

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

City OKs work on wall

Funding requires approval from council

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

The City of Portland has preliminarily agreed to hire a firm to repair a downtown building's wall after the adjacent building was torn down.

Portland Board of Works on Thursday gave preliminary approval to hiring Trisco Systems to repair the north wall of 206 N. Meridian St. following the demolition of the building to the north.

Funding for the work will need to be approved by Portland City Council, which meets on Monday.

Building owner LeeAnn Miller, who is rehabilitating 206 N. Meridian St. to house her business Reclaiming Design, requested assistance with repairing the wall and presented the board of works with quotes from three companies.

Trisco, a firm from Lima, Ohio, presented two options — one that would involve removing plaster to leave a brick surface and the other to apply new plaster to leave a flat surface for a potential future mural. Those options came in at \$56,986 and \$49,809, respectively.

Other quotes were \$62,075 from Ace of Trades of St. Henry, Ohio, and \$82,850 from S.A. Boyce of Muncie.

The building to the north at 208 and 210 N. Meridian St. was torn down earlier this year after the board of works had declared it unsafe in August 2023. The building had problems with its roof and a portion of the west wall had caved in. Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn explained at that time that he was concerned the building then owned by Juan Marentes would collapse.

Portland Redevelopment Commission looked into the possibility of providing funding to rehabilitate the building, but it was decided that such an effort would be too costly. The board of works in January awarded a contract to demolish the building, which it purchased from Marentes.

Eric Welch, the attorney for Miller, told the board of works Thursday that the demolition by JAShroyer Group of Muncie was completed without issue but that the now-exposed north wall of 206 N. Meridian St. needs to be repaired. After presenting the quotes, Miller asked that action be taken quickly in order to get the work done before winter.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur noted that the board of works had approved up to \$20,000 for potential repairs to the east wall of The Greazy Pickle bar and restaurant, which was adjacent to another downtown building that was demolished.

See **Wall** page 2

2024 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Fair Flo

Flo Rida performs Friday night in front of the grandstands at Jay County Fair. The rap and R&B artist played many of his hit songs in front of a packed track. DJ Kronik opened the show. For more photos from Thursday and Friday at the fair, see page 5.

Johnson earns supreme title



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lilly Johnson (center) reacts after being announced as the winner of the 4-H large animal supreme showmanship title Thursday at the Jay County Fair. Cheering her on are fellow competitors Ella Stockton (left) and Elise Mercer (right).

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

Lilly Johnson only shows beef.

She had never been in the supreme showmanship competition before.

Several days of work eliminated those possible disadvantages.

Johnson was solid throughout the competition on Thursday as she won the 4-H large animal supreme showmanship trophy at the Jay County Fair.

"I was kind of shocked," said Johnson, who advanced to the competition representing the beef barn for the first time. "We're all putting in all this work and it's just like, wow. ... It was hard work. Everyone did well."

"It was really hard out there, but I was blessed with a lot of animals that listened well and per-

formed well in the ring," she added.

She was the second consecutive eight-year 4-Her to win the trophy, following Eli Dirksen last year.

Supreme showmanship pits the advanced showmanship winners from each species against each other. They must show each of the species except the one from which they advanced. The animals to be shown are distributed via a blind draw.

With no experience with any species other than beef, Johnson spent the week working to familiarize herself.

"It was a lot of work," she said. "Since I (advanced) on Sunday, it's been all week of stressing out and losing hair, trying to learn these things about every other breed. ..."

See **Supreme** page 5

Banks to give speech at convention

By **CASEY SMITH**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks will give a primetime speech at next week's Republican National Convention, putting him on the same stage as major GOP politicians and signaling his continued rise within the party.

Indiana's Third District Congressman is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday — on Banks' 45th birthday. He's expected to discuss

his role in a new generation of conservative leadership and his fight to ensure that Republicans remain the party of the working class during his remarks.

Banks — who has working-class roots himself — recently described to Politico his childhood growing up in a trailer park, for example. He emphasized that he also went to a public school and state college, shops at Wal-

mart, and struggled during the pandemic because he and his wife couldn't afford full-time childcare.

He's expected to be Indiana's only working GOP official to speak at the convention, though former GOP Chair Anne Hathaway will play a significant role as one of Indiana's two Republican National Committeemen.

The congressman is currently seeking Indiana's open U.S. Senate seat.

He easily secured the Republican nomination in May. He was ultimately unopposed on the primary ballot after Seymour egg farmer John Rust was removed.

A GOP favorite, Banks earned an endorsement from Trump in early 2023 — the former president's first of the cycle.

He'll face Democrat Dr. Valerie McCray, a clinical psychologist, as well as Libertarian Andrew Horn-

ing in the November general election.

The Senate seat is being vacated by Republican Mike Braun, who secured the GOP nomination in Indiana's gubernatorial race and will now face Democrat Jennifer McCormick and Libertarian Donald Rainwater in November.

If elected, Banks will be one of the youngest lawmakers in the U.S. Senate. See **Banks** page 2

Deaths

Diana DeHoff, 79, Pennville

Donna Snyder, 96, Portland

Paul Henkle, 82, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 84 degrees Friday.

Expect mostly sunny skies today with a high in the upper 80s and a slight chance of showers and storms. Tonight's low will be in the upper 60s. The heat index is expected to hit the upper 90s Sunday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

At the fair

Today

1 p.m. — Jay County Civic Theatre concert in the Farmer's Building

5 p.m. — A Touch of Mexico in the Farmer's Building

5 p.m. — Demolition derby at the grandstand



Obituaries

Diana DeHoff

Diana "Kay" DeHoff, 79, Pennville, died Thursday at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. Services are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home.

Donna Snyder

July 11, 1928-July 11, 2024
Donna Joan Snyder, age 96, a resident of Portland, passed away Thursday, July 11, 2024, at Persimmon Ridge Rehab Center in Portland.

Joan was born July 11, 1928, in Pennville the daughter of Ernie and Mabel (Whetstone) Uptygraft. Joan graduated from Bryant High School in 1946; she worked for Ballastran and Jay Products in Portland and was a member of the Friends Church in Portland. Joan married Max Snyder on March 5, 1948, he passed away on May 3, 2010.



Snyder

Survivors include: Two daughters — Suzan Snyder, Muncie, Indiana, and Gloria Simons (husband: Mike), Portland, Indiana. A grandchild — Ivy Simons (Fiancé: Chris Deegan), Indianapolis, Indiana. Three step-grandchildren — Chris Simons (wife: Julie), Indianapolis, Indiana; Amy Long (husband Greg), Zionsville, Indiana; and Eric Simons, Portland, Indiana. A brother-in-law — Richard Stoner, Union City, Indiana. She was preceded in death

by her three sisters, Virginia Stoner, Mildred Whitacre and Doreen Resendez; and three brothers. Visitation will be held Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held Tuesday following visitation at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery west of Bryant, Indiana. Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.

Paul Henkle, Portland, July 6, 1942-July 10, 2024. Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Trinity Arch Bridge Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. *****
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

Sunday 7/14	Monday 7/15	Tuesday 7/16	Wednesday 7/17	Thursday 7/18
90/74	91/74	89/68	78/59	76/57
Expect a high of 90 degrees under mostly sunny skies. Wind gusts may reach 20 mph.	The high will climb into the 90s under sunny skies. There is a slight chance of rain.	The forecast calls for a chance of showers and storms with a high of 89.	Wednesday looks to be mostly cloudy, with a chance of rain throughout the day.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Thursday, when the high will be in the mid 70s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-9-2 Daily Four: 2-4-2-9 Quick Draw: 10-11-13-15-17-19-21-28-31-33-38-47-49-50-52-54-62-66-79-80	Pick 5: 5-8-8-7-6 Evening Rolling Cash: 16-18-23-25-35 Jackpot: \$140,000
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 7-9-2 Pick 4: 2-7-5-0	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$54 million Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$203 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.90 Aug. corn3.92 Wheat4.76	Aug. beans.....10.21 Wheat5.00
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.00 Aug. corn4.00 Sept. corn3.87	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.82 Aug. corn3.79 Beans11.23 Aug. beans.....10.95 Wheat5.05
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.82 Aug. corn3.90 Beans11.20	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.86 Aug. corn3.86 Beans11.00 Aug. beans.....10.85 Wheat4.76

Today in history

In 1787, the U.S. Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance, which laid out rules for governing the Northwest Territory. The territory included land that would be come the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota.
In 1793, French revolutionary Jean-Paul Marat was assassinated. He was one of the leaders of the Montagnard faction, a group known for its democratic outlook, during the French Revolution.
In 1923, the Hollywood sign was officially dedicated in the hills above Hollywood, Los Angeles. It originally read "Hollywoodland," but the last four letters were dropped when it was renovated in 1949.
In 1934, Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka was born in Abeokuta, Nigeria. He was a playwright and political activist, winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986.
In 1972, Alma E. Fenning, 47, of rural Jay County drowned in the Wabash River near the Indiana-Ohio state line.
In 2021, Portland Board of Works approved former Jay County Sheriff's Office chief deputy Mitch Sutton as the city's new chief of police. His hiring came just minutes after the board accepted a letter of resignation from previous chief Josh Stephenson, who spent just over six months at the helm. (Stephenson was the subject of a special prosecutor's investigation for potential criminal misconduct and other issues. The investigation resulted in no charges being filed.)
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Corporation, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5 p.m. — Portland Economic Development Income Tax Advisory Committee, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 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.
Tuesday 10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Felony arrests

Drunk driving

An Ohio woman was arrested Thursday for drunk driving. Stephanie A. Reed, 34, 1504 N. St., Fremont, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. She was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Probation violation

An Ohio woman was

arrested Thursday for violating her probation.

Coyota N. Rohrer, 33, 13018 Hillgrove/Fort Recovery Road, Union City, pleaded guilty to residential entry, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with 104 days credit and one year suspended. A petition alleging she violated the conditions of

her probation was filed in court June 11.

Rohrer was being held on a \$300 bond in Jay County Jail.

Failed to appear

A rural Portland woman was arrested Thursday for failing to appear in court.

Shauna B. Manor, 32, 8160 E. 400 South, is

charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 4 felony for dealing in a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe. She was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Banks ...

Continued from page 1
Republican lawmakers, delegates and other party figures will gather in Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 15 to 18 to officially name former President Donald Trump the GOP nominee and see him announce his running mate. A detailed schedule of speakers has not yet been released, but the conven-

tion has historically provided leading party figures and up-and-coming GOP lawmakers valuable airtime to speak about the party's platform. RNC co-chair Lara Trump has additionally promised a number of surprise celebrity guest speakers, including model Amber Rose, as well as Sean O'Brien, leader of the Team-

sters union. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis will also be speaking, though former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley is not expected to attend. Both Republicans challenged Trump for the party nomination before bowing out of the race when they failed to secure primary wins.

Wall ...

Continued from page 1
(The city had not made a commitment to Miller, taking a "wait-and-see" approach while agreeing to consider needs following the demolition of the adjacent building.) Schmenaur also reminded the board that the city's redevelopment commission has been looking at potential plans for the two new empty lots in the downtown area.

Board of works members Steve McIntosh, Jerry Leonhard and Mayor Jeff Westlake discussed options, with McIntosh saying his biggest concern is fairness to both Miller and the owners of The Greazy Pickle.

"What's our total obligation?" he asked. "I think we need to be fair, but what is that?"
There was some talk

about meeting to discuss both buildings — Welch represents Miller and The Greazy Pickle owners Chris Grieshop and Thomas Emerick — but that idea was shelved after it was pointed out that the two situations are not identical.

Leonhard ultimately made a motion to hire Trisco to repair the wall and prepare it for a possible future mural at a cost of \$49,809, pending approval of funding from the city council. That motion was approved unanimously.

Also Thursday, the board of works approved the hiring of former Indianapolis Law Enforcement Academy staff attorney and law instructor Charles Braun to review and update Portland Police Department standard operating procedures.

Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock brought the request to Portland City Council in May, saying rules, regulations, standard operating procedures and ordinances need to be updated, including adjustments to align with state statutes. The council tabled that request until their June 17 meeting, when it voted 6-1 to allocate \$9,000 for the board of works to hire someone to handle the process.

The board of works, which is in charge of entering into contracts for the city, unanimously approved hiring Braun.

The board also approved sewer and water taps for 216 E. Pearl St.

Even our Adjustable Bed has a Flippable Mattress

Affordable priced everyday!

Made in Muncie for over 70 years

Holder Bedding

1815 N Granville Ave, Muncie
Open M-F 9:00a-5:30p;
Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p
www.holderbedding.net

765-747-8103

BLAKE WATSON
FOR JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

2024 Candidate for Jay County Commissioner Blake Watson would like to take this time to wish Jay County fairgoers a fun and memorable experience while attending the 152nd Annual Jay County Fair, happening now until Saturday, July 13th! As a former Jay County 4-H member himself, Blake extends his congratulations to all Jay County 4-H members on your outstanding entries.

For those who are eligible to vote in the upcoming General Election in Jay County -- Blake encourages you to take a few moments to check your voter registration status by simply logging on to indianavoters.com

Ad Paid for by Friends to Elect Blake Watson

Make sure to keep up-to-date with Blake's campaign to become Jay County's next County Commissioner by visiting: <https://www.facebook.com/Watson4Commissioner>

SERVICES

Tuesday
Snyder, Donna: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Henkle, Paul: 7 p.m., Trinity Arch Bridge Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Consumer Cellular®

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING. FREEDOM CALLS.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

855-572-5165

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

JAY COUNTY

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT SERIES

Hosted by the Jay County Health Department

Pennville Community Center Tuesday, July 16th 6:00-8:00 PM	Bryant Community Center Thursday, July 18th 6:00-8:00 PM
Dunkirk Community Center Tuesday, July 23rd 6:00-8:00 PM	Redkey Park Cabin Thursday, July 25th 6:00-8:00 PM

What will be provided: hygiene and school supplies, community resources, education, vaccinations, and a meal

PublicHealth



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Baby contest

Jay County Fair's baby contests July 6 yielded two overall winners. Pictured at left are the 6 to 12 month-old contest winner, Finley Inman, and her mother Pride Inman. Pictured above are the 12 to 18-month-old contest winner, Ivan Laux, with his mother Kassi Laux.

Boyfriend accused of cheating

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Jessica," thinks I've cheated on her because I didn't come home right away after being given the day off. My grandparents were away on vacation. When they go away, they want me to check on the house and bring in the mail and newspaper.

On this particular day, I decided to drive by, did what needed to be done and spent half the day there. I even took a nap in the recliner. Now Jessica insists that I cheated when I simply was hanging out at my grandparents'. To add to the situation, we have a daughter on the way, and Jessica doesn't want me in the delivery room.

She's blowing everything out of proportion. She was in a nine-year abusive relationship, and her ex cheated numerous times, so I'm not sure if her actions stem from her past relationship. I'm having a hard time understanding why she's doing this with a baby on the way, when I've been nothing but faithful and good to her. — ALMOST-EX IN MISSOURI

DEAR ALMOST-EX: It would have been considerate to have called your pregnant girlfriend from your grandparents' house to let her know you would be returning later than expected. Not having done that was your mistake, nothing more.

Dear Abby



Her over-the-top accusation of infidelity may have stemmed from a hormone imbalance caused by her pregnancy. It could also, as you stated, be the result of her disastrous nine-year romance with her abuser. Because she has trust issues, it's important you consider couples counseling with her. As to wanting you absent when your child is born, she may have said it to retaliate for your imagined cheating, or to spare you the sight of her in pain.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my current wife for 12 years after a terrible divorce. She is very kind. The problem is, I work 40 to 50 hours a week, do all the cooking, grocery shopping and about 90% of the cleaning. I have spoken several times to her about helping more around the house since she doesn't work.

My wife smokes pot every day,

sleeps until 3 p.m. and doesn't contribute anything beyond being nice to me. I come home to a trashed house and have to prepare dinner, clean up and get ready for work the next day. I may have PTSD from my first failed marriage. What can I do? I'm ready to give up and just take care of myself. — DOESN'T WANT TO HURT ANYMORE

DEAR DOESN'T: You may not have PTSD. You DO have such low self-esteem that you've been willing to tolerate (for 12 years!) a marriage in which you do everything while your wife sleeps and spends her waking hours on cloud nine.

Tell this "kind" woman to sober up and help you. Give her a two-day deadline. If she doesn't cooperate, consult an attorney. It may cost you money or some assets acquired during the marriage, but from your description of what has been going on for so long, it will be worth it.

P.S. Once she is gone, stay single for a few years.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Births

McCollum

David Marley, a son, was born July 9 at St. Vincent Randolph to Jenny McCollum and Robert R. Hille-gass III of Winchester.

He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Grandparents are Carla and Stephen D. McCollum of Pennville and Stella Kercher and Larry Kercher of Hellertown, Pennsylvania.

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 866-953-2203 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

Community Calendar

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

Today
LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the

parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.

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

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock

Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

DENTAL Insurance

Great coverage for retirees.

Get your FREE Information Kit

It's easy! Call today
1-844-244-7025
Dental50Plus.com/Hoosier

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, NV, NY, VA - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469, P150/B439 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN). 6347



hopkins
REPAIR LLC
AUTO & LIGHT TRUCK REPAIR
Portland, IN



- AC Service, Alignments
- Brakes, Struts, Shocks
- Check Engine Light
- Oil Change & Lube
- Maintenance
- Diagnostics & More

Our quality is your peace of mind. **260-251-0459**

4th of July committee says thanks

To the editor:
The Jay County 4th of July Committee would like to thank the Jay County community for making the 2024 4th of July Celebration another successful celebration.

Although the weather was less than favorable at times, the community was still able to enjoy the festivities.

We truly appreciated the local businesses, organizations and individuals that contributed financially to the 2024 July 4 event. Your generosity allowed us to offer activities

Letters to the Editor

free of charge to the community.

We also wish to extend a huge thank you to all who volunteered their time and service to make this annual event possible.

Thanks again to the following: Accelerated Curing, Alpha

Delta Gamma Nu Sorority, Arm's Auto Body, FCC, First Bank of Berne, Fisher Packing Company, Fullenkamp Machine, Hemmelgarn Masonry, IOM Grain, Jay County Beverage, Jay County Commissioners, Jay County REMC, Jay County Visitor & Tourism Bureau, Jay Petroleum, Kappa Kappa Kappa Alpha associate chapter, Kappa Kappa Kappa Sorority / Beta Theta Chapter, May Financial Group, Moser Engineering, Portland Evening and Morning Optimist clubs, The Portland Foundation, Portland Insurance

Agency, Portland Lions Club, Portland Motor Parts, Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Ranly Trucking, Williamson Spencer and Penrod Funeral Homes, Kyle Cook, Nathanael Clay, 5K run participants, Portland Police Department, Portland Street Department, Portland Fire Department, The Rock Church, Jay County Sheriff's Office, Museum of the Soldier, Tim Morris, Jay County Fair Board, Creative Awards and Gifts, T-Flyerz, Jay Community Center, Jay County High School Marching Patriots, The Commercial Review,

WPGW Radio, Jorey Luse, Harold DeHoff and the fire-works crew, and all parade participants.

The Jay County 4th of July Committee is seeking additional volunteers to join our committee to prepare for the 2025 celebration.

If you would like to volunteer for the 2025 July 4th Celebration, please contact George Patterson at (260) 729-1013 or any committee member.

Diana Swingley
For The Jay County 4th of July Committee

Proposals need depth, less flash

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

It's always popular for politicians to promise to cut your taxes. But is it realistic?

Small changes are absolutely possible, and Indiana lawmakers have cut taxes regularly over the last decade. But some of the proposals being tossed around this year are approaching clickbait at their worst.

Property taxes are getting most of the attention as property values skyrocket with the hot housing market.

Assessed value growth doesn't automatically mean your taxes will go up because the second part of that calculation is the tax rate charged by local governments. But it has a high correlation.

Property taxes bring in about \$8.2 billion a year. And it would be higher, except that lawmakers have created deductions, credits and caps that save property owners an additional \$1.5 billion a year.

Before I go further, I want to emphasize that I don't have any problem with Indiana's property tax system. I expect my bill to go up because the cost to run cities, towns, schools and libraries goes up. Maybe that's a firefighter's salary or the materials to pave a road, insurance for teachers or the cost to run a judicial system that protects the public.

But I do think the assessment system leaves something to be desired.

Most people don't understand it. The values are based largely on sales of similar properties to your own and it's difficult to grasp that. It's even harder to contest it without a specific appraisal of your property.

A few years ago, we noticed our assessment starting to rise and we decided to monitor it. It kept growing until we disagreed our house was worth that much. It just so happened that, near that time, we had done an appraisal of our home for a home equity loan.

We appealed and our assessed value was lowered by around \$100,000.

But not everyone can afford an appraisal. My preference would be that lawmakers consider an annual cap on how much assessed value can rise. This would give local governments some room for revenue growth but also keep in mind that some Hoosiers — especially those on fixed incomes — simply can't afford large jumps in property tax bills.

Niki Kelly



I took Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch to task in the primary for her "axe the tax" proposal because she wanted to eliminate the income tax but didn't offer any specific budget cuts to accommodate the potential \$8 billion annual loss to state revenues.

I feel I should do the same with Libertarian Donald Rainwater's property tax plan in his campaign for governor.

He wants to cap residential and agricultural property tax bills — not assessments — at 1% of the purchase price of the property. Additionally, property owners would only pay a maximum of 7% of the purchase price, whether they paid for the property all at once at closing or escrowed the amount and paid 1% per year for 7 years. He says this would provide owners with predictability and stability.

Yes, it would definitely save taxpayers money — though Rainwater offers no estimate on how much. Billions, likely. But savings mean a loss to governments trying to service their citizens, a fact that can't be ignored.

It would mean many homeowners would pay nothing after seven years, while expecting their services to continue or even improve in quality.

As a result, Rainwater wants state government, which in recent years has experienced higher than usual revenue, to backfill at least some of that loss. The state has previously engaged in backfilling but there's little appetite among lawmakers to get back into that business.

Word is that Republican gubernatorial nominee Mike Braun will soon have a property tax plan as well. I welcome an addition to the conversation but hope he will include specifics so it can be fairly judged by voters.

It's not enough to say "let's cut taxes" or that government can be "more efficient." Voters deserve specific, constructive and realistic plans.

.....
Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Be careful with terminology

By YVETTE WALKER
The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

Josh Hawley has declared he advocates Christian nationalism. Well, then.

"Some will say now that I am calling America a Christian nation. So I am. And some will say that I am advocating Christian nationalism. And so I do," the Missouri senator announced from the podium of the National Conservatism Conference in Washington, D.C., this week.

The conference, known as NatCon, promotes "the rich tradition of national conservative thought as an intellectually serious alternative to the excesses of purist libertarianism, and in stark opposition to political theories grounded in race."

Uh huh. Maybe it should be no surprise that the man who fist bumped the insurrectionist crowd on Jan. 6, who wrote "Manhood: The Masculine Virtues America Needs," and who fought the Affordable Care Act as an attorney in the Hobby Lobby case has come out for Christian nationalism.

But I'm going to wager that some of you don't really know what that is and perhaps have not even heard of it.

Only a third of U.S. adults say they have heard of Christian nationalism and have a favorable or unfavorable view of it, according to a February Pew Institute poll.

But 60% of Christians haven't heard of it. More Democrats than Republicans have (55% to 36%). So why are conservative politicians bandying around the term like it's the next commandment on those stone tablets God gave to Moses?

I've challenged Hawley before on what he says he believes. In his 4,300-word treatise, "Our Christian Nation," for the magazine First Things, Hawley seems to understand the true origins of Christianity and favors Jesus Christ over "the strong man."

So, I have to ask again, and challenge anyone claiming to be a Christian nationalist this question: Are you sure, and do you really know what you're claiming to be?

Like I've said before, Hawley is a smart man, and maybe he really does understand what he is saying. Haw-

ley followed his announcement with the line, "My question is: Is there any other kind worth having?"

Yes, yes there is. Because Christian nationalism is not Christian, and it goes beyond the idea that we live in a Christian nation. Let's take a look. You can stop reading now, Sen. Hawley, but I hope you don't. Here's a primer for everyone else.

Fusion of one expression of religion with civic life

Disclaimer: I'm not a Bible scholar, nor an expert in the study of Christian nationalism. I'm just a simple Christian who has read the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, along with the letters of the apostle Paul.

So, I turned to someone who has studied it: Andrew Whitehead is an Indiana University professor of sociology and executive director of the Association of Religion Data Archives at the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture.

He has written two books, "Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States" and "American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church."

I asked Whitehead to explain the term to someone who has never heard of it.

"Christian nationalism is the desire to see the fusion of a very particular expression of Christianity with American civic life. And it believes that this particular expression of Christianity should undergird all of what America is and how it operates and that the government should defend and preserve this form of Christian nationalism as the cultural ideal in the United States."

Notice that Whitehead uses the term "particular expression of Christianity" a lot. That's because there are lots of expressions of faith in America and the world. But Whitehead said this kind of expression combined with nationalism

brings with it what he calls "cultural baggage."

"The Christian of Christian nationalism is focused on one particular type and it isn't just kind of Orthodox historic Christian beliefs like, 'I believe in the divinity of Jesus,' or that 'God is three parts in one,' or those types of things."

Key elements of Christian nationalism

Whitehead identified four key elements in Americans surveyed that show how strongly they embrace Christian nationalism:

- Authoritarian social control (we live in a chaotic world and need order)
- Desire for a traditional social hierarchy (men lead; women support)
- Strict ethnoracial boundaries (white, natural-born, Anglo-Protestant)
- Populism and a tendency towards conspiratorial thinking (us versus them)

This goes against the teachings of Jesus Christ in so many ways, my head wants to explode.

Let's explore those key elements from a Christian perspective: God gave us free will to make decisions and mistakes. Women followers of Christ led in the early church. Jesus preached to a multicultural following. Jesus invited everyone to the table.

Where and how does Christian nationalism apply here? The puzzle pieces simply don't fit.

My biggest concern is that because so many people don't really know what Christian nationalism means, the only way they'll find out is from political candidates who aren't explaining the whole story.

To be certain, it's more than being patriotic and loving God.

So if you really believe that we live in a chaotic world and need a white, male (human) savior to take America back from the bad elites, academics, scientists and media folks, then maybe you are a Christian nationalist.

But if you are someone with conservative values who loves Jesus, the Chiefs, the Royals and apple pie, maybe you aren't. And that's OK.

Let's be careful with the terms we use to describe ourselves. That message is for everyone, but especially our leaders.

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher

TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair

BRIAN DODD
Production manager

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 52
SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024

www.thecr.com

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

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$11; 13 weeks — \$36; six months — \$68; one year — \$122.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$44; six months — \$74; one year — \$140.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

2024 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



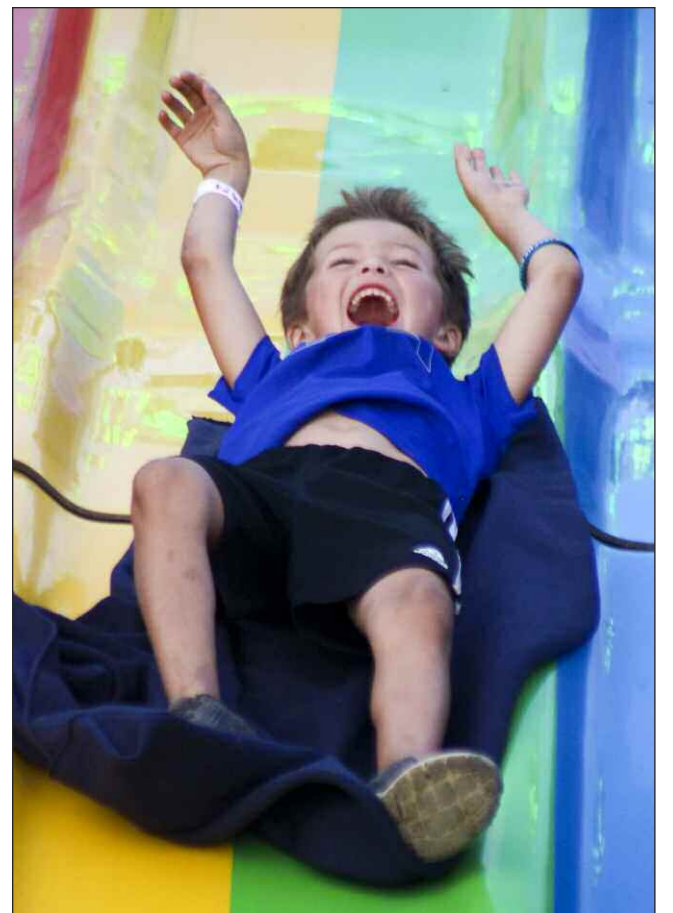
The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Thursday and Friday brought concerts to the Jay County Fair, with Cochren & Co. highlighting Faith Night following by Flo Rida with DJ Kronik for the headline performance. Thursday's activities also included the 4-H large animal supreme showmanship competition, with the awards ceremony and auction following Friday. Rides were also open on the midway. (Rides will be open again from noon to close today for the final day of the fair and a demolition derby will round out the grandstand entertainment beginning at 5 p.m.) Pictured, clockwise from center:

Tyler Armstrong shows during the sheep portion of the large animal supreme showmanship competition Thursday in the Show Arena

Five-year-old Mikken Masters of Dunkirk races down the Super Slide on the midway at the fairgrounds on Friday.

Auctioneer Chad Bricker calls out a bid during the 4-H livestock auction in the Show Arena on Friday morning.

Kecia Huntsman holds her daughter, 5-year-old Harper Huntsman, as they sway to Cochren & Co. during Faith Night Thursday.

Blaze Dirksen hauls a couple of chairs into the Show Arena on Thursday evening to help set up the facility for Friday's auction.

Karly Emerick of Pennville takes a bite of corn from the Portland Optimist stand Friday near the Farmer's Building.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lilly Johnson leads her cow during the dairy portion of Thursday's 4-H large animal supreme showmanship competition in the Show Arena at the Jay County Fair.

Supreme ...

Continued from page 1
"I'm really thankful for all the friends I have in 4-H that'll help me with that."

Even with that work, sheep proved to be a challenge. There were a couple in the ring with the supreme showmanship contenders — Levi Willman (dairy goat), Ella Stockton (meat goat), Elise Mercer (dairy), Tyler Armstrong (swine), Molly Muhlenkamp (dairy beef), Elizabeth Link (sheep) and Cash Hollowell (horse) — that seems more interested in escaping than in showing off for a judge.

Johnson had one of those.

"I was drenched in sweat," she said. "She just put up a big fight."

"They say, 'Stay calm, cool and collected,' but it's kind of crazy when

you have a sheep jumping on you."

Fortunately, Johnson got a bit of a break from her dairy goat to close the competition.

"She was real nice," she said. "She just walked around with me. And she set her feet up real nice."

Johnson will be a junior when classes start up in a month at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. She has served as president of the Class of 2026, is involved in FFA, plays for the Patriot girls tennis team and performs in show choir.

While she still has a couple of years before college, she said she would like to work with kids either in the medical field or in education.

"I love 'em," Johnson said. "I think molding a mind young will create better minds when they're older."

7-13 CRYPTOQUIP

MST WSQVC ESQ WVHKKPJE
BMPYRK KQWM HK "IE CHLVPYR
CSF" SL "KTFFB KBHR"?
BFLIK SJ FY-CFFL-IFYB.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT SLUGGISH
BABY KANGAROO NEVER LIKES TO LEAVE ITS
MOTHER. YOU MIGHT CALL IT A POUCH POTATO.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals C

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Go with the Flo

- 1) What city with about 985,000 people is the largest in Florida, nearly double that of Miami?
2) What teams did the Florida beat in the 2006 and 2007 NCAA men's basketball title games?

(1) Jacksonville (2) UCLA and Ohio State

7-15 CRYPTOQUIP

V DGMMDL LBBD DYAGHCP'X
XZECL QEPT YVHEZVAGD UAJLD,
AZ XYLT UGDY QVBYX RZERJ
LERY AXYLZ GM.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: HOW COULD YOU
CLASSIFY THINGS SUCH AS "MY DARLING DOE"
OR "SWEET STAG"? TERMS OF EN-DEER-MENT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!
Solve the code to discover words related to barbecue.
Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 19 = O)

BACKYARD BASH WORD SEARCH
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to summer food.
ODOGHTS

Guess Who?
I am an actor born in New York on July 12, 1978. I grew up in Connecticut and attended the University of Southern California before dropping out to start my career in TV. I am known for my role on a show about a certain bell-bottom era.

kids' corner
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

FOOD FACT!
THIS FOOD IS COMMONLY ENJOYED DURING PICNICS.
ANSWER: FRIED CHICKEN

How they say that in...
ENGLISH: Picnic
SPANISH: Picnic
ITALIAN: Picnic
FRENCH: Pique-nique
GERMAN: Picknick

Creative Coloring
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.
Double Word Puzzle
Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
1890: WYOMING IS ADMITTED AS THE 44TH STATE.
1958: HOWARD HUGHES BEGINS A 91-HOUR AIRPLANE FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD THAT WILL SET A NEW RECORD.
1962: TELSTAR, THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, IS LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT.

New word
FROLIC
move about cheerfully

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 42 Friendly leader?
DOWN 22 Thoreau piece
Solution time: 26 mins.

Crossword grid for Eugene Sheffer's puzzle.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Disrupting communications

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
WEST EAST
SOUTH
The bidding:
Assume you're in four hearts and West leads the king of clubs. Let's say you win with the ace, East signaling with the jack, and that you draw three rounds of trump, ending in dummy.
Now, because you don't want to risk East's gaining the lead, you lead dummy's nine of diamonds and finesse. Unfortunately, West wins with the queen and leads a low club to his partner's nine, and East returns a spade. It doesn't matter whether you play the jack or the king; either way you go down one.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
WEST EAST
SOUTH
The bidding:
This deal occurred in the 1990 world team championship final between Germany and the United States. It featured excellent bidding by Americans Mike Moss and Charles Coon, who reached six spades as shown with the North-South cards.
Moss's two-club opening was strong and artificial, and Coon's two-spade response promised a spade suit and seven or more high-card points. Moss supported spades, setting the trump suit, and Coon bid four spades, implying that his initial response was based on a minimum and that for the moment he had nothing further to say.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Capital of Croatia
DOWN 3 Blunder
Solution time: 21 mins.

Crossword grid for Eugene Sheffer's puzzle.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



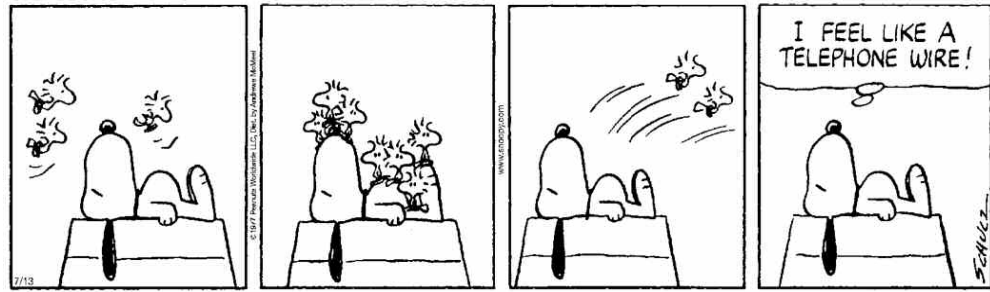
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



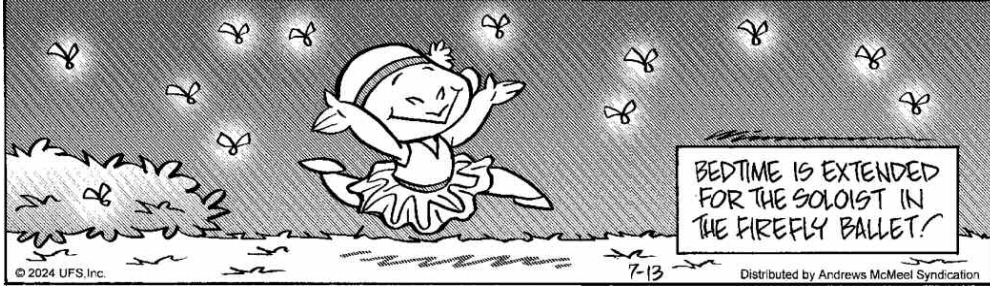
Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



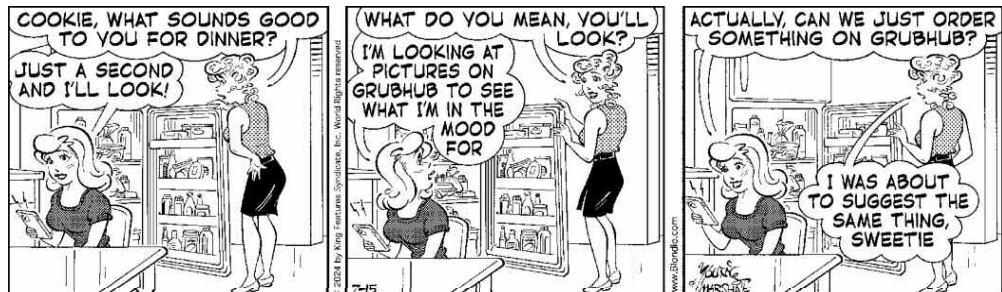
Between Friends



Blondie



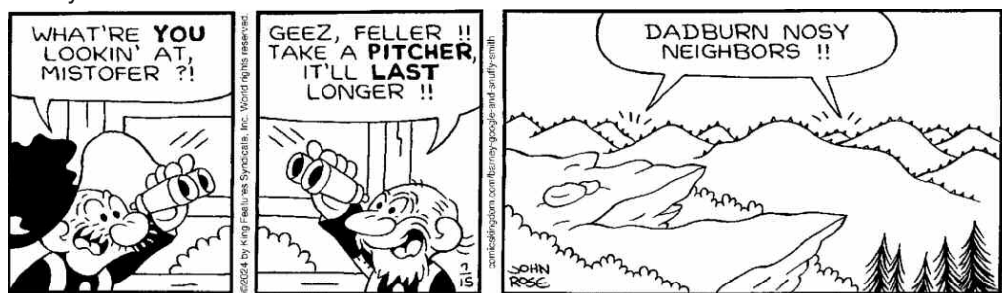
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey

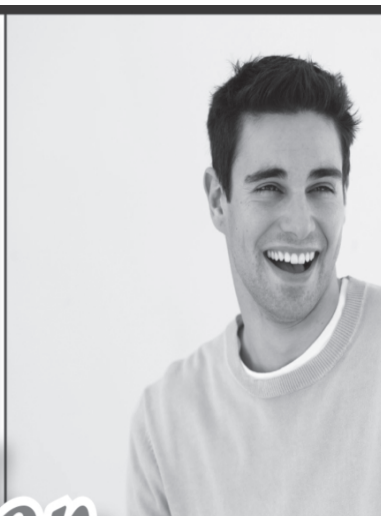


Beetle Bailey



We Deliver

Laughter



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Employees ...

Continued from page 10
The Division I athletes and former athletes behind the suit in Philadelphia are seeking more modest hourly wages similar to those earned by their peers in work-study programs. They argue that colleges are violating fair labor practices by failing to pay them for the time they dedicate to their sports, which they say can average 30 or more hours per week.

Lawyer Paul McDonald, representing the plaintiffs, has suggested that athletes might make \$2,000 per month or \$10,000 per year for participating in NCAA sports. He said that many students need the money for everyday expenses.

"This notion that college athletes cannot be both students and employees is just not accurate when you have student employees on campuses," McDonald said Thursday. "It's just beyond belief, the idea that the athletes would not meet the same criteria as employees."

A district judge had refused to throw out the case, prompting the Indianapolis-based NCAA to ask the appeals court to stop it from going to trial. The three-member panel heard arguments in February.

Defendants include the NCAA

and member schools including Duke University, Villanova University and the University of Oregon. An NCAA spokesperson did not immediately return messages seeking comment Thursday.

The unanimous Supreme Court decision that spawned the NIL payments lifted the ban on college compensation beyond full-ride scholarships. Schools recruiting top athletes now can offer tens of thousands of dollars in education-related benefits such as study-abroad programs, computers and graduate scholarships.

"Traditions alone cannot justify the NCAA's decision to build a massive money-raising enterprise on the backs of student athletes who are not fairly compensated," Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in a concurring opinion. "The NCAA is not above the law." But that case did not resolve whether college athletes are employees entitled to direct pay — the key issue before the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court panel.

Baylor University President Linda Livingston, speaking at the NCAA convention in January, said that model would turn coaches into their players' bosses.

"Turning student-athletes into employees will have a sprawling,

staggering and potentially catastrophic impact on college sports broadly," said Livingston, chairperson of the NCAA's Board of Governors. "We need Congress to affirm student-athletes' unique relationship with their universities."

But the relationship has faced increasing scrutiny.

In 2021, a top lawyer for the National Labor Relations Board said in a memo that college athletes should be treated as school employees.

And players have taken to social media to argue for a cut of some of the hundreds of millions of dollars that NCAA schools earn on sports, including a campaign on the eve of the 2021 NCAA basketball tournament that carried the hashtag #NotNCAAProperty.

The NCAA, at its convention, compared the athletes to students who perform in theater groups, orchestras and other campus activities without pay.

McDonald has said those types of campus groups are student led, while athletes have their time controlled by their coaches in a way that resembles employment.

"The most controlled kids on any campus are the student-athletes," he said earlier this year.

Skenes ...

Continued from page 10
In 66 1/3 innings, he's struck out 89 with only 13 walks. Opposing batters are hitting just .202 against him and he has a WHIP of 0.92.

Following his most recent start, Skenes was predictably nonchalant when asked for his thoughts on potentially starting the All-Star Game.

"That'd be cool," Skenes said on the SportsNet Pittsburgh postgame show. "Haven't thought about it a ton, just been focusing on getting to this outing and through it. It'd be cool."

Upon receiving the news of being named Tuesday's NL starter, Skenes' demeanor was similar.

"That's cool. I'll probably get more excited leading up to the game," he said. "Hopefully I'll have a full night's sleep before. ... That's pretty dang cool."

While Skenes may have managed to keep those thoughts out of mind, the same couldn't be said for the extended world of baseball, Lovullo includ-

ed, who tipped his hand to reporters Thursday when discussing what route he'd take in naming a starter for Tuesday's game.

"In particular, Paul Skenes, he's come on very quickly," Lovullo said. "He's been an unbelievable addition to Major League Baseball. He's created a lot of interest in Major League Baseball, and I'm going to be situationally aware of that when I'm making this decision."

Skenes edged fellow All-Stars such as Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler (10-4, 2.70) and Ranger Suarez (10-3, 2.58) and Atlanta's Chris Sale (12-3, 2.74) for Tuesday's starting honors.

Shortly before leaving the "Dan Patrick Show," Lovullo joked about Skenes potentially being on a pitch count, saying only that, "We'll see what's going on there. We've got 11 pitchers we've got to get through."

Pirates outfielder Bryan Reynolds, who earned his second career All-Star selection, will join Skenes in Arlington on Tuesday.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County summer swim team at Conference meet at South Adams — 9:15 a.m.

TV sports

Today
5:35 a.m. — NRL rugby: St. George Illawarra Dragons at Brisbane Broncos (FS1)
9 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Explore The Pocono Mountains 225 (USA)
12 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: HighPoint.com 400 (USA)
12 p.m. — DP World Tour golf: Scottish Open (CBS)
1 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Chicago Sky (ABC)
1:30 p.m. — Pro Motocross Championship: Spring Creek (NBC)
3 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Explore The Pocono Mountains 225 (USA)
3:30 p.m. — WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks at Dallas Wings (CBS)
4:10 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Chica-

go Sky (ABC)
5 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Charlotte Hornets vs. New York Knicks (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Detroit Pistons vs. Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Oakland Roots at Pittsburgh Riverhounds (FOX)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at San Francisco Giants (FOX)
8 p.m. — IndyCar: Hy-Vee Homefront 250 (NBC)
8 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Canada vs. Uruguay (FS1)
9 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: San Antonio Spurs vs. Portland Trail Blazers (ESPN2)
10:25 p.m. — MLS: Real Salt Lake at Portland Timbers (FS1)
11 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Phoenix Suns vs. Golden State Warriors (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: North Carolina at Sacramento Republic (FOX)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)
11 a.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Chevrolet Grand Prix (USA)

12 p.m. — PGA Tour golf: Scottish Open (CBS)
12:30 p.m. — DP World Tour golf: Scottish Open (CBS)
1 p.m. — WNBA: Phoenix Mercury vs. Connecticut Sun (ABC)
1:40 p.m. — MLB: Miami Marlins at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
2:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: HighPoint.com 400 (USA)
3 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024: England vs. Spain (FOX)
4 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at Minnesota Lynx (ABC)
6 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Houston Rockets vs. Washington Wizards (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — MLB draft (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: San Antonio Spurs vs. Atlanta Hawks (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Colombia vs. Argentina (FOX)
11 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Chicago Bulls vs. Golden State Warriors (ESPN2)

Monday
8 p.m. — MLB: Home Run Derby (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Wrestling: WWE Raw (USA)

Tuesday
6 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Charlotte Hornets vs. Denver Nuggets (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Philadelphia 76ers vs. Minnesota Timberwolves (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Los Angeles Clippers vs. Milwaukee Bucks (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — MLB: All-Star Game (FOX)
8 p.m. — Wrestling: WWE Raw (USA)

Local notes

Swiss Days Race next
The next race scheduled for the Adams County Challenge Series will be the Swiss Days Race. The race that takes place in Berne is being held on Saturday, July 27 at 8:15 a.m. The race is a 5K, or kids can participate in a one-mile course. To sign up, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

Classic set
The 11th Annual Adams Health Foundation

Golf Classic is set to be held on Sept. 13 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

Teams of four can participate for \$400, with tee times at either 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. Included are an 18-hole round of golf, a best, non-alcoholic beverages, a cooler bag and lunch. All proceeds go to school healthcare scholarships and community health. For more information, contact Kim Trombley by emailing kim.trombley@adamshealthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

Date set
The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.

Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County.

For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadinfo.org.

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

Calling all sports fans

The Commercial Review is looking for part-time

SPORTS STRINGERS

to assist with coverage of local high school athletics.

If you love sports, enjoy attending games and events in-person and have strong writing skills, this is an excellent opportunity for you.

As a sports stringer you will

Cover games as needed, as they fit into your schedule
Interview and interact with coaches and athletes
Be paid on a per-game, per-story basis

Required skills

Enjoyment and understanding of sports
Writing clearly and with a purpose
Ability to meet deadlines

Email letters of interest to r.cooney@thecr.com



Sports



Photo provided

Tourney winner

Pictured at left, regular-season runner-up Loy Real Estate and Auction took down top-seeded Portland Forge to claim the Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax tournament championship.

Skenes to start for NL

By **JUSTIN GERRIERO**
The Tribune-Review (Greensburg)
Tribune News Service

Adding to his ever-growing list of accomplishments, Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes is set to become the first rookie pitcher to start the All-Star Game in nearly three decades.

On Friday, Arizona Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo announced Skenes, recently chosen as a National League All-Star reserve, would take the hill, likely setting a collision course between the 22-year-old phenom and some of the American League's top hitters, such as Aaron

Judge, Juan Soto and Gunnar Henderson.

When he takes the mound Tuesday at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, he'll become only the fifth rookie ever to start the All-Star Game — the first since Hideo Nomo in 1995.

He also will become the fifth Pirates pitcher to start the All-Star game, joining Bob Friend (1956, '60), Vern Law (1960), Dock Ellis (1971) and Jerry Reuss (1975).

Skenes, during an appearance Friday morning on the "Dan Patrick Show," was given the news live by Lovullo, who is managing the NL squad.

"You represent so many great things that this game craves," Lovullo told Skenes. "It's such a great story, the way you've come on the scene, the way you've done it with such humbleness — it's noticeable. I'll be honored to be your manager, and I'll be honored to watch you throw your first pitch. Super excited about that."

Skenes (6-0, 1.90 ERA) certainly bolstered his own case with his Thursday afternoon gem against the Milwaukee Brewers, tossing seven no-hit innings while matching his career-high in strikeouts with 11.

See Skenes page 9

NCAA athletes may qualify as employees

By **BRIAN MARTIN**
The Orange County Register
Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA — College athletes whose efforts primarily benefit their schools may qualify as employees deserving of pay under federal wage-and-hour laws, a U.S. appeals court ruled Thursday in a setback to the NCAA.

The court, in the latest challenge to the NCAA's long-held notion of "amateurism" in college sports, said that a test should be developed to differentiate between students who play college sports for fun and those whose effort "crosses the legal line into work."

"With professional athletes as the clearest indicators, playing sports can certainly constitute compensable work," U.S. Circuit Judge L. Felipe Restrepo wrote. "Ultimately, the touchstone remains whether the

cumulative circumstances of the relationship between the athlete and college or NCAA reveal an economic reality that is that of an employee-employer."

A colleague, in a concurring opinion, questioned the difficulty of such a process, noting that nearly 200,000 students compete on nearly 6,700 Division I teams. The NCAA had hoped to have the case dismissed, but it will instead go back to the trial judge for fact finding.

The ruling follows a 2021 Supreme Court decision that led the NCAA to amend its rules to allow athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness. In May, the NCAA announced a nearly \$2.8 billion revenue-sharing plan that could steer millions of dollars directly to athletes by next year.

See Employees page 9

SUUUUUPER ADVERTISING DISCOUNTS

Run a half-page color ad in all four of our newspapers

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

for \$550.

Space for color is limited. Ads will automatically convert to black and white if color space is not available.

Rates do not apply to special sections
Ads must run in April

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

They're in Good Hands Here

- Vaccines & Preventive Care
- Illness, Injury & Surgical Care
- Flea & Heartworm Prevention
- Allergies & Nutrition

Hours:
Mon - Fri. 8-5 p.m.
call for appt on Saturday

Portland Veterinary Clinic
1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370
<http://www.portlandvet.net> • Christian Bader DVM

Dates set for second annual NBA Cup

By **MICK AKERS**
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

LAS VEGAS — The NBA Cup semifinals and championship game will be played in mid-December at T-Mobile Arena.

The two semifinal games of the second annual NBA in-season tournament will be played Dec. 14. The championship game will be held Dec. 17, the league announced Thursday.

The tournament is slated to begin Nov. 12, with teams being split into groups of five within their own conference. The games leading up to the Las Vegas finale include group play and knockout rounds, all played at the 30 NBA teams' respective home arenas.

The teams will be randomly drawn into their groups at 4 p.m. Friday on ESPN.

The Lakers won the inaugural edition of the tournament with a 123-109 victory over the Indiana Pacers at T-Mobile Arena on Dec. 9. The two semifinals and the championship game drew a combined announced crowd of 53,875.

Funeral Services
to honor your loved one

Many of us plan ahead for the events we anticipate. We plan for weddings, higher education, vacations, and other significant events. Understanding the benefits of pre-planning has prompted many to take the step to plan for their funeral. It gives you peace of mind, personal choice, and lower costs.

(260) 726-7171

For immediate assistance or information about our preplanning services, please call or contact us online today.

It's not a day in a life, but a life in a day.
Baird-Freeman Funeral Home
221 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN • www.bairdfreeman.com • (260) 726-7171