

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Variance OK'd for JCCT building

Structure planned for 204 W. High in Portland

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County Civic Theatre is one step closer to constructing its own building.

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance request Tuesday for Jay County Civic Theatre to build a new structure at 204 E. High St.

Plans are for the facility to be used mainly as a meeting and storage space.

Portland Board of Works approved Jay County Civic Theatre's bid for the property in 2023. The purchase was contingent on the organization being approved for a variance.

Jay County Civic Theatre president Ray Cooney — he is also president, editor and publisher of The Graphic Printing Company — explained the new building would be used for meetings and storage and as a place to build sets for shows. He noted the organization currently rents approximately four different locations for storage and utilizes its members' properties as well.

"For years, civic theatre has been kind of nomadic and is in need of a space to call our home," he said.

Because the area is zoned as residential, Jay County Civic Theatre needed to have a variance request approved from the city in order to build the structure.

Preliminary designs show a 41-foot by 88-foot building with rooms for storage, an office, a board room, a restroom and utility room, and a workshop. About five parking spaces located just north of the building are also included in the plan. Plans for construction are still several years out.

See **Variance** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Concrete curb

Brooks Construction workers pour concrete into a base for a sidewalk curb Wednesday at the southwest corner of Main and Meridian streets in Portland. The work is part of an ongoing Indiana Department of Transportation project that includes installing bump-outs at some downtown intersections.

JCDC discusses contract, lease

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation spent most of its meeting Tuesday discussing the two issues that have dominated its agenda recently.

Board members in attendance agreed to call a special meeting within the next few weeks to address contract stipulations from Jay County Commissioners and to take action on a lease agreement with the City of Portland. The board could not take any votes because it did not have a quorum.

JCDC's board again revisited the 13 negotiating points Jay

County Commissioners presented in May. The bulk of the discussion involved commissioners' request that JCDC reduce its voting membership to between nine and 11 members, including the mayors or council presidents of Portland and Dunkirk, one county commis-

sioner, one county council representative and representatives from Bryant, Redkey, Pennville and Salamonia, with the remaining voting members to be elected by the JCDC board and have term limits. (Additional non-voting members would be allowed.)

Board members opposed drastically reducing the board membership, though Chad Towell expressed a willingness to cut to 17 or 19 members.

Ron Laux also noted that the board was intentionally developed as a non-governmental group.

He, and others, expressed their feelings that it is important to have a wide variety of representation from utilities, schools, businesses, farming, industry and other sectors.

"The board is to reflect the community at large," said longtime member Joe Johnston.

See **JCDC** page 2

Board agrees to set meeting to take action in next few weeks

Diploma plan is updated

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Department of Education made significant changes to a proposed high school diploma overhaul on Wednesday, including offering just one baseline diploma for all graduates.

The announcement follows waves of criticism from Hoosier teachers, parents and students over earlier diploma proposals that would broadly exclude certain course requirements, like those in history, foreign language and fine arts.

Officials at multiple Indiana colleges and universities additionally warned that the previously proposed high school diplomas would not meet university admission requirements.

The new diploma model — discussed by the State Board of Education during its monthly meeting on Wednesday — has reversed those concerns, earn-

ing support from leadership at Ball State, Indiana, Indiana State and Purdue universities, as well as Ivy Tech Community College.

Under the updated draft, students can earn "readiness seals" for enrollment, employment or enlistment that correspond with their future path of continued higher education, workforce or military service.

Each readiness category has two possible seals — honors and honors plus.

The baseline diploma differs slightly from the current Core 40 diploma, requiring 42 credits instead of 40. Students can choose classes above that to

meet the separate seal requirements.

Depending on the type of schedule a student is on, they can earn between 56 and 64 credits.

Coursework options, as well as approved work-based learning and apprenticeships, can translate to achieving seals.

If a student wants to go to a four-year college, they would generally need the enrollment honors seal, according to IDOE officials. The requirements for that seal equate to the existing academic honors diploma, which 35% of students are currently earning.

See **Diploma** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Roman Pilipey

On the offensive

Ukrainian servicemen operate a Soviet-made T-72 tank in the Sumy region, near the border with Russia, on Monday amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine launched a surprise offensive into the Russian border region of Kursk on Aug. 6, capturing over two dozen towns and villages in the most significant cross-border attack on Russian soil since World War II.

Deaths

Gerald Rinard, 82, Heartland, Texas
Rita Affolder, 55, Berne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Tuesday. The low was 59.

Rain is expected tonight with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour and a low in the upper 60s. There is a chance of thunderstorms. More rain is possible Friday with a high in the mid 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Glass Days festival is scheduled for Saturday in Dunkirk. It will include glass factory tours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., a push-up contest and a cornhole tournament at 11 a.m., children's activities from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a pet parade at 1 p.m., car show from 2 to 5 p.m. and a Cook & Belle concert at 5 p.m.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Photos from Friday's JCHS football scrimmage with Richmond.

Tuesday — Fort Recovery fall sports preview section looks at the 2024 season.



Variance ...

Continued from page 1
Local resident Emily Goodrich — she said she represented neighboring property owner Bill Childers, who was not able to make the meeting — said Childers was on board with Jay County Civic Theatre's plans.

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals member Virginia Burkey added that she has spoken with Asbury United Methodist Church's pastor Joe Boggs and that he has no issue with the plan.

"I think it's an asset myself," Burkey said.

John Hemmelgarn, director of Jay/Portland Building and Planning, said he sees no issues with civic theatre putting a new building on the lot. He noted he would

like to see more parking available for the building but pointed to the nearby city parking lot as well as Asbury United Methodist Church's parking lot just northeast of the property.

Hemmelgarn noted that the building maximizes the property's space, meaning if Jay County Civic Theatre wanted to expand it would need to buy additional property or add more floors to the structure.

He asked what material the exterior would be, with Jay County Civic Theatre treasurer Greg Rittenhouse noting those details will be finalized later in the process.

"I just want to make sure it's going to look good," Hemmelgarn said, noting a pole barn would not be allowed in the area.

Others voiced concerns about the possibility of Jay County Civic Theatre using the space for outside storage or not maintaining the grounds. Rittenhouse noted it would reflect on Jay County Civic Theatre if its facility were not kept in order.

"That would be important for us too, just from the standpoint of our name and pride in the community," he said.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur explained the board may impose reasonable conditions with its variance approval as it deems necessary. He suggested the board approve the variance on three conditions: outside storage is not allowed on the property, landscaping and maintenance are kept up to

city code and adherence to "neighborhood aesthetics" for the exterior of the building — specifically, the organization won't build a pole barn or similar structure that would look vastly different from the surrounding homes.

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals member Ron Laux made a motion to that effect.

Board members Larry Petro, Kyle Cook, Burkey and Laux approved the request. Aaron Loy abstained because his wife, Katie, is a member of the Jay County Civic Theatre board of directors.

In other business, Pati McLaughlin of Jay/Portland Building and Planning noted the Portland Board of Zoning Appeals' next meeting is Sept. 10.

Obituaries

Gerald Rinard

May 24, 1942-June 6, 2024

A Celebration of Life for Gerald L. Rinard will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Pennville Cornerstone Church, 109 W. Main St., Pennville.

Food and fellowship are planned for after the service.

Rita A. Affolder, Berne, a relative of Geneva residents, Dec. 26, 1967-Aug. 8, 2024. No services will be held.



Rinard

CR almanac

| Friday 8/16 | Saturday 8/17 | Sunday 8/18 | Monday 8/19 | Tuesday 8/20 |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | |
| 84/65 | 78/61 | 79/60 | 80/59 | 80/56 |
| There's an 80% chance of rain and thunderstorms on Friday, when the high may be 84. | Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be around 78 degrees. | Sunday's forecast shows a chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny. | Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday, when the high will be 80. | Sunny skies are on the horizon for Tuesday, when the high will be 80. |

Lotteries

| | |
|---|---|
| Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million | Evening Daily Three: 3-3-4 Daily Four: 1-3-5-5 Quick Draw: 4-7-19-29-31-34-39-40-45-49-53-58-61-62-66-68-70-75-78-79 |
| Mega Millions 34-55-59-65-70 Mega Ball: 12 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$464 million | Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 5-9-9 Pick 4: 2-3-3-1 Pick 5: 5-7-7-7-6 Evening Pick 3: 0-9-9 Pick 4: 4-0-9-4 Pick 5: 8-2-6-9-2 Rolling Cash: 16-22-26-29-37 Estimated jackpot: \$214,000 |
| Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 4-1-0 Daily Four: 2-9-6-7 Quick Draw: 5-8-11-14-19-23-40-45-50-53-54-57-58-61-62-64-66-67-77-78 | |

Markets

| | |
|--|--|
| Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.61 Sept. corn3.69 Wheat4.52 | Sept. beans9.23 Wheat 4.80 |
| POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.60 Sept. corn3.63 Oct. corn3.65 | ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.52 Sept. corn3.52 Beans.....9.88 Sept. beans9.63 Wheat4.87 |
| The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.61 Sept. corn3.61 Beans.....9.58 | Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.56 Sept. corn3.56 Beans.....9.64 Sept. beans.....9.09 Wheat4.60 |

Today in history

In 1483, Pope Sixtus IV consecrated theistine Chapel.
In 1939, the MGM musical "The Wizard of Oz" opened at the Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.
In 1945, in a pre-recorded radio address, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced that his country had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II.
In 1995, details of Portland's Meridian Street beautification and renovation project were finalized. The work was to include new light fixtures, benches, bricks, trees, grates and trash containers.
In 2004, in Athens, the U.S. men's basketball team lost 92-73 to Puerto Rico, only the third Olympic defeat ever for the Americans and the first since adding pros.
In 2022, Portland City Council approved a 5% raise for city employees, some of whom angrily walked out of the meeting after the vote. They had been hoping for the addition of longevity pay in addition to the 5% increase. (One employee threw his shirt at council members after a vote for a 5% raise plus longevity pay was rejected 4-3.) —The CR

Citizen's calendar

| | |
|---|--|
| Today 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Morgan Drive, Redkey. | 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Morgan Drive, Redkey. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St. |
| Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. | Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, municipal airport, 661 W. 100 North. |

JCDC ...

Continued from page 1
Board members also discussed a proposed rental agreement with the City of Portland for JCDC's office space in Community Resource Center. JCDC executive director noted that a discrepancy regarding responsibility for furnace, air conditioning and other related repairs has been removed.

The contract still leaves JCDC with the responsibility for receiving bills for shared utilities and collecting payments from other tenants.

"Which is not really where we wanted to land but is where we're still at," said Richards.

While unable to take a formal vote, the board informally agreed to move forward with the contract at its next meeting.

Board member Mike Medler asked that JCDC

be provided more notice before the next lease agreement discussion.

The board also briefly discussed a request from commissioners to meet with Bill Walters of East Central Indiana Regional Planning District as part of Walters working toward putting together a proposal for international development.

Board members discussed the situation, including how much information should be shared given that JCDC does not currently have a contract with the county. Some board members expressed concern that the commissioners will pursue entering a contract with the regional planning district for economic development in the county in direct competition with JCDC.
The board members

advised Richards to attend the meeting to gauge what the opportunity is about but only share what information he is comfortable with given the circumstances.

In other business:

•Heard a reminder from Mary Adair of Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau regarding upcoming events. She noted Dunkirk's Glass Days festival that is scheduled for Saturday on Commerce Street, Webster Depot Park and the American Legion property and the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show next week at Jay County Fairgrounds. She also noted that a new business is planned for the location at the southwest corner of Walnut and Commerce Streets in Portland that was previously the site of Yergy's.

Diploma ...

Continued from page 1
Those working toward the enrollment honors seal would take additional world languages, social studies, math and science credits. Students will need to earn a C or higher in all courses and certain marks on AP or other college exams.

To go one step further, the enrollment honors plus seal would require students to earn an associate's degree or similar credential, in addition to 100 hours of work-based learning.

If a student wants to move directly to the workforce, they would likely target an employment honors seal.

For that option, they would need a market-driven credential or three career and technical education courses; 100 hours of work-based learning, skill development and meeting an attendance goal.

An employment honors plus seal would add additional credentials or degrees and increase the work-based learning hours to 650.

Seals are optional, but students who earn one will automatically satisfy

the Graduation Pathways requirements — which must be completed in order to receive a high school diploma.

State education officials said the diploma plan will be published in the state register, which will trigger a new 30-day comment period. During that window, the state education board is expected to hold several in-person hearings. Comments can also be submitted online.

Changes can still be made after the comment period and before final adoption by the board, however.

Under a law passed by Indiana legislators in 2023, the state must adopt new diploma requirements by December.

Schools could choose to opt in and start offering the new diplomas as early as the 2025-26 academic year. The new diplomas will take effect for all Hoosier students beginning with the Class of 2029, who are entering eighth grade this fall.

Paramount to the new plan, according to state officials, is maximized "flexibility" for students to personalize learning pathways and experiences.

Judge hears arguments in care case

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Attorneys trying to preserve attendant care services for two Hoosier families appeared before U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Walton Pratt on Tuesday, urging her to order an injunction that would halt their transition to structured family care.

An injunction would apply only to the families named in the suit, though it's possible the injunction could be expanded. The family members of E.R. and G.S. are the only families in the state still receiving attendant care payments as legally responsible individuals while roughly 1,600 others have left the program.

SERVICES

Thursday
Morrical, Joyce: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Photo provided

Eagle Scout

Hayden Richman received his Eagle Scout rank Aug. 8 with Troop 202 Scouting America of Portland. Richman, a Jay County High School student, plans to join the United States Navy after graduation.

Minnetrista gets grant

Indiana Arts Commission recently awarded Minnetrista Museum & Gardens of Muncie for its upcoming "Imagine in Glass" exhibit.

The exhibit invites school-age children to submit their drawings until Sept. 1. Students at Ball State University will choose drawings to create in glass, with the children able to see the pieces being created.

"Art and creativity foster connection and cohesion, support the entrepreneurial spirit communities need to thrive, and help build the kinds of communities where people want to live, work, play, study, and stay," said Miah Michaelsen, executive director of the arts commission, in a press release. "In every corner of the Hoosier state, public funding for arts and creativity continually proves to be a high-return investment that positively impacts the cultural, economic, and educational climate of Indiana. It is a privilege to support the organizations

Taking Note

building stronger Indiana communities through arts and creativity."

To submit a drawing or for more information, visit minnetrista.net.

MusicWorks classes

Music lessons will begin next month.

Registration is now open for Arts Place MusicWorks classes at the organization's Jay County and Blackford County facilities.

MusicWorks classes, which are open to students of all ages, are available for a variety of instruments, including piano, harp, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and drums. Voice lessons are also available. There are also group lessons and ensembles.

Scholarships and finan-

cial assistance are available.

To register, visit myartsplace.org. The deadline is Friday, Sept. 6.

For more information, call the Jay County Campus of Arts Place at (260) 726-4809 or Arts Place's Blackford County Arts Central at (765) 348-4154.

Tickets available

Tickets are on sale for the Emens Auditorium 2024-25 seasons.

The facility at Ball State University is hosting a range of events, including "The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes" on Sept. 14, the musicals "The Book of Mormon" and "Hadestown" on Sept. 24 and Oct. 22, respectively, a concert with Luca Stricagnoli on Nov. 14 and performances by the University Singers on April 4 and 5.

Tickets are available via Ticketmaster, at the Emens Auditorium box office or by calling (765) 285-1539.

Mother moved out of house, but her possessions remain

DEAR ABBY: I am involved with a man, "Gerald," who is an only child and has a difficult relationship with his mother. We bought his mother's home two years ago because she couldn't afford it on her own. She had separated from her husband, who is not Gerald's father.

Initially, his mother was going to stay with us, but she reunited with her husband instead. The issue is, she has not removed her personal items from our home. She's a bit of a hoarder. Our garage is full of her stuff, and every room in our home has her furniture and personal items in it.

I have packed many of them and can no longer deal with the anxiety of the unknown wait-

Dear Abby



ing and wondering when she plans to move them. Gerald's strained relationship with his mother doesn't help the situation. I made him text his stepfather asking when the items will be picked up.

According to Gerald, his mother has control issues, and this is all part of her game. I need advice because I'm desperate. I feel Gerald is at fault for not setting an expectation when

we first purchased the home. — BOXED UP IN TEXAS

DEAR BOXED UP: Call Gerald's mother. Tell her you want her things out of your home and set a date, after which you will arrange for a moving company to deliver them to her and her husband. Be sure to give her plenty of notice — a month — so she can plan to have what items she doesn't need placed in storage (at her expense). Will she like you for it? Heck, no. But you will be free.

DEAR ABBY: My sister was recently in the hospital. Due to swelling in her hands, it became necessary to remove her wedding band. This ring was our late father's wedding band. If

we were not successful in removing it, they were going to have to cut it off. I asked if she wanted me to take it home with me, and she nodded yes. I returned it to her when she came home.

I am now being accused by my family of stealing the ring! My sister wears only this ring, no others. But my family insists she was wearing two of our mother's rings. Nope. Mom was buried with her original wedding ring set and her anniversary ring. (Our parents had been married more than 50 years when Dad passed away. Mom followed five years later.)

I love my family, but right now I'd rather not speak to them for a while. Should I forget the accusation made against me, or keep my

distance for my own benefit? — ACCUSED IN MISSOURI

DEAR ACCUSED: You didn't mention who, exactly, is accusing you of stealing the ring. Is it your sister? She knows how many rings she was wearing when she went to the hospital and should be able to straighten these relatives out. If she cannot or will not do that, for the sake of your mental well-being, it might be better to avoid your accusers until this is resolved.

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.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation,

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.

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

ORGAN TRANSPLANT

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon, Friday, Aug. 16, at Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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



Our fall home improvement 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
- 1/2-page B&W \$320
- full-page B&W \$400
- 1/4-page color \$350
- 1/2-page color \$400
- 1/4-page B&W \$280

Big business card (3x3.5) - \$120

Business card (2x2) - \$80

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Land use decisions are most critical

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Don't quibble. Yes, of course, people are important. We don't discredit the sob stories about degraded humans all across this earth. But if we appreciated the land and its role in human affairs, we might have fewer sob stories.

And, no, this column has not been sponsored by the Indiana Farm Bureau. Primarily, this column is a tribute to the Kokomo by-pass and the recently completed Interstate 69 route from Indianapolis to Evansville.

If you have traveled the Kokomo by-pass (U.S. 31), you know there are no commercial or new residential activities at its interchanges. No bland warehouses line its path east of the famed, previous Kokomo

Eye on the Pie



parade of traffic lights, which once served as a by-pass.

Likewise, there is little that is new along the "new" Interstate 69. It is basically an upgrading of four-lane Indiana 37, from Interstate 465 and Harding St. in Indianapolis, south through Martinsville, to a point southwest of Bloomington.

The tragedy of highway construction in the past has been the inordinate "development" or degradation of adjacent land.

We too easily forget the purpose of super-highways is not to make adjacent land owners rich, but to assist in the transport of goods and people between existing places.

We have to make choices about where we locate highways. The interstate system was intended to link cities, not destroy them.

Only Indianapolis among our major cities has two major interstates from the four cardinal directions feeding downtown.

This pattern is followed in other states as well. St. Louis and Chicago, Louisville and Cincinnati. Cleveland and Detroit, Nashville and Columbus, Ohio, are crossroads of interstates.

Each of these metropolitan centers have struggled to

restore their downtowns to regional dominance. Circumferential highways (Interstate 465 around Indiana's capital city) have shifted commercial and residential activities away from the hub and spoke urban patterns of the past.

In smaller cities, like Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Columbus, South Bend, Elkhart, Michigan City, Bloomington, Anderson and Richmond, the interstates avoided downtown and drew development like economic magnets.

Today, we see the interstates lined with offices, apartment houses, warehouses, hospitals and retail centers vying for the open spaces between interchanges.

The worst of these are residential properties where occupants are subjected to height-

ened levels of pollutants and noise. When local zoning boards permit these inappropriate developments, we witness greed merged with indifference.

Current users of Interstate 69 between Bloomington and Evansville, as well as some travelers on the new Kokomo by-pass, complain about the lack of gas stations at the interchanges. Most of these complaints come from those experiencing bladder discomfort, not a need to refill but to empty "the tank."

But the lack of extraneous, intrusive "development" should be applauded as evidence of progress matched with preservation.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Consumers should be able to choose

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Even those of us who Google every day — and that's the vast majority of us — can and should applaud this week's federal court ruling holding that the company is maintaining its dominance in internet search through an illegal monopoly.

Google search can simultaneously be a very, very useful product (indeed, the judge said it is "widely recognized as the best" general search engine "available in the United States") and one that might not stay in the digital catbird seat if it weren't strong-arming competitors.

D.C. Federal Judge Amit Mehta's ruling is rooted in the fact that Google spends billions of dollars to have its search engine installed as the default on new smartphones and other devices. In just one recent year alone, those agreements cost the company \$26 billion — far more than most competitors can possibly afford.

While users certainly have a choice to go into their settings and change the default search engine to Bing (7% market share in the U.S.) or DuckDuckGo (2% market share), Google — with 90% market share overall and even higher than that on mobile devices — knows it's a big deal to be the automatic option for millions. If it weren't, they wouldn't pay anything near that sum.

When users reflexively rely on Google, every click that follows further cements Google's dominance in advertising — which in this case the judge said enabled monopolistic pricing — and a wide range of other realms. It's the key that unlocks the door to making money online.

The judicial-ordered remedy is still to be determined; the legal process to arrive at that will begin next month. This could include penalties or structural changes that weaken the company's ability or outright prevent it from setting Google as the default.

Also to be determined is whether the ruling and remedies will stand once the logic of the decision is subjected to the scrutiny of higher courts. There will be appeals — Google has a very well-funded

Guest Editorial

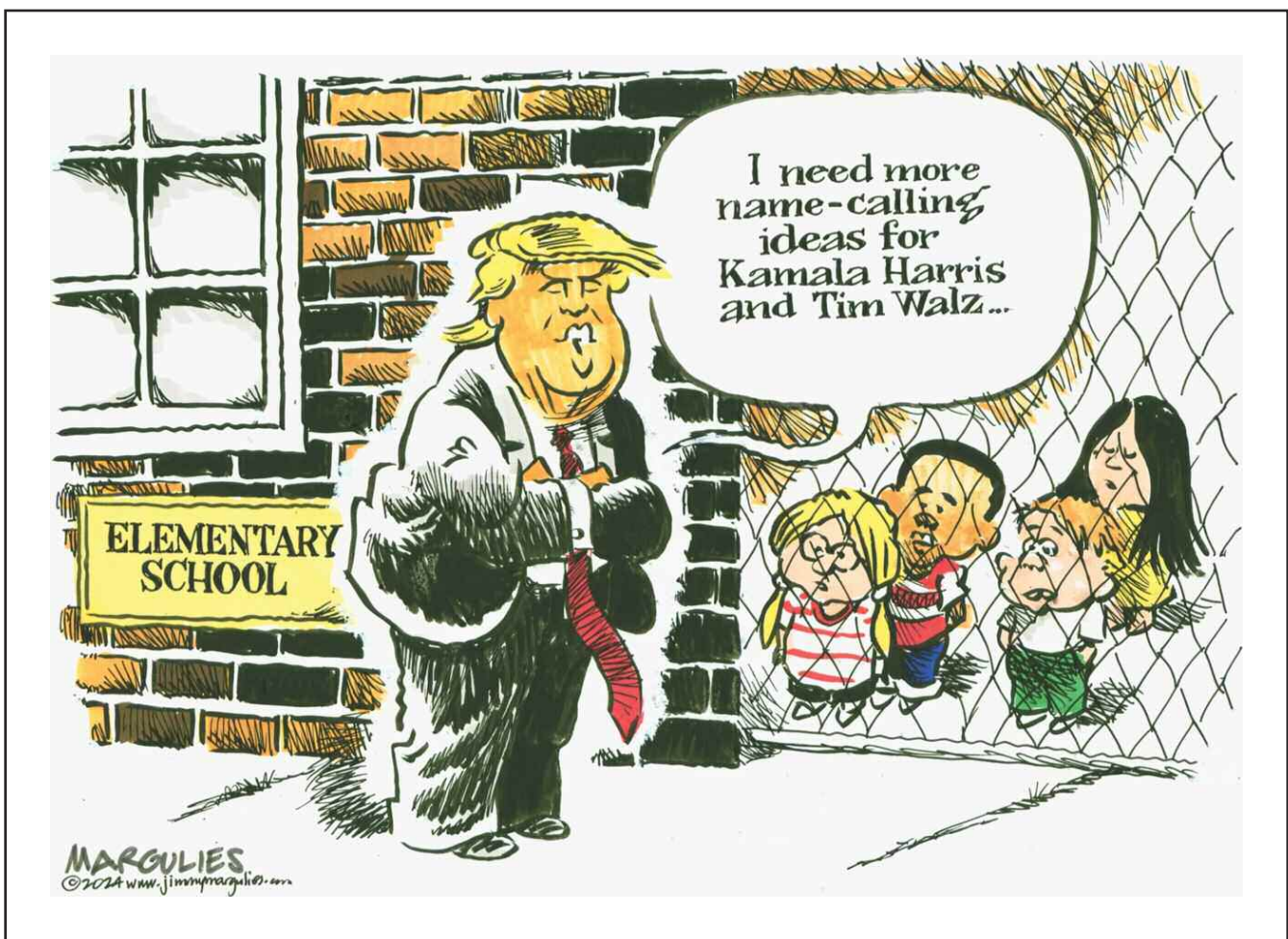
When users reflexively rely on Google, every click that follows further cements Google's dominance in advertising ...

legal department, as does the U.S. Department of Justice and state attorneys general who brought the case. They're both hunkering down for the long haul.

This was already looking like an unsettled moment for internet search engines. A new generation of AI-enabled tools including Perplexity AI, OpenAI's SearchGPT and Bing are jockeying with Google's new AI-enabled search to do more than just deliver a list of hits to queries.

These programs take an increasingly massive and confusing internet and distill it so that users can increasingly get everything they need without leaving the page where they entered their query. That's going to wind up giving Google, or whatever relative upstart makes inroads against it, even more power and money-making ability than before.

We hope the ruling withstands the scrutiny of higher courts. Consumers should be utterly free to pick Google if they like it best, and we think many will probably make that choice, at least in the near term. After all, the word Google has become a category-define brand name akin to Xerox or Kleenex. But the decision ought to be made on the level, not with one of the biggest hands on the world wide web putting its fat thumb on the scale.



Do the right kind of nothing

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

It was a late afternoon conversation on the back patio. Dot, my wife, and I were talking about major events that have occurred in our almost 70 years of marriage, and that's a lot of ground to cover. "Do you recall a time like this when it seems the world is coming apart: COVID shutdowns, financial distress, the Ukraine war, the Middle East, and constant economic upheavals, and now a huge financial market sell-off?" Dot asked.

After thinking a bit, I admitted that I could not recall anything quite like the last 15 years.

Dot responded with a challenge: "If you were made economics czar in January and had full sway to change federal policies, what would you do to make things better? Taxes? Regulation? What?"

After a long silence, which gave me a chance to think a bit, I suggested two things that I would do as economics czar. The answers? First, the right kind of nothing — a year-long ban on any changes in taxes, spending, regulation, tariffs and monetary policy, and during that pause, a call for a long conversation with the American people about their hopes, dreams and future promise.

Now, some background. There's no doubt about it, since the 2008 Great Recession, the U.S. economy has been roiled to look more like the Great American Scream Machine than the Great American Bread Machine. The Federal Reserve is still trying to reduce inflation from the high nines to a 2% goal while working to avoid another recession. Meanwhile, presidential candidates from both parties are calling for more tariffs, higher taxes for some and lower for others, and more or different kinds of regulation.

Put another way, the economics medicine men and women are on the hunt. With external shocks aplenty,

like energy interruptions, wars and a pandemic, we have been on a bumpy policy path with more potholes promised.

Just to put some dimensions on the roller coaster turbulence experienced by the American people since 2007, consider this. The unemployment rate stood at 4.7% in October 2007. It rose to 10.0% in October 2009 during the recession, just two years later. The rate then plummeted as the economy became flush with stimulus money and hit 3.5% in February 2020. Then, with COVID shutdowns, the unemployment rate jumped to 14.8% in April 2020, the largest one-month increase since 1939. It then fell to 3.4% in April 2023, after the Fed continued to cut interest rates, but rose to 4.3% in July 2024 following a Fed policy reversal. We are almost back where we started in 2007. Whew!!! What a ride!

The Fed's goosing and then braking actions delivered higher interest rates, which in turn took a bite out of economic activity. The effects are seen in the average interest rate paid nationwide for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages. The rate paid in third quarter 2007 stood at 6.55%. This was before the 2008 Great Recession, COVID and the later battle against inflation. Long after the recession, in the fourth quarter of 2012, when the economy was flooded with money, the rate fell to 3.36%. Then, when the Fed reversed its benign and began to tighten, the mortgage rate rose to 4.78% in 2018's fourth quarter. In 2024's second quarter, it hit 7.0%. When the trip

started in 2007, the mortgage rate stood at 6.55%. We are almost back. What a ride!

To get a handle on government intervention during all this, the Brookings Institution's Hutchins Center produces a Fiscal Impact Measure that estimates how much local, state and federal spending adds to GDP quarterly growth. The measure's four-quarter moving average stood at minus 0.25 percentage points in 2007's third quarter. At the time, there was no meaningful government stimulus. After efforts to cushion the effects of the 2008 recession, the measure jumped to 2.62 percentage points in 2009's fourth quarter. In 2018's second quarter, the measure rose to 3.85 percentage points, and in 2021's first quarter, 5.23 percentage points. Brookings predicts that the Impact Measure will register minus 0.08% in this year's fourth quarter. This is close to where the ride started in 2007. Finally, real GDP growth was hitting 2.41% in 2007's third quarter. The most recent estimate shows 3.1% for 2024's second quarter.

We are back! But as Jerry Lee Lewis might have put it, there was "a whole lotta shakin' goin on."

So, with this background in mind and memories of the rough roller coaster ride still intact, let's have a year-long policy pause and give the economy a chance to find itself, to regain balance and move forward. Of course, we will have to respond to external shocks, should they occur; but let's not add any of our own making.

And while catching our economic breath, let's have a national conversation with hearings in major cities speaking to the fundamental question: What are our hopes and dreams, and what is our future promise?

Yandle is a Distinguished Adjunct Fellow for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Bruce Yandle



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

An insurance policy

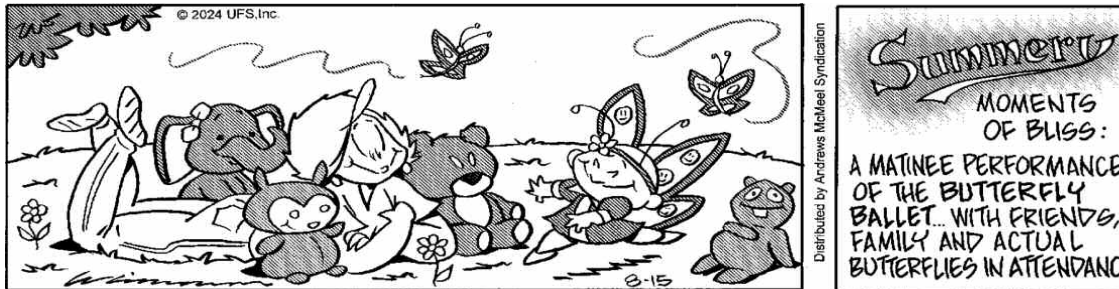
West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A K J 9 5 3, 9 6 4, 8 5 4 2. WEST: 8 7 6, 7, A K 10 8 7 4 2, A Q. EAST: 10, Q J 2, Q 9 5 3, J 10 9 6 3. SOUTH: Q 4 2, A K 10 8 5 3, J 6, K 7. The bidding: West 1♦, North 1♠, East 2♦, South 2♥. 4♦, 4♥, Pass, Pass. 5♦, Pass, Pass, 5♥. Opening lead — king of diamonds. Unusual circumstances sometimes compel declarer to make a play he ordinarily would not consider. For example, take this deal where normal play by declarer would lead to defeat of the contract, while a seemingly abnormal approach would get him home safely. South is in five hearts, and West leads a diamond. Let's assume declarer ruffs in dummy, plays a trump to the ace and ruffs his remaining diamond. He then leads a spade to the queen and cashes the king of hearts, hoping the trumps are divided 2-2. But after West shows out, it does not matter whether South next leads another trump or tries to run the spades. In either case, East gains the lead with the queen of trump and returns a club, and South goes down one. The objection to this line of play is that it leans too heavily on a favorable trump division. There is, however, another approach that offers a far better chance to make the contract. At trick two, declarer leads a trump from dummy, but after East follows low (the normal play with this holding), South finesses the eight! He doesn't expect the eight to win — the odds are greatly against it — but he doesn't mind losing to the queen or jack. If West wins the trick, South can handle any return. His king of clubs is immune to attack with West on lead. No matter what West returns, South draws the missing trumps at the first opportunity to assure the contract. In the actual case, the eight wins, and this unexpected turn of events gives declarer all the tricks. The safety play yields not only the contract, but two extra tricks as well.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



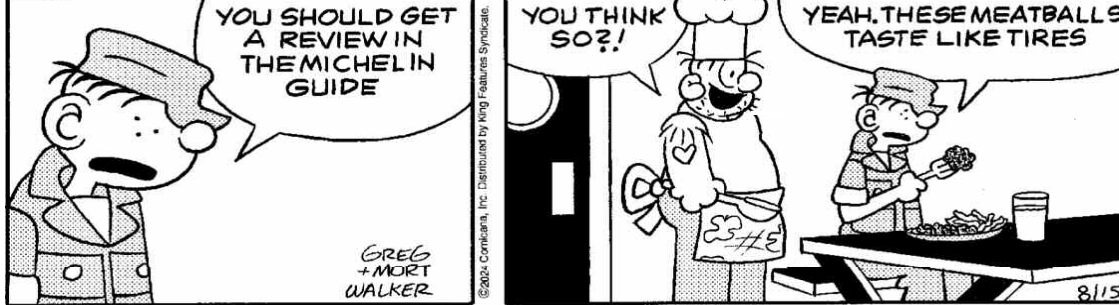
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



8-15 CRYPTOQUIP

NOLBY RWGR JGL JGXY G
NOKGFZY QDVRTLY QVDJ
DVUGLOKOLU XYFTRGLRY FGZZN,
ON WY G BDROZZODL-GOVY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT FELLOW SNEEZED AFTER CONSUMING A DOZEN OR SO NUTS, WE COULD HEAR HIM GO "CA-SHEW!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Fragrant tree, 4 Baseball game souvenirs, 8 Staff symbol, 12 I love (Lat.), 13 "Swan Song" author, 14 Capital of Italia, 15 Felix, to Oscar, 17 Idle of Monty Python, 18 Skier Tommy, 19 Wood muncher, 21 Preference, 24 Kanga's kid, 25 Fury, 26 Lean- (sheds), 28 Wrap up by, 32 Baseball great Willie, 34 Name, 36 First-rate, 37 Ninnies, 39 "Wham!"

DOWN: 16 French pronoun, 20 Shad product, 21 — bean, 22 401(k) relatives, 23 Pantheon member, 27 "How's it goin'?", 29 Campus quarters, 30 Actress Hathaway, 31 Eye drop, 33 Dakar's country, 35 Physique, 38 Weep, 40 Basket material, 43 Sir's counterpart, 45 Scratch, 46 Recipe arnts, 47 Tot's scrape, 48 "Toodle-oo!", 49 Kaplan who played Kotter, 53 Slugger's stat, 54 Verse by Neruda, 55 1510, in old Rome

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-15

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| 12 | | | 13 | | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | 16 | | | | | 17 | | | |
| | | 18 | | | 19 | | 20 | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | | | 23 | | 24 | | | | | |
| 25 | | | 26 | | 27 | | 28 | | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 | | 33 | | 34 | | 35 | | 36 | | | |
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| | | 42 | | 43 | | 44 | | 45 | | | |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | | | 49 | | 50 | | | | |
| 51 | | | | 52 | | 53 | | | 54 | 55 | |
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| 59 | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | | |

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Sports

Shaving strokes and heads

Indians have pushed bet with Vaughn as they topple South Adams

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

GENEVA — The hair on coach Jeff Vaughn's head will live to see another day.

While the Indians didn't score low enough to force their coach to shave his head, they did play well enough to take down the Starfires.

Fort Recovery High School's girls golf team shot well enough to stay under 200 strokes for the second day in a row Tuesday as they beat the South Adams Starfires 199-212 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

"Anytime we can get a W, we'll be happy," Vaughn said. "We shot under 200 again. Anytime we get under 200 I'm happy."

The Indians' victory over South Adams comes just one day after they shot a 197 to beat Marion Local in the Midwest Athletic Conference opener. The sub-200 stroke scores are also less than 10 strokes away from a bet Vaughn made with his team saying that if they shoot in the 180s, they get to shave his head and bleach what's left.

"Two weeks ago, the girls said 'Well coach, if we shoot in the 180s can we shave your head and bleach it?'" Vaughn recounted. "At that point I thought 'yeah sure.' Then we shoot a 197 and a 199.

"Our first match we shot a 223 and I was dis-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Mallory Evers of the Fort Recovery High School girls golf team chips onto the fifth green at Wabash Valley Golf Course on Tuesday. The junior provided Fort Recovery's third score in the 199-212 victory over South Adams by shooting a 50.

appointed and ever since then it seems like they turned it up a notch. ... If they keep getting improvement and consistently (score) in the mid 40s, that under 190 is definitely possible."

The two golfers that provided a significant push for Fort Recovery (3-2) were Emma Will and Olivia Knapke.

Will started the 2023

season a lot slower, resulting in the senior shooting a 55 when she made the trip to Geneva. She not only improved her score by nearly 10 strokes, but also claimed match medalist honors with her round of 47 Tuesday.

"Honestly I'm kind of shocked (by the hot start), because I did not practice at all before the

season started," Will admitted. "I think it's just a matter of not thinking too hard about it like I usually do."

Just like the season overall, Will got off to a hot start in the match, making par on the first hole - she started on No. 2 - and bogeys on the third and fourth before making par on the sixth and seventh as well.

Her par on the 370-yard, par-5 second hole started with a drive down the middle of the fairway, 175 yards from the green. Her second shot took her to the rough on the right side before a third landed her on the fringe 25 feet from the hole. One putt came up 10 inches short of a birdie before the second sealed par.

See **Shaving** page 7

Smith leads Tribe golfers to victory

This is Caleb Smith's first year as a full time varsity member.

Five matches in and he's found himself outsourcing three players who earned All-MAC honors to become the match medalist.

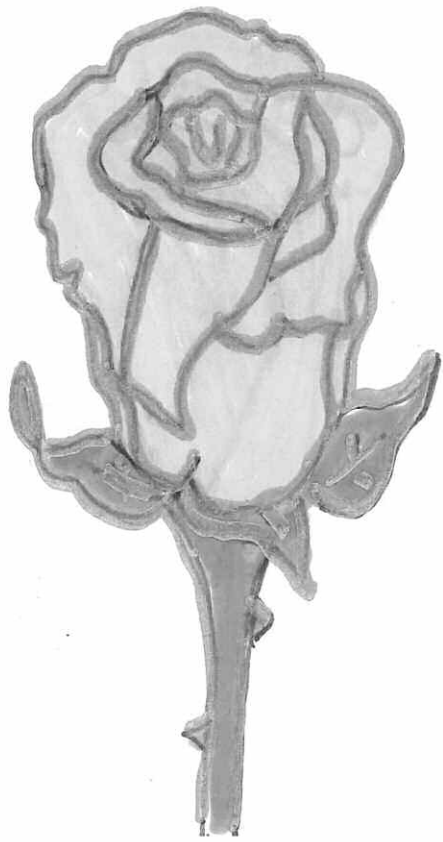
Smith contributed the low score of 38 strokes for the Fort Recovery High School boys golf team in Tuesday's 163-176 win against the Tri-Village Patriots at Portland Golf Club.

Smith never shot worse than a bogey in his round. He finished with birdies on the par-5 12th hole and the par-5 14th, pars on 15th and 18th and five bogeys.

Tri-Village senior Trey Homan had the Patriots' low score, as he ended with a 41.

Keegan Muhlenkamp bounced back from a few recent rough matches to tie Homan at 41. His round was propelled by four pars, including three in a row from the 14th to 16th hole. The 18th was the only hole he shot worse than a bogey, finishing with a double-bogey.

See **Tribe** page 7



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