championship with 102 points and Hagerstown (97.5) was second.  
"I was real happy with the boys," said Imel. "We had a lot of PRs today."

The Patriots and Winchester were deadlocked atop the girls standings heading into the final

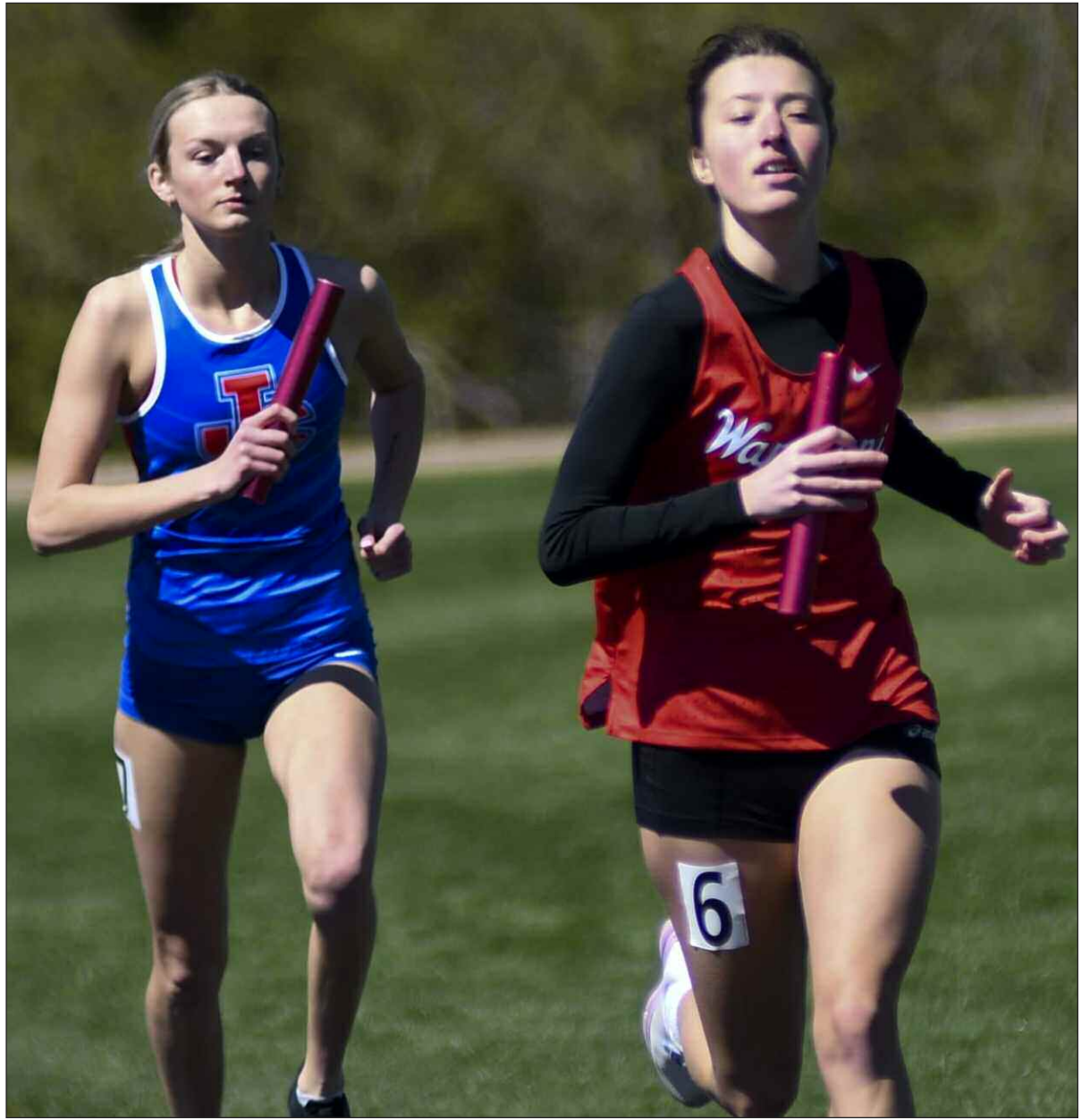
event, with Ariel Beiswanger of the former and Lanie Burger of the latter trailing Wapahani's Ava Cook early on. The Golden Falcons continued to run second with the Patriots third midway through the race before Madyson Hummel of Winchester pulled into the lead late in the third lap. Judy Dargo reclaimed first place for Wapahani, but her spot in the front was temporary. Murphy zipped past Winchester's Maggie Covert, overtook Dargo in the final 200 meters and ran away from the field for a victory of more than five seconds in 4 minutes, 40.51 seconds.

"This is the first meet she's been able to run in because of injuries," said Imel of Murphy, who was a regional qualifier in the 300 hurdles as a sophomore before deciding not to run last season. She teamed with Molly Muhlenkamp, Mya Kunkler and Beiswanger. "She does a really nice job."

LeMaster wasted no time in delivering one of the highlights of the day for the Patriot boys when he stepped into the discus circle for the first time this season. He spun and let the disc fly, sending it easily the longest distance of anyone in the first round. When the measurement — 117 feet even — was announced, teammate Brasen Glassford had a question.  
"Was that your PB?" he asked.  
"By 4 feet," LeMaster responded.

That throw was all he needed, as only one other competitor came within a foot of his mark. He took first place by nine inches over runner-up Landon Lawson of Hagerstown.

See 4x400 page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Makinsey Murphy reels in Julie Dargo of Wapahani on the final lap of the 4x400-meter relay Saturday at the Wapahani Raider Relays. Murphy's rally on the final leg of the race gave the Patriots their only even win of the meet and lifted them to the championship.

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## Patriots split to open

**By ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review  
The Patriots were without three of the seven starters.

Despite a slow start, two of the replacements took full advantage.

Courtney Harris and Audrey Muhlenkamp of the Jay County High School girls tennis team eked out a win in the No. 2 doubles position as the Patriots fell to the Blackford Bruins 3-2 to break a nearly decade-long streak.

Before the loss, the Patriots opened the day with a 4-1 victory against Hagerstown.

"I thought it went really well," JCHS coach Andrea Garringer said. "We were missing three players, so that made the game totally different than what it normally should be. But I thought that the girls that we chose did a good job."

The loss to Blackford ended an eight-year long winning streak against the Bruins (1-1) that saw the Patriots (1-1) win seven-straight.

"It feels good," Blackford coach Brian Smith said. "We didn't lose anybody from last year, so everybody's getting better. Even the new ones are getting better so I'm really happy."

The Tigers didn't have a No. 2 doubles duo to match up with Harris and Muhlenkamp, allowing them to rest before they took on Loralie Hile and Karlie Pitts of Blackford. Harris and Muhlenkamp filled in for expected starters Zion Beiswanger and Chloe Ruiz who were unavailable for the match.

Nerves got to the duo in the first set, which they dropped 6-2 to the Blackford pair.

Despite the early falter, the duo kept a good mindset as they started the second set rather than being bothered about getting down early.

"I like to think with every new point it just starts over," Muhlenkamp said. "We just get a fresh new mindset every time and get to keep going."

See Split page 7

## Tribe offense explodes late

ANSONIA, Ohio — The Indians struggled against Keegan Weiss, but once they got to the bullpen, they couldn't stop scoring.

After trailing 3-0, the Fort Recovery High School baseball team fired off 18 runs in the final two innings to take down the Ansonia Tigers 18-3 on Saturday.

Lander Shives replaced Weiss on the mound in the fifth inning with a three-run lead for Ansonia (3-4). He walked the first two batters before Caden Grisez's single knocked in the first run for the Indians (2-1).

The next four runs scored on an error, a groundout and a wild pitch. Later, Troy Homan, Grisez and Alex Gaerke all walked to push runs across the plate.

FRHS would pour on 10 more runs in the sixth inning to end the game by mercy rule.

Gaerke ended the game with four RBIs and two runs and Sage Wendel had three RBIs, three runs and one hit to lead the Indians.

Homan earned the win with three innings pitched

with one strikeout, zero hits and zero runs.

### Too many hits

ROCKFORD, Ohio — The Fort Recovery softball team and the Parkway Panthers combined for 23 hits Saturday as the Indians fell 11-5 in their first Midwest Athletic Conference matchup of the year. The Panthers (5-0, 1-0 MAC) managed 13 hits and 11 runs — seven of which were earned — off of Jenna Homan in six innings. They scored three runs in the second, fourth and sixth innings.

Madison Louth led the way with three hits and three RBIs.

Homan and Ella Schoen were the Indians' top offensive performers. Homan had three hits and two runs while Schoen had two hits and two RBIs. The Indians (1-3, 0-1 MAC) scored two runs in third and fourth innings to momentarily tie the Panthers, who responded with three runs and never trailed again.

The only other FRHS run came in the sixth on a passed ball.

### FRHS roundup

#### Track falls behind

CELINA, Ohio — Fort Recovery's track teams fell to seventh at the Celina relays on Friday.

The girls team only managed to score 16 points, while Celina put up 97 to win the meet. The boys team ended with 27 points, just one shy of Waynesfield-Goshen in sixth. Celina also won the boys side with 109 points.

Kiana Matsuda, Ellie Will, Natalie Brunswick and Anna Roessner captured the only first-place finish as the four ran the 4x400-meter relay in 4 minutes, 20.74 seconds.

The highest finish for the boys came from the distance medley relay team that placed second. Reece Diller, Cayson Kaikala, Parker Brunswick and Trevor Heitkamp combined for a time of 12 minutes, 31.15 seconds.