

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Grazing goats

A group of goats walks along while grazing in a field at the intersection of Mount Pleasant Road and county road 200 West late on an overcast Thursday morning. Cloudy conditions, with some rain, are expected to continue through the weekend.

Council changes pay rates for some positions

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Some county positions will see changes reflected in their paychecks in the near future.

Jay County Council on Wednesday approved pay changes for Jay County Public Defender's Office and a pay increase for Jay County Highway Department's assistant superintendent. It also OK'd shifting Jay County Country Living's director role from a part-time to full-time position.

It also agreed to a \$178,500 contract with Ritter Strategic Services for the second phase in a plan to convert the county's emergency responder radios to the Integrated Public Safety Commission's radio system and heard a request to extend a prospective solar farm's completion date by two years.

Jay County Country Living's advisory board recommended the county make its director position a full-time job, bumping the salary from approximately \$32,000 to \$55,000. The changes involve combining the financial coordinator's duties with the director role.

Currently, Melissa Blankley is serving as interim director. She served as director of the department for about a year before leaving at the end of 2023. Kristie Delaney took over the role from Blankley. Delaney was removed from the position in June.

Questions ensued Wednesday about the facility's future and the advisory board's efforts toward its supervision. Council member and advisory board president Cindy Bracy confirmed the county will need to hire a person for the full-time position.

Council agreed to the pay increase, with council member Harold Towell dissenting, effective once the position is filled.

Jay County Public Defender's Office request comes as a result of its plans to reduce the amount of public defenders positions to four.

Former Jay County public defender Aaron Henderson stepped down from the job July 1, having accepted the role of chief public defender in Blackford County. Henderson is finishing his last cases in Jay County courts but is not taking any more cases.

Jay County chief public defender Brandon Murphy explained Wednesday after reviewing the department's caseload, his board decided to leave the position vacant for now and instead increase the caseloads of the other employees. Because of the higher caseloads, Murphy explained, he would like to split the vacant position's pay among the other public defenders.

His request involved bumping two public defenders to \$85,000 salaries each for the remainder of the year. Murphy does not plan to ask for \$85,000 for those positions in the 2025 budget. Council approved the request.

See Council page 2

Former jail officer sentenced

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A former Jay County Jail correctional officer has been sentenced to one year of home detention for engaging in sexual acts with an inmate.

John R. Norris, 33, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty Wednesday in Jay Circuit Court to sexual misconduct, a Level 5 felony. Norris was charged in court Feb. 21 with knowingly or intentionally engaging in sexual intercourse with an inmate.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur explained in court Wednesday that Norris engaged in oral sex with the inmate.

Jay County Sheriff's

Office administration learned about the alleged act Jan. 31 from the inmate's cellmate, Paige Curtis. She told police her cellmate, identified as "KB" in court, was "hyper sexual and wanted some male attention," court documents say. She said Norris slipped "KB" his phone number on the back of a feminine hygiene pad while working in December.

Curtis also said "KB" had been flirting with Norris using the jail's messaging system, Chirps, and that he expressed sexual arousal and a desire to be alone with her.

"KB" choked on a potato chip while in her cell on the evening of Dec. 15, and Nor-

ris entered her cell and performed the Heimlich maneuver on her. Curtis told investigators Norris and "KB" then began kissing.

Later that night, she said, Norris returned to their cell, and Curtis and Norris engaged in oral sex. Curtis told police that Norris would not let her leave the cell during the interaction.

"KB" told investigators she had oral sex with Norris, and after the initial incident Norris was "in and out of the cell block many times," walking into the cell to "expose himself to them," according to court documents.

Schemenaur pointed Wednesday to the inherent

imbalance of power between Norris and "KB," noting inmates are "totally at the liberty" of those working at Jay County Jail. He requested Norris receive a three-year sentence with two years spent in prison and one on probation.

Norris' 14-year-old daughter and his wife, Alyssa Norris, both took the stand. Both of them asked Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison to consider a lesser sentence.

Alyssa Norris, who has been married to John Norris for nearly two years, explained she has difficulties working because of a heart condition. A part-time employee at Jay Coun-

ty Pregnancy Care Center, she noted their family's lives would be significantly impacted if her husband wasn't able to provide income for them for a period of time.

She also said John Norris has been attending therapy, as well as attending services at Lighthouse Church in Hartford City. She told the court she's seen a change in her husband in the last few months.

"He wants to be the man I deserve, the man he was not being in our marriage," she said.

Norris said he has post-traumatic stress disorder from his time in United States Air Force.

See Sentenced page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Spencer Platt

Negotiations expected to save billions on drugs

By JOHN TOZZI,
FIONA RUTHERFORD
and ROBERT LANGRETH
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government's landmark drug price negotiations will save Americans \$7.5 billion in its inaugural year, the Biden administration said, a first step toward driving down its world-leading pharmaceutical bill.

The savings will be split between senior citizens, who will fork out \$1.5 billion less in out-of-pocket costs for ten medications, and the government, as its health insurance program for the elderly will pay \$6 billion less to treat heart failure, blood clots, diabetes and other conditions in 2026.

Some of the world's biggest medicines made by leading drug

companies will see prices cut by 38% to 79%, according to a fact sheet put out by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Diabetes drugs saw the biggest reductions, including a 79% discount off the list price for Merck & Co.'s Januvia and a 68% cut for AstraZeneca Plc's Farxiga.

Those figures overstate the actual savings that will be achieved, as drugmakers already negotiate behind-the-scenes discounts with private companies that run Medicare drug plans.

Astra said it will accept the price reductions so patients can get its drugs. AbbVie said in a statement that the IRA does nothing to benefit patients and will harm the long-term development of new drugs. Merck and Amgen didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Deaths

Terri Ford, 61, Portland
William Fennig, 94, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 82 degrees Wednesday. The low was 59. Tonight's low will be in the upper 60s. There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Rain is expected Saturday, especially in the afternoon. The high will be 80. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Photos from tonight's JCHS football scrimmage against Richmond.

Tuesday — Jay County Early Learning Center is preparing to open.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Jay School Board meeting.



Sentenced ...

Continued from page 1
He talked about his time working hospital security, as well as concerns about his wife's medical condition and father's failing health.

He also mentioned that he has served as a coach with little leagues in Redkey and Dunkirk and expressed a desire to continue coaching in the upcoming years.

Norris apologized Wednesday for his actions.

"I would like to say I'm sorry," he said. "I've hurt so many people too from this ... I'm trying to be a better man for my wife, a man she deserves ..."

Hutchison noted most offenders apologize at their sentencing hearings. He asked

Norris for an indication as to what happened, why it happened and why it won't happen again, with Norris saying he "should've known better."

"It was a heinous act," said Hutchison. "A selfish and stupid act."

He sentenced Norris to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and gave him credit for one day served. Two years of Norris' sentence will be spent on probation, with the initial year spent on home detention. Norris will be confined to his home unless traveling to or from work, appointments with Jay County Community Corrections or attending church or therapy.

Obituaries

William Fennig

April 24, 1930-Aug. 13, 2024
William Fennig, age 94, of Portland passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Bill was born April 24, 1930, in Jay County, the son of Harold and Martha (Smith) Fennig. When Bill was a toddler, his father died in a trucking accident, and Martha married Fred L. Miller, the man he called Dad for the rest of his life.



Fennig

After graduating from Portland High School in 1948, Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force and following his discharge returned to Portland to work with his maternal uncles at the family business, Rockledge Products, and to marry his high school sweetheart, Georgianna Russell of Montpelier. When Georgia died in 1993, Bill married Rose Mock, who survives.

Bill stayed with the quarry through ownership changes for 44 years, retiring in 1996 from Meshberger Brothers Stone. He then went to work in the sporting goods department of Walmart, first in Portland and later in Winchester. He retired for good in 2009.

Surviving in addition to his wife Rose are two children, Anne (Tom) Jennings of Englewood, Florida, and Dale Fennig of Angola, Indiana; granddaughters Jennifer (Doug) DeWinter, Summerville, South Carolina, Amber (Clint) Sours, Garrett, Indiana, and Lindsey Fennig of Angola; great-grandchildren Addison and Ella DeWinter, Gavin and Alexa Dickinson, and Liam Fennig; and two sisters, Judy (Larry) Stanford, Indianapolis, and Patty Gross, Atlanta. First-, second- and third-generation nieces and nephews abound and are scattered all over the country. Nephew Jim Fennig and his wife Betsy were special blessings as he aged.

Bill was preceded in death by his brother and sister-in-law Robert (Lib) Fennig; brother-in-law Dick Gross; and his daughter in-law Lisa Fennig.

Fresh water fishing was a great passion of Bill's and over the years he spent many happy hours in Angola at the family cottage on Lake George and on fishing vacations to Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada. When fishing trips became impractical, Bill installed a koi pond in his backyard and spent hours caring for, rather than catching, fish. He took great pride in maintaining his yard and gardens well into his 80s and was an accomplished woodworker until age made him fear for his fingers. Bill was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church in Portland, where over the years he served on many committees and the church council. Bill was a Mason and also a member of the local Kiwanis Club. He especially enjoyed working in the food stand during the Jay County Fair and the Tri-State Antique Tractor and Engine Show.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Aug. 17, at 11 a.m. in the Zion Lutheran Church in Portland with Pastors Robin Owen and Darrell Borders presiding. Burial will follow in the Mount Zion Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to ELCA World Hunger.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Terri Ford

Jan. 2, 1963-Aug. 12, 2024
Terri Ford, age 61, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Terri was born Jan. 2, 1963, in Pennville, Indiana, the daughter of Ray and Audrey (Tankersley) Givens. She married Dwane Ford on June 4, 1983.

Terri graduated from Jay County High School and worked as a manager at the Ritz Theater in Portland. She also worked at K-Mart in Bluffton, babysat and owned and operated B&D Screen Printing in Portland.



Ford

Survivors include: Her husband — Dwane Ford, Portland, Indiana

Children — Adam Ford (wife: Amber), Avon, Indiana, Travis Ford (wife: Amanda), Bluffton, Indiana, and Kaitlin Mosier (husband: Dillon), Albany, Indiana

Siblings — Verla Lightle (husband: Bill), Leroy Givens (wife: Barbara), Darlene Mills (husband: Roy), Gilda Grile (husband: Mike), Shirley Eskew, Mary Jean Conner (husband: Steve), Dennis Givens (wife: Deb) and Brian Givens (wife: Dawn)

Five grandchildren
She was preceded in death by a sister, Phyllis Horn; and a brother, David Givens.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland, Indiana. Pastor Steve Conner will officiate and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hills Cemetery in Pennville.

Memorials may be directed to Jay County United Way or Portland Lions Club.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

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

Saturday 8/17	Sunday 8/18	Monday 8/19	Tuesday 8/20	Wednesday 8/21
80/63	78/61	78/54	77/63	78/52
Saturday's forecast shows a 60% chance of thunderstorms under mostly sunny skies.	Sunday's forecast shows a 50% chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday, when the high will be 78.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Tuesday, when the high will be 77.	Wednesday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high in the mid to upper 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball
8-9-23-29-62
Power Ball: 13
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$35 million

Daily Four: 4-2-3-8
Quick Draw: 4-6-13-15-30-31-32-34-35-37-42-44-45-46-49-57-67-70-75-79
Cash 5: 3-7-17-27-43
Estimated jackpot: \$95,000

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$464 million

Ohio
Wednesday Midday
Pick 3: 3-4-4
Pick 4: 5-6-5-6
Pick 5: 6-1-2-7-9
Evening
Pick 3: 7-0-9
Pick 4: 9-4-4-0
Pick 5: 1-0-8-2-2
Rolling Cash: 16-22-26-29-37
Estimated jackpot: \$177,000

Hoosier
Wednesday Midday
Daily Three: 3-1-0
Daily Four: 6-2-9-8
Quick Draw: 7-11-18-19-21-26-31-40-42-47-48-52-53-57-63-65-70-74-77-79
Evening
Daily Three: 1-1-3

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....3.53
Sept. corn3.63
Wheat4.53

Sept. beans9.28
Wheat 4.82

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....3.57
Sept. corn3.60
Oct. corn3.63

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....3.49
Sept. corn3.49
Beans.....9.76
Sept. beans9.66
Wheat4.88

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn3.57
Sept. corn3.57
Beans9.63

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....3.52
Oct. corn3.54
Beans.....9.68
Oct. beans9.13
Wheat4.62

Today in history

In 2003, Jay County High School junior varsity cheerleaders won the Indiana State Fair cheerleading championship.

In 2021, Portland City Council approved a rezoning request from U.S. Aggregates for 108 acres of land situated

between Tyson Road and county road 75 South, east of county road 200 West. The company had been pushing for the rezoning for about six months in order to allow it to expand its quarry operation.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday
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.

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.
5:30 p.m. — Portland

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, municipal airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Council ...

Continued from page 1
Also, council, with Towell dissenting, agreed to bump the assistant highway superintendent's pay to \$58,000, retroactive to Sunday. Council president Matt Minnich explained the role is currently paid less than the road foreman. The position was created in July to compensate the department's administrative assistant Stephanie Klarer for the new job duties she has taken on for the department in recent months.

Also, per revisions to Indiana Code, council agreed to allocate \$2,500 stipends to the Jay County clerk on even years and Jay County auditor each year. The stipends, which are included in both departments' budgets, are intended to make up for the additional time clerks spend planning and hosting elections and the additional duties auditors have taken on over the years.

Council also heard a recommendation from Jay County Personnel Committee — it met at 9 a.m. Wednesday — to incorporate at least 2% raises or more for employees.

Also Wednesday, council agreed to commit \$178,500 in American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward a contract with Ritter Strategic Services for planning, procurement, engineering, project management and other work related to switching the county to the Integrated Public Safety Commission's 800 megahertz statewide system. Jay County Commission-

ers approved the contract July 29.

Also, council heard a request from Scout Clean Energy for a two-year extension in relation to completing its Sun Chief Solar project in Jay County. Its request stipulates construction would begin no later than Dec. 31, 2026, with the project completed by no later than Dec. 31, 2027. Plans are to bring the request to a vote at council's September meeting.

In other business, council members Randy May, Dave Haines, Jeanne Houchins, Faron Parr, Bracy, Towell and Minnich:

• Heard from Jay County Fair Board president Aaron Loy, who shared the board's 2024 budget and letters of support from local organizations. Loy explained the fair board submitted a \$26,000 request for economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars with Jay County Commissioners to cover insurance — if it had received the funding, he said, the board would have used the funding previously allocated for insurance instead to pay for infrastructure projects. Loy noted those projects include replacing and repairing water lines, upgrading electrical connections, addressing drainage and wall issues

with the women's building and making safety enhancements for the demolition derby track.

• OK'd switching pension companies from Comerica to Baird Trust effective Jan. 1. In order to receive a pension with the new plan at Jay County Sheriff's Office, employees must serve at least 20 years with the department.

• Made the following additional appropriations: \$75,000 for medical and hospital fees for Jay County Jail inmates; \$24,576.29 for an excavator purchased last year for Jay County Surveyor's Office; \$12,849.98 in grant funding for first responder training and \$9,800 in grant

funding for a pediatric training kit for emergency responders; \$1,560 for professional services at Jay County Recorder's Office; \$1,460 in reimbursement funds for pauper counsel; \$1,100.03 for services provided by Runell, Ernstberger and Associations — Towell and Bracy dissenting — in its planning for the development of the county's 68 acres on the west side of Portland.

• Made several transfers, including \$50,000 from various Jay County Jail funds to go toward other compensation and \$25,757.42 in Jay County Public Defender's budget from the assistant public defender's wages to other funds.

Bryant Area Community Center

BROASTED CHICKEN DINNER

August 17, 2024

4:00 - 7:00pm

Dine In/Drive thru/ Carry Out

2 pieces chicken, Mashed potatoes & gravy, chicken & noodles, corn, drink (Dine-in only)

Desserts - \$2.00 each

Dinners will be \$12.00

EMT Course Registration

Jay County Jr. Sr. High School
Sept 5, 2024 to Apr 15, 2025
Mondays and Thursdays
6pm to 10pm

Cost is \$750.

- Textbook and needed course materials
- Testing and Scheduling Software
- One written NREMT exam session
- Clinical Uniform Shirt.

Flexible payment plans and discounts for those who qualify.

Scan to register

Or go to:
<https://forms.gle/eXj8uNtiu1anCETL8>

Email: jmcfarland@jaycoems.org or Call Us 260-726-2311 x101

SERVICES

Saturday
Ford, Terri: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.
Fennig, William: 11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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

60th anniversary

Pauline and Don Haines



Pauline and Don Haines – 1964

Don and Pauline (Isch) Haines of Bluffton are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary today. They were married Aug. 16, 1964, at Sardinia Congregational Christian Church in Bryant by the Rev. Jim Mathis.

For years, the couple owned and operated Haines Barber and Beauty from their home in Bryant. Don was also a farmer and a rural mail carrier and retired in 1998.

They have three children — Danny (Robin) Haines of Geneva, Dave (Rene) Haines of Portland, and Deanna (Dave) Rinehart of Markle — along with 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

The couple was celebrated on Aug. 11 with a surprise gathering of their immediate family.



Pauline and Don Haines – 2024

Friendship with boss resulted in emotional toll

DEAR ABBY: Fifteen years ago, my partner and I moved to a new community, befriending a neighbor whose initial kindness and generosity impressed us greatly. When the neighbor learned I was unemployed, his influence enabled me to secure a position with his company.

In a professional setting, however, the neighbor revealed a personality that was manipulative, condescending, backstabbing and mean-spirited, often

Dear Abby



reducing colleagues to tears with his profanity-laced tirades. His was literally a Jekyll and Hyde transformation.

After a decade of his tyranny and the suicide attempt of a colleague he had mercilessly badgered, I accepted a position with another company, and later retired to another state. Since then, he has contacted me at regular intervals to say he misses us as neighbors and friends and would like to visit.

While working for his company financially empowered us to make future plans previously beyond our means, I lack the

ability to prioritize gratitude over the memories of the emotional abuse to which he subjected my co-workers and me.

My tenure there had a negative impact on my health, and I have no desire to relive the experience merely to nourish his ego. My partner suggests I can tolerate anything for a few days. Am I wrong to feel otherwise? — HESITANT IN ARIZONA

DEAR HESITANT: When

your former boss asks to visit, politely decline. If he continues to pursue it, that will be the time for a frank conversation with him. When (and if) it comes to that, express that, although he was kind to you personally, his tirades and the fact that he nearly drove a co-worker to suicide were the reasons you left the company, which is why you prefer he not visit.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, 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.

JAY RETIRED TEACHERS — Will meet at noon Monday, Aug. 19, at

Richards Restaurant in Portland.

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

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

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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OVER 5,000 5-STAR REVIEWS!

STEP 1 Be a Hoosier! You must live in the State of Indiana.

STEP 2 Live with a Caregiver: You must live in the same home as the Caregiver (either their own home or the home of the Participant).

STEP 3 Have Medicaid and Get on a Waiver: Be eligible for Medicaid or already have Medicaid and meet the financial requirements for the PathWays for Aging or Health & Wellness Waiver.

Find out if you are eligible today.

CALL 844.563.4012

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

Advertise in **The CR**

Summer FUN

Summer SAVINGS

August Specials

1/2 page B&W ad to run once from Aug. 19 to 23

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Accountability remains incomplete

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

Since the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump on July 13, reporting and public disclosures have continued to underscore the communication failures and negligence that nearly precipitated a national crisis — and got one Butler County firefighter killed. Finally, after weeks of shifting blame to local agencies, the Secret Service has rightly taken the full blame for the incident.

The resignation of Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle was a necessary consequence of the agency's appalling incompetence — but it is not sufficient. The agency must make serious reforms, and be transparent about its own self-evaluation, to regain the public's trust.

Guest Editorial

The security lapse was ultimately the result of poor communication between the Secret Service and officers from Butler and Beaver counties and the Pennsylvania State Police in the days, hours, minutes and seconds leading up to the shooting. At any of those times, Secret Service action would have foiled the would-be assassin — but the agency failed.

Days: During preparations for the Butler rally, local law enforcement flagged as a security concern the precise building Crooks

used as a (very obvious) sniper's nest. Yet the Secret Service failed to report it.

Hours: On the day of the rally, state and local law enforcement identified the shooter as a suspicious person. Yet the Secret Service failed to take note of him.

Minutes: Before Trump took the stage, both civilian bystanders and law enforcement raised the alarm about a suspicious person on the roof. Yet the Secret Service allowed Trump to speak.

Seconds: Less than a minute before the shooting, a local law enforcement officer made eye contact with the shooter, and frantically attempted to alert the federal agency. Yet the Secret Service did nothing, until shots rang out.

The only reason this out-

landish incompetence did not result in a national and international catastrophe is sheer luck — a last second head tilt from the presidential candidate. Corey Comperatore and the two other rally-goers who were seriously injured were not so fortunate.

It's also possible that with a more competent and proactive response, the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, would still be alive today.

While Secret Service acting Director Ronald Rowe, Jr., has been more forthcoming and more accountable than his predecessor, the public still deserves a thorough moment-by-moment accounting of the agency's failures on that day and leading up to it. The American people also deserve a public assurance that no such lapse will happen again,

which means a transparent accounting of the reforms Rowe and the agency's parent Department of Homeland Security intend to implement. No excuses. No hesitation. No holding back.

The U.S. political system has absorbed a tremendous number of shocks in recent months and years, which have both emerged from and contributed to the most extreme political polarization in over a century. Thus far, the system has proven remarkably resilient.

But a crisis of competence at the security agency that is meant to be the very definition of competence, charged with protecting the world's most important leaders, could push us over the edge. It almost did. And it must be fixed without delay.

Communities must have a say

By ANIBEL FERUS-COMELO
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

It's been two years since members of Congress passed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. This industrial investment is one of the Biden-Harris Administration's landmark achievements.

But with the due diligence phase underway, it's clear this administration should do more to ensure that its goals to "create good-paying jobs, make more in the United States, and revitalize communities left behind" are met through CHIPS Act investments.

The Commerce Department has announced over \$30 billion in public subsidies and \$25.3 billion in loans to 14 multinational companies across 24 sites in 14 states. U.S.-based Intel and Micron, South Korea's Samsung and Taiwan's TSMC are among the corporate welfare beneficiaries.

The allocation of these funds is undemocratic, with unions, community groups, environmental organizations and independent experts largely excluded from the decision-making process. In fact, a group of U.S. Senators highlighted this in a letter sent to the Commerce Department on Aug. 7 imploring the agency to "impose clear and enforceable conditions on (CHIPS) grantees before agreements are finalized."

Unfortunately, we're already seeing what can happen when deals are made behind closed doors.

BAE Systems, set to receive \$35 million in CHIPS funding, is reportedly investing in stock buybacks instead of "good family-sustaining jobs" promised by the National Economic Council. And it's not the only one. Microchip Technology announced furloughs for about 900 employees just days after the Commerce Department allocated \$72 million of taxpayers' money for its Oregon plant.

On Aug. 1, Intel, the largest CHIPS Act grant recipient, announced that it will lay off more than 15,000 workers. It has spent \$30.2 billion on stock buybacks between 2019 and 2023. A report estimates that this amount could have provided each of Intel's 124,800 employees a \$48,000 bonus every year for five years.

Such siphoning of public funds from workers into

Anibel Ferus-Comelo



the pockets of the wealthy is unacceptable.

Americans need quality jobs with fair wages, safe working conditions and equity. Unfortunately, the CHIPS Act lacks a process for involving workers and the local community.

There is a better way. Unions, environmental justice organizations and coalitions like CHIPS Communities United can help ensure democratic industrial policies if they are empowered to represent local interests.

Akash Systems, a microchip company in Oakland, California, shows how inclusive growth can work. It has partnered with unions to ensure fair labor practices during the construction phase and has signed agreements to protect workers' rights once its plant is open.

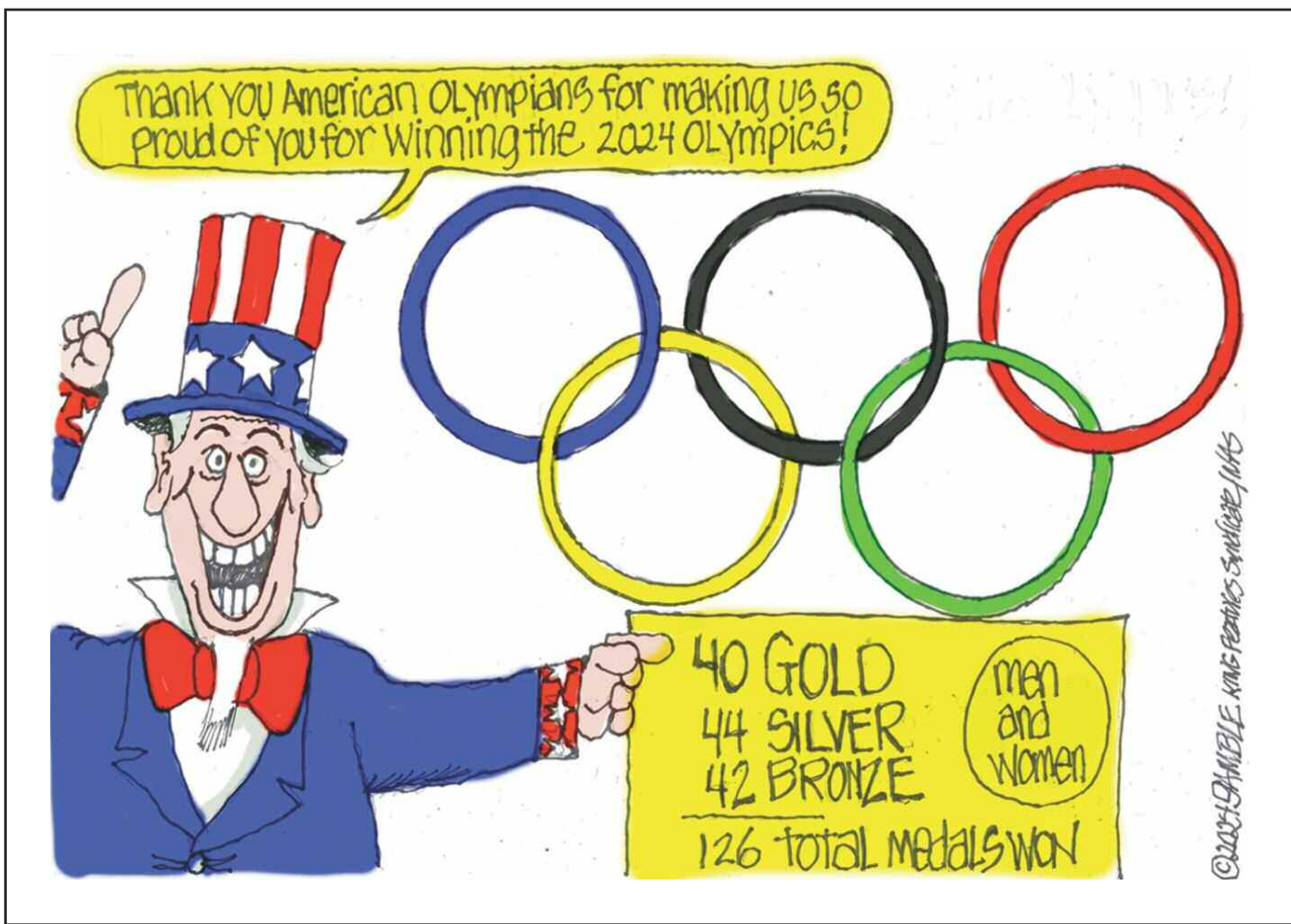
Unions and other civil society organizations can also help mitigate the environmental and health risks of semiconductor plants. Chip manufacturing requires gluttonous water and electricity consumption and the treatment of voluminous, toxic wastewater.

For instance, the new manufacturing sites of the four largest chip producers — Intel, TSMC, Samsung and Micron — are expected to demand more than double the annual electricity consumption of Seattle. Meanwhile, workers handle chemicals and toxic substances inside the plants. Without strong protections and representation, corporate interests can easily end up harming the communities hosting these plants.

In February, 126 members of Congress wrote a public letter urging the Commerce Department to require high labor and environmental standards and support union involvement. Their calls, however, have been largely ignored. It's time to involve communities in policy decisions to ensure that reindustrialization benefits everyone and enhances democracy.

.....

Ferus-Comelo is a director at the University of California Berkeley Labor Center and teaches at the Goldman School of Public Policy.



Safety net can make the difference

By LEON BENSON
OtherWords

I received a 60-year prison sentence for a murder I didn't commit. After 25 years of fighting this injustice, I was exonerated.

I've learned some hard lessons about our criminal justice system. I've also learned how simple safety net policies — like a modest guaranteed base income or no-strings-attached child allowance — could have kept millions of struggling young people like me out of trouble.

I had a good childhood in Flint, Michigan, but we were poor and opportunities were few. My parents were loving and supportive, but engaged in illegal activities to make ends meet. It seemed normal to me, but I was in an environment that normalized abnormal things.

I eventually dropped out of high school, moved to Indianapolis, and started a family. But when I got laid off, I turned in desperation to the drug life, trying to do for my family what my parents did for me.

One fateful night, I heard gunshots near the building where I had my drug business. I didn't think much of it — shots weren't unusual in that neighborhood. I finished my business for the day, proud of the money I'd made, and went home to my family.

Later, I learned a young man had been shot — and I was arrested for the murder.

I'd been blamed by someone with a drug-related grudge against me. A bystander had identified a very different man with a different physical description, but the detective buried that evidence. Advocates uncovered this evidence 25 years later, and I was exonerated and released. I'd spent a hellish 11 of those 25 years in solitary confinement.

During my incarceration, I



Leon Benson

became a teacher and mentor. Now I'm an advocate for people returning to society after incarceration.

I see the systemic barriers they face. Returning citizens are prohibited from hundreds of jobs — from working in education, health, and government to even becoming a barber or Uber driver. They're barred from public assistance, public housing, and student loans. They face discrimination in housing and employment. They often have significant physical and mental health issues they can't afford to treat.

These are the very conditions that sometimes lead to offenses and recidivism. Numerous studies have found that when people are securely employed, housed, and allowed to receive an education and meet their health needs, they don't re-offend.

These people have already been punished and served their time — sometimes for offenses they never committed, like me. We shouldn't be punished again when reintegrating into our families and societies.

As part of my work, I volunteer with Michigan Liberation, a statewide organization looking to end the criminalization of Black families and communities of color. Recently, they joined a Guaranteed Income Now conference co-hosted by Community Change and the Economic Security Project.

Guaranteed income can take many forms. It can be an expan-

sion of current tax credits like the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. It can be a no-strings-attached Child Allowance or a monthly payment to qualifying people, families, unpaid caretakers, undocumented immigrants, and returning citizens — all of whom are currently ineligible for assistance.

In Flint, it looks like a new program that offers pregnant people and new parents a monthly check for the first year of the baby's life.

If my parents had a guaranteed income floor, we wouldn't have been in danger of falling through into hunger and homelessness. They would have had significantly better chances to pursue well-paying jobs to provide for my security — without relying on illegal activity.

If I'd had a modest child allowance for my own children, I wouldn't have had to rely on the most accessible path available to me, the drug business. I wouldn't have been anywhere near the site of that murder — and wouldn't have lost decades of my life to a false accusation.

It's worth it to support our families and communities, no matter where we live or what we look like. When those facing the most systemic barriers receive sufficient income support, then economic security, thriving, and freedom are the result.

And I can tell you, there's nothing sweeter than freedom.

.....
Benson is a Michigan native and exoneree. He's a published author, community leader, trauma informed reentry specialist and creator who now lives in Detroit.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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America's farmers are aging

Farmland is shifting to be used for other purposes

By ANGELA PALERMO

Idaho Statesman
Tribune News Service

BOISE, Idaho — Matt Wissel grows vegetables and melons on about 80 acres in Nampa, just as his father and grandfather did. He runs his family's farm, Wissel Farms, with his wife, Benita.

He's watched as acre after acre of farmland has given way to houses. If residential developments and big-box stores keep taking over farmland in Canyon County, Wissel says, there won't be much agriculture left.

The average price of seven Nampa farmland-only properties listed for sale at the start of August on landsearch.com topped \$63,000 per acre. But Wissel says that even in rural Parma, farmland that's not geared for development sells for about \$11,000 an acre, too pricey for farming.

"There's no way you could pay for that by growing any kind of commodity," he said.

Wissel, at 66, is one of Idaho's dwindling ranks of farmers, their average ages ever rising, still helping to feed the world while an increasing population puts pressure on them to sell out to developers for soaring amounts of money.

One-fourth lost

In the last 40 years, Idaho lost nearly a quarter of its farmland. Millions of acres, once filled by crops or livestock, were sold and developed into shops and suburban neighborhoods.

At its peak in the late 1950s and



Tribune News Service/Idaho Statesman/Sarah A. Miller

Matt Wissel of Wissel Farms stands in his corn field near Lake Lowell in Nampa, Idaho, on July 2. Wissel has seen new development in Nampa crowd out and replace existing farmland.

early '60s, there were more than 15 million acres of farmed land and about 30,000 farms in Idaho.

Now there are about 11.5 million acres and less than 23,000 farms, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture. They cover 22% of Idaho land — the state has about 53 million acres in total.

"We're forced to do a little more with less," Ben Johnson, Idaho state statistician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, said at a webinar on the latest data from the U.S. Census of Agriculture. "We're still expected to feed a growing population but with less farms and less farmland to do it on."

The state lost 2,119 farms, or 8.5% of its total, between 2017 and 2022, the latest year for which data is available. That adds up to

more than one farm lost per day.

Most neighboring states, including Wyoming, Montana, Nevada, Washington, lost farmland to an even greater degree than Idaho between 2017 and 2022. Only Oregon and Utah lost fewer farms than Idaho.

The average farm in Idaho covers 505 acres. About 2,500 of the farms have more than 1,000 acres.

Land with a views

The Wissels' farm has been around since 1911, when Matt Wissel's grandfather bought 100 acres northeast of Lake Lowell. The farm saw success, going on to sell its produce at a farmstand off Lake Lowell Avenue and at WinCo and Albertsons supermarkets.

But at some point, his father and uncle decided to sell the land. Much of it was developed into

homes. Some became a golf course. Wissel carried on farming, leasing nearby bits of land from a longtime friend and former farmer.

Wissel said he doesn't understand why some farmers sell their land.

"I guess it comes down to whether you have a short-term perspective or a long-term perspective," he said. "If your perspective is, how much cash I can get in the next two or three years, that makes sense. But if you look at it over a 100- or 200-year period, then it doesn't really make sense for farm families to sell their land."

Wissel grows corn used to make corn flour — what he calls taco corn — on a prime piece of real estate between the lake and the aforementioned golf course. "Obviously, the views here

are beautiful," he told the Idaho Statesman. "Any developer would love to have this view of Lake Lowell."

But he says he and his landlord are committed to farming the land. Last year, he spent about \$100,000 on a new pivot irrigation system to water the crops. He also farms sweet corn, pumpkins, melons, tomatoes, eggplant, green beans, broccoli, cabbage, kale, cilantro, winter squash and more at another field not far away.

Then and now

On a hot July day, Wissel parked his old pickup along a dirt road that separates his corn field and the RedHawk Golf Course at 12225 S. Hunters Drive. A few feet away, on the other side of a wire fence, residents of the homes overlooking the green jogged by on an asphalt walking path.

Wissel offered hellos and good mornings. He chatted with one couple walking their dog.

Over the years, he said, he's seen the property transform from vegetable fields into high-priced homes for California transplants. The current market value of one of the houses, built in 2022, is \$930,000, according to a Redfin estimate.

"The thing they like about living here is the view," he said. "They like the fact that we farm here, and then they get to see the fields. So it seems like not a wise choice to just constantly make the developments tighter and tighter. We could do something where we still have some farms and some development."

For now, the property he farms near the lake in Nampa will remain so. Wissel said his landlord is "adamant" that the land not be developed.

"So that's our plan," he said. "We're going to continue to farm it as long as we're here."

.....
Look for the second half of this story in an upcoming edition of The Commercial Review.

Indiana Grown promotes local products

By KEVIN GREEN

Greensburg Daily News
Tribune News Service

With more than 50,000 farms, Indiana stands out as a leading agricultural state and is known for supplying top-quality produce. However, less than 10% of the \$16 billion Hoosiers spend annually on food is sourced within Indiana.

To promote shopping local, multiple resources make it easier to buy homegrown food and handmade products throughout the state.

Indiana Grown is a network of local farmers and producers helping connect consumers to Hoosier-made products. Look for the Indiana Grown label on products when visiting grocery stores, restaurants and convenience stores or visit IndianaGrown.org and search for members and products.

Interested Hoosier food producers and crafters can also register to become an Indiana Grown member and benefit from its free program and marketing opportunities. Visit indianagrown.org/register to apply. Visit marketwagon.com for the online farmers market.

Prefer to have food delivered? Indiana-based Market Wagon is an online delivery service to connect with local food vendors and artisans, and purchases can be delivered directly or a specified Market Host. LocalFarmMarkets.org is another source for finding local food producers broken down by region and county.

Today, there are over 1,800 Indiana Grown members, including farmers, distributors, processors, wineries, breweries and artisans.

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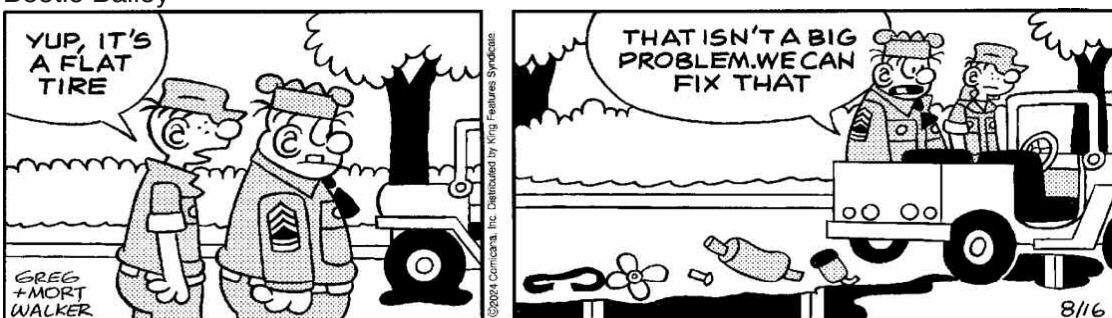
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South with both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone: West 1♣ North 1♠ East Pass South ?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands? 1. ♠ Q96 ♥ AK875 ♦ 1052 ♣ 64 2. ♠ A1084 ♥ A962 ♦ QJ97 ♣ 10 3. ♠ 5 ♥ J973 ♦ AJ84 ♣ Q652 4. ♠ K72 ♥ 4 ♦ AK96 ♣ 109432 5. ♠ A9653 ♥ AKJ742 ♦ 6 ♣ 9

1. Two spades. It is far better to raise spades than to bid two hearts. Two hearts would suggest lack of spade support and would be correct with, say: ♠ ♣ KQ9874 ♦ K2 ♣ J753

Furthermore, two hearts would not be forcing and might result in reaching the wrong partscore contract. It is not necessary to particularize the nature of your values and risk winding up in the wrong denomination.

2. Four spades. It is hard to imagine partner losing four tricks opposite this promising hand. A jump to three spades would be either invitational or preemptive, depending on your partnership agreement, and the auction might die then and there. Your singleton club is a very powerful feature that should persuade you to go directly to game.

3. Pass. This is not a pleasant decision, but one must be realistic in misfit situations. The only other possible bid, one notrump, is somewhat dangerous. Game is very unlikely, and trying to improve your position by bidding one notrump might easily make matters worse — for example, if partner next bid two spades.

4. Three spades. It's hard to assess your game prospects unilaterally, and it is therefore better to ask partner's view of the matter by inviting him to go on to four spades if he has extra values. An alternative bid would be two clubs — a cuebid of the opponent's suit to show spade support and interest in game if partner has more than a minimum overall.

5. Four notrump. It is quite reasonable to expect that partner can make a slam opposite this hand if he has an ace in addition to his strong spades. You should therefore use Blackwood to elicit this information. You plan to stop at five spades if partner responds five clubs, showing no aces, and to bid six spades if he shows one ace by responding five diamonds. In the unlikely event that partner turns up with two aces, you can consider trying for a grand slam, although in that case there is an increased possibility of losing a trump trick.

Tomorrow: Triumph of mind over matter. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

8-16

CRYPTOQUIP

CGSI UHMGI YFN TSBB S EYBHTN YXXHTNQ CGY HR USHFISHFHFYM YQJNQ HF SF

HTN QHFL? S RLSIN IQYYENQ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT MAN MADE A SIZABLE FORTUNE FROM ORGANIZING DEBUTANTE BALLS, IS HE A COTILLION-AIRE? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Uncle, to Pedro 4 St. with a pan-handle 7 Seizes 12 Pt. of speech 13 Vegas opener 14 Painter's stand 15 Salonga of "Miss Saigon" 16 Arm or leg 18 Dig in 19 Bo of "10" 20 Downhill racer 22 — Salvador 23 Slender 27 "Guinness Book" suffix 29 Lengthen 31 Early synthesizers 34 Cries from sties 35 Living 37 MSN rival 38 Youngsters 39 Guffaw syllable 41 Dalai — 43 Ske-daddled 45 Least strict 47 Garfield, for one 48 Hand over, in a way 52 Vat 53 Defy authority 54 Stannum 55 — pro nobis 56 Indian tea region 57 Rm. coolers 58 D.C. base-baller 21 Painter of ballerinas 23 Unmoving 24 Novelist Deighton 25 Pen filler 26 ER workers 28 Tax form ID 30 Tic-tac-toe loser 31 Bumped into 32 Kitchen gadget brand 33 Mel of Coopers-town 36 Dull sound of impact 37 Polar 40 "Sweet Love" singer Baker 42 Take, as advice 43 Tierney of "The Affair" 44 Facing the pitcher 45 Tropical tree 46 Coop group 48 Time line period 49 Ballot marks 50 "Conan" channel 51 "Angie" actor

Crossword grid with numbers 1-58 indicating starting positions for words.

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In memory of Bruns

Work on putting green in Fort Recovery finished in early August

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Joe Bruns gave a lot to his community over the past three decades.

During his final three years, the community gave that support right back to him and his family as he battled cancer.

Now the Bruns family and the rest of the community have come together again to cement his memory for future generations.

A little less than a year after Joe Bruns died from cancer, work on a putting green at Fort Recovery Middle School wrapped up on Aug. 1 by Natures Green Nursery of Fort Recovery.

The project, which included a green with six holes and a mini bunker located next to the right field foul line fence of the football field with the working name of Joe Bruns Memorial Putting Green, received glowing reviews from Denise Bruns (Joe's wife), Fort Recovery High School athletics director Aimee Pottkotter and FRHS girls golf coach Jeff Vaughn, Joe Bruns' childhood friend and assistant coach.

"I'm impressed by it," Denise said. "It's more than I expected. Nature's Green did a wonderful job."

"I like how it's kind of a building block to the next step of getting a shelter out here, and the safety grant will help with the addition of a sidewalk. It continues the love of golf and gets more practice out here."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured is the new putting green outside of Fort Recovery Middle School, which was made in honor of Joe Bruns, a 27-year teacher at Fort Recovery High School and girls golf coach, who died of cancer in August 2023. Work on the green finished in early August by Natures Green Nursery of Fort Recovery.

While the green itself is ready to be used, there are future plans to build a shelter house that could be utilized by both the green and the baseball field as well as a sidewalk from Sharpsburg Road that connects to the sidewalk at the LeFevre Family Baseball and Softball Complex.

The idea for the project began last year after Joe's death in late August. Several of his former players and their families approached Vaughn expressing

interest in doing something in his memory.

When the idea of the putting green came up, Vaughn talked to Denise, who in turn went to Fort Recovery Local Schools superintendent Tony Stahl with the idea and an initial donation to get the project started.

After the Bruns family's donation jump-started the project, the rest of the funding quickly got taken care of by FRHS alumni golfers, families

of current golfers, Fort Recovery Community Club and other donors organized by the Fort Recovery athletic boosters. Work on the green began in mid July and began wrapping up in early August.

"I'm just ecstatic," said Pottkotter. "When the Bruns family came to us with the idea, they made a huge donation of their own. Then we talked about it at a booster meeting and some more people chipped money in and boom the project was done."

"It gives me goosebumps thinking about it. I had Mr. Bruns as a teacher and got to work with him a bit in my first year and this project just symbolizes everything that he is to this community."

While Joe did a lot for the community as a high school math teacher and coach, Denise saw the opportunity as another way to give back for the support the Bruns family received during his final years.

See **Bruns** page 7

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- 1/4-page color – \$350
- 1/4-page B&W – \$280

- Big business card (3x3.5) – \$120
- Business card (2x2) – \$80

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

Deadline Sept. 10

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